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BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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1st PART DOCUMENTS, FACTS AND STUDIES

1. Meeting between the Community and the Third World

Community and the Third World

The conference of 25-26 July 1973 in Brussels

A conference which the delegations present described as 'historic' was held on 25 and 26 July in Brussels. This initial contact at ministerial level between forty-one developing countries and the nine Member States of the Community was to clarify the positions of all concerned regarding the nature of the cooperation agreements which can govern their relations as from 1 February 1975. The meeting, which was held in accordance with the provisions of the Yaoundé and Arusha Conventions and Protocol 22 of the Act of Accession, was chaired by Mr Ivar Nørgaard, Danish Minister of external economic affairs and President in office of the Council. The forty-one countries represented were: the associated States of the Yaoundé and Arusha Conventions, the States referred to in the declaration of intent of 1963 almost all of which were represented at ministerial level; in all, 32 African States and Madagascar and Mauritius—22 of which are already associated, four States from the Caribbean and three from the Pacific Ocean. Furthermore, at their request, four North African States were present as observers (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia).

The conference had been carefully prepared by the States invited, first of all at regional level (Africa - Pacific - Caribbean) and then at a coordination meeting held at Lagos on 10-11 July 1973. For its part, the Community had prepared its position at several Council sessions the last of which had taken place just the day before the conference.

1102. The President in office of the Council stated that the Community considered it desirable to open negotiations with the countries concerned on the basis of a single model covering trade and financial and technical cooperation. Mr Nørgaard added that the Commun-

ity was nevertheless prepared to negotiate other types of relationships based on the second or third of the formulae referred to in the Protocol.

However, Mr Nørgaard devoted the main part of his speech to the single model which is based on the first formula of Protocol 22. This single model would preserve the principal characteristics of the present association (trade relations, financial and technical cooperation, joint institutions). The spokesman for the Nine was anxious to emphasize that holding on to past achievements does not signify opposition to progress and lack of invention.

Mr Nørgaard stated that for the main part, the principles of the future agreement could be as follows:

- (a) Free access to the Community market for the products of the associated States (with special arrangements for 'similar and competing' agricultural products);
- (b) Safeguards for the associated States whose economy depends largely on exports of commodities;
- (c) Preservation of the advantages which the present associated States enjoy from financial

Togo, Zaïre;
(ii) Three associated East African States: Kenya,

Uganda, Tanzania; (iii) Other African States: Ethiopia, Liberia, Sudan; (iv) Commonwealth States referred to in Protocol 22: Africa: Botswana, The Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho,

. Pacific: Fiji, Western Samoa, Tonga.

These 41 States are the following:

⁽i) 19 Associated African States and Madagascar: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, People's Republic of the Congo, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Gabon, Upper-Volta, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Chad, Togo, Zaïre;

Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Zambia; Caribbean: Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago;

aid; equivalent arrangements for the new associated States;

(d) Ioint association institutions.

The discussions about this single model will be all the more open in view of the fact that the Community itself has not yet decided upon its final attitude with regard to the trade arrangements. While it considers it necessary that these arrangements should have a contractual basis to ensure their stability in such a way that they are not called into question by third States, especially with regard to GATT, it very much wishes to know the opinions of the other participants. Mr Nørgaard stressed the absolute freedom of choice that the participants in the conference would enjoy. This freedom was at all events guaranteed; they could make use of it at the present time or at any stage of negotiations.

Lastly, the President in office of the Council of the Communities spoke in favour of maintaining the new association agreement for a period of five years. Experience has shown that this period is the most suitable as it makes possible any necessary adjustments in the light of rapid world developments.

Mr Wenike Briggs, Nigerian Commissioner for trade emphasized that his appointment as the sole spokeman for the African States was symbolic of their desire for unity. In his opinion new forms of cooperation between Africa and Europe should be invented, since the African States are calling into question the present world commercial, economic and monetary order, and, in particular, the nature of the relations between the developed countries and the developing countries. In this connection Mr Briggs recalled the principles agreed by the Heads of State and Government at their meeting in Addis Ababa in May. Foremost amongst these principles was 'the non-reciprocity of trade and tariff concessions granted by the EEC'.

The volume of financial aid should also be considerably increased in order to preserve the rights already won by certain States and to guarantee similar advantages for the future associated States. With regard to the use of this aid, Mr Briggs states that the African States would like to participate in the administration and management of the European Development Fund.

The spokesman for the African States also expressed the great interest which he has in everything which may be done not only to stabilize but also to maximalize export revenue.

Lastly, noting that of the 25 least developed-countries in the world, 16 are in Africa, Mr Briggs came back to the idea that the agreement to be concluded between the African States and the Community, which should be an overall agreement, must not involve any reciprocity.

Speaking on behalf of the four Caribbean States (Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago) and also of the eight non-independent States which, with the former, make up the CARIFTA (Caribbean Free Trade Association), Mr Ramphal, the Guyanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that he was in full agreeexpressed the ideas with Mr Briggs. Mr Ramphal too therefore rejected categorically the idea of reciprocity. Quoting Aristotle he recalled that justice requires equality between equals but proportionality between those who are not equal. However, while regretting the excessive caution of the Community's proposals, he made it clear that these proposals only constituted the starting point of the negotiations. Economic realities in the Caribbean were fundamental for determining the contents of the agreement which these countries would be able to enter into with the Community. Foremost among these realities was the great dependence of the Caribbean States on Europe for their exports of sugar, bananas and

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citrus fruits. It was therefore necessary that the export of a sufficient quantity of sugar to the Community should be guaranteed at a fair price.

For the Pacific States, Sir Kamisese Mara, Prime Minister of Fiji presented the point of view of his country as well as that of Tonga and Western Samoa. Recalling that the economy of this region depends to a large extent on exports of copra and other products derived from coconuts, he expressed his disappointment that these products were not mentioned in the Commission memorandum among the products which were to benefit from the arrangements for stabilizing export receipts. With regard to sugar, the Fijian Prime Minister fully backed the statements of the Caribbean representative. After pointing out that the future relations between the Pacific States and the EEC should in no way compromise their present links with Australia and New Zealand and, saying that on the contrary he would like to see them contribute to regional cooperation, the spokesman for the Pacific States lastly expressed the hope that the political determination of each would make it possible to arrive at a better result.

- 1106. At the end of the conference the President in office of the Council stressed the political importance which all the delegations appeared to attach to cooperation between their countries; similarly, they were anxious to bring out the historical importance of this conference of which they approved the following results:
- (a) All the States which were invited wish to open negotiations with the European Communities;
- (b) These negotiations will be inaugurated at ministerial level on 17 October 1973;
- (c) It will be possible for further meetings to take place if particular problems make such meetings desirable;

(d) It is agreed that efforts should be made to conclude the negotiations in time for the new agreement to come into force on 1 February 1975.

The conference was followed by a meeting between the Commission and the representatives of all the countries concerned in order to prepare the organization of the future negotiations.

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2. Regional Policy: Concrete Implementing Proposals

Regional Policy Proposals

1201. At the end of July a new and important step was taken along the road towards the achievement of a Community regional policy, when, on 25 July, the Commission adopted, in accordance with the final declaration of the Summit Conference of October 1972, a proposed regulation on the creation of a European Regional Development Fund (combined with a financial regulation) as well as a proposed decision for the creation of a Regional Policy Committee. These texts were forwarded to the Council on 31 July; the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee were asked to give their opinions by expedited procedure.

At the same time, the Commission proposed to earmark 500 million u.a. for 1974 in the Community budget. As it sees the situation now, the Commission also feels that in view of the probable magnitude of regional imbalances in the next two years and depending on the experience gained, provision will have to be made in the Community budget for some 750 million u.a. in 1975 and 1000 million u.a. in 1976. Commission therefore proposes a budget appropriation of 2 250 million u.a. for the first three years. Furthermore, it has decided to maintain its proposal to devote some EAGGF resources to regional objectives. They will be used to create new industrial jobs in priority agricultural regions and will amount over the next three years to a total of 150 million u.a. The Commission thus proposes that over the next three years 2400 million u.a. from the Community's own resources should be spent on regional policy.

These proposals will be examined by the Council with a view to their being adopted before the end of the year in accordance with the undertakings given at the Paris Summit: the Heads of State or Government recognized that the Community regional policy, like Economic and Monetary Union, was necessary for strengthening the Com-

munity. The task of correcting regional imbalances which could affect the establishment of Economic and Monetary Union was placed high on the list of priorities.

The final communique of the Summit specifies the lines of action to be taken: the coordination of the regional policies of the Member States and the setting up of a Regional Development Fund.

In its report of May 1973,¹ the Commission examined the main regional problems which exist in the enlarged Community. It set out the guidelines on which the new proposals are based.

The proposals presented to the Council in July can be seen as giving practical effect, on two important points, to the fundamental measures announced in the report of May 1973.

The need to bring the Member States' economic policies gradually into line means that their regional policies, a major element in their general economic policies, should be coordinated at Community level.

The instrument best suited to facilitate this coordination is a Regional Policy Committee set up on the same lines as the Treaty lays down for the Monetary Committee, with a representative of the Member States as its chairman and its secretary provided by the Commission.

The Committee will be required to study in particular the aims and resources of the Member States with regard to regional policy, development programmes, regional aid systems, measures to direct investments away from congested regions and steps to ensure that public and private investors are better informed about regional development possibilities. Furthermore, the Committee will be able to hear the views of the regional bodies concerned and of trade unions and occupational organizations.

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¹ Supplement 8/73 - Bull. EC.

The Commission attaches great importance to finding suitable means for associating the two sides of industry and the local and regional authorities with the development of a Community regional policy. For this purpose, and as soon as the Council has approved the establishment of the Regional Development Fund, a conference will be convened at which the two sides of industry and other parties concerned will be present in order to determine what will be the most appropriate mechanisms to ensure the closest possible cooperation. Meanwhile, the Commission proposes that the Regional Policy Committee should regularly consult both sides of industry. Furthermore, when problems concerning a particular region are examined by the Regional Committee, arrangements may be made so that the views of the parties concerned in this region may be heard.

At the Community's present stage of development the Community Institutions must, as invited by the Summit direct their efforts towards a Community solution for regional problems and create a European Regional Development Fund.

The Fund will be required to intervene in predominantly agricultural regions, those affected by industrial change and those suffering from structural underemployment. The criteria for establishing the intensity of the regional imbalances are set out in Article 3 of the Regulation establishing the European Regional Development Fund. These criteria will determine in turn the list of the regions in which the Fund will be able to intervene. On the basis of the Commission's decision approving these criteria, discussions on the details will take place now with the competent authorities of the Member States with a view to drawing up the implementing regulation to be presented to the Council in September.

The Community must also be able to contribute towards the expenditure of the Member States, not in a uniform fashion but by taking account of the importance of each case in its regional context. This is why it will be possible for the amount from the Fund to rise to a maximum of 15% of the cost of the investments in industrial or service activities exceeding 50000 u.a., without, however, exceeding 50% of the aid granted to this investment by the public authorities. Aid for investments on infrastructure may be up to 30% of the expenditure by the public authorities. The Commission considers that the resources of the Fund will have to be distributed according to the relative severity of the regional imbalances in the Community.

The solution adopted by the Commission to guarantee the effectiveness of Community assistance fulfils the requirement that Community aid must be complementary to the intervention of the Member States—not a replacement for it—and that it must be flexible in its implementation.

As regional problems are very different from one country and from one region to another, it must be possible for Community aid to adapt to the priority needs of each region: industrialization, establishment of service industries, infrastructure, all of which are directly connected with economic development.

In order to guarantee that the Community's action will fit into an overall policy which is manifestly European in nature, aid from the Fund must be based on development programmes of which the investment are a part and which have been examined by the Regional Policy Committee.

3. Definition of a Community Environment Policy

Community Environment Policy

1301. Since 19 July 1973, i.e. before the final date fixed by the Paris Summit conference, the Community has had a 'programme of action accompanied by a precise time-table', to quote the final communique in which the Heads of State or Government emphasized 'the importance of a Community environmental policy'.

It was at the end of its first session devoted to environmental problems that the Council adopted this programme of Community action, thereby answering the request addressed to the institutions of the Community by the conference held in Paris in October 1972.

1302. In a 'statement' adopted upon completion of their work, the Council and the Representatives of the Member States, meeting in the Council, declared that the programme concerned actions to be undertaken by the Community alone, by the Community and the Member States together and by the Member States on their own.

The Member States will ensure that the actions they must undertake are properly carried out, it being understood that with regard to these actions the Council exercises the powers of coordination provided for by the Treaty.

With regard to actions to be carried out by the institutions, the Council approved the aims and principles of an environmental policy in the Community, the general description of the actions to be undertaken at Community level as set out in the joint programme, the concrete guidelines of the actions of this programme concerning the reduction of pollution and nuisances and the priorities laid down in this matter, and lastly the specific lines to be followed for the actions of the programme concerning the improvement of the environment.

The Council also noted that for the purpose of implementing this programme, the Commission will later present appropriate proposals on which the Council will act within nine months from the date of their transmission.

The main elements of the programme can be summarized as follows:

Objectives of a Community Environmental Policy

1303. The aim of an environmental policy in the Community is to improve the quality and setting of life, the surroundings and living conditions of the Community population. It must help towards harnessing expansion to the service of man by providing him with an environment which ensures he has the best living conditions as well as reconciling this expansion with the increasingly pressing need to preserve the natural environment.

In particular it must aim at:

- (i) preventing, reducing and, as far as possible, eliminating pollution and nuisances;
- (ii) maintaining a satisfactory ecological balance and ensuring the protection of the biosphere;
- (iii) ensuring the sound management and avoiding any exploitation of resources and the natural surroundings which gives rise to appreciable damage to the ecological balance;
- (iv) guiding development in accordance with the requirements of quality, in particular by improving working conditions and the settings in which we live;
- (v) taking greater account of environmental aspects in planning structures and regional development;

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¹ The complete text of this 'statement' appears in point 2224.

(vi) seeking common solutions for environmental problems with States outside the Community, in particular within international organizations.

Principles

1304. In the programme, the Council endorses the general principles of an environmental policy for the Community evolved by the Ministers of the Environment meeting in Bonn on 31 October 1972 and which have been further defined in the light of subsequent reflections and discussions. Among these principles are the following:

The best environmental policy consists in preventing at source the creation of pollution or nuisances, rather than subsequently trying to counteract their effects. To this end, technical progress must be devised and guided to respond to the concern for the protection of the environment and the improvement of the quality of life at the lowest cost to the community.

This environment policy can and must keep pace with economic and social development. This also applies to technical progress.

Any exploitation of natural resources and surroundings giving rise to appreciable damage to the ecological balance must be avoided.

The standard of scientific and technical knowledge in the Community should be improved with a view to taking effective action to conserve and improve the environment and to combat pollution and nuisances.

The cost of preventing and eliminating nuisances are, in principle, to be borne by the polluter; however, there can be exceptions and special arrangements, in particular for transitional periods, provided that they cause no significant distortion in international trade and investment. Without prejudice to the application of the provisions of the Treaties, this principle should be stated explicitly and the arrangements

for its application and the exceptions should be defined at Community level. Where exceptions are allowed, account should also be taken of the need for a gradual elimination of the regional imbalances in the Community.

In accordance with the declaration on the human environment adopted in Stockholm care should be taken to see that the activities in one State do not cause any deterioration of the environment in another State.

In their environment policy the Community and its Member States must take account of the interests of the developing countries and must in particular examine any repercussions of the measures contemplated under this policy on the economic development of these countries and on trade with them, with a view to preventing or reducing as far as possible any adverse consequences they may have.

The efficacy of efforts to promote international and world environmental research and policy will be enhanced by a clearly conceived longterm European policy in this field.

World cooperation—which must be intensified—should concentrate on the fields in which the nature of the environmental problems involved calls for a universal effort; it must be based on the specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations.

Protection of the environment concerns everyone in the Community and the public should therefore be made aware of its importance.

The level of action (local, regional, national, Community, international) best suited to the type of the pollution and the geographical area to be protected should be sought for each different class of pollution.

Projects which are likely to be the most effective at Community level must be concentrated at this level; priorities must be determined with special care. Important aspects of the environment policy must no longer be planned and implemented in isolation in the various countries. National programmes in these fields should be coordinated and the policies harmonized in the Community on the basis of a joint long-term plan. This policy should aim at improving the quality of life since economic growth should not be considered solely, in its quantitative aspects.

Action to be undertaken

1305. Protection of the natural environment and improvement of living conditions require, on the one hand, that steps be taken to reduce pollution and nuisances and on the other that the improvement of living conditions and the ecological factors inseparable from the organization and the promotion of human progress be integrated into the conception and implementation of common policies.

For the Community and its Member States, this also involves carrying out certain actions in international organizations to avoid duplication, cooperating with non-Member States and ensuring that the specific interests of the Community are taken into consideration by these organizations.

For this reason the Communities' programme of action on the environment consists of three types of project: the first are aimed at reducing and preventing pollution and nuisances; the second are intended to improve the environment and the setting of life; the final type relates to Community action or, where appropriate, joint action by the Member States, in the international organizations which deal with environmental matters.

Some of these actions will have to be developed both in the environment policy and in the specific policies (social, agricultural, regional, industrial, energy, etc).

- 1306. Actions to *reduce pollution* and nuisances are the following:
- (a) objective assessment of the risk to human health and the environment from pollution;
- (b) establishing standard pollution or nuisance levels not to be exceeded in particular surroundings, targets or products;
- (c) exchanges of information between monitoring and control networks;
- (d) joint establishment of quality standards which specific surroundings must satisfy;
- (e) actions relating to certain products the use of which may have harmful consequences for man or his environment;
- (f) action confined to certain highly polluting industries and energy sources;
- (g) action confined to certain areas of common interest, in particular, (i) marine pollution, (ii) protection of the Rhine Basin against pollution, (iii) action relating to the protection of the environment in border areas;
- (h) action relating to waste and residues;
- (i) action to ensure that the limits laid down to protect the environment are properly respected;
- (j) action relating to the economic aspects of the battle against pollution: assessment of the cost of fighting pollution and definition of the procedure for applying the 'polluter pays' principle;
- (k) research into the protection of the environment;
- (l) dissemination of knowledge relating to the protection of the environment.

1307. The actions to improve the environment take account of the fact that the qualitative improvement of living and working conditions henceforth constitutes a fundamental task of the European Communities.

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A Community environmental programme cannot, therefore, be limited to the protection of the physical environment by combating pollution and nuisances but must also contribute actively towards improving the quality of life. Various actions are envisaged in this field:

- (a) safeguarding natural surroundings particularly in relation to measures in agriculture;
- (b) environmental problems caused by the growing scarcity of certain natural resources;
- (c) town planning and development of open spaces;
- (d) improvement of the working environment;
- (e) creation of a European foundation for the improvement of working and living conditions;
- (f) increasing public awareness through education on environmental matters.

1308. The third section of the programme, which deals with Community action and joint action by the Member States in *international organizations* and in particular OECD, the Council of Europe and United Nations agencies, takes account of the fact that measures or procedures employed in these organizations are often likely to have effects on international trade in general, the working of the common market or other sectors for which the Community is responsible.

Timetable

1309. In an initial stage, the programme is limited to actions which should be given priority. As far as possible these actions will have to be completed within two years from the adoption of the programme, the last six months of this period being devoted to taking stock of the results obtained in the previous period and preparing the work programme for the subse-

quent years. It is possible that this programme will be revised and, where necessary, it will have to be supplemented by further actions to take account of any new developments and the experience gained.

4. Control of concentrations: A proposition by the Commission

Control of Concentrations

1401. In consideration of the fact of the growth in the number of concentrations and the acceleration in the rhythm of their development it has become necessary to put into operation more precise and modern legislation on this subject. The Commission, therefore, submitted a proposition to the Council on 20 July concerning regulations for the control of concentrations of enterprises.

Development of concentration in the Common Market

1402. In fact, the number of business concentrations in the Common Market is steadily increasing. Between 1962 and 1970 the yearly number of concentrations in the Community of the Six—defined as financial participations of more than 50%—rose from 173 to 612. In comparison with 1962, the yearly number of concentrations had increased three and a half times by 1970. In comparison with 1962-66, the rate of increase in 1966-70 had almost doubled. Since 1965 there has also been an increase in the number of concentrations in Great Britain.

The increasing interlocking of capital arrangements has caused the share of the 100 largest industrial undertakings in the total industrial turnovers to rise in the United Kingdom from 26% in 1953 to 50% in 1970, and in Germany from 34% in 1954 to 50% in 1969. In France, the degree of concentration is less. Industry in Italy is least concentrated.

The question as to how the increasing number of business concentrations has affected the market structures of the various sectors is of special importance for competition policy. In order to ascertain these effects, the Commission set up a study programme in 1970/71 to analyse concentrations. The results of these studies show a clear, in some sectors even an alarming, increase in the degree of concentration.

In some cases the process of concentration has already gone so far that as few as four suppliers are left in the Community. In many other cases there has been a sometimes considerable reduction in undertakings, the number of suppliers being reduced by up to as much as half.

With the reduction in the numbers of suppliers, the four largest undertakings' share of the total turnover, and of the total number of employees increased. This was found to be the case in all the sectors investigated in the Community.

Beside those studies the Commission's data, which was obtained by continual supervision of certain sectors, also reveals a very high degree of concentration in many sectors. In these sectors between 80% and 90% of the total European turnover respectively production was already in the hands of the four largest undertakings.

In a further large number of sectors the degree of concentration is not as high. Nevertheless, here also, one can observe an appreciable increase in the rhythm of the concentration process.

Necessity for a more systematic control of concentrations

Indeed, at the moment, Article 86 is 1403. still the only juridical instrument applicable concerning the control of concentrations and does not permit a preliminary intervention or a systematic intervention, it implies that a concentration which constitutes an abusive exploitation of a dominant position has already been put into operation and only envisages for every case a posteriori measures of deconcentration. The Commission considers that in view of the present evolution such a control is not of such a nature as to guarantee that the establishment of a regime which ensures that competition is not distorted within the Common Market (Art. 3 f of the EEC Treaty).

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As has been emphasized on numerous occasions, the Commission considers that the Common Market has need of enterprises of European dimensions. The reinforcement of the competitive capacity of enterprises by means of operations of concentration is certainly desirable as an instrument for the integration of markets. It is necessary, however, that the liberty of choice and of activities of the consumers should be safeguarded.

In a large number of sectors the situation is such that a further development of concentration could imperil the maintenance of effective competition. By merging, undertakings could attain a position on the market which would enable them to avoid the pressure of competition. They would no longer be obliged to adapt the price, quantity and quality of their products to trends of demand. The market position of such undertakings allows them to adopt a price policy which is largely independent of economic developments; that reduces the effectiveness of anti-inflation measures and may amplify business cycles. The price trend, no longer controlled by the market, alters the distribution of income to the detriment of the customers, who also have to accept restrictions on their freedom of choice when purchasing. The workers' freedom to choose among several employers is also restricted.

The effects of business concentrations are particularly serious because the concentration brings about an irreversible alteration of the market structure. If a dominant position is attained, no real competition from the other suppliers is, as a rule, any longer to be expected, unless there are far-reaching changes in market conditions. Further, dominant undertakings are often in a position to prevent new suppliers from entering the market. This is especially the case if they operate simultaneously on several markets and thus have additional scope for their practices, especially in regard to price-fixing.

Proposed methods of control

- 1404. From the essential characteristics of the proposed regulation it will be clear that the draft neither proposes a system which is—like Article 66, of the Coal and Steel Treaty, based on prior authorization, nor of general prohibition, but rather one where the incompatibility with the common market must be established case by case after assessment by the Commission of the power of a concentration to hinder effective competition in the common market. The essential modalities of these regulations are six in number:
- (i) Concentration operations which give to the participating enterprises the power to create an obstacle to effective competition within the Common Market are incompatible with the Common Market in so far as trade between the Member States may be affected.
- (ii) Operations which are not likely to give to participating enterprises possibilities of raising obstacles to effective competition are excluded from these regulations. The regulations lay down that this exclusion has full legal application for all concentrations where the participating enterprises have an annual turnover of less than 200 million u.a. and who do not control a part of the market of more than 25% in any of the Member States.
- (iii) The Commission may exempt from incompatibility concentration operations which are considered to be indispensable for permitting the conciliation of different Community objectives, notably as far as common policies decided on by the Community are concerned.
- (iv) A system for the preliminary control of all important concentration operations has been set up. To this effect the project envisages preliminary notification of concentration operations where the participating enterprises have a total turnover of more than 1 000 Million u.a. This preliminary notification also gives rise to a

5. Energy Policy: New proposals to the Council

Control of Concentrations

suspension period of three months during which time the enterprises concerned must suspend the implementation of the concentration unless the Commission informs them beforehand that they can continue with the concentration operations. After the three months period the enterprises may, in principle, continue with the implementation of the concentration operations.

- (v) When the Commission considers that a concentration operation could be incompatible with the maintenance of effective competition, then the Commission will open up an investigation procedure which may not exceed a period of nine months. As far as operations of concentration which have been notified are concerned, the Commission will begin investigations at the latest at the end of the three months suspension period. The putting into operation of this procedure in no way prejudices decisions on the incompatibility of the operations in question and has normally no suspensive effects unless the Commission makes a decision suspending the realization of the concentration until such time as the Commission has made a final decision.
- (vi) The Commission may, during the period of investigation either class the affair or declare the incompatibility of a concentration operation and can, if necessary, order measures of deconcentration. The Commission may also exempt from incompatibility concentration operations which are indispensable for the realization of objectives which are of general interest to the Community.

1501. On 25 July, the Commission adopted and on 3 August submitted to the Council, a communication on 'Initial implementation of the Guidelines and Priorities for a Community Energy Policy', approved by it in April. This document contains a first set of proposals based on the consensus of opinion reached in October 1972 and May 1973 to consider energy policy as a Community problem.

At this initial stage the Commission proposes that, in parallel and progressive stages, (a) the aim and conditions of the relations to be established with the energy-importing and (b) energy-exporting countries should be defined and (c) the first instruments for the organization of a Community oil market should be formulated.

These three aspects should be rapidly examined in depth. However, for reasons of politics, logic and effectiveness, these aspects cannot be treated separately.

Relations with other energy-importing countries

1502. The Commission will also exchange information on trends in the world energy situation with the United States and Japan in the course of its regular contacts with their Governments.

Cooperation between energy-importing countries must develop immediately in the three specific fields listed below.

'Overbidding' on world markets

1503. The large importing countries must avoid overbidding resulting from tight supply

Bull. EC 7/8-1973

¹ Supplement 6/73 - Bull. EC.

situations on the world energy market, as this is is is advantageous and costly for all of them.

The countries concerned should therefore define what they mean by overbidding and specify the types of practice or conduct which could jeopardize the stability of the market; this would require a common philosophy at Community level. In this connection acceptance of a common basis for evaluating supply costs, for example in the form of the price indexes envisaged by the Commission (Point 1508) should facilitate exchanges of views between importing countries and contribute to fruitful discussions of the instruments which might be available to prevent or restrict this overbidding.

Measures in the event of a crisis

1504. In the context of its wider cooperation with the OECD the Commission is participating in an OECD study of fields and methods of cooperation between Europe and non-European countries in the event of an oil supply crisis. It will thus establish with the Member States what contribution the Community can make within the ad hoc group created for this purpose by the OECD, in order to put forward a common point of view based on the structural characteristics of its energy consumption.

Scientific and technical research

1505. The Commission is compiling information in research and development work in the energy sector currently in progress in the Community. This should make it possible to pinpoint fields suitable for cooperation with nonmember countries.

The Commission has also prepared in the framework of the 'Scientific and Technological Policy Programme' an 'Outline Research Pro-

gramme on Energy' comprising a number of research areas considered to warrant priority. In accordance with the objectives listed in its papers entitled 'Necessary Progress' and 'Guidelines and Priorities', this research programme attaches particular importance to the production of energy by non-conventional methods, to the more rational use of energy, the protection of the environment etc.

The Commission will submit proposals for cooperation with other energy-importing countries to the Council in accordance with programme and based on the list of research and development work in progress. These proposals will be adapted to the relevant circumstances and may involve simple exchanges of information as part of the regular contacts mentioned above, coordination of parallel measures, adoption of joint programmes on a cost-sharing basis, etc.

Relations with energy-exporting countries

1506. At this stage the development of appropriate relations with the energy-exporting countries requires the definition of specific actions, although it will be necessary to continue the studies and consultations started some time ago.

Inside the Community, all possible ways in which national or Community public authorities and private industry can cooperate in their relations with energy-exporting countries should be established and listed.

To achieve this, the Commission proposes the creation of a system of mutual information and consultation between the Member States and the Commission on the energy aspects of the Mem-

Supplement 14/73 - Bull. EC.

Supplement 11/72 - Bull. EC.

Supplement 6/73 - Bull. EC.

ber States' initiatives with regard to the energyexporting countries, as well as, in particular with regard to hydrocarbons, of the Supply Committee mentioned in Point 1509.

Furthermore, to put this potential economic cooperation onto a firm footing, the Commission will continue to organize meetings between business interests from the Community and energy-exporting countries, such meetings to take place both in those countries and in the Community.

As a parallel activity the Commission proposes to establish contacts with the energy-exporting countries, with a view to setting up reciprocal information systems.

The Commission also hopes to institute exploratory talks with the energy-exporting countries, initially with those already displaying an interest in the matter. As regards other energy exporting countries, the Commission considers that such discussions should evolve step by step with a view to examining the possibilities of establishing contractual relations aimed at the development of commercial and economic cooperation between these countries and the Community. Agreements which might result from such negotiations must, however, have no preferential character except in regard to cases on which the Council has already so decided.

The organization of a Community oil market

1507. The organization of a Community oil market must fulfil a two-fold aim, namely security of supplies and effective, healthy competition.

As regards security of supplies, the trump card represented by a market of 250 million consumers should be played in order to establish give-and-take relations with the energy-importing and exporting countries.

The free play of effective, healthy competition should also be ensured within the Community, on lines that will reconcile the principles of a single Community market with maximum consumer protection, multiple sources of supply and the existence of adequate funds to cover the Community's long-term energy requirements. These objectives are reflected in part, in the proposal for a regulation on the control of concentrations, which the Commission recently presented to the Council.

Although in practice it is difficult to separate its two aims, this communication is more specifically concerned with the first, i.e., supply policy. It is also in line with the priority set by the Heads of State or Government in October 1972. In this connection, the Commission would recall that in its communication to the Council of 4th October 1972 it stressed that to implement a hydrocarbons supply policy in accordance with the objectives defined in the first guidelines and in the present communication to the Council requires coordination between the Community, the Member States and the oil companies so that, if required, a Community approach to the question of hydrocarbons supplies is possible.

As a first step towards implementing such a policy, the Commission proposes today the collection of the requisite data and the development of cooperation between the Community, the Member States and the oil companies with a view to working out common hydrocarbons import and export procedures.

Information

1508. An important step was taken in this direction when in May 1972 the Council adop-

¹ Points 1401 to 1404.

ted two regulations concerning the notification of investment projects, forecasts and actual imports of crude oil and natural gas.

A further stage must now be envisaged. The disturbances in the world market, the development of the import requirements of other large industrialized countries, the possibility of the Community turning more towards imports of refined products and the prospect of hydrocarbon production in the Community must be plotted more accurately.

Such is the aim of two new proposals for regulations submitted to the Council. The first of these relates to the application to oil products of Regulation (EEC) 1055/72 on notifying the Commission of imports of crude oil and natural gas, and the second to notification of the Commission of exports of hydrocarbons to third countries.

Likewise, adequate information presupposes an extensive knowledge on the part of the national and Community public authorities of the normal costs of crude oil supplies to the Community. In accordance with the Council's recognition of the relevance of such information during its meeting of 22 May, the Commission will as soon as possible make known the way in which it plans to translate into concrete terms its proposed establishment of price indexes for the entry of crude oil into the Community.

Establishment of a dialogue

1509. Information, an essential prerequisite for any action, does not represent a goal in itself: it is the necessary instrument of reflection in which all the parties responsible must pool their ideas and which may lead to changes in attitudes.

In order to attain the cohesion it still lacks, the Community's energy policy must promote a dialogue between the Commission and the Member States to which the oil companies must contribute through specific hearings.

The dialogue should take place in a Hydrocarbons Supply Committee chaired by the Commission and comprising representatives of each Member State.

So that this dialogue can fulfil the hopes entertained of it, the field to be covered should not be defined too narrowly. Such a dialogue, flexible alike in matters of procedure and fields to be covered, should progressively and pragmatically lead to the crystallization of concepts on the basis of which measures for the realization of a Community hydrocarbon policy can be evolved.

Such is the aim of a third proposal for a regulation transmitted to the Council at the same time as the Commission communication.

Common hydrocarbon imports and exports procedure

1510. The common imports and exports procedure obligatory in the legal sense under Article 113 of the EEC Treaty must take into account the specific nature and essential requirements of energy policy, i.e., supply conditions. Security of supply also demands the availability of Community safeguards in the event of a crisis.

The Commission feels that the instruments of the common commercial policy as defined, pursuant to Article 113 of the EEC Treaty, for imports and exports from or to third countries by Regulations (EEC) 1025 and 2603 fulfil these requirements. The procedures laid down in these two Regulations can form the basis for instituting a Community energy policy if accompanied, as proposed above, by appropriate flows of information to the public authorities in the Community, and by adequate communication among these public authorities and between them and the oil companies.

The Commission would also draw attention, as regards hydrocarbon imports, to its proposal of October 1972 aimed at subjecting these projects to the common procedure applying to imports from member countries as defined by Regulation (EEC) No 1025/70 of 25 May 1970. It likewise proposes—and this is the aim of the draft Decision contained in Annex 4—that hydrocarbon exports to third countries should be subject to a common procedure applying to exports, as defined in Regulation (EEC) No 2603/69 of 20 December 1969.

However, as regards both imports and exports of hydrocarbons, it is essential to know whether these operations fully meet the requirements, restated during the Summit Conference of October 1972, of secure long-term supplies under satisfactory economic conditions. Therefore, in the light of present supply conditions, hydrocarbon imports and exports must be made subject to the surveillance procedure laid down in Title III of Regulation 2603/69 as soon as the common procedure comes into force.

This is the aim of two proposals for Council decisions. In order to avoid administrative bottlenecks as much as possible and to comply with the provisions of the regulations relating to the supply of information, the terms of the decisions provide that the information made available to the Member States under such surveillance need not be passed to the Commission unless otherwise requested by a Member State or by the Commission.

Furthermore, in order to enable the common imports and exports procedure to be appropriately applied, the Commission will shortly submit to the Council a draft regulation concerning an agreed definition of the concept of origin of crude oil and petroleum products.

Finally, the Commission considers that in the interests of simplicity and efficiency, the Consul-

tative Committees, comprising representatives of the Member States and chaired by the Commission, which were established for the purpose of examining the supply situation in Regulations 1025/70 and 2603/69, should, in the case of hydrocarbons, have the same composition as the committee set up for consultation purposes (Point 1509).

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6. Scientific and Technological Policy Programme

Science and Technology

1601. A 'scientific and technological policy programme'—combined with a timetable—was adopted by the Commission on 25 July and forwarded to the Council on 4 August. Its main points are as follows: coordination of national policies; promotion of basic research; measures to support Community policies in various sectors; scientific and technical information; tasks in connection with public work and scientific and technical services; long-term research—outlook—methodology.

The programme and the timetable correspond to the instructions issued at the Summit Conference of October 1972 which stated: 'Objectives will need to be defined and the development of a common policy in the field of science and technology ensured. This policy will require the coordination, within the institutions of the Community, of national policies and joint implementation of projects of interest to the Community. To this end, a programme of action together with a precise timetable and appropriate measures should be decided by the Community's institutions, before 1 January 1974'.

This programme rests moreover on the same bases as the communication transmitted by the Commission to the Council on 14 June 1972 and entitled 'objectives and instrument of a common policy for scientific research and technological development'.²

The new document outlines the initial stages which will lead eventually to the achievement of such a policy, in the light of the discussions which have been taking place in recent months, in accordance with the general lines of the work programme³ which Mr Ralf Dahrendorf had brought before the Commission in May 1973. The proposals of the European Commission deal in particular with the six following points:

1602. In order to bring about the gradual coordination of research and development pol-

icies it is proposed to set up a Scientific and Technical Research Committee (STRC) a consultative body made up of senior officials responsible for the research policy of the Member States and the Commission. The task of this Committee will be to: examine national programmes and budgets and also available research potential; analyse the various aims of the Member States to bring out any gaps that might exist in research programmes; single out the common aims likely to be adopted and define the appropriate means for attaining them. The Committee will deliver opinions to the Council and the Commission to enable them to ensure fully effective coordination of policies, to increase the efficacy of the national and Community programmes, to define common actions of Community interest and to bring about the adoption of a common attitude of the Member States vis-à-vis non-member States and international organizations.

1603. In order to promote basic research it is planned that the European Commission will participate in a European Science Foundation which is shortly to be set up by the national research academies and councils of the countries of Western Europe. The aim of this Foundation will be to advance cooperation, in particular by promoting the mobility of research workers, by encouraging the free exchange of ideas and information, by facilitating the harmonization of national activities, by providing financial aids to support the concerted activities and collaboration schemes and by facilitating cooperation in the utilization of large-scale equipment facilities.

1604. In connection with support for the sectoral policies of the Community, although the machinery for formulating medium and long-term scientific research objectives still requires further elaboration, it is already possible, and indeed necessary, to embark immediately upon

Supplement 14/73 - Bull. EC.

² Supplement 6/72 - Bull. EC.

³ Bull EC 5-1973, point 2237.

several concrete actions. For several of the Community's sectoral policies general views and ideas exist on the basis of which it would be possible to identify and define the needs to be satisfied or problems to be solved and where research and development projects may make a contribution.

The Commission proposed outline programmes and certain specific measures in the fields of social policy, energy policy, industrial policy, environmental policy and policy concerning aid to developing countries with a view to facilitating the solution of certain short-term problems, the identification of medium-term and long-term aims and the coordination of national policies. As far as the other sectoral policies are concerned, and in particular agriculture, transport and regional policies, the Commission intends to present its proposals as and when specific research requirements become known.

For the execution of projects of Community interest, the Commission will place the emphasis on the more thorough-going use than at present of the existing Community potential both in public or private research organizations in the Member States and in the Joint Research Centre (JRC); the latter would be given a continuous participation centred, in particular, on tasks of a permanent nature.

1605. The action programme defines the Commission's activity in the field of scientific and technical information and the management of information for the coming years. As an extension to the activity of the Statistical Office, factual data systems should be set up, in collaboration with the departments operating in the Member States, so that information may become accessible under optimum conditions to industry and public authorities with a view to facilitating the harmonious development of society.

1606. Public services in the scientific and technical sector are clearly joint projects of

Community interest as defined by the Summit Conference, the first examples of which already exist in the Community in the Central Bureau for Nuclear Measurements (CBNM) and the Community Bureau of References (CBR).

In the near future the Commission will endeavour to present proposals for Community projects in this sector, and in particular for standardization and harmonization in fields such as the assessment of the undesirable side-effects of pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, food additives and pesticides and for the establishment of Community networks and systems relating, for example, to telecommunications and transport. It is further planned to promote closer cooperation between the various standardization and calibration centres in the Community.

- 1607. With regard to long-term studies, forecasts, assessments and questions of scientific methodology, the Community will, in particular, have to determine:
- (a) how to keep the aims and instruments of its scientific and technological policy constantly under review;
- (b) Whether it should undertake a major study 'Europe 30 years on' concerning the tasks with which Europe will have to cope, taking account of the foreseeable or at least possible developments over the next 30 years, and whether such a study could come up with a research instrument which could be constantly kept up to date;
- (c) whether the Community should set up its own Technology Assessment Office with the task of increasing the transparency of research and development and how such an office should stand in relation to the European Institutions.

The Commission proposes to fix a preparatory phase of one year for these tasks and during this period to call in seven top-level scientists from the various Member States who have a clear understanding of the political problems involved.

Bull. EC 7/8-1973





1. Functioning of the Common Market

Free Circulation of Goods

Free Circulation of Goods

Tariff Matters

Suspensions

On 24 July 1973 the Council adopted a Regulation extending for the second time the partial and temporary suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties applicable to wine originating in and coming from four Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. This measure shall apply until 31 August 1974.

On 1 August the Commission authorized the United Kingdom² to suspend until 31 October 1973 the customs duties applicable to imports of certain oleaginous products falling within heading and subheading Nos ex 12.01, 12.02 and 23.04B of the CCT from other Member States of the Community in view of the world market situation in this sector.

Tariff quotas

2103. On 16 July the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, adopted two Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas for: 30 000 heifers and cows, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds (the first comprising 18 000 head, and a reserve of 12 000 head) and 5 000 bulls, cows and heifers of the Simmental, Schwyz and Fribourg breeds (the first part comprising 3 500 head, with a reserve of 1 500 head).

These two tariff quotas shall apply from 14 July 1973 to 30 June 1974. The first parts are to be allocated among Members States possessing areas suitable for the raising of these breeds of cattle, namely Germany, France and Italy.

Generalized tariff preferences

In order to carry out the Community's obligations vis-à-vis Yugoslavia, the Council adopted, on 8 August 1973, two Regulations concerning generalized tariff preferences. One Regulation provides for the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas, the other opens tariff preferences for certain textile products originating in Yugosla-These generalized tariff preferences for cotton textiles and substitute products granted to Yugoslavia apply only until 31 December 1973.

Customs value

The Commission forwarded to the 2105. Council a proposal to extend until 30 June 1977 application of the Regulation of 19 December 1972^s on avoiding discrimination between intra-Community trade and trade with non-member countries as regards customs value. Article 46 of the Act of Accession provides that, for such time as customs duties are levied in respect of trade within the enlarged Community, the 'customs territory' to be taken into consideration for the purpose of establishing the customs value shall be that defined by the provisions existing in the Community and in the new Member States immediately prior to accession.

As the Accession Treaty does not expressly deal with the question of customs territory for the purpose of calculating the value of imports from non-member countries, it has become evident that such provisions would discriminate between intra-Community trade and trade with nonmember countries. This is why the Council

OJ L 206 of 27.7.1973 and point 2236.

OJ L 214 of 2.8.1973. OJ L 200 of 20.7.1972. OJ L 224 of 13.8.1973. OJ L 291 of 28.12.1972.

adopted the Regulation of 19 December 1972, which remedied this situation and applied the same provisions as those laid down in the Accession Treaty in respect of intra-Community trade to the customs territory for imports from non-member countries. In the light of experience gained the Commission deemed it desirable to apply these arrangements until June 1977.

Customs procedure for the movement of goods

Abolition of controls on intra-Community trade

2106. On 9 August 1973 the Commission forwarded to the Council a report (the second of its kind) on the abolition of controls on intra-Community trade. This document highlights the goals attained and the progress made since 1970; it also outlines the medium-term and long-term measures which need to be taken to abolish as many as possible of the obstacles resulting from such controls on intra-Community trade so that the movement of goods within the Community would be as free as in a true domestic market.

While pleased with the results already achieved, the Commission expressed its concern at the slowness of the process of dismantling all sorts of obstacles. The Commission stated that it was convinced that, taking into account the impressive number and complexity of trade regulations—at both Community and national levels—spectacular achievements can hardly be reckoned with, and that the total abolition of 'internal frontiers' in intra-Community trade can be achieved only by a large number of often quite small steps in all sectors concerned. Far from underestimating the extent of progress already achieved, the Commission notes that,

fourteen years after the first measures to abolish trade barriers between Member States, a considerable number of import and export formalities applicable to Community goods are still in existence.

Similarly, while the import by travellers of goods for personal use has been considerably simplified, formalities and expense are still involved when sending by post parcels for family members.

In this report the Commission announced, therefore, that over the next few years the abolition of controls and formalities ought to be a priority task of the Community. Essentially, the work in this sector involves harmonizing national regulations and working out adequate procedures within the customs union, but special attention should also be paid to the conditions in which the regulations are actually applied in the various Member States.

Abolition of technical obstacles to trade

2107. Within the context of the general programme for abolishing technical obstacles to trade, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, adopted on 24 July 1973 a Directive¹ on the approximation of the Member States' laws relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption.

This Directive is an important stage in the introduction of a food law in the Community, as it is the first text which lays down at Community level common rules to be complied with in the manufacture and sale of a specific category of foodstuffs. These rules allow for the free movement of these goods according to the same

¹ OJ L 228 of 16.8.1973.

standards in all Member States, while measures previously adopted in this sector were of a more general nature, and their direct effects on the market were sometimes more difficult to assess.

The Directive defines the different varieties of cocoa and chocolate and lays down the descriptions reserved for the varieties and also the types of processing allowed. Provision is also made for the labelling to be used in trade for the consumer's information.

All of these standards are required to safeguard public health and to protect the consumer against possible adulteration and fraud, whilst ensuring manufacturers conditions of fair competition.

The main body of the Directive is to be implemented by the Member States in two years' time. This period of time is required to allow national authorities to align their laws, regulations and administrative provisions on the new Directive and to allow the economic interests concerned to make the required adjustments.

Some additions will subsequently have to be adopted by the Council. Enforcement measures (e.g. supervisory methods) will be adopted by the Commission after hearing the opinion of the Standing Committee on Foodstuffs.

2108. During its session from 3 to 6 July 1973, the European Parliament approved three resolutions on the opening of tariff quotas for certain breeds of cattle, the suspension of CCT duties applicable to wine originating in three North African countries and Turkey, and on the total suspension of CCT duties, charges having equivalent effect and agricultural levies on goods imported as aid to disaster victims and intended for free distribution.

Competition Policy

General rules applicable to firms

Control of mergers

2109. On 20 July the Commission forwarded to the Council a proposal for a regulation on the control of mergers.¹ In its view, analysis of the market structure in the Community reveals a growing trend towards concentration and an increasing degree of concentration such that the maintenance of effective competition in the Common Market could be jeopardized. The Commission considers, therefore, that merger operations must be subjected to systematic control.

Agreements, mergers, dominant positions: specific case

Negative decision of the Commission in respect of cumulative rates of discout

2110. On 3 July the Commission reached a negative decision² in respect of an agreement concluded between three manufacturers (Contigea SA, Joski et Fils SNC and Le Renova SPRL) and two Belgian importers of gas water-heaters and bath-heaters (Chaffoteaux et Maury SAB, Prist SA); the Commission pronounced this agreement incompatible with the rules of competition laid down in the EEC Treaty.

The agreement, which covered the entire Belgian market in gas water-heaters and bath-heaters, obliged the signatories to operate a system of

Points 1401 to 1404.

² OJ L 217 of 6.8.1973.

cumulative rates of discount based on the total amount of business transacted with them and with any other wholesalers.

This obligation resulted in an appreciable restriction and distortion of trade between Belgium and the other Member States. Under this discount system the importers who were signatories to the agreement and the manufacturers in the other importing Member States granted discounts which bore no relation to the services provided by their intermediaries and ceased to compete with one another as regards prices and conditions of sale. Indeed, manufacturers found themselves obliged to grant each purchaser a rate of discount corresponding to the turnover resulting from purchases made from any manufacturer, although this discount did not correspond to the actual purchases made from him.

A similar decision was taken by the Commission on 29 December 1970 concerning the discount system operated by the Association of German Manufacturers of Ceramic Cladding and Flooring Tiles.¹ This association operated a discount system based solely upon purchases from the signatories to the agreement, which resulted in the bulk of purchases being made from them. Here too, the Commission's decisions was unfavourable.

Termination of an agreement as a result of Commission intervention

2111. Following a statement of objections addressed by the Commission to a dozen suppliers and some one hundred and fifty retailers of sporting cartridges in the Netherlands, the firms concerned decided to terminate the agreement.

Apart from NIKA Jachtpatronenfabriek in Tilberg, the only manufacturer of sporting cartridges in the Netherlands, the group of suppliers which controlled all imports of sporting cartridges and 22 LR ammunition consisted of

importers of every leading make of sporting cartridge, in particular ICI (United Kingdom), Dynamit Nobel (Federal Republic of Germany), Fabrique nationale and PRB (Belgium), Gevelot and Cartoucherie française (France), Fiocchi (Italy), Remington (USA) and most export agencies in Eastern European countries.

Among the provisions of the agreement complained of were: (i) a collective and reciprocal obligation for the sale and exclusive supply between suppliers and retailers, (ii) a collective obligation on suppliers to notify prices (open price system), and (iii) the collective obligation for retailers to comply with the minimum prices imposed. All these provisions were contrary to Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome, which lays down the conditions of free competition within the Common Market.

Merger in the steel industry

2112. In pursuance of Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission authorized the firm Usinor to take a 50% participation in the capital of Solmer. Founded in 1970 as part of the restructuration and expansion programme of the Sacilor group in Lorraine (formerly Wendel-Sidelor), Solmer is now owned jointly by the two large steel groups in Northern and Eastern France.

It will enjoy the advantages resulting from a coastal plant producing crude steel and flats (coils as from 1974, and plate and sheet after 1978). The capacity at present planned for around 1978 is 7 million metric tons of crude steel and 6 million metric tons of coils.

The joint control of Solmer by Sacilor and Usinor will doubtlessly result in a coordination of the investment and production of both groups

¹ Bull. EC 2-1971, point 9.

in the product sectors concerned. Solmer has, however, been planned as a production cooperative for its shareholders and will supply them with its products at cost price.

Usinor and Sacilor, on the other hand, market their products independently and may pursue independent commercial policies. However, under no circumstances does Solmer intervene on the market. Furthermore, the proportion of products received from Solmer by Usinor and Sacilor will not exceed 14% of each of these groups' total production of finished products around 1978.

For these reasons, it does not appear as though the effects on the market of the operation envisaged will necessarily impair effective competition throughout or on a large part of the Common Market. In addition to the three firms concerned, there are a number of other powerful manufacturers in the enlarged Community, whose coil production potential around 1976 will be in the region of 20%, 15%, 12% and 10% of market capacity in the Community. In addition, the French market (the main outlet for the firms concerned) is supplied to a considerable extent by imports both from the Community and from non-member countries. Finally, the enlargement of the Community is liable to result in a greater degree of interpenetration of steel markets.

The Commission considers that, under these conditions, the operation will not hinder the maintenance of effective competition on a large part of the market in the products concerned, insofar as the autonomy and independence of Usinor and Sacilor are restricted only to the extent of their joint control of Solmer and insofar as there is, in particular, no agreement in existence between these groups to restrict their commercial independence and no staff connections. With this in mind, the Commission has imposed suitable conditions on the firms concerned.

State Aids

Sectoral aids

Germany

2113. On 27 July 1973, the Commission decided not to oppose the extension and modification of the aid system applied by the Federal Republic of Germany in respect of prospecting for minerals and natural gas; this system provides for aid equal to 50% of the costs of prospecting operations in the form of interestfree appropriations which are repayable if the operations prove successful. This system has been modified mainly by extending the preferential treatment granted to prospection for natural gas in the Federal Republic of Germany without, however, increasing the budget provisions (appropriations for 1973 stand at DM 13.5 million). The Commission made its agreement conditional on the removal of all obstacles to the free movement within the Community of mining products obtained by prospecting operations covered by the aid measures in question.

Italy

2114. On several occasions the Commission has been called upon to state its position on the Law on the restructuring, reorganization and conversion of the textile industry (outline aid system) as the Italian Government has been laying down the criteria and the detailed rules for the application of this Law.¹ On 25 July 1973, the Commission adopted a further Interim Decision²—under Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty—abolishing the temporary and partial reduction of social charges pertaining to family

¹ Bull. EC 12-1972, point 20.

² OJ L 254 of 11.9.1973.

allowances, provided for in Article 20 of Law No 1101 of 1 December 1971, for the benefit of all textile industrial and small craft undertakings.

The reasons which led the Commission to take this step can be summarized as follows. The aid in question is operating aid to which the Commission is generally opposed on the grounds that it is not an effective incentive to recipient firms to carry out the necessary reconversion operations. In the particular case of the Italian textile industry, the operating aid is not consistent with what should be the aim of resolving the structural difficulties apparent in certain branches or firms, since it is granted indiscriminately to all textile firms. Furthermore, this type of aid is liable to have a direct effect upon competition and intra-community trade, since it is reflected immediately in the cost price and, consequently, in the competitiveness of firms, this in an industry already characterized by a very considerable amount of trade and by very keen competition.

United Kingdom

2115. In July the Commission decided to initiate the infringement procedure provided for in Article 169 of the EEC Treaty, in respect of aid granted in the United Kingdom for the building of mobile off-shore installations. The granting of such aid is not provided for by the second Council Directive on Shipbuilding of 20 July 1972. The Commission called upon the United Kingdom Government to submit its observations.

Regional aids

United Kingdom

2116. In accordance with Article 93 (3) of the EEC Treaty, the Commission was informed by

the United Kingdom Government that it proposed to introduce a special aid programme to encourage mobile service industries to move into assisted areas. This programme is envisaged in pursuance of the existing Regional Selective Assistance system (Section 7 of the Industry Act), on which the Commission has not yet stated its position, and to which the programme is complementary. In view of the supplementary nature of the aid in question—subsidies for transfer costs and the renting of new buildings-which is intended to consolidate the effects of the advantages granted to industrial development in assisted areas, and taking into account the fact that the recipients are existing firms, the Commission decided not to oppose implementation of this aid programme. It did, however, reserve the right to make a final decision once the Industry Act and the assisted areas in the United Kingdom have been studied.

Aid to exports

France

2117. On 8 May 1972, the Commission initiated the procedure under Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty in respect of the French system introducing tax concessions for French firms setting up establishments abroad.² The French Government then stated that it would submit a plan for the harmonization of these provisions with the rules of the Treaty for legislative approval before the end of 1972. With the adoption of Article 6 of the 1972 Finance Law (Amendment),³ the French Parliament has, by repealing the provisions concerned, effectively replaced these tax concessions by a tax system

27.12.1972.

¹ OJ L 169 of 27.7.1972.

Bull. EC 7-1972, point 3 and 9-1972, point 22.
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which is neutral from the point of view of competition and compatible with the rules applicable regarding the right of establishment. Article 6(5) of the Law states, however, that this substitution shall take effect as from 1 April 1973 only and that the previous provisions will continue to apply to the establishments and offices set up before this date. This means that French firms will continue to receive aid incompatible with the Common Market until the end of 1975.

Once it had completed the abovementioned procedure by requesting the parties concerned in the three now Member States (including the governments) to submit their observations, the Commission decided, on 25 July 1973, that the French Government should immediately abolish the tax concessions in question.

Other aids

Italy

2118. The Italian Government informed the Commission of draft Law No 946 increasing by Lit. 15000 million the budget appropriations granted to the Istituto Mobiliare italiano (IMI) to cover aid provided for in the Law of 18 December 1961 in favour of Industrial firms which are experiencing difficulties and which, for this reason, cannot turn to the usual financial circuits.

This 1961 Law provides that the IMI can grant—on behalf of the state—appropriations on preferential terms for the following operations:

- (i) investment carried out by small and medium-sized industrial firms experiencing difficulties or having temporarily ceased production;
- (ii) the resumption of activities in industrial firms and establishments which have temporarily ceased production.

This aid system has two characteristics which could render it incompatible with the Common Market. Firstly, there is a general aid system which can be applied to any firm in any area or industry; this lack of sectoral or regional specificity means that the Commission is unable to assess the effects on trade and competition within the Community. Secondly, the law is intended to ensure the survival of firms in difficulties. While appreciating the fact that Member States intervene to assist such firms, the Commission nevertheless considers that aid granted must be conditional on the firms making an effort to readapt themselves in the long run to normal conditions of competition; this is not so in the case of the aid system in question the sole aim of which is to ensure the survival of firms.

The Commission had not previously taken any action in respect of this system since it was to be suspended by the Italian Government; the draft Law No 946, by permitting the financing of new intervention measures under the 1961 Law, belies this expectation.

For this reason, the Commission decided on 25 July 1973 to initiate the procedure under Article 93 (2) in respect of both draft Law No 946 and the Law of 18 December 1961, and requested the Italian Government: (i) to inform it, in accordance with Article 93 (3), of the sectoral or regional programmes which it will draw up for the application of these aids, or, alternatively, of the significant individual cases of application; (ii) to amend the laws and regulations governing the granting of aid provided for in the 1961 Law in such a way that the granting of this aid be henceforth included in restructuring, modernization or conversion programmes for effectively reorganizing the industries or firms concerned.

¹ OJ C33 of 23.5.1973.

² OJ L 253 of 10.9.1973.

National commercial monopolies

2119. The Italian matches monopoly was amended by ministerial decree on 25 June 1973. This decree provides, in particular, that any individual may freely import matches into Italy from other Member States. Imported matches are subject to the same conditions of distribution and sale as those produced in Italy. The Italian Government pointed out that there was nothing to prevent importers from holding stocks of imported matches under customs control in Italy and from supplying distributors directly.

Trading margins can be fixed by agreement between importers, distributors and retailers. The Italian Government has emphasized that importers will henceforth be free to advertise; if necessary, additional provisions will be adopted. As regards taxes (manufacturing tax and VAT), the same rules apply both to Italian and imported products.

Suppliers from the Member States will be able to establish their own wholesale networks in Italy and hold stocks once the manufactured tobacco monopoly in the wholesale sector has been dissolved, i.e., not later than 31 December 1975.

The Commission has, therefore, decided to suspend the infringement procedure initiated in respect of Italy.

Taxation Policy and Financial Institutions

Taxation

Indirect Taxes

Excise duties on mineral oils

2120. On 9 August the Commission forwarded to the Council a proposal for a directive on

the harmonization of the structure of excise duties on mineral oils. These duties, which are collected in all the Member States and are a considerable source of revenue, belong to the group of excise duties which, as the Commission has proposed to the Council, should be retained and harmonized.1 Structural harmonization is the first stage which ought to prepare the way for the subsequent alignment of the rates of duty. The proposal specifies the scope of application (i.e. the taxable products), the chargeable events, the rules for charging and collecting the taxes and the obligatory exemptions, as well as certain principles to be adhered to when differentiating between rates. The Member States would still be free to fix the rate of tax. A certain number of transitional provisions ought to make it easier for Member States to adjust these excise duties to Community structures.

Financial Institutions

Banks and other financial institutions

Activities of stockbrokers

2121. A first working paper on the possible means of coordinating legislation relating to the operations of intermediaries in banking and on the stock exchange was examined by an *ad hoc* working party; that exchange of views was restricted to the activities of stockbrokers.

The first part dealt with the main difficulties arising from questions of nationality, monopoly, guarantee and control; the second part dealt with the possible means of harmonization—in particular, the taking up and organization of the profession. It was found that Community har-

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¹ Supplement 3/72 - Bull. EC.

monization would be facilitated by developments in the legislation of Member States.

Other meetings are planned, in particular on the activities of other intermediaries in securities, namely, intermediate brokers, commission agents, brokers outside the official market (courtiers) and, of course, banks.

Insurance

Right of establishment in the business of direct insurance (other than life assurance)

2122. Following the consultation procedure with the three new Member States, the Council adopted, on 24 July 1973, two directives, the first on the coordination of laws, Regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking-up and pursuit of the business of direct insurance, other than life assurance, the second abolishing restrictions on freedom of establishment in the business of direct insurance other than life assurance.

The first step, a very important one, towards creating a European insurance market has thus been taken. Within the eighteen months laid down for the implementation of these Directives, the Member States will amend their laws, Regulations and administrative provisions on controls over branches of direct insurance so that, in future, the distortions of competition, which frequently clashed with the operations of insurance companies wishing to set up business in another Member State, will be eliminated.

The Community provisions contain very detailed rules on the legal forms to be adopted by companies and lay down the conditions to be fulfilled by companies in oder for them to carry out direct insurance business in the Community. The financial provisions of the Directive on coordination are particularly important: in addi-

tion to sufficient technical reserves, the calculation, investment and valuation of which will still be subject to national law, companies will have to establish a solvency margin, including a special guarantee fund. These measures are intended to safeguard the policy holder, in particular.

The Directives apply to only a part of the European insurance market; life assurance and the whole range of social insurance are not included. However, the insurance sector in which freedom of establishment will obtain is very extensive, as is shown by the following figures: in 1971 2021 insurance companies in this sector collected 17795 million u.a. worth of premiums for policies issued within the Community.

The Commission will shortly present to the Council new proposals for directives for coordinating laws, regulations and administrative provisions on insurance. The right of establishment of life assurance companies will be given priority. In the case of certain indemnity insurance transactions, including the cover for transport risks as well as high industrial and commercial risks, the freedom to provide services will also be given priority.

Abolition of the green card insurance check

2123. In accordance with the Commission Recommendation to the Member States of 15 May 1973 for the purpose of implementing the Council Directive of 24 April 1972 on the approximation of the laws, Regulations and administrative provisions of Member States relating to insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles and to the enforcement of the obligation to ensure against such liability³—the Member States declared that

¹ Bull. EC 9-1972, point 26.

² OJ L 228 of 16.8.1973.

Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2110.

2. Economic and Monetary Union

Fiscal Policy

from 1 July 1973 they would refrain from frontier checks in respect of vehicles normally based on the territory of one of the other original Member States. As soon as the three new Member States have fulfilled these conditions, the Commission will fix the date for the abolition of frontier checks of green cards within the whole Community.

Economic, Monetary and Financial Policy

The Economic Situation in the Community

2201. At the beginning of the summer there has been a vigorous economic upswing throughout the Community, though it varied in degree from country to country. Rapidly growing world demand led to a strong increase in exports to non-member countries. The growth of internal demand accelerated in the whole Community. The propensity to invest in enterprises gained in buoyancy. Stocks were being replenished and the implementation of investment programmes was speeded up. Expenditure on consumption also provided appreciable stimuli to production and employment.

Internal production expanded very vigorously, entailing a rise in the degree of capacity utilization. In a number of member countries and industries delivery dates lengthened and there were even first signs of certain goods tending to be in short supply.

Employment rose in all member countries. In some of them there were increasing complaints from trade and industry about a growing shortage of manpower.

The upward movement of prices was generally very rapid, and in a number of member countries it even gathered additional momentum in the spring. While for a number of agricultural products the worst increases seem to be over, the upsurge of prices in the other areas has remained very strong. Much of this is due to increasing strains between supply and demand in most member countries. But there is also the continued vigour of the rise in costs, which is apparent not only in raw materials and primary products but also in the other cost elements, including wages.

Bull. EC 7/8-1973

In all Community countries the money supply has maintained its rapid growth in recent months, which since the spring has been due mainly to a very sharp expansion of lending.

Notwithstanding the restrictive measures taken in most member countries, and despite the weakening of the competitive position of the European Community as a result of the appreciation of most Community currencies, all the indications are that the economic upswing will remain appreciable in the second half of 1973.

The rapid economic growth enjoyed by the major trading partners of the enlarged Community suggests that exports will rise considerably. Gross fixed asset formation may even accelerate further in a number of Member States, and stockbuilding too will probably still provide appreciable stimuli to economic activity. The expansion of expenditure on consumption in terms of money will remain rapid.

Production and employment will therefore go on rising. Real gross Community product in 1973 should grow by some 6%, compared with 4% in 1972 and 3% in 1971. The pressure of prices will still be heavy in the next few months. The anti-inflationary measures taken or planned will take some time to produce effects, especially at the level of consumer prices.¹

Achievement of economic and monetary union

2202. A 'reflection group' on economic and monetary union has been formed by the Commission; it comprises Mr Denizet and Professors de Jouvenel, Dosser, Giersch, Magnifico, Meade, Mundell, Neubauor, Onida and Peeters, who were joined at the last meeting by Professor Triffin. After several discussion meetings the last of which was held on 6 and 7 July the group concluded its work, which is dealt with in a report.

This report is subdivided into five chap-Chapter One established the link between monetary unification and European integration, and emphasizes the need for European monetary unification as an integral part of economic integration. Chapter Two deals with monetary unification and the role of a common European currency in its various possible forms: fixed internal rates of exchange, floating rates, adjustable parities or limited internal flexibility accompanied by floating vis-a-vis countries outside the Community. Chapter Three analyses the economic effects of monetary unification, its implications for capital markets and the other fields of the economy, and emphasizes that economic and monetary progress should be treated as interdependent factors. Chapter Four studies the economic and social measures necessary to monetary unification and economic integration: short-term economic policy, regional policy, employment policy, social policy, industrial policy and budgetary policy. The report closes with a chapter on the general principles and the action programme for the transition from the common market to the economic and monetary The Annex to the report lists the various individual contribution of the members of the group who have studied in greater depth one or other aspect of the problems examined.

Monetary Committee

2203. The Monetary Committee held its 179th session in Brussel on 19 and 20 July 1973 with Mr Clappier in the chair. Following the grant to Italy of short-term monetary support the Committee held a special discussion of the economic and financial situation in Italy. The conclusions reached were entered in a report. The Committee also prepared for the

Source: Quarterly Report 2/1973 on 'The economic situation in the Community'.

meeting of the 'Committee of Twenty' which was held on 30 and 31 July 1973 in Washington.

Consumer survey on the economic situation

2204. In the second quarter of 1973, in five countries of the European Community (Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium) a survey of 25 000 chosen representative households was carried out for the fourth time. As the Belgium results were not available at the time of going to press because of technical difficulties this analysis is based only on the results for the other four countries.

The judgments and expectations concerning the general economic situation differ quite appreciably from country to country: whereas in France the optimism of consumers had rather tended to increase, and in the Netherlands the present and future economic situation is no longer seen as unfavourably as hitherto, in the eyes of consumers, the economic climate in Italy and, particularly, in the Federal Republic, has evidently worsened. Experience gained in the past shows that judgments and expectations concerning the general economic situation closely depend on how secure one's employment is and how severely price increases are felt.

In the Federal Republic of Germany jobs are generally considered to be more secure than in the other countries polled. Account must, however, be taken of the fact that, in all, about 10% more German households expect an increase in unemployment in the next twelve months whereas, at the beginning of the year, the positive and negative expectations still balanced each other out. In France too, somewhat more households than at the beginning of the year fear a rise in the number of unemployed. In Italy the widespread concern for job security has not

increased any further, and in the Netherlands it has declined in comparison with the beginning of the year.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, in particular, but also in Italy, the alarming rise in the level of prices probably contributed to a large extent to the recent, more pessimistic judgments concerning the general economic situation. In both countries, since the beginning of the year, the percentage of households which felt that price rises were no longer moderate but appreciable has clearly increased. In France and the Netherlands households have not become aware of any further worsening of the price situation.

In all the countries consumers look forward with concern to price trends in the coming twelve months. In France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy, price increases are anticipated more often than at the beginning of the year; in the Netherlands the number of households which expect a further rise in prices during the next twelve months remains very high.

With regard to the development of the financial situation of the individual household judgments expressed in France and the Netherlands were just as favourable as at the beginning of the year. The Italians and the Germans, on the other hand, gave clearely more unfavourable verdicts than three months ago. A striking feature, in particular, is the worsening of the income situation felt by German households. Whereas, at the beginning of the year in the Federal Republic of Germany, the majority of households still considered that their financial situation had improved or had at least remained unchanged compared with the previous year, this time the negative judgments predominate.

As regards the future development of incomes, the French are the most confident. A relatively large proportion of French households expect an improvement in their financial situation in the twelve months ahead. In the Netherlands the positive and negative assessments still practically

balance each other out. The Italians have become more reticent in their hopes for an improvement in their financial situattion as the optimism expressed during the previous polls has so far not proved justified. The most unfavourable answers concerning the future development of the financial situation of households were this time to be found in the Federal Republic of Germany. In all, about 23% of German households expect their financial situation to deteriorate during the next twelve months; at the beginning of the year positive income expectations were still in the majority. In general, there is perhaps an increase in the number of households which, in their replies, do not take account solely of the rise in nominal incomes but already anticipate how prices will act.

The price rises which have already occurred, or are expected, have meanwhile reached such proportions that an increasing number of households wonder whether, in view of the present economic situation, there is any point in saving. This growing scepticism is reflected particularly in the set of figures for Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany.

2205. During its session of 3 to 6 July 1973, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on the Commission's Communication concerning embarkation on the second stage of economic and monetary union.¹

Regional Policy

Working out a Community Regional Policy

Commission proposals

2206. The Commission took another step towards the achievement of a Community

regional policy when, on 31 July 1973, it forwarded a communication comprising a draft decision and two proposed regulations to the Council.2 On 4 May the Commission had, pursuant to the final communiqué of the October 1972 Summit Conference, already forwarded to the Council a report on regional problems in the enlarged Community,3 which analyzed the problems obtaining in this field and laid down the guidelines for its subsequent proposals. It has now taken the next step and put before the Council formal proposals for the introduction of new regional policy instruments by recommending, in particular, the setting up of a Committee for Regional Policy and a European Regional Development Fund. The implementing proposals put forward in July will be followed by two other proposals specifying the criteria for determining the different categories of regions and the detailed rules governing their implementation.

During its session from 3 to 6 July the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on Community Regional policy, in which, whilst approving the Commission's proposals, in particular those concerning the Regional Development Fund, it believes that 'the Commission's concept, which is essentially economic, must be widened to reflect a broader view of development taking account of the human factor.' In its Resolution the Parliament 'recommends that financial measures should be backed by Community technical aid', 'points out that Community efforts to attract new development in the less developed regions must be accompanied by measures to discourage industrial congestion in regions that are already saturated', and 'considers that, in the case of development regions extending beyond

¹ Supplement 5/73 - Bull. EC.

² Point 1201 of this Bulletin and OJ C86 of 16.10.1973.

³ Bull. EC 5-1973, points 1401-1408 and Supplement 8/73 - Bull. EC.

an internal frontier of the Community, binding forms of cooperation should be established in the Member States concerned, and that such cooperation should, if possible, be extended to regions in third countries bordering on the Community.' The Parliament also specified what, in its opinion, the tasks of the Community institutions, assisted by the Committee on Regional Development, (now Committee for Regional Policy), should be.

Social Policy

Employment

2208. On 17 July, the Commission organized an informal meeting to which national experts on employment forecasts had been invited, so that general guidelines might be laid down for the Community's work on employment forecasts. Although the long-term objective they had in mind was to harmonize data and methods of compiling data, the experts felt the problems should be approached pragmatically. It was therefore agreed to pursue the work along two lines at the same time: comparison of the results of forecasting work carried out in the Member States, and, with regard to research, establishment of an oder of priority for measures to be carried out at Community level.

Free movement of workers and social security for migrant workers

2209. In connection with measures to improve employment possibilities for Community workers and in particular for Italian workers wanting to work in other member countries, a preliminary exchange of Italian and German

labour exchange officials was organized under the auspices of the Commission. The exchange is aimed at improving knowledge of the special conditions of labour markets and at gradually building up direct relations between areas which, to some extent, complement each other as regards employment.

Since 1 March 1973, five German officials have been working for a period of six months, in labour exchanges in the Mezzogiorno, while ten Italian officials have gone to German labour exchanges in areas with a large number of Italian workers. At a joint meeting held in Nuremberg on 4 and 5 July, the authorities of the two countries and the Commission's representatives established that the current experiment was proving a total success and a second programme of exchanges is planned for 1974.

2210. The Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers, whose 131st session was held on 12 and 13 July, made the final changes in the forms for migrant workers to adjust them to the enlarged Community. An initial discussion was then held on the implementation of Article 39 of the additional protocol to the Ankara agreement which requires the Council of Association to draw up, before the end of 1973, provisions concerning the social security of Turkish workers moving within the Community.

Social fund, reemployment and readaptation

Maximum amount of assistance from the European Social Fund for certain types of aid

2211. On 25 July, the Commission adopted a Regulation¹ fixing a maximum amount of assist-

¹ OJ L 205 of 26.7.1973.

ance from the European Social Fund for certain types of aid. It limited 'resettlement expenses' to 500 u.a. per beneficiary; other expenses resulting from the move (in particular those occasioned by separation from the family) may not exceed two units of account per day per person for a maximum of six months, except in special cases.

The amount of assistance from the Fund for benefits received from hostels accomodating young people who have been obliged to leave their homes in order to pursue a professional or trade activity shall not exceed 1.3 u.a. per day, for one year, for each person benefiting; moreover, only young people under 25 years of age are entitled to this. Finally, the Commission Regulation fixes the maximum amount of assistance from the Fund for expenses incurred in helping to maintain the level of earnings of elderly workers undergoing vocational retraining, at 15% of the average gross wage paid by the undertaking (for corresponding jobs).

Social Fund Committee

2212. The Committee of the European Social Fund held two plenary sessions, on 5 and 19 July, during which it gave its opinion on two new series of applications for assistance following those which had been accepted by the Commission in December 1972.

One series of applications was submitted in accordance with the Council Decisions of 19 December 1972² establishing two initial fields of intervention by the Fund pursuant to Article 4 of the Decision of 1 February 1971. Application relating to persons leaving agriculture amounted to 36.4 million u.a. and concerned approximately 28 600 workers; others concerning textile workers amounted to 2.2. million u.a. for training approximately 1 650 persons.

The second series of applications examined by the Committee in July was submitted pursuant to Article 5 of the Decision of 1 February 1971. In all, they amounted to 52.8 million u.a., of which 47.3 million u.a. concerned backward or declining regions, 5.2 million u.a. the adaptation to technical progress, and 280 000 u.a. groups of undertakings; the total number of workers concerned by the applications was 98 590.

The Committee also delivered opinions on the following: the draft Commission proposals to the Council to authorize intervention by the Fund (under Article 4 of the Decision of 1 February 1971) in favour of handicapped persons and migrant workers; the advisability of carrying out a certain number of pilot experiments, in particular, regarding the training of adult instructors in the Community; and lastly on the advisability of requesting a supplementary budget for the financial year 1973 and on the preliminary draft of the budget of the Social Fund for the financial year 1974.

ECSC readaptation measures

2213. In July, the Commission decided that the aid measures for readapting workers, provided for in Article 56 (2) of the ECSC Treaty could be applied to the case of workers affected by the closing down of a coking plant, a rolling mill and a steelworks in Belgium. The Belgian Government and the Commission wil reach a special agreement for applying this Decision.

Social security and social action

2214. On 6 July, a meeting was held in Brussels of the independent experts instructed by the

Bull. EC 12-1972, point 36.

² Bull. EC 9-1972, point 38 and 11-1972, point 27.

Commission to examine the possibilities of making the study 'Social security in agriculture' more comparable within the Community and of extending it—it is at present limited to independent farmers—to cover paid agricultural workers. The policies adopted would be put before the Government experts for approval before the end of the year.

Living and working conditions - Industrial relations

A new report on the progress made, as at 31 December 1972, in applying the principle of equal pay for men and women, was forwarded by the Commission to the Council on 31 July. The document does more than examine what has happened since 31 December 1968—the date in relation to which the previous report had been established—but attempts to present an account—brief but as comprehensive as possible—of developments in the six original Member States since 1958. It highlights the progress made as regards equal pay, and also the shortcomings and insufficiencies which still persist. To overcome these, the Commission is proposing a series of concrete measures. document will be followed by a complementary report which is being drawn up on the situation in the three new Member States.

2216. The Commission organized a meeting in Luxembourg on 9 July, of the experts of the employers' and workers' organizations in the nine Member States, in order to bring up to date the comparative tables on working hours and to add to the tables data concerning the three new Member States. The comparative tables give an approximate estimate of the length of the working day and week, paid leave and statutory and agreed holidays in twelve selected industries in the Community.

2217. On 2 July, in Liège, the Joint Advisory Committee on Social Questions arising in Inland Water Transport held the first meeting of its Working Party on 'Supervision and disciplinary measures', which enabled participants to survey the problems in this field and to establish how they would conduct their investigations.

2218. To ensure that the work of the Joint Advisory Committee on Social Questions arising in the Railway Industry is not interrupted, an ad hoc working party of representatives of workers and management held a meeting in Liège on 3 and 4 July. Representatives of the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark took part for the first time. After a first examination of a working document concerning the working conditions and the composition of crews on the railways, those taking part supplied further information on the current situation in their countries, and suggestions on how the work should be continued.

Industrial safety, hygiene and medicine and health protection

2219. The tenth meeting of the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission was held in Luxembourg on 10 July. It adopted its annual report, which will be examined by the European Parliament, and the conclusions of a working party on the safety problems raised by flexible tubes for oxygen. It also decided to draw up a new work programme since the representatives of the new Member States were now involved in its work.

2220. On 12 July, in Luxembourg, the committee of Government experts looking into problems of hygiene in mines and the steel industry was informed of the third programme of research, to last five years from the end of 1973 and prepared by the Commission, concern-

Bull. EC 7/8-1973 41

ing the fight against pollution (air, water and noise) caused by the steel industry. Four projects based on the second research programme 'Fight against air pollution caused by the steel industry', were approved; two of them concern waste disposal. As regards mining research, 32 research projects relating to hygiene in the coal industry were approved.

2221. Two meetings of working parties were held regarding work on harmonizing warning signs and notices in undertakings, and on industrial safety.

A meeting of national experts from the nine Member States was organized by the Commission to examine a draft report concerning the supervision and control of radioactivity in the proximity of nuclear installations. The aim of the report was to put forward a proposal to harmonize at Community level control and supervision methods in this field, so as to protect man and his environment. The discussion mainly centred on the atmosphere, water, land and foodstuffs; methods of preventing the direct radiation of man were also discussed. The final document will include recommendations for harmonization in this field, which would appear necessary particularly because of the foreseeable development of nuclear energy in the Member

Approximately 250 participants from seventeen countries and representatives of five international organizations attended a European seminar organized by the Commission from 3 to 5 July on the problems posed by man's contamination of his environment by mercury and cadium. Forty reports and papers were presented on the following topics: presence of mercury and cadium in the environment; analytical techniques; effects on the ecology; ways in which they are transferred to man; effect on man.

It was shown that the mercury problem was less acute than it might appear. But as mercury is

much used in various industrial and agricultural activities, vigilance should however be maintained and a watch continue to be kept on effluent from this pollutant and the resulting contamination of the environment. Cadmium would appear to pose more serious problems but these are as yet little known. It contaminates the environment from many diverse sources. Food, drinking water, pottery, air and tobacco are the main ways in which it is transferred to man. Natural pollution by mercury and cadmium was also pointed out as a factor which could not be ignored.

The discussions will be continued at the scientific level on the subject of other micro-pollutants, including pesticides. The analytical approach suggested by the Commission was recognized as the only one, at the present time, capable of enabling adequate rules to be drawn up in the light of more detailed knowledge of the effects on health and the ecology. For cadmium in particular, but also for mercury, much more research is needed especially in the field of marine micro-biology as regards certain fundamental aspects of human toxicology and the ways in which poisons are transferred to man by the ecosystems.

Environment and Consumer Protection

Environment

Adoption of a Community Action Programme

2224. The Council, meeting for the first time with the Ministers responsible for environmental protection participating, adopted a Community environmental action programme on 19 July

1973. One of the wishes expressed by the Summit Conference in October 1972 has thus been fulfilled.

The adoption of this programme ensued upon the forwarding of several documents on this subject to the Council by the Commission, in particular, the communication presented on 24 March 19721 and finally the 'action programme' (combined with a draft resolution and a proposal for a decision) transmitted on 17 April 1973,2 which has been the subject of protracted discussions within the appropriate Council bodies. The programme takes into consideration the results of the Conference held in Bonn on 31 October 1972 by the Ministers of the Nine responsible for the environment.

At the end of a long discussion on the legal form which the acceptance of this programme—analysed elsewhere'—should take, the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council adopted the 'following' declaration (unrevised text):

'The Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council note that the projects to which this programme will give rise should in some cases be carried out at Community level, and in others by the Member States.

With regard to the projects to be carried out by the Member States, the latter will supervise their proper execution, it being understood that for these projects the Council will exercise the coordinating powers laid down in the Treaty.

With regard to the projects in the programme to be carried out by the Institutions,

The Council of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Treaties establishing the European Communities;

Having regard to the draft from the Commission on a Community Environmental Programme;

Having regard to the Opinion of the Parliament;

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee;

Whereas the Heads of State or of Government meeting in Paris for the Summit Conference on 19 and 20 October 1972 emphasized the importance of a Community Environmental Policy and to this end invited the Community Institutions to establish, before 31 July 1973, a programme of action accompanied by a precise timetable;

Whereas the Ministers of the Member States of the enlarged European Community responsible for matters of Environmental Protection met in Bonn on 31 October 1972 in an effort to facilitate the implementation of the final declaration of the Heads of State or of Government; and whereas the conclusions reached by the Bonn Conference are summarized in the Communiqué it adopted;

Whereas the tasks of the European Communities are defined in the Treaties establishing the Communities;

Whereas in particular, under the terms of Article 2 of the EEC Treaty, the task of the European Economic Community is to promote throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities and a continuous and balanced expansion, which cannot now be imagined in the absence of an effective campaign to combat pollution and nuisance or of an improvement in the quality of life and the protection of the environment;

Whereas improvement in the quality of life and the protection of the natural environment are a fundamental task of the Community; whereas it is therefore necessary to implement a Community environmental policy;

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Points 1301 to 1309.

Whereas the projects included in this programme must be implemented in accordance with the conditions of the Treaties,

Approves the aims and principles of a Community environmental policy and the general account of the projects to be undertaken at Community level as defined in the programme annexed hereto:

Approves the material content of the projects under this programme on the reduction of pollution and nuisances and the priorities established in this matter;

Approves the specific guidelines of the projects under this programme concerning the improvement of the environment;

Notes that the Commission, within its sphere of competence, will be responsible for the implementation of this programme in accordance with

the methods and timetable indicated therein and that it will subsequently put forward suitable proposals;

Undertakes to give a ruling on the foregoing proposals within a period of nine months from the date of despatch thereof by the Commission'. The action programme itself—as adopted on

19 July—defines the aims of a Community environmental policy, lays down the principles of such a policy and specifies the activities to be undertaken and the relevant timetable.¹

Implementation of research programme

2225. In a communication published in the Official Journal of the Communities,² the Commission states that it 'wishes to receive proposals from individuals and organizations in the Community interested in participating in this programme by means of research contracts in the following areas: establishment of a data bank on environmental chemicals; health and environmental effects of lead pollution; epidemological

surveys on the effects on air and water pollution; health effects of micropollutants; evaluation of ecological effects of water pollutants; remot. sensing of air pollution'. What is required here is to prepare the ground for 'indirect activities', relating to environmental protection within the context of the multiannual research programme adopted by the Council on 18 June 1973.' These activities, planned for a three-year period starting 1 January 1973, are to be carried out by means of research contracts.

Other activities concerning the environment appear in what are usually referred to as Lists 'A' and 'B' (direct action to be carried out by the JRC) under the multiannual programme, approved by the Council on 6 February 1973⁴ and formally adopted at a later date.

2226. At its session of 3-6 July, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the programme of environmental action presented to the Council by the Commission and on proposed measures to be taken in this field.

Agricultural Policy

2227. Developments on the principal world agricultural markets—which for several months now have been marked by certain upward trends—and the United States' embargo on soya exports' which was decided on at the end of June, were followed in July and

¹ For the analysis of this programme see points 1301 to 1309 of this Bulletin.

² OJ C61 of 28.7.1973.

³ OJ L 189 of 11.7.1973 and Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2243.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1973, point 2231.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2227.

August by a series of moves and measures, in particular at Community level.

The American decision, on top of which came difficulties caused by a world shortage of fish meal, inevitably gave rise to a number of repercussions, as the Community—the largest buyer of soya from the United States—was suddenly faced with problems in obtaining supplies of feedingstuffs with certain effects being felt on the markets in cereals (as these can be used to replace oil cakes) and milk products and in meat production in general. The examination of these problems by the competent authorities of the Council at the beginning of July thus linked up, as regards the outlook for the world agricultural and food situation, with the more general concern expressed by the Director-General of FAO during his discussions in the Commission on 3 July.1

The importance of the developments on the principal world agricultural markets, especially in the last year, is illustrated by some revealing figures. Developments on the world market in cereals had significant repercussions on the machinery of the common agricultural policy regulating trade with non-member countries. Export refunds, which in August 1972 amounted to 40 to 54 u.a. per metric ton for common wheat, had to be abolished completely in the following month. A year later, i.e. in August 1973, the situation had been completely reversed: not only did export refunds no longer exist, but they have been replaced by an export levy of 40 u.a. per metric ton in August 1973 and between 55 and 60 u.a. in the following month. In the same connection, Community imports of common wheat were freed of all levies and taxes from the beginning of August

It is also significant that the Community is dependent on non-member countries for virtually all its oil cake requirements, estimated for 1971-1972 at approximately 16.5 million metric

tons (only 0.5 million metric tons of which are produced in the Community). Soya-bean cakes account for almost half this total: 7.5 million metric tons, 85 to 90% of which come from the United States; this high percentage explains the concern caused by the measures imposed by the United States Administration on soya exports.

These were the circumstances in which the Community adopted a series of measures to deal with the situation following the decision taken on 2 July by the American authorities to replace the embargo on exports by a licence system which amounted to reducing exports to the Community under contract by 50% for soya seeds and by 60% for soya-bean cakes and soya-bean flour. At its session of 16 and 17 July, the Council officially assigned Mr Lardinois—the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for agriculture—the task of informing Washington of the Community's concern at the restrictive measures that had been adopted and requesting that they be abolished. The Council also took a number of precautionary measures over and above those already adopted by the Commission.

In this context the Council on 19 July² laid down the general rules to be applied in the event of the cereals market being disturbed: an export levy and measures relating to the issue of export licences (when cif prices on the world market exceed threshold prices by at least 2%, which has, in fact, happened). Safeguard measures relating to exports of wheat (durum and common) from the Community were adopted by the Commission on 4 and 6 August,³ no further export licences were issued for these products. These measures were repealed on 13 August⁴ for common wheat as export levies

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¹ Point 2336.

OJ L 201 of 21.7.1973.

³ OJ L 219 of 7.8.1973 and L 220 of 8.8.1973.

⁴ OJ L 227 of 15.8.1973.

had been introduced as from 14 and 15 August in the cereals sector: barley, maize, common wheat.¹

Because of developments on the world protein market, the period of validity of export licences for skimmed milk powder and compound feedingstuffs was reduced by the Commission on 17 July² from one month to fifteen days. On 24 July the Council introduced a system of export licences for oil seeds and oil-cakes processed from them. The detailed rules for the application of this system were laid down by the Commission on the same day.³ In view of the present state of the world protein market the Commission also examined the possibility of increasing the production of proteins in the Community to meet the need for feedingstuffs.

Meanwhile, Mr Lardinois had gone to Washington on 22 July to explain the Community's point of view. At the end of July the United States slightly relaxed restrictions on soya exports. On 1 August the Commission Spokesman made the following comments on the decision:

'The Commission noted with satisfaction the American Government's statement concerning the export of soya seeds in which the American authorities undertake to honour in full all draft contract presented before 13 June 1973. The statement by the American Government partly satisfied the Community's requests which were presented by Mr Lardinois during his visit to Washington on 22 July last. Taking this measure and the additional deliveries of soya products announced on 22 July into account, the Community's position is, as a result, more secure as regards the volume and price stability of its imports in this sector.' The problems raised by developments on the principal world agricultural markets are therefore still with us.

Measures taken in relation to the monetary situation

2229. In accordance with the new method of calculating monetary compensatory amounts,⁴ each week during the months of July and August the Commission fixed the monetary compensatory amounts applicable to trade in the agricultural and processed products concerned. The exchange rates for the pound (Sterling and Irish) and for the Italian lira fluctuated to such an extent that the compensatory amounts had to be changed every week. The differential amounts applicable to colza and rape seed were amended in the same way. However, in view of developments in seed prices on the world market, the differential amounts were abolished as from 23 July.⁵

On 27 July⁶ the Commission adopted two regulations making transitional provisions consequential upon the application on 4 June 1973 of the new system of monetary compensatory amounts or of differential amounts for colza and rape seed. These two regulations stipulate that the monetary compensatory amount valid on 3 June will apply to transaction for which levies or refunds were fixed in advance before 4 June irrespective of the date of importation or exportation. This measure is aimed at limiting the effects on current contracts of the change in the system of calculation on 4 June.

On 6 July⁷ the Council adopted a regulation specifying that the monetary compensatory amounts applicable to beef and veal may, as a

¹ OJ L 225 of 14.8.1973 and L 227 of 15.8.1973.

² OJ L 198 of 18.7.1973.

³ OJ L 204 of 25.7.1973.

⁴ Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2220.

⁵ OJ L 201 of 21.7.1973.

⁶ OJ L 207 of 28.7.1973.

⁷ OJ L 185 of 7.7.1973.

result of the depreciation of a currency, be higher than the charge on imports from non-member countries as regards the amounts to be granted and levied by the new Member States for young male bovine animals and calves for fattening so that account may be taken of the special situation in the new Member States which are not yet applying the Common Customs Tariff. 1 August¹ the Commission also adopted a regulation which lays down that the monetary compensatory amounts to be applied by Ireland and the United Kingdom to beef and veal are to be limited to the incidence of the lowest charges levied by each of these two Member States on imports from non-member countries.

With the aim of improving the system of differential amounts in the oils and fats sector, on 23 August² the Commission adopted new detailed rules for applying differential amounts for colza and rape seed and repealed its Regulation of 30 May 1973.3 What is novel here is that, from now on, Community crushers of colza and rape seed are in a similar position to the traders who benefit from the system of monetary compensatory amounts introduced for the other market organizations, taking into account, however, the special characteristics of the organization of the market in oil seeds.

Under the present system the differential amount is the sum of three components which are either positive or negative depending on whether the currency of the country in which the seed is processed or from which it is exported has been revalued or devalued. In view of this the Commission no longer fixes the actual differential amount but the factors on the basis of which it will now be calculated by the Member States themselves. The Commission also fixes the world market price which is to be taken into consideration. On 25 August 19734 it adopted two regulations to this effect; the new system came into force on 27 August.

Application of the provisions of the agricultural policy in the enlarged Community

On 16 July, the Council supplemented 2230. its Regulation of 25 July 1967 fixing production refunds on maize groats and meal broken rice used in the brewing industry so as to take account of the 'accession' compensatory amounts in calculating the production refund for the new Member States up to the end of the transitional period.

After fixing the intervention prices in the cereals sector for the 1973/74 marketing year on 16 July, the following day the Council amended its Regulation of 31 July 1973' laying down general rules for the system of 'accession' compensatory amounts and fixing these amounts for certain products. The Council fixed the 'accession' compensatory amounts for common wheat and barley and the coefficients applicable for the other cereals for the 1973/74 marketing year. Similarly, on 31 July, to the Commission fixed the compensatory amounts for certain categories of cereals, for rice, and for processed products derived from cereals and rice for the 1973/74 marketing year.

The 'accession' compensatory amounts for eggs, poultrymeat and pigmeat products were fixed in a number of Commission Regulations of 31 January 197311 for the period up to 31 July. 25 and 27 July¹² the Commission fixed the new

OJ L 214 of 2.8.1973.

OIL 236 of 24.8.1973.

Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2228.

OJ L 237 of 25.8.1973.

OJ L 199 of 19.7.1973.

OJ L 174 of 31.7.1967. Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2231. OJ L 201 of 21.7.1973.

Point 2217 of this Bulletin.

¹⁰ OJ L211 of 1.8.1973.

¹¹ ¹¹ Bull. EC 1-1973, point 2221; OJ L29 of 1.2.1973; L39 of 12.2.1973 and L53 of 26.2.1973.

OJ L 208 of 28.7.1972.

amounts applicable to products in these three sectors for the period 1 August 1973 to 31 July 1974 in accordance with the fluctuation in 'accession' compensatory amounts for feed grain. The amounts calculated for Denmark were minimal; in pursuance of the Act of Accession, it was decided not to fix any 'accession' compensatory amounts applicable in this country for the products in question.

Furthermore, on 31 July, the Commission extended, until 30 November 1973, the period of derogation² granted to the new Member States as regards the standard method of denaturing common wheat.

Under the Act of Accession, the new Member States may be authorized to suspend in whole or in part the customs duties on products imported from the other Member States and covered by a common organization of the market. In view of the situation on the world market, the Commission made use of this possibility and on 1 August³ authorized the total suspension of customs duties on certain products in the oils and fats sector -oil seeds and oleaginous fruit, flours or meals and oil-cakes of oil seeds or oleaginous fruit (headings ex 12.01 and 12.02 and sub-heading 23.04B of the Common Customs Tariff)—which are imported into the United Kingdom from the other Member States for the period from 2 August to 31 October 1973.

Common Organizations of Markets

Cereals and rice

On 16 July the Council fixed, for the 1973/74 marketing year, the principal marketing centres for cereals, the derived intervention prices applicable at those centres and the single intervention price for maize, for durum wheat and for rye respectively. The Regulation in question is similar to that for the 1972/73

marketing year. It provides for the application to the derived prices for cereals of the 1% increase decided by the Council on 28 April 19735 and of the effects of the Council decision to fix the single price for rye at 97.92 u.a. per metric ton, and also applies the derived prices for cereals in the new Member States following the first step towards the alignment of prices.

On 17 July the Council also fixed, for the 1973/74 marketing year, the threshold prices for cereals, aid for the production of durum wheat, the monthly price increases for cereals and for wheat or rye flour, groats and meal; the threshold prices for husked and broken rice and the protective amount to be included in the threshold price for milled rice, and the monthly price increases for paddy and husked rice.

Provision is made in the basic Regulation concerning the common organization of the market in cereals for aid to be granted for the production of durum wheat when the intervention price in the area with the greatest surplus is less than the guaranteed price. This aid, which amounts to 37.23 u.a. per metric ton and which is available for the entire Community and for the marketing year, is equal to the difference which exists at the beginning of the marketing year between the minimum guaranteed price and the single intervention price. In a Regulation of 1 August 1973,3 the Commission adjusted the aid in question to take account of the 1% increase decided by the Council on 30 April 1953⁷ for the agricultural intervention prices which will be applied in Italy.

OJ L 212 of 1.8.1973. Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2221.

OJ L 214 of 2.8.1973.

OIL 199 of 19.7.1973.

Bull. EC 4-1973, point 2219, table 1.

OJ L 201 of 21.7.1973.

Bull. EC 4-1973, point 2220.

On 19 July the Commission also laid down special conditions for the sale of common wheat held by the Italian intervention agency. In order to cope with the difficulties of supplying bread to the population in the southern regions of Italy, sale by mutual agreement was authorized as the invitation to tender procedure does not allow the Community to act rapidly when faced with this special situation. The quantities of wheat sold in this way proved to be insufficient to restore normal supplies, and on 1 August² the Council authorized the transfer to and sale by the Italian intervention agency of wheat held by the German, French and Belgian intervention agencies.

On 29 August 1973,3 the Commission adopted safeguard measures relating to exports from Italy of durum wheat groats, meal and flour.

On 2 July the Commission re-established the normal period of validity of import licences in the rice sector. In order to guarantee a better supply of rice to the Community, and in view of the present situation on the market import licences which are currently limited to 60 days, will be valid for three months for round-grained rice and for four months for long-grained rice and broken rice.

Beef and veal

The Council made a thorough examination of price movements for beef and veal and found that they showed a downward trend in the Community. This being so, on 19 July 1973⁵ the Council adopted a regulation laying down the provisions on the repealing of the suspension of the import charges and the compensatory amounts for beef and veal.6

The repeal takes effect once Community market prices average less than 103% of the guide price during one week, with the further condition that transit times are laid down for supplies under

way. These conditions were confirmed and on 31 August 1973⁷ the Commission decided to repeal this system as from the beginning of September 1973.

A number of measures decided on by the Council in May 1973⁸ were the subject of Commission Regulations:5

- (i) 5 July 1973: laying down detailed rules for the application of the premium system for the conversion of dairy herds to meat production and of development premium for the specialized raising of cattle for meat production;
- (ii) 13 July 1973:10 adoption of detailed rules for the application of intervention measures;
- (iii) 24 July 1973:11 establishing provisions for statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States on bovine livestock, for forecasts on the availability of bovine animals for slaughter and for statistics on slaughtered bovine
- (iv) 27 July 1973:12 fixing the buying-up price for permanent intervention.

Sugar

2233. In the sugar sector, on 16 and 17 July the Council made a preliminary examination of a Commission memorandum concerned with the Community's future sugar policy. The purpose of the memorandum, together with a draft

OJ L 201 of 21.7.1973.

OTL214 of 2.8.1973.

OJ L 243 of 31.8.1973.

OJ L 179 of 3.7.1973.

OJ L 201 of 21.7.1973.

Bull. EC 4-1973, point 2226.

OJ L 245 of 1.9.1973. Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2225.

OJ L 184 of 6.7.1973.

¹⁰ OIL 193 of 14.7.1973.

¹¹ OIL253 of 10.9.1973.

¹² OJ L 212 of 1.8.1973 and Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2225.

Resolution, is to set out the new Community sugar policy both in its internal aspects and as it affects relations with the rest of the world. There are three sections in the memorandum.

The Commission is of the opinion that the European Community should participate in the new international sugar agreement (to be negotiated from 10 September to 10 October) as a net importer of 600 000 metric tons of white sugar. Given imports of 1.4 million metric tons, this would mean limiting Community exports to 800 000 metric tons under normal circumstances. No export limit would be imposed in the event of a world sugar shortage.

The figure of 1.4 million metric tons for Community imports derives from the quantities that the Commission feels the Community ought to undertake to purchase to the United Kingdom markets under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, and from the countries having traditional association links with the Community (AASM and OCT). For the developing countries participating in the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, the marketing guarantee would cover 1 345 000 metric tons, while 55 000 metric tons would be reserved for the countries associated with the Community. The Commission also proposes a price guarantee for these countries.

The third section of the Commission's proposals covers sugar policy within the Community from 1 July 1975. All the details of this policy will have to be laid down before sowing begins for the 1975/76 year, i.e. before September 1974. The Commission proposes that the quota principle be retained, but that quotas should no longer be divided among member countries but among sugar enterprises. Each enterprise would have a basic quota (quota A) giving a price guarantee for a quantity based on production during a reference period (1968/73). A quota B would also be fixed with a lower guaranteed price. The size of quota B and the

prices to be fixed should be flexible and adjustable in the light of the market situation.

2234. The Council Regulation of 18 December 1967 on the common organization of the market in sugar provides for a mixed price system for beet. The Member State concerned must submit a request for application of this system before 30 June of the current sugar year. As the date coincides with the end of the marketing year, it proved to be too late and gave rise to difficulties; on 16 July, therefore, the Council changed the date in the basic Regulation to 28 February.

Fruit and vegetables

2235. On 16 July² the Commission fixed the reference price for cucumbers for the 1972 marketing year and the reference price for apples, pears and lemons for the 1973/74 marketing year in view of the size of the crops of these products in the Community.

Wine

2236. On 16 July¹ the Council amended its Regulation of 8 June 1970³ concerning the addition of alcohol to products originating in the Community in the wine sector. As certain products which are of particular interest to the new Member States are obtained by adding alcohol and concentrated grape must (British and Irish wines) it appeared necessary to authorize this practice. Moreover, as no progress had been made for a year in harmonizing manufacturing conditions for aromatic wines, and since the current situation had given rise to difficulties, the Council extended by a year—that is until

OJ L 199 of 19.7.1973.

OJ L 198 of 18.7.1973.
 Bull. EC 9-1972, point 59.

31 August 1974—the period of application of provisions in the wine sector permitting the addition of alcohol to a number of products and in certain cases.

On the same date the Council laid down, for the 1973/74 wine-growing year the price to be paid for alcohol delivered to intervention agencies under the obligation to distill the by-products of wine-making and the amount of the contribution by the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (towards the cost incurred by the agencies). The buyingin price for alcohol was raised on the basis of the increase (1%) decided on by the Council for the guide price applicable during the same winegrowing year. The EAGGF will not contribute during this wine-growing year as the Fund only contributes when the buying-in price is higher than the sales price. On 27 July the Commission laid down detailed rules for applying the obligation to distil for the wine-growing year 1973/74.

On 24 July the Council again extended -- until 31 August 1974—the temporary and partial suspension (40%) of the Common Customs Tariff duties applicable to wine originating in and coming from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, as the definitive system for trade in these products with these countries had not yet been adopted.

On 16 August' the Commission laid down certain rules for the tests to be carried out in wines which prima facie satisfy the requirements for designation as 'quality wines produced in specified regions' and fixed the details on the control of these wines.

Tobacco

On 25 July the Commission laid down detailed rules for the application of the Council Regulation of 10 May 19737 in the tobacco

sector. As is the case for the other agricultural sectors the principle of increasing the intervention and buying-in prices to be paid by Italy by means of a corrective factor of 1% is valid for intervention prices, derived intervention prices and tobacco premiums for the 1973 harvest in Italy.

Flax and hemp

As it was not possible to introduce a 2238. uniform system for granting aid in the flax and hemp sector for the 1973/74 marketing year the Commission decided on 27 Julys to maintain the provisions of the Regulation of 8 June 1971' for a further marketing year.

Structural policy in agriculture

Because of the difficulties experienced by the Member States in implementing the provisions required for the implementation of the Directives of 17 April 1972¹⁰ on the reform of agricultural structure, on 24 Julys the Council decided to extend to the end of the current year the time limit which initially was due to expire on 20 April 1973.

The Commission also gave its opinion on the draft provisions for the application of the Direc-

OJ L 199 of 19.7.1973.

Bull. EC 9-1972, point 59.
 OJ L 210 of 31.7.1973.

OJ L 206 of 27.7.1973.

OJ L 229 of 17.8.1973 and L 230 of 18.8.1973.

OJ L 205 of 25.7.1973.

Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2220.

OJ L 207 of 28.7.1973.

Bull. EC 8-1971, point 74.

Bull. EC 6-1972, point 35.

tives of 17 April 1972. The drafts in question concern:

- (i) the Directive on the modernization of farms and are notified by the Government of the Netherlands as regards pig breeding (Opinion of 13 July 1973) and by the Danish Government (Opinion of 20 July 1973);
- (ii) the Directive Concerning measures to encourage the cessation of farming and the reallocation of utilized agricultural area for purposes of structural improvement and are notified by the Government of the United Kingdom (Opinion of 13 July 1973);
- (iii) the two Directives referred to above and the Directive concerning the provision of socioeconomic guidance for and the acquisition of occupational skills by persons engaged in agriculture and are notified by the Italian Government (Opinion of 24 July 1973).

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

2240. On 24 July the Council, on first reading, adopted a draft supplementary and amending budget for the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF totalling 865 million u.a. After formal approval has been given, the draft budget must be forwarded to the European Parliament in sufficient time for the latter to decide on it at its September session and thus avoid any difficulties for the national agencies authorized to pay on behalf of the EAGGF.

Conditions of competition in agriculture

2241. In accordance with the provisions of Article 93 (3) of the Treaty, the Commission adopted a position with regard to the aid mea-

sures envisaged in the United Kingdom for refining raw sugar. It notified the Government of this country that it would consider this measure to be incompatible with the common market as defined in Article 92 of the EEC Treaty and that, as a result of its opposition, it would initiate the procedure provided for in Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty.

Following a request by the United Kingdom under subparagraph 3 of Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty, the Council examined this measure. As it considered that circumstances justified such aid and that this aid could be judged to be compatible with the common market, on 24 July² the Council also authorized this aid for refining raw sugar up to the end of the sugar marketing year 1973/74, i.e. until 30 June 1974.

The Commission adopted a position in August 1973 concerning 22 cases of regional aid notified y the Italian Government which largely involved renewing, at regional level, the national provisions which had expired and on which the Commission had at the date of adoption expressed a favourable opinion with certain reservations.

2242. At its meeting on 2 and 6 July, the European Parliament adopted a number of Resolutions concerning the principal marketing centres for cereals and the intervention prices, an amendment to the basic Regulation on the organization of the market in sugar, aid by the EAGGF, Guidance Section, for 1973, and proposals for amendments to the basic Directives on the marketing of seed.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2238.

OJ L 207 of 28.7.1973.

Industrial and Technological Policy

Industry

Iron and steel

Growth of capital investment and production capacity

For the third consecutive year, according to the results of the survey carried out by the Commission among the producers on 1 January 1973, capital expenditure by the iron and steel industry in the six countries of the original Community has reached a record level. Capital investments, 1700 million u.a. in 1970, rose to 2300 million in 1971 and to 2600 million in 1972, and the forecasts point to a further rise for 1973. The continued increase in capital expenditure, despite the economic situation in 1971 and in 1972, reflects the execution of the major investment decisions that were taken, often simultaneously, during the previous, highly buoyant, period. In several regions-Northern Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Nothern France and the coastal areas of Italy—capital expenditure in 1972 greatly exceeded the forecasts. The gap between the rates of expansion of coastal and inland plants continues to widen.

Between now and 1976 the crude steel production capacity of the former are expected to increase from 30 to 46 million metric tons per year and in the latter from 110 to 122 million metric tons per year. In all, the steel production capacity of the Six should reach 168 million metric tons per year in 1976 (a figure confirming the forecasts for 1975 in the 'General Objectives For Steel' against 140 million in 1972, owing to an expansion in the use of oxygen processes and electric furnaces. The respective proportions

produced by each process should follow very divergent trends: for the LD, Kaldo and similar types of steel plants the proportion should increase from 54% in 1972 to 64% in 1976; for OBM steel plants from 4 to 5% and for electric plants from 14 to 15%. On the other hand, the proportion from open-hearth plants should drop from 14 to 9% and that from basic Bessemer plants from 14 to 7%, while a more rapid decline in the latter is not ruled out.

With regard to production stages downstream of the steelworks, a special mention should be made of the rapid rise in continuous casting; plants making use of this process should be able, in 1976, to handle more than 34 million metric tons per year, against 14 million or so in 1972. As regards rolling mills, the undertakings still plan more rapid expansion of mills for flats than for sections.

Although expenditure varies considerably by country and region, the iron and steel industry's capital investment is that much more notable for being accomplished during an often dull trading period, and is directed both towards expanding production capacity, increasing productivity and improving product quality. A number of undertakings have taken appropriate steps towards achieving better utilization of their modern technical capabilities not only by their internal growth but also via mergers. It must be emphasized, however, that the coincidence of deciding on and executing a number of large projects brings with it in certain sectors sudden increases in supply which prevent the undertakings from achieving proper utilization factors within the time scales initially envisaged. By virtue of the present strong upsurge on the market in iron and steel products, this problem undoubtedly is not as acute as it might have been. In this connection, it is suggested that some forms of cooperation could still today, both in certain large plants already operating and in those decided on in the future, facilitate the desirable adjustments.

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In the *iron ore mines*, on the other hand, the extraction capacity, which sank by 2 million metric tons per year in 1972, should continue to fall, though at a considerably slower rate. The capacity in 1976 should be approximately 71 million metric tons per year (21 million metric tons per year of iron content). However, it should be recalled that in the iron ore mines as in the coal mines, the rundown in recent years has proved to be more rapid than had been announced by the undertakings.

Science,
Research and Development,
Education, Scientific
and Technical Information

Scientific and technological policy programme

In accordance with the final communiqué of the Summit Conference the Commission adopted a Scientific and technological policy programme on 25 July and transmitted it to the Council on 4 August 1973. The Heads of State or Government, stressing the need to establish a single industrial base throughout the Community, considered that, in this context, 'objectives will need to be defined and the development of a common policy in the field of science and technology ensured'. This policy will require the coordination, within the institutions of the Community, of national policies and joint implementation of projects of interest to the Commun-To this end, the Summit invited the Community institutions to decide on a programme of action accompanied by a precise time-table before 1 January 1974, which has been done ahead of the time-limit laid down.

This programme basically deals with the following points: coordination of national policies, promotion of basic research, activities supporting Community policy in the various sectors, scientific and technical information, public provision of scientific and technical services, long-term studies, forecasting, methods.¹

Science, research and development

Meeting of the Committee Senior Officials on Scientific and technical research (COST-Committee)

2245. The Committee of Senior Officials of Scientific and Technical Research (COST Committee) held a meeting on 9 and 10 July 1973 with Mr Silver (United Kingdom) in the chair. Its deliberations were concerned, firstly, with an examination of specific actions listed below, which are expected to be completed in the coming months. The Committee should also receive by the end of 1973 suggestions from delegations regarding new projects, proposals for which will be reviewed, *inter alia* in the light of the scientific and technological policy² programme proposed by the Commission.

The individual projects examined by the Committee are as follows:

(i) European Centre for Medium-term Weather Forecasts (Project 70). Although the Convention setting up the Centre has not yet been signed by the interested States because of disagreements about the linguistic arrangements at it, the Committee has already prepared a plan of action which will enable preparatory work to start as soon as the Convention has been signed, without waiting for all formal ratifications.

Points 1601 to 1607 of this Bulletin.

¹ For an analysis of this programme see points 1601 to 1607 of this Bulletin.

- (ii) European Computer Program Library (Project 12). The Committee has postponed any decision pending the Commission's final decision regarding the Community's participation in this project.¹
- (iii) Forward Studies on Telecommunication Services (Project 20). The Committee has acquainted itself with the study carried out by the ECPT (European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations), and has made an enlarged Technical Committee on Telecommunications responsible for drawing conclusions therefrom and reporting on it.
- (iv) Electronic traffic aids on major roads (Project 30). The Technical Committee on New Means of Transport has proposed that this scheme be carried out in the form of a joint project (about 8.5 million u.a. over 5 years). It will consist of two phases: one of preliminary research and one of practical demonstration on a stretch of road. An ad hoc working party responsible for drawing up a draft international agreement on the legal and technical aspects will meet in October 1973.
- (v) Study on a marine hovercraft of up to 2 000 tons (Project 32). The Committee agreed not to continue work on this project at present.
- (vi) Forward study of passenger transport between large European conurbations (Project 33). This study is being carried out by the OECD, and is arousing the interest of various countries not taking part in the project.
- (vii) Setting up of an oceanographic and meteorological data-gathering network in European waters (Project 43). The Working Party on Oceanography and Meteorology submitted to the Committee of Senior Officials a preliminary proposal for concerted action aiming at setting up oceanographic data-gathering network (about 20 million u.a. over six years), the financial, legal and operational details of which must now be settled with the collaboration of an adviser.

- (viii) Industrial superconducting materials (Project 56). The countries concerned have not yet stated whether they are to participate in this project.
- (ix) Development and standardization of meteorological equipment (Project 72). Three contracts (totalling about 100 000 u.a.) have been signed with specialized institutions or experts and will run for a term of two years.

Energy Policy

Working out and putting into operation of a Community energy policy

Putting into operation of the 'Guidelines and priority actions'

2246. During its session of 22 May 1973, the Council considered that the 'Guidelines and priority actions under the Community energy policy', proposed by the Commission in the preceding month constituted the main lines for the appropriate basis for discussion of Community actions designed to ensure energy supplies to the Community.

The Commission had undertaken to submit, before the end of 1973, definitive propositions on various points and as a result of this undertaking a Communication on initial implementation of the Guidelines and priority actions for a Community energy policy was transmitted to the Council the 3 August 1973.

In this Communication,³ the Commission considered that the Community should take action immediately and simultaneously under three

¹ Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2246.

² Supplement 6/73 - Bull. EC.

³ Points 1501 to 1510 of this Bulletin.

main headings which for reasons of policy, logic and effectiveness should be dealt with conjointly: relations with energy importing countries, relations with energy exporting countries and the organization of a Community oil market. The Communication was accompanied by six definitive propositions for Regulations or Decisions of the Council covering, within the context of the organization of a Community oil market, the following objectives:

- (i) adequate information from the public authorities concerning all the movements of hydrocarbons; with this object in view the Commission proposes that, in order to complete the information which is already at its disposal under the terms of the Regulation No 1055/72 of 18 May 1972 concerning the communication to the Commission of imports of hydrocarbons by the communication to the Commission of details of imports of petroleum products and of exports of hydrocarbons (crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas);
- (ii) improvements in the concertations between the Commission and the Member States: the proposition for a regulation envisages the establishment of a common consultation procedure concerning supplies of hydrocarbons to the Community and envisages the setting up of a Hydrocarbons Supply Committee' which will be composed of representatives of each Member State and will be presided by a representative of the Commission. Within the framework of this Committee, the Member States and the Commission wil proceed with an exchange of information and mutual consultations concerning the conditions in which the supply of hydrocarbons is maintained; the Committee may also undertake specific hearings of the companies whose activities contribute to the supplying of the Community;
- (iii) the putting into operation of a common regime for the import and export of hydrocarbons: the Commission considers that the instru-

ments of common commercial policy (as defined in application of Article 113 of the EEC Treaty for imports from and exports to outside countries by the Regulations of 25 May 1970² and 20 December 1969³ will permit the specific evaluation of the needs of an energy policy. The Commission reverts to its proposition of October 1972 proposing the submission of hydrocarbons to the common regime applicable to imports from outside countries as defined by the Regulation of May 19704 and proposes that exports of hydrocarbons to outside countries should be submitted to the regime defined in the Regulation of December 1969. The Commission considers that the present supply conditions for the import and export of hydrocarbons justify the fact that, when the system of a common regime comes into force, they should be submitted to the surveillance procedures envisaged in the Regulations (regime of 'all authorized licences').

The Commission hopes that its Communication 'initial complementation of the guidelines and priority actions' and the definitive propositions which accompanied it will give in the very near future to the Council the occasion to continue the elaboration of a Community energy policy without prejudice to other proposals which are already submitted to it or to new propositions which may be presented by the Commission.

Coal

Aids for coking coal

2247. During its session of 23/24 July 1973, the Council pronounced a unanimous assent's in conformity with Article 95, paragraph 1 of the

¹ OJ L 120 of 25.5.1972.

² OJ L 124 of 8.6.1970.

³ OJ L 324 of 27.12.1969.

⁴ Bull. EC 10-1972, point 121.

⁵ OJ C 63 of 4.8.1973.

ECSC Treaty and the Commission was thus able to adopt, the 25 July 1973, a Decision concerning coals and coke for the iron and steel industry in the Community.¹ The Decision came into force the 1 August 1973, with retroactive effect from 1 January 1973 and is for a period of six years.

The regime established by the Decision, which is in line with the two preceding decisions dated 1967 and 1970, envisages that coal produced in the Community for use in form of coke in the blast furnaces of the iron and steel industry in the Community can benefit from government aids with the object of facilitating production on the one hand and sales on the other. The aids may be paid only for deliveries under long term contracts. The aids for production for which the governments will determine a rate per coalfield can vary year by year according to the economic conditions of the different coal-basins. Sales aids are reserved for deliveries to areas remote from the coal field or affected by way of intra-Community trade. The Decision fixes a limit of 3 u.a. per ton in the case of deliveries to installations having the possibility of direct supplies by maritime transport and 1.60 u.a. per ton in other cases: These rates are reduced respectively to 2.60 and 1.40 u.a. per ton for the fifth year and to 2 and 1 u.a. for the sixth year of application of the decision.

Community financing is instituted on the one hand for aids in relation to intra-Community trade and on the other hand to cover a part of the costs supported by the Member Countries which are not engaged in intra-Community trade, in so far as their production of coking coal covers at least 75% of the needs of their blast furnaces. To this effect a special fund has been instituted which is administered by the Commission and is financed by contributions of the ECSC, the Member States which participate in intra-Community trade and the iron and steel industry.

As far as prices are concerned, the Decision opens up to the coal mining enterprises the possibility of aligning their prices to prices which can be applied to coking coals from non-member countries or to coke manufactured from such coals. The Commission can fix guide prices and standard values for the costs of coking and criteria for the assessement of differences of quality between coals and cokes. Furthermore, the Commission will control the application of the criteria fixed for the determination of aids to production and the effect of aids on prices charged to to purchasers. The Commission will see to it that the effects of the Decision do not prejudice the functioning of the Common Market and if necessary, in line with the procedure laid down in Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty, modify certain financial dispositions. This basic decision will be followed by an application decision.

Evolution of investments and possibilities of production

The results of the investigation undertaken by the Commission as at the 1 January 1973 covering enterprises belonging to the ECSC (the investigation was limited to the six original Member States due to the time factor) show that investments in the coal mining industry were strictly limited to rationalization. In fact, the possibilities of coal mining which from 1968 to 1972 had been brought down from 192 to 166 million tonnes per annum and will diminish further by about 36 million tonnes by 1976, the production figure will thus be 130 million tonnes per annum. Experience shows that as for as the coal mining industry is concerned the regression is generally more important than that which was originally estimated so that a new accentuation of decline cannot be excluded.

¹ OJ L 259 of 15.9.1973.

In the two principal coking sectors the orientations brought into relief by former investigations have been confirmed: the slowing down of mining coking plants, expansion of iron and steel industry coking plants principally in the coastal areas. The diminution of the possibilities of production of the mining coking plants is likely to be, however, much more rapid than the producers had envisaged recently. In these conditions, the coking possibilities of the six Member States will be inferior to the estimates which have already been made. In 1976, the production will be in the region of 75 million tonnes per annum. On the basis of the latest estimates (and even admitting a relatively low rate of utilization of coking plants as had been observed in 1972) production could be in the region of 65 million tonnes of coke. Taking into account the evolution of the tonnage of coke used by the blast furnaces the requirements of the iron and steel industry would seem to be assured.

Technical research

2249. After consultation with the Consultative Committee and the favourable opinion expressed by the Council, the Commission decided the 25 July 1973 and under the terms of Article 55, paragraph 2 c) of the ECSC Treaty to allocate a total amount of 6080251 u.a. from the deductions as envisaged in Article 50 of the ECSC Treaty of which 5903727 u.a. under the heading of financial aids for technical research and 176524 u.a. to cover the costs of the diffusion of know-how.

The research projects will be carried out in close collaboration with the research organizations and mining undertakings of the different coal mining countries (Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom). They will have as objectives increase of production and productivity of the mining operations, complete mechanization of the excavation of galle-

ries, improvements in the capacity and yield of coking plants (notably by the application of pre-heating techniques for coke pulp) and the physical and chemical valorization of coal.

Hydrocarbons

2250. The Council approved definitely the 24 July 1973,³ a directive 'on measures to mitigate the effects of difficulties in the supply of oil and petroleum producys', the text of which had been agreed to at the session of 22/23 May.⁴ Under the terms of this directive, the Member States are required to undertake (not later than 30 June 1974) the necessary steps in order to ensure that the competent authorities shall be granted the powers permitting them undertake if necessary and immediately measures made necessary by the situation.

2251. During its session of from 2 to 6 July 1973, the European Parliament adopted a resolution 'concerning the results of the session of the Council of 22 May 1973 concerning energy problems'.

Transport Policy

Market access

2252. On 31 July 1973, the Commission decided to send an Opinion to the Irish Government concerning an Irish draft Regulation on the

OJ C 56 of 14.7.1973.

² OJ L 259 of 15.9.1973.

OJ L 228 of 16.8.1973.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2247.

implementation of the Council Regulation of 28 December 1972 on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States. Whilst noting that the measures envisages met the requirements laid down in the Council Regulation in spirit and content, the Commission nevertheless invited the Irish Government to supplement the implementing provisions, in particular those concerning penalties and, in doing so, to bear in mind a Council Recommendation of 1969 concerning the implementation of the rules on Community quotas.

2253. The second plenary session of negotiations with Switzerland was held on 4 and 5 July 1973 in Brussels with a view to reaching an agreement on the implementation of a regulation concerning the temporary laying-up of goods vessels and applicable to certain waterways. The session was devoted to an examination of the conclusions reached by a working party set up at the first plenary session. The working party had been given the task of formulating, in the light of the discussions held and decisions taken, a preliminary draft convention which would be discussed in plenary session on 22, 23 and 24 January 1974.

Harmonization of conditions of competition

2254. On 26 July 1973 the Commission transmitted to the Council its fourth biennial report on the implementation of the Council Decision of 13 May 1965, on the harmonization of certain provisions affecting competition in transport by rail, road and inland waterway. This report indicates that, during the period under consideration (1 June 1971-31 May 1973), the Council adopted in this field only two Regulations, which dealt, in particular, with social conditions in road transport. It notes the communications which the Commis-

sion forwarded to the Council during the same period concerning application by the Member States of Community regulations on public service obligations, the normalization of the accounts of railway undertakings, social conditions in road transport and aid given to transport. Finally, it reports on the progress made in the examination by the Council of the Commission's proposals on the harmonization of provisions affecting competition in transport.

Technical harmonization

2255. A third meeting with government experts was held on 24, 25 and 26 July in Brussels to deal with the examination of certain technical problems arising out of the proposed Council Directive on weights and dimensions of commercial road vehicles. This examination had begun in March. The exchange of views concerned the following points, in particular: maximum authorized laden weight, weight-limits on double and triple axles, the interdependence of different items of weight and dimensions, maximum load per wheel and maximum pressure exerted by tires on the carriageway, maximum weight of individual vehicles. On the basis of the conclusions arrived at as a result of the three meetings with government experts, the Commission will forward to the Council a report setting out proposals for reducing the obstacles hampering the establishment of Community rules on weights and dimensions of commercial road vehicles.

Transport rates and conditions

2256. On 27 July the Commission transmitted to the Council the text of two supplementary draft Protocols providing for the accession of the new Member States to the Agreements concluded on 28 July 1956 and 26 July 1957 between, on

Bull. EC 7/8-1973 59

3. External Relations

Transport Policy

the one hand, the Swiss and Austrian Governments respectively and, on the other hand, the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC and the High Authority. These agreements concern the establishment of through international rail tariffs for the transport of coal and steel in transit through the territory of Switzerland or Austria.

2257. It further forwarded to the Council, on 7 August 1973, the text of a draft Third Supplementary Agreement to the Agreement of 21 March 1955 on the establishment of through international rail tariffs for the transport of coal and steel. The new measure provides for the application, until 1 November 1974, of provisions derogating from the Agreement of 21 March 1955 for the transport of coal and steel between Denmark and the other Member States, or through Denmark.

EFTA States

Meeting of the EEC-Norway Joint Committee

2301. The Joint Committee provided for in the EEC-Norway Agreement held its first meeting in Brussels on 26 July 1973. To ensure the smooth functioning of the Agreement, which entered into force on 1 July 1973, the Joint Committee adopted decisions at the meeting laying down the Joint Committee's rules of procedure, establishing a Customs Committee and fixing the methods of administrative cooperation in the customs field; it further adopted implementing provisions concerning the rules of origin. The date of the next meeting will be decided during contacts between the two delegations.

Mediterranean Countries

Turkey

2302. On 26 July the EEC-Turkey Association Committee met in Brussels to discuss how to give effect to the decisions taken at the last session of the Association Council held in Ankara on 30 June. It also heard a declaration on behalf of the Turkish Government expressing concern that the forthcoming multilateral negotiations in GATT would result in a reduction in the preferences which Turkey enjoys on the Community market.

During the discussions on the implementation of the decisions taken by the Association Council the Community delegation had to inform the Turkish delegation that, for practical reasons, the Intrim Agreement could not be expected to enter into force on 1 October. The Community delegation could, however, give an assurance that everything would be done to ensure that the said Agreement entered into force as soon as possible after 1 October.

In connection with the multilateral negotiations in GATT, the Turkish delegation handed to the Community delegation a list of Turkish agricultural products which enjoy preferential treatment on importation into the Community and which the Community and Turkey could discuss during the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations. The Community delegation took note of the concern expressed by Turkey and assured its delegation that this list would be examined by the Community and that, in due course, the Community would be willing to enter into discussions in pursuance of the Ankara Agreement and the Additional Protocol.

Tunisia and Morocco

2303. Negotiations were held in Brussels on 25 and 26 July 1973 between a Community delegation and a Moroccan delegation and on 27 and 28 July between a Community delegation and a Tunisian delegation. The Association Agreements in force which were signed with Morocco on 31 March 1969 and Tunisia on 26 March 1969 provided that, upon their expiry on 1 September 1974, new agreements would be concluded on wider bases.

The Community offered to conclude agreements including not only preferential arrangements for imports of Moroccan and Tunisian products into the Community but also other measures concerning economic, financial and technical cooperation, certain provisions to benefit Moroccan and Tunisian workers in the Community and the setting up of joint institutions empowered to ensure that the association functions smoothly. The negotiations revealed a wide convergence of views as regards the general structure of the agreements envisaged.

The Community's partners have stressed the fundamental importance to their economies of exports of agricultural products and have expressed reservations as to the unsatisfactory offers made by the Community in this field. Furthermore, the Tunisian Delegation, whilst welcoming the EEC's new approach to the question of cooperation, stressed that this new approach must become an integral part of the 'development contract', which Tunisia is seeking with the Community and which must govern future relations between the two parties.

Some other matters still need to be looked into, in particular 'financial and technical cooperation' and also certain social aspects. It was agreed that work would be resumed with the Moroccan delegation on 4 and 5 October and with the Tunisian delegation on 8 and 9 October 1973.

2304. Furthermore, on 24 July¹ the Council formally concluded two Supplementary Protocols to the Association Agreements concluded with Tunisia and Morocco consequent on the enlargement of the Community.

2305. On 20 July the Community exchanged letters with Morocco and Tunisia in which it was agreed that Article 4 of Annex 1 to the Association Agreements concluded with those countries, which lays down the preferential arrangements for citrus fruits, would not apply to the new Member States in 1973. This measure is aimed at ensuring that Morocco and Tunisia are not compelled to observe the minimum price specified in Article 4 of the Annex, while in 1973, they do not enjoy any preferential treatment on the markets of the new Member States.

2306. On 20 July the Community also signed with both Morocco and Tunisia Agreements, in

¹ OJ L 239 of 27.8.1973.

the form of exchanges of letters, amending Article 5 of Annex 1 to the Association Agreements, which laid down the preferential arrangements to be applied to olive oil other than refined olive oil which is imported from those countries. This amendment is intended to improve the functioning of the preferential arrangements without, however, affecting their substance.

Spain

The negotiations between Spain and the Community with a view to the conclusion of a new Agreement opened in Brussels on 16 and 17 July 1973. They follow the discussions which took place during 1971 and 1972 to evaluate the implications for Spain of the Community's enlargement.

A Protocol signed on 29 January 1973¹ laid down certain transitional provisions for 1973 relating to the Agreement between the EEC and Spain. The Protocol pointed out that both parties had set themselves the objective of negotiating during that year a new agreement, which ought to enter into force on 1 January 1974, within the framework of the overall approach to relations between the Community and the Mediterranean countries.

At that first meeting both delegations put forward their proposals as to the nature of the new agreement. Full agreement was reached on the final objective, which, according to both parties, must be a free-trade agreement covering the major part of trade between both parties and including provisions concerning labour and cooperation. Differences of opinion still exist on the deadlines to be laid down and the timetable to be respected and on the subject of agricultural products.

Israel

2308. Negotiations between Israel and the Community with a view to the conclusion of a new agreement on wider bases began in Brussels on 18 and 19 July. These negotiations are consequent on the Community's enlargement, fit into the overall approach to the Community's relations with countries in the Mediterranean basin and take into account the objective laid down in the Supplementary Protocol signed between the Parties on 30 January 1973,2 namely, the negotiation of a new agreement, which should enter into force on 1 January 1974.

At this first session of negotiations the two delegations explained their respective positions as regards the objective of establishing a free trade area covering the major part of trade between Israel and the Community. The discussions revealed a complete convergence of views between the two delegations on the objective to be attained, certain general and specific measures concerning the functioning of the Agreement and the inclusion of provisions relating to cooperation. There were, however, differences of opinion as regards, in particular, the detailed conditions, rate and deadlines to be laid down for the dismantling of obstacles to trade in industrial products and in agriculture.

The two delegations agreed to resume work on 1 and 2 October 1973.

Yugoslavia

Since the exchange of the instruments of notification of the completion of the procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Trade Agreement between the European Eco-

Bull. EC 1-1973, point 2304.
 Bull. EC 1-1973, point 2305 and Bull. EC 2-1973, point 2308.

nomic Community and the Federative Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, signed in Luxembourg on 26 June 1973, took place in Brussels on 31 July 1973, the Agreement entered into force, in accordance with Article 10 thereof, on 1 September 1973.2

2310. At its session from 3 to 6 July 1973, the European Parliament adopted two Resolutions concerning the countries of the Mediterranean basin, one on the recommendations of the EEC-Turkey Joint Association Committee relating to the Eighth Annual Report of the EEC-Turkey Association Council and the other on cooperation and contacts between the European Parliament and the Cypriot Parliament.

Associated African States, Malagasy and Commonwealth Countries to which the Community has offered Association

Opening of discussions with the associated countries and those eligible for association

On 25 and 26 July in Brussels the 2311. Community and 41 invited States attended a conference³ devoted to the establishment of preliminary contacts and to exchanges of information in preparation for the forthcoming negotiations proper with these States in accordance with the Yaoundé and Arusha Conventions and with Protocol 22 to the Act of Accession. The following were represented at this opening conference: thirty-two African States, Malagasy and Mauritius (twenty-two of which are already

Associated States), four Caribbean States and three from the Pacific. In addition, four North African States (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia) attended the conference as observers.

Preparation for this opening conference, which was presided over by Mr Ivar Nørgaard, President in office of the Council of the Communities, had taken the form of several preliminary meetings both amongst the 'invited' countries and amongst the Member States of the Community. The delegations made known their views on the future of relations between the Community, on the one hand, and the associated countries and the developing Commonwealth countries, on the other. All the invited states hope to take part in the negotiations with the Nine which will be formally opened on 17 October 1973: they should be concluded in time for this new agreement to enter into force on 1 February 1975.

Yaoundé Convention

Financial and technical cooperation in 1972

2312. A report transmitted by the Commission to the Council on 6 August 1973 pointed out that new commitments decided in 1972 in favour of the overseas countries, territories and departments totalled 15.6 million u.a., 1.8 million u.a. of which came from the remainder of the Second EDF.

In 1971 new commitments had totalled 12.4 million u.a.;; there was, therefore, an appreciable increase on a year to year basis, but the commitments for the overseas countries, territories and

Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2309.
 OJ L 224 of 13.8.1973.

³ Points 1101 to 1106.

departments did not rise, however, at the same rate as those for the AASM. This situation is due, in particular, to the hesitancy shown by the governments responsible for the choice of possible projects. Thanks to the planning missions carried out in 1971 and the experts who were sent and remained on the spot to draw up projects or prepare details of invitations to tender it was possible to increase Community commitments in particular for transport infrastructure (7.6 million u.a. in 1972 compared with 2.7 million u.a. in 1971) and for improvements in the social field (3.2 million u.a. in 1972).

Of the 62 million u.a. made available under the Third EDF to the overseas countries, territories, and departments, more than 23 million u.a. had been earmarked for projects at the end of the first two years. No financing decisions have yet been taken involving EDF refundable aid and loans from the European Investment Bank's (EIB) own resources. Two files relating to special loans for road improvement schemes (in Réunion and Martinique) were, however, prepared during the 1972 financial year; decisions concerning these schemes were taken in February 1973.

European Development Fund

New financing decisions

2313. On 24 July 1973, following endorsement by the EDF Committee, the Commission took eight new financing decisions involving 32 384 000 u.a. from the Third Fund and 637 000 u.a. from the remainder of the Second EDF.

These decisions involve all the various means of financing Community aid: aid for five projects takes the form of grants totalling 13.6 million

u.a.; two projects are financed by loans on special terms (15.6 million u.a.), one of which has also received a grant of 2.9 million u.a.: one project involves participation in the risk capital of a sugar company (541000 u.a.) and also received an interest rate subsidy of 239000 u.a. All in all, the grants total 16787000 u.a. with the special loans and participation in equity capital amounting to 16233000 u.a.

2314. The following projects are to be financed:

Cameroon—Improvement and asphalting of the Victoria to Kumba road between Muntegene and Bolifamba and between Banga and Kumba: Frs. CFA 900 million (approximately 3 241 000 u.a.). The project is to improve and asphalt the stretches of road between Muntegene and Bolifamba (7.8 km) and between Banga and Kumba (28.5 km) in the South-West province. This work will complete the modernization of the main road route in Western Cameroon, the central stretch of which (37 km) has already received finance from the resources of the Second EDF (3.07 million u.a.).

Cameroon—Establishment of rural development areas in the North-East region of Benoué: Frs. CFA 177 million (approximately 637000 u.a.) from the remainder of the Second EDF and Frs. CFA 1103 million (approximately 3972000 u.a.) giving a total of 4609000 u.a. This measure represents the first stage in the exploitation of the agricultural potential of the Benoue Valley. The operation, which will run from 1973 to 1978, involves the establishment of rural development areas by providing intensive training aimed at informing the population of efficient production methods and the introduction of an economic and social infrastructure (tracks, schools, dispensaries).

¹ OJ C 63 of 4.8.1973.

Zaïre—Relaunching of tea growing in Kivu: 2 682 000 Zaïres (approximately 4 447 000 u.a.). The aim of this additional amount of finance is to see through the tea-growing programme financed under the Second EDF, approximately 3 091 000 u.a. of this total is also intended to cover new investment (tea factory at Butuhe and introduction of eucalyptus afforestation), which is absolutely necessary for the plantations at present being established.

Mauritania—Infrastructure for the tourist complex of Nouakchott beach: 54.6 million Ouguiyas¹ (approximately 983 000 u.a.). This project is intended to establish the infrastructure for a coastal tourist complex 5 km west of the capital, Nouakchott. The work includes improving a road, supplying water and electricity and setting up a telephone link with the tourist centre.

Ivory Coast and Togo—Posting of seven school teachers: Frs. CFA 22.8 million (approximately 82 000 u.a.) for the Ivory Coast and Frs. CFA 75.8 million (approximately 273 000 u.a.) for Togo. The project is intended to prolong and expand the programme for sending school teachers to the Ivory Coast and to Togo. It involves a two-year prolongation of contracts for two school teachers in the Ivory Coast and for one school teacher in Togo and also the appointment for a two-year period of four new school teachers for teaching establishments in Togo.

Cameroon—Establishment of an agricultural and industrial complex of palm groves at Dibombari (first phase): 11763000 u.a. (approximately Frs. CFA 3266 million). This project is financed out of the resources of the EDF in the form of a loan on special terms amounting to 8850 million u.a. (approximately 2457 million francs CFA) and a grant of 2913000 u.a. (approximately 808.9 million francs CFA). The loan is for 25 years with nine years of grace and an interest rate of 2%. The aim of the project is

to create and exploit a 6 000 hectare agricultural and industrial complex of selected palm groves involving the establishment of plantations and a network of tracks and also the construction of an oil mill and annexes.

Ivory Coast—Asphalting of the road between San Pedro and Issia: 6842000 u.a. (approximately Frs. CFA 1.9 million). This project involves the asphalting of the 215 km road which links the port of San Pedro with Issia and also the completion of improvement work on the present dirt road. The project has been partly financed by a loan granted on special terms for thirty years (including four years of grace) at a 1% interest rate. The EIB and the treasury of the Ivory Coast will also contribute to the project which will cost a total of 16.92 million u.a.

Cameroon—Extension of a sugar refinery: Community financial aid takes the form of a contribution to the formation of the risk capital by means of a participation of 541 000 u.a. (approximately Frs. CFA 150 million) in the capital of the Cameroon Sugar Company (SOSUCAM) and an interest-rate subsidy of 239 764 u.a. (as a grant) which is applicable to a normal loan by the EIB out of its own resources. The aim of the project is to increase the production capacity of the sugar refinery at Mbandjock in two stages so that from 1976/77 onwards it ought to be producing 30 000 metric tons per year. The area of the sugar-cane plantations would be extended from approximately 4000 hectares to 7 000 hectares.

These decisions mean that, since the Third European Development Fund began operations (1 January 1971), its total commitments amount to 597 195 000 u.a. in respect of 217 financing decisions.

Bull. EC 7/8-1973

¹ 1 Ouguiyas = 5 francs CFA (new Mauritanian parity since 1 July 1973).

Developing Countries

Generalized Tariff Preferences

2315. On 2 August 1973 the Commission forwarded to the Council a proposal concerning the application of generalized preferences for certain processed agricultural products (Chapters 1 to 24 of the Common Customs Tariff) to developing countries in 1974. This step was taken because the present regulation is due to expire at the end of 1973. The proposal contains some relatively important amendments to the texts in force.

These improvements were envisaged in order to take account of the instructions given to the Community institutions by the Summit Conference of October 1972. Processed agricultural products are of particular interest to the developing countries and an improvement of the Community's offer in this sector was held to be all the more desirable since the system of preferences has not been modified in respect of these products since 1 July 1971. The improvement consists of an increase in the preferential margin granted (which, in general, would increase from 20% to 40% except for a few 'sensitive' products) and of an extension of preferential treatment to other products. This proposal must be followed by others concerning manufactured and semi-manufactured products.

2316. The Commission also proposed to the Council that the generalized tariff preferences for developing countries' cotton textiles be extended until the end of 1973 at least. These preferences are granted by the Community to several countries which signed the long-term agreement on cotton textiles but also to other countries (Philippines, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Thailand) in pursuance of Community decisions. As the long-term agreement has been renewed until

31 December 1973—until new arrangements are negotiated within the framework of GATT¹—the Commission proposes that existing generalized preferences (which expire on 30 September 1973 at the same time as the long-term agreement) also be extended for a period of three months. The Council has already adopted a similar regulation concerning Yugoslavia.

Food Aid

2317. Under the Food Aid Convention (1972/1973 implementation plan) the Council decided on 8 August to grant to Senegal 10 000 metric tons of common wheat as aid.

Other Non-Member Countries

India

2318. The negotiations between the EEC and India² for a trade cooperation agreement were resumed on 16 and 17 July. Both delegations discussed, in particular, detailed rules for the functioning of the Joint Committee, a key feature of the proposed agreement, as well as possible objectives to be assigned to commercial cooperation between the Community and India. The positions elaborated appeared sufficiently close to each other to warrant a certain optimism about the possibility of concluding the negotiations in the near future.

Pakistan

2319. A Pakistan Delegation, headed by Mr Naik, Secretary-General of the Ministry of

Point 2329.

² Bull. EC 4-1973, point 2316 and 5-1973, point 2330.

Commerce, had talks with Commission representatives on 9 July. The exchange of views dealt with a Pakistan aide-mémoire on certain problems posed by enlargement. Basing their action on the Declaration of Intent annexed to the Treaty of Accession—under which the Community declared itself ready to examine with the Commonwealth countries in Asia (and other countries in the area) the problems posed by the alignment of United Kingdom customs duties on those of the Common Customs Tariff—several of these countries had already forwarded to the Commission aide-mémoires setting out their points of view on this matter.

The talks with the Pakistan Delegation followed exchanges of views on the same topic with representatives of a number of countries: Burma, India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka (Ceylon).

Malaysia

2320. At the invitation of the Malaysian Government, a Commission Delegation visited Malaysia between 18 and 25 July 1973 and held talks with the authorities as well as with representatives from business circles. The delegation was informed of concern in Malaysia about the effect of Community enlargement on the country's external trade and economic development. The problems of pineapples, palm oil, plywood, coconut oil and the rules of origin were discussed in detail. The Commission Delegation came to the conclusion that the Community should take the interests of Malaysia into practical consideration and ensure that the initial success of the country's economic development should not be undermined by the effects of enlargement. During its visit, the delegation explained in detail the mechanism of generalized preferences adopted by the Community.

Singapore

2321. At the invitation of the Singapore Government, the same Commission Delegation visited Singapore from 25 to 30 July 1973. In the course of the talks it noted the interest in generalized preferences shown by both the authorities and by the private sector. Improvements were hoped for, in particular as regards the rules of origin applied in respect of generalized preferences. Singapore also hoped to develop its relations with the Community on the basis of fair treatment for both sides. The Commission Delegation noted that this industrious country had reached a reasonable stage of development despite its small size and lack of raw materials, and in view of this merited special attention.

These two visits, to Malaysia and Singapore, will be followed by others to the five member countries of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) to demonstrate the Community's interest in the efforts made by the developing countries to achieve regional integration.

Latin America

2322. On 1 August, the Commission transmitted to the Council a report on the first phase of negotiations with Brazil, which took place during the second quarter of 1973. This report, which is accompanied by a recommendation for a Council decision, should enable the Council to complete the negotiation directives it had given to the Commission on 5 March 1973. The second phase of negotiations is scheduled to start during the last quarter of 1973.

2323. The Executive Secretary of ECLA (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America), Mr Enrique Iglesias, visited the Commission on 10 July 1973. He was accompanied by Mr Antonio Estrany Gendre, coordinator of

the ECLA, CECLA (Special Commission for Latin American Coordination) and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). The visitors were received by Mr Ortoli, President and Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission with special responsibility for external relations. This visit enabled the new Executive Secretary of ECLA to make contact with the Commission and to hold informal discussions on the prospects for the multilateral trade negotiations in GATT and for multilateral relations between Latin America and the Community.

Commercial Policy

Formulation and Implementation of the Common Commercial Policy

Protection against dumping or the granting of bounties or subsidies

On 24 July 1973¹ the Council amended its Regulation of 5 April 1968 on protection against dumping or the granting of bounties or subsidies, by countries which are not members of the European Economic Community. Amendments were made to only a limited number of points, the main aim being to rationalize certain procedures in the light of experience acquired and of the international obligations of the Community and the Member States under the GATT.

The amendments concern the examination of the admissibility of complaints of dumping, the communication to the Member States of Commission requests for information, the verification procedure in countries which are not members of the Community, the express instruction that the scope of application of the terms 'Community industry' and 'like products' employed in the Regulation shall extend only to anti-dumping procedures, the introduction of a written procedure for consultation within the Anti-Dumping Committee, and the reinforcement of legal guarantees as regards 'undertakings by exporters' to end dumping practices harmful to Community production.

On 20 July 1972 the Commission published in the Official Journal of the European Communities² a notice of opening of three anti-dumping investigations into acrylic fibre threads from the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and Japan. Having received satisfactory guarantees from the Taiwanese and Korean exporters, the Commission gave notice of closure of the investigations in respect of those two countries on 4 April³ and 23 May 19734 respectively. The Commission has since received satisfactory guarantees from the Japanese exporters, in respect of whom protective measures will not now have to be introduced. The investigation has, therefore, been closed in the case of Japanese exports too.

Protective measures

A new, up-dated list of the products subject to the safeguard clause provided for in Article 115 of the EEC Treaty has been published by the Commission.5 By way of derogation from Articles 9 and 10 of the Treaty of Rome, which concern the free movement of goods, the Governments of the Member States have been authorized to apply 'protective measures' in order to ensure that the implementation by any Member State of commercial policy measures in accordance with the provisions of the EEC Treaty is not prevented by trade deflections or by disparities in these measures which give rise to economic difficulties in one or more

OJ L 206 of 27.7.1973.

OJ C79 of 20.7.1972.

OJ C 17 of 4.4.1973. OJ C 33 of 23.5.1973. OJ C 63 of 4.8.1973.

States. The new list published by the Commission, which replaces that of October 1972, contains products which, when they originate in specific non-member countries, may for that reason be refused Community treatment, i.e. may not enjoy free movement within the Community.

2327. On 3 August 1973,² the Commission decided to extend for one year, i.e. until 31 July 1974, Community surveillance over imports from Japan of electronic four-operation calculating machines. This procedure, introduced on 1 August 1972,3 was applicable until 31 July 1973. The Commission considered that the reasons which led it to take this Decision still obtained, and that, following the Community's enlargement, the results of this surveillance, as regards the new Member States, related to a period which was not sufficient to enable definitive conclusions to be reached. This was the reason why surveillance has been extended for one year.

On 4 July 19734 the Commission also 2328. adopted two Regulations authorizing the United Kingdom to establish, as a protective measure, a system of permits covering the import of yarn of jute and cotton yarn from non-member countries. These protective measures, applicable from 1 April 1973 to 31 December 1973, provide that imports from the non-member countries listed in the Annex to the Regulation of 25 May 1970 (establishing common rules for imports) shall be restricted to 380 metric tons for yarn of jute and 12 750 for cotton yarn. Before 1 April 1973, the date on which this Regulation entered into force in its territory, the United Kingdom introduced quantitative restrictions on those products. As the increase in such imports which would result from their liberalization may cause substantial injury to the jute and cotton spinning industry in the United Kingdom and give rise to unemployment in the regions where

this industry is concentrated, the Commission considered it necessary to take provisional protective measures immediately.

The Commission further forwarded to the Council, in accordance with the same Regulation of 25 May 1970, two proposals for Council Regulations establishing a system of permits covering imports of the products in question to the United Kingdom. These Regulations are to replace the protective measures already adopted by the Commission. As it was impossible to adopt these two Regulations in the time required, on 10 August's the Council decided to extend the protective measures taken by the Commission.

Specific Commercial Policy Measures

Textiles

At its session of 23/24 July the Council recorded its agreement to the Community's participation in the planned negotiations within GATT, the objective of which will be to conclude a multilateral agreement on trade in textiles (cotton, wool, synthetic and artificial fibres) and the extension of the long-term agreement on cotton textiles which is due to expire on 30 September 1973. The problems posed by Community participation in these negotiations, which are actually planned to commence in October in Geneva, were the subject of a Recommendation submitted by the Commission to the Council on 10 July. The GATT Council,6 which met on 30 July, decided that its present Working Party on Textiles would be transformed into a nego-

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¹ OIC106 of 11.10.1972.

OJ L 216 of 4.8.1973.

³ OJ L 171 of 29.7.1972, and Bull. EC 9-1972, point 121.

⁴ OJ L 185 of 7.7.1973.

⁵ OJ L 229 of 17.8.1973.

Point 2335.

tiating group responsible for reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement on trade in textiles by the end of 1973. The negotiations which are to open in mid-October, will be based on a report drawn up by the Working Party for submission to the GATT Council on the 'points to be considered when looking for possible solutions to the problems which arise in international trade in textiles'.

As the Federal Republic of Germany has informed the Commission of its intention to increase certain quotas and liberalize imports of certain products (in particular, textiles) as part of the German plan to combat inflation, consultations on the proposed measures were held in the first fortnight of July. As a result of the outcome of these discussions, on 2 August the Commission adopted a Decision autonomously raising the quantitative ceilings provided for in the agreements on trade in cotton textiles in force between the Community and several nonmember countries; these increases are for the benefit of the German market. Furthermore, on 3 August the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, authorized the Federal Republic of Germany to increase the amount of the global quota at present applicable to several non-member countries in respect of imports of certain textiles other than cotton.

Steel

2331. The representatives of the governments of the Member States of the ECSC, who met within the Council during its session of 23/24 July 1973, decided to allow the Federal Republic of Germany to import larger quantities of iron and steel products from state-trading states in 1973. 70 000 metric tons of steel and 20 000 metric tons of pig iron have thus been added to the tonnages agreed on by the governments in the Decision of 14 May,² which provides explicitly for certain adjustments.

Sectoral Problems

Commodities and World Agreements

Cocoa

2332. After the first International Cocoa Agreement had provisionally entered into force on 1 July 1973 as planned, the International Cocoa Council held its first meeting in Geneva from 30 July to 10 August. The Community and the Member States are parties to this agreement and apply it, either on a permanent or provisional basis, according to the point reached in the procedures for acceptance or ratification.

The International Cocoa Council, presided over by Mr Dass (Trinidad and Tobago), appointed Mr Surquin (Belgium) President of the Executive Committee for 1973/74, Mr Hackman (Ghana) Executive Director of the Agreement and Mr Fritze (Federal Republic of Germany) Director of the buffer stock. The seat of the organization is to be in London. The International Council adopted its administrative regulations and the economic and supervisory rules which come into force on 1 October 1973, the beginning of the first year of the quota system.

As for the economic problems raised by this first year of the operation of the agreement, the prevailing situation on the world market and the high level of prices do not call for the application of the annual export quotas. The amount of these quotas has nevertheless been fixed for 1973/74. Further, there will be no restrictions on imports from countries which do not participate in the agreement. The problem of whether or not to review the range of prices fixed in the agreement in October 1972, in US cents, will be

OJ L 253 of 10.9.1973.

Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2337.

studied by the Executive Committee. It will bear in mind especially the changes which have occurred in exchange rates. The International Cocoa Council is to take a decision on this question at its second session in March 1974.

Tin

2333. A special meeting of the International Tin Council was held in London on 4 July 1973 to examine the consequences on the present scale of prices of the situation created by the floating of the Malaysian dollar.

The Council found that while the Malaysian dollar was floating against the dollar and sterling, it was remaining sufficiently stable in relation to gold and the principal European currencies. The producing and consumer countries accordingly decided that in the present situation they could still adequately safeguard the objectives of the agreement and they confirmed the scale of floor and ceiling prices. Any possible changes were postponed until the next meeting of the Council (from 18 to 20 September 1973) unless an emergency arose.

International Organizations

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

The Preparatory Committee for the GATT Trade Negotiations

2334. The Preparatory Committee for the multilateral trade negotiations held its third meeting from 2 to 28 July in order to prepare (a) a report to Ministers on the state of preparatory work for the trade negotiations and (b) a

draft declaration for Ministers to adopt at the opening session in Tokyo from 12 to 14 September.

The Committee's report sets out the various views expressed by the different delegations, without attempting to reconcile them, on matters such as: the objectives and coverage of the negotiations, techniques to be adopted in negotiation on tariffs, non-tariff barriers and agricultural trade, the need for re-examination of the safeguard mechanism and for review of other GATT rules, and on procedural questions. The Community's views on these matters, as agreed in the document on the overall approach to the negotiations adopted by the Council of the Communities in June, is fully reflected in the report, along with the views of the other delegations.

The draft declaration for Ministers was eventually agreed, after prolonged informal discussions, with only two passages remaining to be resolved at the meeting in Tokyo. One concerns the relationship between the trade negotiations and progress on the reform of the world monetary system and the other concerns the particular special treatment to be accorded to the least developed among developing countries during the negotiations.

The essential elements in the agreed draft include a declaration that the negotiations are officially open, that as many countries as possible should actively participate and that governments should obtain the necessary negotiating authority; a description of the aims of the negotiations both in terms of the general objectives and the specific approaches to be followed in each area for negotiation; Agreement on the principles to be adopted in negotiations between developed countries and between them and developing countries, as well as recognition of the special problems of the least developed countries; and various procedural questions. A Trade Negotiations Committee, established at the Tokyo

Bull. EC 7/8-1973 71

meeting, will be open to the participating governments only, which will meet not later than 1 November to begin work on the preparation of a negotiating programme and to establish appropriate procedures. It is hoped that the negotiations will be concluded in 1975.

The compromise text leaves open a number of options as to the techniques to be used in the negotiations. It is important to stress that it represents a fair balance between the ideas of the US and those of the EEC and that the US Delegation made great efforts to avoid a confrontation.

It may be pointed out here that on the particularly delicate issue of the 'link' between trade negotiations and the reform of the monetary system, the text to be submitted to the Ministers in Tokyo sets out the opposing views:

- (i) For its part, the Community, as was stated in the overall approach, feels that the policy of liberalizing world trade can be pursued only if parallel efforts are made to establish a monetary system which protects the world economy from the upheavals and disequilibria which have recently occurred, a view which could be taken as being self-evident. The Council confirmed this Community position on 24 July.
- (ii) The US delegation, on the other hand, felt that an effective monetary system depends on the governments' adopting commercial measures which facilitate the adjustment process and making concurrent efforts to further liberalize world trade, a point of view which is perhaps not without foundation but which results in monetary reform being made dependent on trade liberalization in a manner not easily acceptable.

It will be for the Ministers meeting in Tokyo to draw up together a compromise text on this matter.

The GATT Council

The GATT Council held a meeting on 30 July when two reports were adopted in favour of the accession of Hungary and of the provisional accession of the Philippines. The contracting parties will vote on these issues. The Council also established, at the EEC's request, a panel to examine the EEC's complaint against the American legislation providing for the creation of 'Domestic International Sales Corporations' (DISC), as well as three further panels with similar terms of reference and membership to investigate American complaints against certain fiscal legislation in force in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. These panels will begin their work in the autumn. The Council, in addition, decided that the existing Working Party on Textiles should be reconstituted into a negotiating group with the aim of reaching a mutually satisfactory arrangement to govern trade in textiles by the end of 1973.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

2336. Mr Boerma, Director-General of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) visited the Commission on 3 July 1973 and held discussions with two of its members, Mr Lardinois and Mr Cheysson. The discussions were concerned mainly with world production prospects for the main agricultural products, with forecasts relating to the world food situation during the present decade and with the effects which that situation can be expected to have on agricultural trade in agricultural products and food aid to developing countries, with particular reference to projects carried out under the World Food Programme (WFP).

2337. During its session of 3 to 6 July 1973 the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on the Community's approach to the coming multilateral negotiations in GATT' and another on 'the legal aspects of participation by the European Communities in the work of the various UN bodies'.

succeeds HE E. P. K. Seddoh who has been called to other duties while HE Huq is the first Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Communities.

The number of accredited Missions was 95 at the end of July.

Community Diplomatic Relations

2338. On 19 July, the Council and the Commission took cognizance of the appointment of HE Ambassador Seydina Oumar Sy as Representative of the Republic of Senegal to the European Economic Community. The new ambassador succeeds HE Mr Abdourahmane Dia who has been called to other duties and was received on 20 July by the President in office of the Council and on 24 July by the President of the Commission.¹

On 24 July, the President in office of the Council and the President of the Commission received HE Mr Ahmed Benkirane who presented his letters of credence as Head of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco to the EEC and as Head of the Missions of his country to the ECSC and EAEC. The new ambassador succeeds HE Abdelkader Benslimane who has been called to other duties.

On the same day, the President in office of the Council and the President of the Commission received HE Ambassador Eric Christopher Djamson (Ghana) and HE Ambassador Sanaul Huq (Bangladesh) who presented their letters of credence as Heads of the Missions of their countries to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC). The new Ambassador of Ghana

¹ OJ C 66 of 15.8.1973.

4. Institutions and Organs of the Communities

Council

European Parliament

2401. For technical reasons, the minutes of the July session will appear in the following number.

Council

In July the Council held three sessions devoted to agriculture, the environment and general matters.¹

250th Session—Agriculture (Brussels, 16-17 July 1973)

2402. Chairman: Mr Frederiksen, Danish Minister for Agriculture.

For the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President, Mr Lardinois, Member.

The Member States' Governments were represented by: Mr Lavens, Minister for Agriculture (Belgium); Mr Frederiksen, Minister for Agriculture (Denmark); Mr Ertl, Minister for Agriculture, Mr Rohr, State Secretary in the Ministry for Agriculture (Germany); Mr Chirac, Minister for Agriculture (France); Mr Clinton, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (Ireland); Mr Ferrari-Aggradi, Minister for Agriculture, Mr Cifarelli, Secretary of State in the Ministry for Agriculture (Italy); Mr Ries, Director, Minister for Agriculture (Luxembourg); Mr Zeeuw, Director-General, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (Netherlands); Mr Godber, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (United Kingdom).

The Council formally adopted the Regulation laying down general rules to be applied to cereals in case of market disturbances.

With regard to sugar, the Council examined the Commission's Memorandum on the Community's future policy in this field. It held a preliminary discussion and agreed to take up the matter again at its next session. It also decided to authorize the British Government to grant, until 30 June 1974, aid for the refining of raw sugar.

With regard to beef and veal, the Council thoroughly examined market price developments and noted a distinct downward trend; it was therefore agreed to adopt a regulation enabling the arrangements to meet shortages to be repealed before the due date.

The Council examined the situation of the Community's market in proteins, in the light of the position on world markets and the repercussions which the steps taken by the American Government with regard to soya might have. The Council was pleased that Mr Lardinois, Member of the Commission had had the opportunity, during his trip to the United States, of expressing the Community's point of view to the US Administration. To remedy the problems of protein supplies for animal feedingstuffs, the Council approved a proposal for a regulation on export certificates for oleaginous seeds and oil cake to keep pace with market trends.

The Council considered the Report for 1972, submitted by the Working Party of the Railways of the Community countries concerning the progress of their cooperation. The Council decided to reply to the Report by a memo dealing *inter alia* with the progressive establishment of a European Railway company, on the infrastructures, general long-term objectives and cooperation between rail networks.

The Council formally adopted several regulations, concerning in particular, the organization

¹ For the various matters reviewed during the Council sessions, see the Chapters of this Bulletin dealing with the issues concerned.

of the markets in cereals, beef and veal, sugar and wine products.

251st Session—Environmental Problems (Brussels, 19-20 July 1973)

2403. Chairman: Mr Kampmann, Danish Minister for Public Works and the Protection of the Environment.

For the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President, Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President.

The Member States' Governments were represented by: Mr De Saeger, Minister for Public Health and the Environment (Belgium); Mr Kampmann, Minister for Public Works and the Protection of the Environment, Mr Lavesen, State Secretary in the Ministry for the Protection of the Environment (Denmark); Mr Genscher, Minister of the Interior, Mr Hartkopf, State Secretary in the Ministry of the Interior (Germany); Mr Poujade, Minister for the Protection of Nature and the Environment (France); Mr Tully, Minister of Justice (Ireland); Mr Vincelli, State Under-Secretary in the Ministry for the Environment (Italy); Mr Thorn, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Luxembourg); Mr Vorrink, Minister for Public Health, Hygiene and the Environment, Mr Brinkhorst, State Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Netherlands).

As a result of its first Session on environmental problems, the Council adopted a Community action programme on this subject, thus complying with the request by the Heads of State and of Government at their Summit Conference in Paris.¹

The Council and the Representatives of the member Governments, meeting in the Council, noted that the action programme concerned measures to be carried out by the Community, by the Community and the Member States jointly, and by the latter individually.

Furthermore, the Council formally adopted several regulations laying down general rules to be applied to cereals in case of market disturbances, the provisions governing the application of the arrangements for import charges and compensatory amounts for beef and veal, and the special conditions for the marketing of common wheat held by the Italian Intervention Agency.

Finally, the Council decided to sign the exchanges of letters relating to citrus fruit, annexed to the final Act of the Supplementary Protocols EEC—Morocco and EEC—Tunisia, to take account of the enlargement of the Communities; the signing took place on 20 July.

252nd Session—General Matters (Brussels, 23-24 July 1973)

2404. Chairman: Mr Nørgaard, Danish Minister for External Economic Affairs.

For the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President, Mr Haferkamp, Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Sir Christopher Soames, Dr Hillery, Mr Simonet, Vice-Presidents; Mr Cheysson, Mr Spinelli, Mr Borschette, Mr Lardinois, Mr Gundelach, Members.

The Member States' Governments were represented by: Mr Van Elslande, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Belgium); Mr Nørgaard, Minister for External Economic Affairs, Mr Christensen, State Secretary in the Ministry for External Economic Affairs (Denmark); Mr Apel, Parliamentary Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Germany); Mr Jobert, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr de Lipkowski, State Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Mr Deniau, State Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (France); Mr Fitzgerald, Minister of External Affairs (Ireland); Mr Moro, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pedini, State Under-Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Italy); Mr Thorn,

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¹ Summit Conference communiqué, point 8: see Bull. EC 10-1972, Part One, Chapter 1.

Minister of Foreign Affairs (Luxembourg); Mr van der Stoel, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Lubbers, Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr Brinkhorst, State Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Netherlands); Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr Davies, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Mr Wood, Minister for Overseas Development (United Kingdom).

In accordance with point 15 of the final communiqué of the Meeting of the Heads of State or Government in Paris, the Council examined practical measures to improve its decision-making procedures and the cohesion of Community action. For this purpose, the Council decided to implement forthwith a first series of measures, viz: (1) the Committee of Permanent Representatives should complete its reports and distribute them in time to be available to the Office of the Permanent Representatives at the latest one week before the Council Session during which they are to be discussed; (2) Member States should fix the dates of their national ministerial meetings so that Ministers concerned are free to take part in Council Sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays; (3) Delegations taking part in Council Sessions should be present at the time appointed for the sitting to open; under no circumstances should a sitting begin more than a quarter of an hour after this time; (4) At the start of a sitting, the Chairman should read out the timetable he proposes for the meeting, including that for any recesses. The times at which discussions are to be continued should be stated before any recess; (5) No Delegation should have more than six members present in the Conference room while an item on the agenda is being discussed; (6) After each agenda item has been discussed, there should be a short pause to enable advisers to change over.

Within the context of the preparation of the Conference of 25 and 26 July 1973 concerning

future relations with the Associated African States and Madagascar and the independent developing countries of the Commonwealth in Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific and the Antilles, the Council established the Community's position. It also approved the attendance at this conference of observers from several North African countries who had requested this.

The Commission approved the substance of draft amending supplementary Budget No 4 of the European Communities; formal approval will be given by written procedure after the finishing touches have been put to the texts. The amount of the supplementary appropriations is of the order of 880 000 000 u.a. for the Guarantee Section of the EAGGE.

The Commission heard a communication from Mr Lardinois, one of its Members, on the problems of sugar imports from the developing countries covered in particular in Protocol No 22 to the Act of Accession.

The Commission also heard a communication from Mr Lardinois on his talks, with the American Administration, during his trip to the United States on the Community's protein supplies for animal feedingstuffs.

The Council examined the progress made by the GATT Preparatory Committee; it discussed particularly the question of the link between multilateral trade negotiations and the international monetary situation, and reached conclusions regarding the position to be taken by the Community in the context of the work of the Preparatory Committee. It also agreed to hold a session in Tokyo on 11 September, on the eve of the opening of the GATT Ministerial Conference.

The Council examined in detail the progress made on the renegotiations entered into by the Community under Article XXIV/6 of the GATT to take account of the enlargement of the Community.

It also approved the Community's participation in negotiations to conclude a multilateral arrangement on the textile trade and the extension of the long term agreement.

Furthermore, having heard the statement by the Danish Delegation concerning multinational corporations and certain measures for consumer protection, the Council requested the Commission to take account of these when it was drawing up its proposals in the relevant fields.

The Council formally adopted two directives coordinating the arrangements regarding the business of direct insurance other than life assurance, and aimed at removing the restrictions on freedom of establishment in this field.

The Council gave the endorsements requested by the Commission pursuant to the first paragraph of Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty, so that a decision could be taken on coking coal and coke for the Community's iron and steel industry, and pursuant to Article 55 (3) of the ECSC Treaty as regards financial aid for technical research in iron and steel.

The Council formally adopted the Directive on the approximation of Member States' laws on cocoa and chocolate products for human consumption.

It also formally adopted the regulations concluding the supplementary Protocols to the Association Agreements with Morocco and Tunisia consequent upon the enlargement of the Community. In the context of the Agreement between the EEC and the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Council definitively adopted the regulation concluding the Protocol laying down certain provisions relating to this Agreement following the enlargement of the Community, the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters relating to Article 6 of Annex 1 of this same EEC-Egypt Agreement, and the regulations on the safeguard measures provided for thereunder,

as regards imports of citrus fruit and rice from Egypt.

The Council approved the substance of the text of the Protocol laying down certain provisions relating to the Agreement between the EEC and the Lebanon to take account of the enlargement of the Community; it formally adopted the Decision concluding the Protocol relating to the Agreement on trade and technical cooperation between the EEC and its Member States and the Lebanon. In the context of the Food Aid Convention, a decision was adopted concluding the EEC/Lebanon agreement on the supply of common wheat as food aid.

Finally, the Council formally adopted a decision concluding the Protocol of Association of the Hungarian People's Republic with GATT.

The Council also gave its approval for the Commission to accept Canada's request to begin the negotiations provided for by the Agreements concluded on 29 May 1962, between the EEC and its Member States and Canada on quality wheat and ordinary wheat.

The Council also formally adopted a regulation extending for the second time Regulations (EEC) Nos 2313/71 and 2823/71, on the partial suspension of the Common Customs Tariff duties on wine originating in and coming from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey.

It adopted a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 459/68, on protection against dumping, or the granting of bounties or subsidies by countries which are not members of the European Economic Community.

The Council also formally adopted the Directives extending the deadline for the implementation of the Council Directives of 17 April 1972 on the reform of agricultural structures, and concerning measures to attenuate the effects of the difficulties in the supply of crude oil and petroleum products, and a decision on the United Kingdom's aid arrangements for raw sugar refining.

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Finally, it adopted the regulations relating to assistance by the EAGGF, Guarantee Section, for the accounting periods 1967/68 to 1970, and to export certificates for oleaginous seeds and oilcake.

The Representatives of the member Governments, meeting in the Council, finally adopted the decision relating to the provisional seat of the Monetary Cooperation Fund. They authorized Germany to import additional quantities of iron and steel products from the state-trading countries and adopted a decision suspending scrapimports, except for certain categories, during August and September 1973. Finally, they adopted the text of a memo addressed to the United States Mission concerning the Community's scrap supplies.

Court of Justice

Appointment of Judges and an Advocate-General

2405. The representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the Communities have appointed Mr Joseph M.H.C. Mertens de Wilmars, Mr Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh and Mr Pierre Pescatore as Judges at the Court of Justice for the period from 7 October 1973 to 6 October 1979 inclusive. Mr Gerhard Reischl has been appointed Advocate-General for the same period as successor to Mr Karl Roemer.

New cases

Case 147/73—Carlheinz Lensing Kaffee-Tee-Import KG, Berlin vs. Hauptzollamt Berlin-Packhof

2406. By order, the Hamburg Finanzgericht filed with the Court of Justice a request for a

preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 131 of the EEC Treaty in conjunction with Annex IV thereof and the Convention of Association of 29 July 1969 between the EEC and the AASM, in order to decide whether coffee imported into the Federal Republic of Germany (including West Berlin) from Guinea was still to be regarded in 1971 as an import originating in the Associated States, i.e. whether it should be treated as a duty-free product.

Case 149/73—Firma Otto Witt KG, Stelle, vs. Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Ericus

2407. On 11 July 1973 the Hamburg Finanzgericht filed a request with the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the tariff classification of 'game' falling within Heading No 02.04 of the 1970 Common Customs Tariff.

Case 150/73—Hollandse Melksuikerfabriek, Uitgeest vs. Hoofdproduktschap voor Akkerbouwprodukten, Den Haag

2408. On 16 July 1973 the college van Beroep voor het Bedrijfsleven filed a request with the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of the provisions of Annex C to Regulation No 204/69 in connection with a dispute about refunds on lactoalbumin exported to non-member countries.

Case 152/73—Giovanni Maria Sotgiu, Stuttgart vs. Deutsche Bundespost represented by the Oberpostdirektion Stuttgart

2409. On 20 July 1973 the Bundesarbeitsgericht filed a request with the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of

¹ OJ L 227 of 15.8.1973.

Court of Justice Court of Justice

Article 48(4) of the EEC Treaty and Article 7(1) and (4) of Regulation No 1612/68 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community, in connection with a dispute about discrimination between nationals and foreigners as regards payment of severance allowances.

Case 153/73—Firma Holtz & Willemsen GmbH, Krefeld-Ürdingen vs. (1) Council and (2) Commission

2410. On 23 July 1973 a German firm filed a claim for damages with the Court of Justice for harm caused as a result of the failure of the Council to adopt a regulation introducing additional aid for colza and rape seed processed in oilmills distant from the place of harvesting and of the failure of the Commission to forward a similar proposal to the Council. This case follows on from 134/73.

Case 154/73—Firma Kurt A. Becher, Bremen vs. Hauptzollamt Emden

2411. By order, the Hamburg Finanzgericht filed a request with the Court of Justice on 25 July 1973 for a preliminary ruling on the validity of Regulation No 974/71 on certain measures of short-term economic policy to be taken in agriculture following the temporary widening of the margins of fluctuation for the currencies of certain Member States, and for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Regulation No 2122/71.

Case 155/73—Pubblico Ministero italiano vs. Giuseppe Sacchi, Sala

2412. On 27 July 1973 the Biella Tribunal filed a request with the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling concerning a dispute about the exclusive rights granted by Italy to the RAI-TV Company to make televised broad-

casts. The ruling is to decide whether these exclusive rights are compatible with the basic principles of Community law, and in particular with Articles 5, 7, 37, 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty.

Case 156/73—Commission vs. Italian Republic

2413. On 30 July 1973 the Commission lodged an appeal with the Court of Justice stating that Italy had not fulfilled its obligations under Article 8 of Directive No 493/69 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to crystal glass.

Case 157/73—Erich Freitag, Nürnberg vs. Hauptzollamt Fulda

2414. On 7 August 1973 the Hesse Finanzgericht asked the Court of Justice to give a preliminary ruling on the detailed rules for valuing goods for customs purposes. This question arose in connection with a dispute between a German lawyer who had imported some aluminium facade linings from Canada on behalf of a limited liability company in the process of formation, and the Fulda customs office, which demanded an extra duty.

Case 158/73—Firma E. Kampffmeyer, Hamburg, vs. Einfuhr- und Vorratsstelle für Getreide und Futtermittel, Frankfurt/Main

2415. On 7 August 1973 the Frankfurt Verwaltungsgericht filed a request with the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of the first subparagraph of Article 2(1) and Article 15(4) of Regulation No 1373/70 on common detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences and advance fixing certificates for agricultural products subject to a single price system, in connection with the loss of an import licence.

Case 159/73—Firma Hannoversche Zucker AG Rethen-Weetzen, Rethen/Leine, vs. Hauptzollamt Hannover

2416. During a dispute about the payment of a levy on sugar production, the Hamburg Finanzgericht asked the Court of Justice on 16 August 1973 to give a preliminary ruling in connection with the question of whether, under Article 27(1) of Regulation No 1009/67 and Article 3(1) of Regulation No 142/69, allowance should also be made for surplus quantities which were shown in an inventory after the rules on production levies came into force but which existed before 1 July 1968, and, if so, whether surplus quantities which existed before 1 July 1968 were subject to the production levy for 1968/69 sugar year or whether they were subject to the production levy for the year in which the inventory of stock was drawn up.

Cases 160/73, 160/73 R and RR—Miles Druce & Co. Ltd., High Wycombe vs. Commission

2417. On 17 August a British firm lodged an appeal with the Court of Justice for annulment of a decision of the Commission of 18 July 1973 which stated that it was not authorized to take interim measures to prevent another British company from purchasing the share capital in the firm. This appeal is accompanied by two requests for temporary protective measures on the basis of Article 39 of the ECSC Treaty, one of which is made ex parte.

Cases 161/73, 161/73 R and RR—Miles Druce & Co. Ltd., High Wycombe vs. Commission

2418. The same British firm lodged an appeal with the Court of Justice against the Commission, affirming that the Commission, by refusing to take measures requested by it, had neglected its obligations under the ECSC Treaty. This

appeal is also accompanied by two requests for temporary protective measures, one of which is made *ex parte*.

Judgments

Consolidated cases 10 and 47/72—Commission official vs. Commission

2419. These appeals, which were lodged with a view to reversing the decision to dismiss the plaintiff and reinstating him in his former post, were dismissed.

Case 28/72—Commission official vs. Commission

2420. This appeal, which concerned the regrading of the plaintiff with retroactive effect, was dismissed.

Case 59/72—Firma Wünsche Handelsgesellschaft, Hamburg vs. Commission

2421. On 24 August 1972 a German firm lodged an appeal with the Court of Justice against the Commission under the second paragraph of Article 215 of the EEC Treaty on the grounds of damage caused in the course of duty, the Commission having introduced minimum price rules for tomato concentrate imported from Greece.

In its Judgment of 12 July 1973 the Court of Justice dismissed the case as being unfounded.

Case 70/72—Commission vs. Federal Republic of Germany

2422. On 2 October 1972 the Commission lodged an appeal with the Court of Justice against the Federal Republic of Germany affirm-

ing that the latter had failed to comply with the Decision of the Commission of 17 February 1972 on aid granted under Article 32 of the Law of 15 May 1968 concerning the readaptation and development of German coalmines and mining regions.

In its Judgment of 12 July 1973 the Court of Justice dismissed this appeal.

Case 74/72—Commission official vs. Commission

2423. This appeal, which was lodged with a view to securing a higher rate of sickness benefit than had been granted to the plaintiff by the Commission, was dismissed by the Court of Justice in its Judgment of 12 July 1973.

Case 1/73—Firma Westzucker GmbH, Dortmund vs. Einfuhr- und Vorratsstelle für Zucker, Frankfurt/Main

2424. On 2 January 1973 the Hesse Finanzgericht filed a request with the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of certain provisions of Regulation No 1048/71 amending Regulation No 766/68 laying down general rules for granting export refunds on sugar and for a preliminary ruling over the validity of these provisions. Whereas the original version of Regulation No 766/68 provided for an automatic adjustment to the refund fixed in advance, in order to reflect changes in the price of sugar, Regulation No 1048/71 merely provides for an adjustment instead of an automatic adjustment. The Court was asked above all to decide whether this change in the legislation affected export licences granted before the Regulation came into force and, if so, whether this was compatible with the principle of certainty in the law.

In its Judgment of 4 July 1973, the Court ruled that the amendment to Article 12 of Regulation

No 766/68 made by Regulation No 1048/71 applied not only to advance fixing certificates issued after it came into force but also to those issued before that date in so far as the export transaction in question had not yet taken place.

Case 2/73—Riseria Luigi Geddo, Borgovercelli vs. Ente Nazionale Risi, Milano

2425. On 16 January 1973 the Milan Pretura filed a request with the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of certain provisions of Regulation No 359/67 on the common organization of the market in rice together with Articles 5 and 40 of the EEC Treaty. The questions raised are intended to determine whether the levying by Ente Nazionale Risi of a 'contract duty' on paddy rice bought from farmers by processors was in accordance with the rules governing the common organization of this market, the provisions of Articles 5 and 40 of the EEC Treaty and the principle embodied in Article 86 of the Treaty, which prohibits the abuse of a dominant position.

In its Judgment of 12 July 1973 the Court ruled that an internal charge levied solely on transactions involving national products and intended for allocation to a fund to assist national production is not a charge having equivalent effect to an export duty, and that such a charge could contravene the provisions of Regulation No 359/67 laying down export refunds only if it were to appear to be a means of reducing the level of these refunds.

Case 3/73—Firma Hessische Mehlindustrie Karl Schöttler KG, Sielen vs. Einfuhr- und Vorratsstelle für Getreide und Futtermittel, Frankfurt/ Main

2426. On 23 January 1973 the Hesse Verwaltungsgericht filed a request with the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the interpreta-

Court of Justice Court of Justice

tion of Article 7 of Regulation No 172/67 and Article 4(3) of Regulation No 1403/69 on the denaturing of wheat and rye of bread-making quality. The question raised concerns the detailed rules for supervising the denaturing process: should the entire denaturing process be carried out under the supervision of an official of the intervention agency or is it in order for the intervention agency to reserve the right to make spot checks on the process on condition that the management of denaturing undertakings is trust-worthy?

In its Judgment of 11 July 1973 the Court ruled that the abovementioned Articles do not require that the entire process of denaturing should be carried out under the personal supervision of an official of the intervention agency. The supervision requirements imposed by the Regulations are fulfilled if the intervention agency reserves the right to make spot checks on the denaturing process, on condition that the management of the denaturing undertakings is trustworthy.

Case 8/73—Hauptzollamt Bremerhaven vs. Massey-Ferguson GmbH, Kassel

2427. On 19 February the Bundesfinanzhof filed a request with the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the validity of Regulation No 803/68 on the valuation of goods for customs purposes in connection with a dispute about whether, when valuing goods for customs purposes, an invoice price may be reduced by a sum not exceeding the credit charges which it includes by way of the agreed carry-over of the period provided for its payment.

In its Judgment of 12 July 1973 the Court ruled that Regulation No 803/68 was justified by Article 235 of the EEC Treaty and that nothing had been discovered during the examination of the matter to bring its validity into question. Article 11(2)(b) (second part of the alternative) of that Regulation should be interpreted

to mean that it is not enough to show that the forward price includes credit charges in order to justify the existence of a price different from the forward price; what must be justified is the existence of a different fixed price that the buyer or other buyers under similar circumstances would be expected to pay in the event of payment earlier than the date agreed on.

Case 11/73—Getreide-Import-Gesellschaft mbH, Duisburg vs. Einfuhr- und Vorratsstelle für Getreide und Futtermittel, Frankfurt/Main

2428. On 21 February 1973 the Hesse Finanzgericht filed a request with the Court for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Articles 2 and 4 of Regulation No 19 on the common organization of the market in cereals and of Article 1 of Regulation No 61 laying down quality standards for cereals and coefficients of equivalence between these standards and the quality standards laid down for national target prices.

In its Judgment of 12 July 1973 the Court ruled that Articles 2 and 4 of Regulation No 19 should be interpreted to mean that the import costs which must be taken into consideration in calculating the levy are those which every importer inevitably has to bear in order to acquit himself of the legal transactions and formalities governing the import of the products in question and in order to dispatch these products to the first stage of the wholesale trade in the area where the basic target price applies.

Case 13/73—Société Anciens Établissements D. Sngenieux Fils ainé, Saint-Etienne, e.a. vs. M. Willy Hakenberg, Paris

2429. On 21 March 1973 the French Cour de Cassation filed with the Court of Justice a request for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Articles 12 and 13 of Regulation No 3 on the social security of migrant workers.

In its Judgment of 12 July 1973 the Court gave a detailed explanation of the rules governing the determination of the law applicable to a sales agent who undertakes a continuous canvassing campaign in a Member State only during a certain period of the year, in pursuance of Articles 12 and 13 of Regulation No 3 before they were amended by Regulation No 4/64 (law applicable to seconded workers and workers who normally carry out their activities in several countries).

Case 50/73 R—Società SADAM S.p.A., Bologna vs. Commission

2430. An undertaking which had lodged an appeal with the Court of Justice for annulment of the Decision of the Commission of 2 January 1973 on the procedure for implementing Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty (IV/26.918—European Sugar Industry) also requested the Court to suspend implementation of this Decision by means of an injunction.

In its Judgment of 11 July 1973 the Court struck this case from its register.

Case 118/73—Commission official vs. Commission

2431. In its Judgment of 13 July 1973 the Court struck this appeal concerning the staff reports procedure from its register.

Case 129/73—Commission official vs. Commission

2432. In its Judgment of 17 July the Court struck from its register this appeal concerning the annulment of all promotions from grade A/5 to grade A/4 granted for the financial year 1972.

Control Commission

2433. In application of Articles 206 of the EEC Treaty, 180 of the EAEC Treaty and 78 quinto of the ECSC Treaty, and in conformity with the modalities envisaged by the financial regulations applicable to the budget of the Communities, the Control Commission of the Communities, on the 10 July 1973, presented its report and financial accounts for the year 1972.

The report is issued in two volumes. The first concerns the implementation of the budget of the Communities. In addition to general observations concerning the control of the financial year 1972, it includes chapters devoted to the receipts of the Communities, the expenditure for the functioning of the Institutions, the European Social Fund, the European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund (section 'guarantee' and section 'guidance'), food aid and expenditure for research and investment. It is accompanied by a number of tables concerning these operations.

The second volume is devoted to the Development Fund, and gives details of the general accounts of the fund and also includes the examination of a number of projects and categories of aid.

Under the terms of the dispositions in force, the Commission submits to the Council and to the European Parliament the balance sheet for the last year together with the report of the Control Commission.

European Investment Bank

Loans floated

2434. In July the European Investment Bank issued bonds for 500 million Luxembourg francs

on the Luxembourg capital market. The issue was fully underwritten by a syndicate of Luxembourg banks. Quotation on the Luxembourg stock exchange has been requested.

The bonds bear interest at the nominal rate of 7%, payable yearly and free of withholding tax on coupons, and have a maximum duration of 15 years. They will be redeemed in 10 annual instalments by purchase on the market at prices not exceeding par; bonds not purchased will be redeemed at par on 1 August 1988. The Bank reserves the right to redeem in advance all bonds in circulation at progressively reduced premiums from 1 August 1984.

The bonds were proposed to the public in Luxembourg at an issue price of 99.5% thus offering subscribers a yield of 7.05% calculated on the total life-time of the bonds.

The proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be used by the European Investment Bank to finance its ordinary lending operations.

Loans granted

Loans by the EIB for a Gas Pipeline of Community Interest in Austria

2435. The European Investment Bank has granted two loans for a total amount of 44.8 million u.a. to promote the supply of natural gas to the Community. The loans concern the construction of the TAG (Trans-Austria-Gasline) gas pipeline, which will cross Austria from the Czech frontier to the Italian frontier.

This gas pipeline, which is the fruit of close cooperation between several firms of different European countries, will enable natural gas from the Soviet Union to be transported to feed the Community's network of gas pipelines. Its construction is therefore of great interest as regards the satisfaction of the Community's growing energy requirements.

The cost of the installation which will be 384 km in length and have a transport capacity of 10 000 million cubic metres per annum, is at present assessed at approximately 4 000 million Austrian schillings (170 million u.a.). The construction work is in progress and it is anticipated that it will be completed during the first six months of next year.

The Bank is part-financing this gas pipeline, located in a country which is not a member of the Community, by means of special authorization from its Board of Governors granted precisely because of the particular importance of the scheme in the field of energy.

The first loan for a total amount of Lit. 17350 million (25 million u.a.) is granted to ENI-Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi—and will be used in full to help finance the TAG gas pipeline.

The second loan for a total amount of 110 million French francs (19.8 million u.a.) is granted to Gaz de France and will help to pay for the transit rights acquired by the enterprise in a network of gas pipelines which comprises in particular the Trans-Austria-Gasline.

The two loans are for a duration of 20 years and bear interest at the rate of $7^3/_4$ % per annum.

Germany

2436. The Bank has granted to Reederei Söhle, of Bremerhaven, which is run in conjunction with Hanseatische Hochseefischerei AG, a loan equivalent to DM 17.7 million (5.5 million u.a.), for 14 years at 7³/₄% interest a year. This partnership of shipping companies, which combines the Oetker group's fishing interests, is the second largest fish producer in the Federal Republic of Germany, holding 30% of the fresh fish market and 20% of that for frozen fish products.

The Bank's loan is to be used for the purchase and operation of two refrigerator trawlers of the most modern design and equipment which are part of an order for four deep-sea vessels placed with Seebeck-Werft of Bremerhaven. These crafts are being built under a Government-approved programme set up by various shipping companies in the Federal Republic and the German Deep-Sea Fishing Federation, which provides for the construction of 14 vessels with a total gross tonnage of 50 000. This programme essentially represents a replacement and rationalization investment to help to restructure the Federal Republic's deep-sea fishing industry. The total cost of the project amounts to DM 46 million (14.3 million u.a.).

France

2437. The Bank has granted a loan for the equivalent of 90 million French francs (16.2 million u.a.) to the 'Centrale Électrique Rhénane de Gambsheim—CERGA' company for a term of 20 years at 7.75% a year. The loan will be used for the construction at Gambsheim, in the Department of Bas-Rhin, of a hydroelectric power station with a rating of about 100 MW.

CERGA, the promoter of the project, is a limited company under French law. Its capital is held in equal proportions by Électricité de France and Badenwerk AG of Karlsruhe. The electricity produced by the power station will be fed into the networks of the two partners in proportion to their holdings in CERGA.

The construction of the Gambsheim power station—and later of a companion station at Iffezheim (Germany)—is part of an overall plan drawn up under a convention signed in 1969 between France and the Federal Republic of Germany which provides for joint action to improve navigation on the Rhine and produce hydroelectricity, as well as to improve agriculture and develop industry on both sides of the river.

2438. The Bank has also concluded two loan contracts with the French National Railways (SNCF), totalling the equivalent of 150 million French francs (27 million u.a.).

The first of these loans, for the equivalent of FF 100 million (18 million u.a.), granted for a period of 20 years at 7³/₄%, is to increase the capacity of the Culoz-Chembéry-Modane line. The main aims of the project are improvement of the signalling and telecontrol systems, replacement of the contract rail by an overhead contact wire, acquisition of more powerful locomotives, and improvement of movement control. The cost of the project is estimated at FF 300 million (54 million u.a.), and these installations should all become operative towards the end of 1976. This project is justified by the continuous growth in traffic associated with the general increase in trade between France and Italy resulting mainly from the establishment of the Common Market. The line, which runs through the Fréjus tunnel and constitutes the main rail link between France and Italy, is in fact saturated, and the projected large-scale improvements are therefore required. On the Italian side, parallel measures to increase the traffic flow are currently being carried out on the Modane-Turin section.

The second loan, for the equivalent of FF 50 million (9 million u.a.), repayable over 18 years and bearing interest at 7³/4%, is intended to promote the use of gas turbine locomotives for inter-regional rail traffic. On the Lyons-Bordeaux (639 km), Lyons-Nantes (653 km) and Lyons-Strasbourg (488 km) lines, the SNCF has decided to introduce new passenger-carrying units in the form of gas turbine trains (RTG-rames à turbines à gaz). In addition to the cost of acquiring 17 complete trains, the investments entailed by the project include a certain amount of ancillary work on infrastructure. The overall cost is estimated at FF 155 million (28 million u.a.) and the rolling stock will be brought into service in stages by May 1974.

By supporting this project, the Bank is clearly indicating the importance which it attaches to opening up the most isolated and least well served French regions, particularly the Massif Central and the Atlantic coastline. Another advantage of the project is its potential for improving the service along the great artery of circulation linking the Rhône valley to that of the Rhine and, beyond, to Germany.

2439. In August the European Investment Bank granted a loan for the equivalent of 166.6 million French francs (30 million u.a.) to the Caisse Nationale des Télécommunications, for a term of 20 years at 7.75%. The amount of the loan will be placed at the disposal of the French Post and Telecommunications administration to finance investment in the modernization and expansion of telecommunications in the Midi-Pyrénées region.

The region is on the south-western edge of the Community and is one of the least-developed areas in France. With only 6.5 main telephones per 100 inhabitants in 1971, compared with 8.8 in France as a whole and an average of more than 12 in the European Community, the region is very backward as far as telephone facilities are concerned. The project will increase the number of telephone subscribers by more than 100 000 and will make the network 93% automatic in 1976 compared with 76% at present. In addition, 1000 extra telex outlets will be provided.

This is the European Investment Bank's seventh loan in favour of telecommunications development in under-privileged regions of France that are remote from the economic centres of the Community. The previous operations involved the South-west (1967), Brittany and the Loire (1971) and Limousin, Auvergne and Aquitaine (1972). The total amount provided by the EIB in this sector in France is now 745.5 million French francs (134.4 million u.a.).

Italy

2440. In July the Bank granted a loan of the equivalent of 20800 million lire (about 28 million u.a.) to 'Autostrade-Concessioni e Costruzioni Autostrate S.p.A.' of Rome.

The loan is intended to finance the construction of the Voltri-Alessandria section of the 'Tunnels Motorway' which will link Voltri, near Genoa, with Santhia, on the one hand, and Gravellona Toce, near Domodossola (Simplon) on the other. The section, which includes a link between Predosa and the Milan-Genoa motorway, will be about 84 km long. Its cost is estimated at present at about 160 000 million lire. Work is in progress and is expected to be completed by the end of 1975. The project includes numerous tunnels and viaducts, mainly in its first part between the Ligurian Riviera and the plain of the Po, when it crosses the Appenines and calls for large-scale civil engineering works.

The 'Tunnels Motorway', which will extend over 264 km, is an important link in the Italian and European motorway systems. It will considerably improve communications between the port of Genoa and the industrial regions of Northern Italy and of those of the other European countries.

The Bank's loan is guaranteed by the Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI).

United Kingdom

2441. The Bank has concluded a contract with the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation Ltd. (ICFC), of London, for a loan equivalent to £3.5 million (7.14 million u.a.). This first operation by the Bank in the United Kingdom consists of a global loan which ICFC will appropriate, with EIB's approval, to the financing of small and medium-scale ventures

in regions which are lagging behind in development or in a situation requiring conversion of their traditional activities.

This type of aid enables the Bank to contribute to the financing of a range of small or medium-scale investment projects which are in line with its task of promoting regional development. The projects to be financed within the framework of a global loan are often to small to justify the granting of direct EIB loans, which are usually reserved for larger investments. Nevertheless, this kind of project forms an essential complement to large-scale outlay on infrastructure and heavy industry.

Turkey

2442. Under the framework contract signed with the Republic of Turkey on 12 February 1973, which earmarks 15 million u.a. in the current year to finance industrial projects in the private sector through the intermediary of Türkiye Sinaî Kalkinma Bankasi—TSKB (Turkish Industrial Development Bank), the European Investment Bank has just allocated 2 million u.a. for the extension of a cement works at Eskisehir, between Istanbul and Ankara.

The project is promoted by the Turkish limited company Eskisehir Cimento Fabrikasi—TAS, whose present factory produces 175 000 tons of cement a year by the wet process. The project, estimated to cost 5.06 million u.a., will increase the capacity to 450 000 tons a year by the construction of a new unit to produce 275 000 tons annually by the dry process. Cement consumption in Turkey rose from 135 kg per head in 1967 to some 200 kg in 1972 and is increasing by 12% a year. In the third five-year plan (1973-1977), the cement industry thus remains one of the sectors to be developed in order to meet domestic demand and enable Turkey to continue to export cement as it has been doing for some years.

The European Investment Bank is at present operating in Turkey under the Second Financial Protocol between the EEC and Turkey, which came into effect on 1 January 1973 and provides for the granting, by May 1976, of loans totalling up to 195 million u.a. on favourable terms. The loans are granted by the EIB under mandate from the Member States of the Community from resources they make available to it. For the time being, only the six founder Member States give mandates, as the provisions governing the participation of the new Member States in financial aid to Turkey have not yet come into effect.

Réunion

2443. On 10 July 1973 the Commission of the European Communities and the European Investment Bank, as agent of the European Economic Community entrusted with the management of the loan, concluded with the French overseas Department of Réunion a contract for the grant of a loan on special terms equivalent to 2122793 u.a. (about 590 million CFA francs).

The loan will part-finance the widening of the Route Nationale 1 to four lanes over a length of about 12 kilometres as part of the modernization of the road which links the main town of Saint-Denis with the island's only port at Pointe des Galets. The improvement of the road, which is a difficult undertaking, as it skirts cliffs overlooking the sea, is justified by the rapid increase in motor traffic as well as for safety reasons.

The special loan is granted to the Department of Réunion from the second and third European Development Funds for a term of 25 years with a payment-free period of 5 years. Interest will be charged at the rate of 3% per annum.

Community aid for this project also includes a non-repayable grant of 395.5 million CFA francs

(about 1424 million u.a.) recently awarded to the Department of Réunion from the third European Development Fund.

Financing Community Activities

Preliminary draft general budget of the European Communities for 1974

2444. On 21 August 1973, the Commission transmitted to the Council the preliminary draft general budget of the Communities for the financial year 1974.

This preliminary draft budget was transmitted by the Council to the European Parliament in accordance with the procedure drawn up by agreement between the Parliament and the Council to assist cooperation between these two institutions within the framework of budgetary procedure.

The preliminary draft budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1974 stands at 6 077 583 960 u.a. as against 5 421 595 415 u.a. in 1973, an overall increase of 12.09%.

Revenue of the Communities

Revenue of the Communities		(in u.a	
	1974	1973	
Own resources Available surplus	3 237 160 421 token entry	2 624 253 853 token entry	
Portion of proceeds of ECSC levies paid in pursuance of Article 20 of the Treaty	18 000 000	18 000 000	
Deductions from staff remunerations	21 614 680	17 419 420	
Contributions	2 791 356 509	2 558 179 822	
Miscellaneous revenue	9 452 350	8 552 320	
EAGGF (guarantee) expenditure in January 1973 attributed to the financial year 1972	token entry	195 190 000	
Total	6 077 583 960	5 421 595 415	

Increase in appropriations from 1973 to 1974 for each institution

	1973 (u.a.)	1974 (u.a.)	% increase
European Parliament	25 564 625	29 820 365	16.64
Council	33 656 865	39 514 767	17.40
Commission	5 355 350 685	6 000 352 868	12.04
Court of Justice	7 023 240	7 895 960	12.40
	5 421 595 415	6 077 583 960	12.09

¹ The 1973 appropriations incorporate the supplementary expenditure for that year including the first supplementary and amending budget for 1973, the second and third draft budgets for 1973, the fourth preliminary draft budget for 1973 and 195 190 000 u.a. for EAGGF (Guarantee) expenditure in January 1973 attributed to the financial year 1972 under the arrangements for Accession. The initial appropriations for 1973 amounted to 4 440 472 241 u.a.

The 1974 preliminary draft general budget reflects a tendency for the relative expenditure on agriculture to fall and points to expansion and readjustment in other sectors such as social policy, regional policy, the environment, industrial policy and scientific research and development policy. Furthermore, it shows a normal increase in operating appropriations, which follow the same tendency as the GNP.

Expenditure of the Communities

	1974 (millions of u.a.)	%	% 1973
Functional expenditure, operational expenditure, aids, subsidies and financial contributions, provisional appropriations	340	5.7	5.6
Research and investment	88	1.4	1.5
Industrial innovation and development contracts	20	0.3	
Community projects in the field of the prospection for hydrocarbons	25	0.4	
Social policy	471	7.7	4.8
European Regional Development Fund	500	8.2	_
EAGGF, Guarantee Section	3 6022	59.3	72.3
EAGGF, Guidance Section	400	6.6	7.1
Food Aid	110³	1.8	0.9
Refund of 10% of own resources to cover the cost of collection	324	5.3	5.2
	5 880		
EAGGF monetary effects	198	3.3	2.6
Total	6 078	100	100

Excluding research and investment, Community contracts and projects in the industrial and hydrocarbon fields.

Excluding monetary effects.
Including re-entry of 25 million u.a.

It should be noted that the 1974 budget is the first real budget of the enlarged Community and the last budget before the full application of the system based on own resources which represent 53.2% of the 1974 budget and will finance the entire budget as from 1975.

Fourth supplementary and amending budget, 1973

2445. On 10 July 1973 the Commission approved the fourth preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget for 1973: this preliminary draft budget included the following applications for supplementary appropriations for 1973:

- EAGGF, Guarantee Section 87

879 290 000 u.a.;

Social Fund

120 000 000 u.a.

At its session of 24 July, the Council approved the basic content of the draft budget (which was formally approved by written procedure) by granting a supplementary appropriation of 864 336 000 u.a. to the EAGGF (with a further 5 664 000 u.a. being made available by transfer): however, it held over the examination of the Social Fund's case until September, as no more time was available.

The European Parliament is to give its opinion on the draft budget at its September session. The final decision on the fourth supplementary budget as regards the EAGGF is expected at the end of September.

Report of the ECSC Auditor

2446. On 30 June the ECSC auditor submitted the report required by Article 78e of the ECSC Treaty on whether the accounting and the financial management of the Commission had been effected in a regular manner in 1972.

The report consists of two parts. Part one contains an analysis of and comments upon the balance sheet and the management account, and also the allocation of the surplus of revenue over expenditure. Part two describes, for the major sectors of ECSC operations, the scope of checks made and the resulting observations drawn up both from the statistical and development point of view and from the critical point of view.

In its conclusions the report draws attention to the principal characteristics of ECSC financial activity in 1972, particularly the greater volume of issues on the capital market (185 million u.a.), the growing amount of loans both from its borrowing (151 million u.a.) and from its own funds (7 million u.a.) and the increase in commitments for activities to be financed by the proceeds of levies (the proceeds themselves having jumped by 25%). As regards the assessment of the financial management, these conclusions stress the recommendations for greater centralization of accounting operations and effective coordination between the departments specifically concerned with the ECSC, which are not all located together. It is also hoped that the Commission itself will be clearly seen to be playing a part in the choice between different management options and that it will react more promptly to take the measures made necessary by events such as the denunciation of the European Monetary Agreement which serves as a reference for the functioning of the ECSC unit of account. The recovery of the levy receives a special mention, and attention is also drawn to the possible forms of complementarity of national and Community external auditing.

There are three annexes to the report. The first one contains a description and traces the development of the functioning of the financial machinery of the ECSC since its creation (levies, readaptation, research, loans and guarantees, the management and investment of funds, the financing of the construction of houses for

workers, aid to coking coal, and the ECSC pension fund). The other two annexes deal with the liquidation operations relating to the uniform distribution of scrap and to the comparative statistics of the balance sheets for the financial year 1971 to 1972 and of the principal financial factors of the Community during the last few years.

Discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the transactions of the Development Fund for the financial year 1970

2447. In its Decision of 24 July, the Council gave a discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the transactions of the Development Fund for the overseas countries and territories (first Fund) and of the European Development Fund (1963) (2nd EDF) for the financial year 1970.¹

The Communities' own resources

2448. At its 8th meeting, held on 2 July, the Advisory Committee on Own Resources adopted the forecasts for own resources (customs duties) for the period 1974 to 1976. After receiving the opinion of the Budgetary Policy Committee and the European Parliament, the Commission shall submit these forecasts to the Council for examination, in accordance with the decision of 21 April 1970 concerning financial forecasts governing several years.

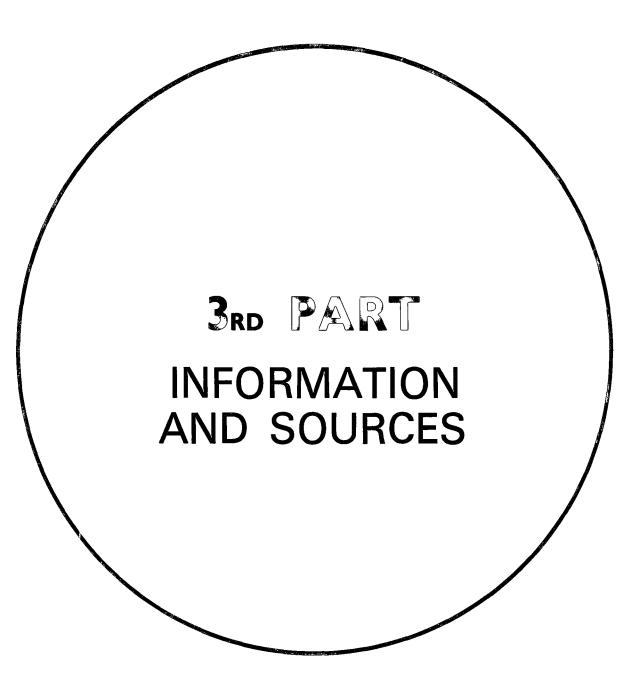
At the same meeting, the Committee studied the reports transmitted by the Member States concerning the establishing and auditing of own resources during the financial year 1972, and also a draft document defining the agricultural levies referred to in Article 2(a) of the Decision of 21 April 1970.

2449. At its sitting of 3 July, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the draft annual accounts of the Parliament for the financial year 1972.²

OJ L 228 of 16.8.1973.

² OJ C 62 of 31.7.1973.

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1. From Day to Day

From Day to Day

1 June 1973

3101. Mr Nixon, President of the United States, and Mr Pompidou, President of France, met in Reykjavik to discuss relations between the USA and Europe.

3 June 1973

In an article published by the 'Corriere della Sera', Milan, Mr Lionello Levi Sandri, former Vice-President of the Commission writing on the urgently needed democratization of Community structures, said: 'When you consider that today in each Member State of the Community the national Parliament has been deprived of making the decisions on the bulk of economic policy (even if it has the scope, which the Italian Parliament has hardly ever used, to give the Government the required directives on the positions to be taken within the Council), when you consider that any direct control of the use of Community funds (3 200 thousand million lire in 1973 of which only a tiny fraction is controlled by the European Parliament) has been withdrawn from the National Assemblies; and when you consider that from now on all these powers are concentrated in one body, namely the Council, which speaks for nine governments and is heavily influenced by a Committee of nine ambassadors (the Permanent Representatives) you wonder how such a situation can persist in a Community whose members are legal states ruled by democratic legislation motivated by the principle of separation of power. It is also incomprehensible that the national parliaments have not yet demanded that the commitment, written into the Treaty itself, be respected to hold the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage and to vest this renewed parliament with the legal powers and financial authority which the national Assemblies have lost.

There, indeed, is the real political and constitutional dilemma. It does not seem to me that the Paris Summit spoke on this issue. Do we have to wait until the next Summit anticipated for after 1975? Or even 1980, the date set for the creation of a "European Union" whose substance has not been specified either? In my view this is neither realistic nor timely'.

6 June 1973

3103. After his first visit to a session of the European Parliament, Mr Roy Jenkins, the former deputy leader of the British Labour Party, said: 'It is my firm belief that the Labour Party will in due course be here in Strasbourg. But I don't know whether it will be next year or the year after'.

3104. Speaking at the Monetary Conference called in Paris by the American Bankers Association, Mr Raymond Barre, former Vice-President of the Commission, said: 'If the Community wishes to achieve monetary unity it will have to opt for a unified international system where the playing rules for balances are clear, where the international institutions will be effective and where groups of nations will cooperate closely'.

7 June 1973

3105. During its Congress, the Norwegian Labour Party decided to accept the Trade Treaty with the EEC for the next legislative term. The Party has thus committed itself until 1977 not to try and make the country a full member of the Community.

3106. British minister Mr John Davies called for a drastic overhaul of the Community's working procedures so that the Council could concentrate on important policy issues. There should be more delegation downwards and less read-

iness to push minor questions up to the Council when Member States disagreed. This would enable ministers to ensure the Community was heading in the right direction, he told a European Movement meeting.

Mr Davies, minister specializing in European affairs, said the Community had grown used to operating procedures which would not be tolerated by national governments. 'The procedure needs to be more disciplined, ruthlessly rejecting matters inadequately prepared or sloppily argued', he declared. Mr Davies also complained that Community documents prepared for ministerial meetings tended to be legalistic and fustian, producing real translation problems.

3107. For the first time since preparations started for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) a representative of the Nine Member States of the EEC made a statement on behalf of the Community as such. With Belgium now presiding over the EEC Council of Ministers, the Belgian representative at Helsinki said, 'The draft mandate for the Economic Committee embraces matters which come under the EEC's jurisdiction to which belong the nine countries sharing in the preliminary discussion proceedings of the Conference. The Community will be involved according to its authority and both the negotiation procedure itself and the possible outcome will hinge on the Community agreement'.

8 June 1973

3108. Mr Michel Jobert, the French Foreign Minister, and Dr Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's Special Adviser on National Security, met in Paris to discuss the American proposals for a new 'Atlantic Charter'.

3109. A paragraph of the Communiqué issued after the Comecon meeting in Prague on

4-8 June voices encouragement for 'the expansion of mutually advantageous economic, scientific and technical contacts between States of different social and economic structure, especially in Europe'.

3110. At the Vienna Conference, on the reduction of armed forces in Europe (MBFR), Belgium contended that 'the United States and the Soviet Union intended increasingly to confiscate negotiation, making it in fact into a dialogue between the two Super Powers'. As a result, Belgium has now withdrawn from the western coordination group assigned to try and harmonize the position of the West at the Conference. The thinking in Belgian circles at the Vienna meeting is that what matters today is to get concerted action and a joint attitude from the Nine on the MBFR negotiations.

11 June 1973

3111. Interviewed by the German weekly 'Der Spiegel', Mr Jobert, the French Foreign Minister, said: 'As things are at present nobody has the right to speak on behalf of Europe. The Federal Chancellor is one of the key men in Europe and President Pompidou certainly is, too. When one or the other of them speaks of European problems he makes it abundantly clear that he is doing so as a European. But nobody does so on behalf of Europe'.

On the question whether it would be possible to form a European nuclear force from the British and French nuclear forces, Mr Jobert said, 'The French atomic force is independent, whereas the British atomic force is much more limited. If a European force is desired, the two must be combined.... This issue must be regarded against the background of the nuclear balance struck between the USA and the Soviet Union. If a European nuclear deterrent is thrown into this balance, the latter will be shaken or at least altered'.

Concerning the divergent outlooks on farming problems, Mr Jobert asserted:

'You must not argue from specific cases. It is the agricultural market which holds the Common Market together. If you dismantle it, what is left?'

Lastly, asked about the amplification of the EEC Commission's authority, in particular on monetary issues, the French Minister stated: 'This issue involves for sure the last area where the Member States will curtail their freedom of decision'.

3112. Mr Willy Brandt, the West German Federal Chancellor, when leaving Israel after a five-day visit and describing the Near East conflict, said that the European Community 'must commit itself more firmly in favour of a constructive solution'.

12 June 1973

3113. Mr Rohr, Secretary of State to the Federal German Ministry of Food, urged that perfectionism in the Community agricultural system be scrapped. He opposed any renationalization of the farming policy and rebuffed the idea that the system of joint organization of the markets as such could be the subject of negotiation as for instance during the GATT proceedings.

- 3114. In an interview with the weekly 'Newsweek', Mr Chira, the Japanese Foreign Minister, indicated that Japan should progressively relinquish her bilateral relations with the EEC Member States in favour of multinational relations with the Community as a whole and that European apprehensions over Japan's economic strength should be dispelled.
- 3115. Mr Jobert, the French Foreign Minister, visited his German counterpart Mr Scheel in

order to prepare the forthcoming meeting of President Pompidou and Chancellor Brandt. The two Ministers discussed in particular the USA-Europe negotiations with special reference to GATT. They also covered the European Conference on Security and Cooperation and problems encountered in achieving the Economic and Monetary Union, especially from the agricultural standpoint.

3116. Addressing the Economic and Financial Journalists Association, Mr François Miterrand, First Secretary of the French Socialist Party, describing the relations between the USA and Europe, said at one point: 'Nothing is more important than the preparation for the Nixon Round. The common agricultural market is at stake and behind it, Europe. It is the duty of the French Government to direct opinion to the problems of this obstacle.'

Mr John Davies, the British Minister 3117. for European Affairs, had a day of talks with the Dutch Government, in particular with Mr van der Stoel, the Foreign Minister. The two Governments both wish to see a swift expansion of the European Parliament's powers. Mr Davies declared that despite divergencies there was a broad unity of view between the six European capitals he had visited up to now on the issue of economic and monetary union, the main objective of the EEC. Concerning the admission of new Member States, Mr Davies indicated that at some future date Norway would reapply for membership. As for Spain, her position could be reviewed as part of the 'global Mediterranean policy'.

3118. The Ministers for Industry of the Nordic countries agreed on the formation of a 'Nordic Fund' for industrial development and technology. This agreement was reached during a meeting of the Nordic Council on 12 June in Copenhagen. In the second half of 1973 the

Fund will be endowed with 10 million Swedish crowns available as contributions, loans or guarantees for projects in one or more Nordic countries. One year after the Fund will be raised to 50 million crowns. The Fund Secretariat is based in Stockholm. Priority will be given to projects for the environment, health, transport and plant.

13 June 1973

In a letter to Mr Emile Roche, Chairman of the French Economic and Social Council. Mr Pierre Messmer, the Prime Minister, wrote concerning the Nixon Round: 'The common external tariff in our view retains not only its economic significance but its political sense as well and we feel there can be no derogation of the basic principles of the common agricultural policy or of the privileged relationships which the Community holds with certain third countries or of the EEC's decision warrant regarding the running and development of its common policies. . . . It is also clear that these negotiations will mean nothing unless there are genuine prospects of a return to dollar convertibility and a resumption of progress towards the Economic and Monetary Union. This last consideration, said the Prime Minister, 'does not prejudice our concept complying to the letter with commitments made by the Community in 1972 and whereby the negotiations must be strictly commercial in character and be in no way tied to other problems such as defence. Reciprocity must be appraised solely in the field of trade, whether we are harmonizing tariffs or considering the major non-tariff barriers'.

3120. The Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the EEC (COPA) took a position on the Community's Mediterranean policy for agriculture which urges the following conditions: the new global approach must not lead to the creation of an EEC-Mediterranean free-trade

area for agricultural products; the principles of the common agricultural policy and in particular fair incomes for the producers and preferences in favour of Community products must not be jeopardized; the efforts which the EEC will agree to for the benefit of the Mediterranean countries must not be exclusively charged to the farming sector but must be fairly divided between the various sectors of activity.

3121. Mr Halvorsen, the Norwegian Representative to the EEC for several years, has been appointed Norway's ambassador in Paris. He will be succeeded by Mr Jens Boyesen.

In West Germany application of Community directives sometimes runs up against serious problems owing to the federal nature of the State, with the various Länder very often bearing some responsibility in preparing application measures. A new ruling in this sphere has been proposed by Professor Friedrich Schäfer (SPD), Chairman of the Bundestag Internal Committee and also Chairman of the Committee of Enquiry for questions of constitutional reform. Mr Schäfer is suggesting a joint framework for the Federal and Länder authorities for drawing up policies involving Community expenditure, in particular the regional and structural policies. According to the Committee of Enquiry, this policy should be approved by only two thirds of the Länder and no longer unanimously as is the case at present. Mr Schäfer also came out in favour of new rules on the allocation of authority between the Federal Government and the Länder. The Federal authority should be responsible for all measures taken under Community policy in the social, economic and monetary fields.

3123. The Heads of Australian Missions to the EEC Members States met in Brussels on 11 and 12 June with Senator D.R. Willesee, Special Minister of State in the Chair. The meeting

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reviewed Australo-Community relations following the EEC enlargement and the election of a Labour Government in Australia last Decem-Those present recognized the need to improve and intensify their relations with the EEC and to preserve a global balance in their countries' relations with Europe, Asia and North America. Then in tackling trade problems the Australian Heads of Mission emphasized the importance of the forthcoming multilateral GATT negotiations which should achieve a genuine liberalization of international trade, particularly for agricultural product. They also considered that the negotiations with the Commission based on Protocol 16 over the problems concerning certain Australian exports due to Great Britain's entry into the EEC were a useful working tool. On 13 June Senator Willesee met Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission. They agreed on the need to keep up a sustained and regular informal dialogue at a sufficiently high level on a broad range of issues of mutual interest.

3124. When three Communist Members of the French National Assembly were appointed Members of the European Parliament, the Communist Group stated that 'the elected Communists will be the staunch defenders and guardians of national independence against those who are planning to relinquish sovereignty as part of the American strategy of a new Atlantic empire or to the profit of supranational institutions'. The Group went on to affirm that the issues of most concern to the workers of Europe's capitalist countries will find a forceful voice. The quest of the Communist and Socialist Parties, of the forces of the Left and progress, of the trade unions, for joint and converged action could only benefit from it.

3125. Mr Chi Peng-fei, the Chinese Foreign Minister, ended on 13 June his official four-day visit to France, during which he was received by

President Pompidou. At the dinner offered in his honour by Mr Jobert, his French counterpart, the Chinese Minister declared: 'During the twenty and more years since the war, major changes have occurred in Europe's position. The countries of western Europe have strengthened their unity and developed their cooperation so as to remove the misunderstanding between nations inherited from history and to protect their independence and their security. We support the efforts of the west European countries towards unity based on equality and reciprocal benefits to make themselves strong. We hope that the European countries will live on better terms and play a positive role in international affairs. We still think that in international relations the five principles of peaceful coexistence must apply to all countries regardless of their social and political systems'.

14 June 1973

3126. In his first press interview after taking up his post, Mr Claude Cheysson, Member of the Commission succeeding Mr Jean-François Deniau, defined the aims of Community development aid in the following words: 'We must boost the chances of little-developed countries to earn money by granting them customs exemptions, by guaranteeing their resources, by granting them special financing. . . . The brunt of the effort must bear not on increased free aid but on facilities allowed to those countries to produce and sell much more both domestically—for a strong national demand will stimulate growth—and for export'.

3127. During a press conference, Mr Josef Ertl, the German Federal Minister of Agriculture, highlighted the problems besetting the common agricultural market if there is no real integration of the Member countries within the EEC. On this point the Minister indicated that the Community Agriculture Ministers were vic-

tims of the lack of genuine economic and monetary union at present prevailing between the Nine. He also explained that the Member States would be drawing up from now until 15 August next, a list of possibilities for streamlining the rules of the markets, trimming the surpluses of some farm products and alleviating the effects of monetary parity changes on the common agricultural market.

19 June 1973

During its 19th meeting held in Paris, 3128. the Parliamentary Assembly of the WEU passed a Resolution written into the Report by Mr Valleix on a civil and military aeronautics policy. The Resolution urged governments to ask the Foreign Ministers, the Ministers of Finance, Transport and Technology to support a colloquium organized by the WEU Space Committee on 17-18 September in Paris and to give their opinions on the possibility of setting up a European Aeronautical Authority within the Common Market. The Resolution also recommends that top priority be given to coordinating European viewpoints before the forthcoming meetings between Mr Nixon and the governments of Europe.

A second recommendation on the Report by Mr Kahn-Ackermann concerns European nuclear policy. The Council is asked to promote a European nuclear policy within the EEC or as part of a larger framework (particularly the OECD) and to ask the Community of Nine to bring other west European countries into the projects of the Standing Committee on Uranium Enrichment and to explore with the American Government the scope for adopting joint Atlantic nuclear policies by using a method like that of the NATO Committee against the challenges of modern society.

3129. The Budget Committee of the European Parliament met in Brussels with Mr Spénale (Socialist) in the Chair, and attended by the

Auditors General of the nine Member States. A similar meeting had already been held in September 1972 but was attended by only the Auditors General of the Six. This second meeting was to be the initial contact with the new partners and to learn something of the Audit methods applied in those countries.

Mr Spénale announced to the press that a Liaison Committee had been formed by the Auditors General of the Nine and the members of the European Parliament Budget Committee. This Liaison Committee will be assigned to renew Commission proposals on budgetary control (Cheysson Memorandum) and put forward recommendations. Those present at the meeting carefully examined the shape which the European Audit Office should take. After stressing the need to set up a stronger audit system for the Community, Mr Spénale explained that it would be easier to get collaboration between the existing national audit departments and a European department than to set up two networks alongside one another. The national network would therefore have to apply the European rules on its territory and make audits on the spot while the European body would come in on affairs concerning for instance several Member States. Describing the Commission Proposals Mr Spénale said that they put too much weight on the European Parliament's surveillance of budgets without appreciably amplifying the House's powers.

3130. The liability to VAT of banking and financial transactions as proposed in a study by Professor Hutchings as part of fiscal harmonization in the EEC has been sharply criticized by the EEC Savings Bank Group (Caisses d'Epargne). It comments that in a VAT scheme applied to all banking operations the consumer would be obliged to pay the tax falling on both the interest on credit obtained and the value of the goods acquired.

^{&#}x27;Présidents des Cours des comptes'.

During the General Meeting of the 3131. National Council of French Employers, Mr Jean de Précigout, Chairman of the International Economic Relations Committee, spoke as follows on the European policy: 'Perhaps through a need for compensation, for want of being able to achieve European unity, its institutions spend their energy imposing in each member country a uniformity of legislation, regulations and even habits which are inherent in the character, conditions and even the taste, that is to say, the reality of these countries. The most recent examples are to be found in spheres which bear directly on our lives. Unable to offer undertakings an acceptable system of "European company" which they are free to make use of, the Community is thinking of saddling each of our countries with amendments to its legislation to reach a uniform system of joint stock company counter to their traditions and their needs'.

For his part, Mr Ambroise Roux, Chairman of the General Economic Committee, held that the 'construction of Europe was currently advancing under very disturbing conditions. . . . In the major basic sectors, no common policy had emerged. . . .' But the same time in Brussels a bureaucratic edifice was arising stamped with a 'dirigisme' all the heavier in that no political power is coming here to alleviate it. The direct results of such a 'dirigisme' are still for the moment relatively limited but the indirect 'fallout' on the policy proper of each country is giving rise to concern. It is in fact pressure from Brussels that is driving forward the texts on co-management, the tightening of the control policy on agreements, the growth of direct fiscal pressure, etc.

'Consequently', concluded the speaker, 'the CNPF is once again expressing its wish to see a political Europe emerge as swiftly as possible. But the CNPF will oppose most vigorously the de facto socialization which an irresponsible administration might try to impose on the various countries of the Europe of Nine'.

Mr Jobert, The French Foreign Minis-3132. ter, made his first speech in the French National Assembly. Concerning the construction of Europe he alluded to the rendezvous fixed for 1980 which through the wish of all the people and through the combined and dogged efforts of governments will be the year of European Union. The vesting of the Community with responsibilities in new fields, the creation of financial mechanisms, the opening of negotiations with third countries are not positive acts unless they are the sign, condition or result of a clearly defined and accepted joint project'. In Mr Jobert's view, 'the main lesson of the common agricultural market is having made the European States organize themselves in many spheres of their national life. . . . The common agricultural market was surely the prime cement of Europe and must remain so'.

Concerning the forthcoming multilateral talks which the American Government is to conduct with the nine European countries, Mr Jobert held that 'it would be eminently desirable that an agreement emerge for a joint position which will not obligatorily be expressed with one voice but by each of those present. . . .' He went on, 'If the expression "the year of Europe" has any meaning for us, it is in the sense of the effort that the Community is making and will make so that the world may enjoy an equitable and stable monetary and trade system, respected by everyone because it ensures for each of us the proper balance between rights and obligations, between advantages and sacrifices'.

Broaching security problems, Mr Jobert said: 'I am sure that during 1973 the question of the defence of Europe will be the backdrop for all the discussions to take place within or outside Europe and may even take the centre of the stage. When the United States ponder on the costs of their presence in Europe, I mean their military presence, when they ask their partners to take a fairer share of the burden of which they

say they bear the brunt, when they hope that the advantage conceded here be compensated there, commercially speaking I mean, the European countries are well aware that the real argument and the real issue are those of their security'.

During the general discussion after Mr Jobert's statement, Mr Mitterrand, the First Secretary of the French Socialist Party, declared on behalf of the Socialists: 'The Community must be vested with the minimum capacity to control the economy, be aware of the interests of the workers, discharge a proper responsibility vis-à-vis international questions and commit itself to democratic practice'.

20 June 1973

In articles published in several European newspapers, Mr Altiero Spinelli, Member of the Commission, pleaded reform of the Community agricultural policy: 'The historical merit of the agricultural policy, which has made the current status of European integration possible, is indisputable. But it should not stop us from seeking adequate solutions where that policy has obviously failed. The principle of guaranteeing the farmers an income comparable with that of other sectors, based on a policy of controlled prices with a system of absolute guarantees for the disposal of certain products has indeed reached its limit a long time ago. We are now obliged to find that instead of attaining its objectives, this policy emerges not only in enormous overproduction but as a growing disparity between incomes within the farming sector itself. This situation is explained by exploding productivity fed to some extent by excessively high prices. Moreover, we find that the structure policy aimed to cut down substantially the number of farmers and boost the remaining farms will serve only to swell production even further provoking at the very same time problems of unemployment in the regions where

other employment cannot be found. Furthermore the outlay required to intensify the structure policy will inevitably cut down the vitally necessary resources for creating new non-agricultural jobs. I believe that the only possible way out is to complement the present instruments of agricultural policy by adding a scheme of direct aid for farmers' incomes. The Commission made an initial step in this direction by proposing for hill farmers an aid scheme completely independent of output or marketed quantities. believe that we will have to generalize the application of this measure in order to possess a flexible instrument allowing incomes to be influenced without having to raise prices which could in this way regain their regulatory function in the markets. The economic and social advantages of such an approach are to me obvious. Even if it would not yield immediate budget savings, it would result in making the highly intricate subsidy mechanisms of the current system more transparent and more accessible to public surveillance. But this is perhaps precisely the reason why this suggestion is meeting such opposition. The political forces concerned with the lot of the consumer and the taxpayer, in other words, everybody, must therefore insist that the argument be put in clear terms and urge the Community to adopt solutions more in line with its real long-term interests'.

22 June 1973

3134. Europe was at the hour of choice: either she affirmed her identity, worked for her unification and would thus make herself heard with authority or she would remain divided and her relations, in particular with the United States, 'will be asymmetric'. This was the alternative put forward by Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, to the Parliamentarians of the Western European Union. Sir Christopher voiced the hope that the European

Union will be realized. Earlier he had stressed 'the need to strengthen the good relations of both sides of the Atlantic' whilst the international situation had radically changed: 'China's emergence on the world scene, Japan's rise, the start of cooperation, at the Helsinki Conference, with the Eastern European countries, enlargement of the European Community'. In this respect the European Community could not be a sum of the individual positions of each Member, especially vis-a-vis the United States. What was needed was to 'build a USA-Europe relationship'. Having said that, Sir Christopher considered that the economic, monetary, political or military problems, handled albeit separately 'form nonetheless a whole' and added that at European level the first task was to reach the Monetary Union which 'is crucial if we wish to reach the European Union'.

3135. Mr Pompidou, the President of France, made a two-day visit to Bonn. His talks with Mr Brandt, the Federal German Chancellor, bore mainly on European issues and relations with the United States.

23 June 1973

3136. The Conference of European Maritime Peripheric Regions attended by representatives from 23 regions of Great Britain, Germany, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, France, Portugal, Spain and Italy was wound up on 23 June in Saint-Malo. The delegates passed a resolution finding that 'despite the intentions expressed in the Rome Treaty, but for want of systematic measures with the required breadth, the regional imbalances far from being corrected have become more marked since 1957 to the particular disadvantage of the outlying areas. The exclusive concentration of activity which leaves out 55 million Europeans has no justification on the purely economic side; it threatens to become intolerable on the social and human side and in

the end would seem like discrimination'. The delegates formed a temporary committee with the task of preparing an action and study programme with particular reference to transport, which would be of assistance to the Community Institutions. One of the speakers declared that 'it behoves the European outlying countries to define together the fishing zone boundaries, finalize a settlement over the restocking of certain species and also put a stop to the escalation of fishing resources'.

3137. Questioned on television about the possibility of a European defence, Mr Brandt, the Federal German Chancellor, replied, 'For the years ahead the Atlantic alliance provides an adequate solution. . . . In the more distant future, I think that when political cooperation gathers more weight we shall lean towards a European Union, we shall no longer be able to act . . . as if there were no problems of self-defence'.

24 June 1973

The final motion adopted to round off the French Socialist Party Conference in Grenoble asserted concerning international relations: 'Two features overshadow recent years: the steady breakdown of world bipolarity and the efforts of the leader countries to reconstitute it'. The text goes on: 'The construction of Europe enlightened by Socialism therefore seems to offer for our country the best chance of resisting imperialism and escaping its appetite. Unhappily the Common Market, as it works today, has been unable to overcome its internal contradictions and the crises they provoke as highlighted by the monetary crisis and farming crises. In this sense the Europe of Nine urgently needs to give itself new structures and a new social content'.

25 June 1973

The former French Prime Minister, Mr Maurice Couve de Murville, Chairman of the French National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, alluded on 25 June on Radio Luxembourg to the Brejnev-Pompidou meeting, saying: 'Since the United States and Russia each have their sphere of influence and even action, we must see what in the sphere in which we are placed, namely, that of the USA, remains for us in the way of independence and legitimate defence of our interests'. To the question whether Europe will be able to build its own world between the United States and the Soviet Union, he replied: 'Where I blame them is in not fully understanding where their real interests lie and drawing the unavoidable conclusions. mean that the real interests of all the western Europe nations in this issue are somewhat similar and consequently they should understand that what ever their concern for defending their personal interests there in fact exists a wide solidarity between all of them and that this solidarity must lead them to define a policy and action together'.

3140. In Dublin the fourth President of Ire, land, Mr Erskine Childers, was sworn in. He succeeds Mr Eamon de Valera who, aged 90, is retiring after fourteen years as President.

3141. During a luncheon discussion, the Luxembourg Foreign Minister, Mr Gaston Thorn, conferred the European Gold Medal of Merit on Mr Emanuele Gazzo, the director of the 'agence Europe'. The medal was awarded to Mr Gazzo by the European Merit Foundation of which Mr Thorn is honorary President.

26 June 1973

3142. The Communiqué issued after the meeting between President Nixon and Mr Leonid

Breinev, General Secretary of the USSR Communist Party, when the latter visited America, said concerning Europe: 'Both sides voiced their satisfaction over the progress in normalizing relations between European countries as a result of treaties and agreements signed in recent years especially between Russia and West Germany.... Both parties share the conviction that the strict observance of treaties and agreements made will contribute to the security and well-being of all concerned. Both sides are also pleased at the prospect of West Germany's membership in the United Nations this year.... Both sides reiterate that the guarantee of lasting peace in Europe is a prime objective of their policies'. The joint Communiqué notes progress made in preparing for the Conference on European Security which opens on 3 July in Helsinki and adds: 'The United States and the Soviet Union will conduct their policies so as to achieve the objectives of the Conference and open a new era of good relations in that part of the world.... Both sides will strive for a successful conclusion to the Conference as soon as possible. They presume that progress in the Conference proceedings will yield the chance of concluding it at the highest level. The United States and the Soviet Union believe that the strengthening of stability and security in Europe would advance still further if alleviation of political tension was matched by a decrease in military tension in Central Europe. On this point, they put great weight on the negotiations for reciprocal cutting of forces and armaments . . . in central Europe, which are to start on 30 October 1973. Both sides declare that they are ready to make, with other countries, their contribution to making mutually acceptable decisions on the crux of this problem based on the strict observance of maintaining completely the security of all parties'.

3143. During a discussion with journalists, Mr Gaston Thorn, the Luxembourg Foreign Minister, analysed Europe's present position in

these terms: 'Never has Europe made such scant progress.... Between ourselves, between the Nine, we should have the courage to make a global choice meaning to define the role of Europe. For nobody among us can say what it is.... Europe must concentrate on the problem of her own defence and must have the courage to pay the price.... Since we have no conception of Europe's external role, we have no conception of the society we want to create: we must make European choices'.

27 June 1973

Addressing the Belgian Chamber, Mr Renaat Van Elslande, the Belgian Foreign Minister and Chairman-in-Office of the EEC Council for the first half of 1973, dealt with the construction of Europe and in particular fulfillment of the European Union. He said, Experience has shown that contrary to the "neo-functionalist" concepts of the construction of Europe twenty years ago, the interaction between economics and politics has not led to the anticipated political rapprochement'. Mr Van Elslande also contended that fulfillment of the European Union required that 'Community institutions and bodies have been designed and set up whose function will be effectively and democratically ensured and in line with the spirit of our countries'. Considering further the decisionmaking mechanism of the future Union, the Minister noted that the institutional balance of the current Community mechanism—Council and Commission-had been tilted to the advantage of the former. The Commission action in conception had gradually faded in order to concentrate on more technocratic tasks. The political role of the Community had been at least partially taken over by the Committee of Permanent Representatives who prepared the Council proceedings and who had acquired the habit, like the Council, of taking decisions only on a unanimous vote and not on a majority. Consequently the Commission had been led to consider only solutions likely to obtain unanimity based on the lowest common denominator between the national delegations. Instead of defending the interests of an authentic Community, at the risk of friction with Member States, the Commission had become 'a good conciliatory broker for national viewpoints'.

Regarding the European Parliament, whose role was to control the Commission, its authority was diminishing in so far as the political role of the Commission was waning. Analysing the merits and drawbacks of various proposals to restore institutional balance within the future European Union, Mr Van Elslande found that in any case a democratic structure would be needed and that in this respect the present position of the Community was not satisfactory: the powers of the Strasbourg Parliament were inadequate and its makeup left much to be desired with its members having to combine their national and European assignment.

The Belgian Foreign Minister felt that direct election would not be the key factor in strengthening the Assembly of Nine but rather the body of authority delegated to it. On the issue of achieving the European Union the Minister concluded all in all that it would have to have a government which was not solely an offshoot of the Member States, that this government should be in reality controlled by the European Parliament, that all the basic factors of our solidarity would have to be handled by the Union, including defence, and that the Union would not materialize without the support of public opinion.

Mr Van Elslande wound up his staement to the Chamber by expressing his satisfaction over the Brejnev-Nixon agreement on giving up nuclear weaponry, declaring, however, that the Nine must ponder the consequences of the agreement. Without France there was no possible European position over defence: 'The time has

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come for our partner France to put forward proposals and this is what we are asking. But our security system is credible only if associated with the United States: our dialogue with her will neither be easy nor thorough unless it is taken up between her and Europe as such: this is why it is absolutely necessary that we organize ourselves at European level to ensure that this problem, which affects us directly, be handled with our full participation'.

3145. On the initiative of Lord O'Hagan, Member of the European Parliament, the House of Lords had a debate on the European institutions with special reference to the role of the European Parliament in the enlarged Community.

3146. In Paris, Mr Brejnev, General Secretary of the USSR Communist Party, met President Pompidou. The talks opened with a statement by Mr Brejnev on his recent conversations with President Nixon. This was followed by a discussion on the international problems and bilateral Franco-Soviet relations.

3147. The United States decided to put a temporary embargo on exports of soya, cotton seeds and derived products in order to cope with possible shortages of these products on the American market.

28 June 1973

3148. According to a public opinion poll requested by the Washington EEC Information Office from the Gallup Institute in order to know what Americans know and think of the EEC, more than half of them (55%) had never heard of it. Two thirds (65%) of the remainder felt that the links between the United States and western Europe are highly important, whilst 16% feel that they were of little or no val-

ue. The results of the poll, in which 1030 people from age 18 were questioned, were published on Thursday in Washington and Brussels. It emerged that people with a university education and persons with an annual income of at least 15 000 dollars were the best informed. Globally, only 45% of those questioned had heard of the Community or read something about it. Only 35% were able to comment on one or more objectives of the EEC and those most often quoted were reciprocal economic assistance and the development of trade between Member States. Only 4% of those who had heard of the EEC thought that it was a preparatory phase for the United States of Europe. Four people out of ten could name one or more member countries of the EEC. Only 2% of these same people knew that the population of the Community exceeds that of the USA, that the Community produces less than the USA but exports more and that the EEC's industrial production is growing more swiftly. As to the question whether the United States should possibly go to war to defend western Europe, 43% said no and 41% said yes. The unification of Europe was a matter of indifference to nearly half of those questioned. For every five people holding an opinion, four favoured European Unification.

3149. Addressing the French Council of Ministers, President Pompidou said on the subject of the common agricultural market: 'Its creation has naturally involved important developments in European agriculture, particularly in France. We cannot allow it to be compromised. This common market is also the firmest and best integrated element in the Europe of Nine and therefore by its very constraints represents the most solid inducement to the construction of this Europe which so many problems, especially monetary ones, are thwarting. Regarding the criticisms which it sometimes incurs, in particular the international market, they

originate from a misconception of the world situation. The population growth, especially in the developing countries, the undernourishment of one if not two thousand million people, shows that we are facing not overabundance but scarcity. For the countries with cereal and dairy surpluses, it is a duty, day by day more imperative, to bring more and more food aid to the impoverished and deficient countries. It is now absurd to struggle for market supremacy in the industrialized countries who are able to absorb the surpluses at prices set at their true level. If we accept this view the surplus countries, as France is urging, should get together on a product by product basis for a policy on market organization, stabilization of rates, stocks and food aid to the developing countries. Similar action must allow regulation of the markets for sugar and oil-yielding produce. It is a question of the developed countries combining their efforts to fulfill a duty of human fellowship instead of mesmerizing themselves with trade between the industrialized countries. It will then be seen that the common agricultural market does not benefit only the European farmer but has a value for all mankind'.

2 July 1973

3150. Professor Albert Coppé, for many years Vice-President of the ECSC High Authority, then Member of the EEC Commission, was decorated with the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for his work towards the unification of Europe.

3 July 1973

3151. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) opened in Helsinki attended by 35 countries.

On behalf of the Community, Mr Andersen, the Danish Foreign Minister, from now on Chair-

man of the Council, made the following statement: 'As indicated by the Belgian delegate at the end of the multilateral discussions the draft mandate for the Economic Committee embraces matters coming under the jurisdiction of the EEC to which belong nine States attending the CSCE. The main item is trade on which the Community is conducting a common policy. The nine States have therefore also examined the mandate concerning trade as members of the EEC. I can confirm agreement with this mandate on behalf of the Community. At the same time, I would refer delegates to the fact that according to the matter in question, the Community will be involved according to its authority and proper procedures in the future proceedings of the Conference and that possible outcomes resulting from negotiations on those matters will hinge on agreement with the Community. I would also recall the intention of the Community and the Member States, expressed by the Heads of State and Government at the Paris Summit last October to make a concerted and constructive contribution to the Conference proceedings'.

3152. The Chad Council of Ministers decided that Chad would withdraw from OCAM, the joint African Organization with Malagasy and Mauritius. On 1 July Mr Ahidjo, President of the Cameroons, had announced that his country would also withdraw from OCAM.

4 July 1973

3153. Three companies, the Compagnie internationale pour l'informatique, Philips and Siemens, signed the Agreement for setting up an initial European company for manufacturing computers. Its name together with that of future computers in the 'joint range' will be Unidata.

¹ Point 3107.

5 July 1973

3154. In forming a joint body, the European Committee for Agricultural Progress (COL-EPRA), five land institutions have organized themselves at Community level and are asking for representation in the Advisory and Consultative Committees now running in the farming sector. The institutions are the 'Alleanza nazionale dei contadini' (Italy), the Mouvement de défense des exploitants familiaux, MODEF (France), the Union de défense des exploitants familiaux, UDEF (Belgium), the National Land League (Ireland), and the Demokratische Bauernaktion (Germany).

6 July 1973

Mr Helmut Schmidt, the Federal German Finance Minister, spoke at the Deutscher Bauerntag in Stuttgart. His address bore mostly on the common agricultural policy: 'The Federal Government has no desire to jeopardize the European Community or the principle of the common agricultural policy. But it is senseless to keep on producing surpluses. To eliminate farming production surpluses in the EEC we should ensure that the surplus producers bear the charges. During the basic debate in Brussels on the agricultural policy we must promptly shatter the illusion that the European farming market can serve as a model for other markets. Mr Schmidt also criticized the Commission's budgetary administration. 'No German Finance Minister could venture to submit three additional budgets in one year. The Community supplements cost the German taxpayers alone more than a thousand million DM which moreover are not provided for in the Federal Budget. It is high time to set up Parliamentary audit bodies and an Audit Office in Brussels.'

3156. During a press conference at the end of his official visit to Austria, Mr Alexei Kosygin,

Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, brought up the question of EEC-Comecon relations. Mr Kosygin said that discussions were now going on in the USSR on the possibility of establishing direct relationships between the Comecon and the EEC. The discussions themselves proved that a movement had started in this field. He went on: 'We do not rule out the chance of direct relationships between the two economically integrated entities'. In the economic sphere Mr Kosygin gave an optimistic assessment of the chances for East-West cooperation. Admittedly it would be difficult in his opinion to settle all economic issues through the medium of the Community and the Comec-'This is why bilateral East-West economic relations must be kept up. There will then be both kinds of contact'. On the question as to how Moscow felt about the relations between Austria and Common Market on which the Kremlin had expressed sharp criticism for many years, Mr Kosygin replied that 'the Soviet position had not changed. But, practically speaking, the USSR had no further objection to make since, as Mr Kosygin himself said, the Vienna Government had in a Memorandum given assurances that Austria's Treaties with Brussels respected the obligations under the State Treaty and neutrality. Since Austria up to now had always strictly respected the obligations which she had voluntarily undertaken the Soviet Union had no grounds for doubt'.

8 July 1973

3157. The new Italian Government, a coalition between the Christian Democrats, the Socialists, the Social Democrats and the Republicans, presided over by Mr Mariano Rumor, was sworn in. Mr Franco Maria Malfatti, former President of the Commission, is in the Government as Minister of Education.

10 July 1973

3158. Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, asked the General Secretary of NATO, Mr Joseph Luns, for NATO military aircraft to be made available to the aid organizations for the Sahel population.

3159. In an article entitled 'We want a European Government' Mr Walter Scheel, Federal Germany's Minister for Economic Affairs, wrote in the review 'Preuves': 'How could a real economic and monetary union work if major responsibilities are not reassigned to the Community? Of course, nothing is automatic. What we hope for is a European Government able to act and take swift and effective decisions committing us all, each time the common interest is at stake. But a European Government naturally calls for a real Parliamentary and democratic control. It is time to cover Europe's Parliamentary deficit, meaning to amplify the powers of the European Parliament'.

3160. The Soviet review 'International Life', organ of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, asserted that the efforts towards the political integration of western Europe 'run counter to the general tendency aimed at amplifying and deepening cooperation on the basis of peaceful coexistence'. The review claims that 'revival of the concept of a new military bloc in western Europe' in no way matches the vital interests of the European countries and would be an expression of fear over the 'beneficial changes' which have occurred in European political life as well as over the progressive détente in the continent of Europe.

3161. President Nixon should be invited to address the European Parliament if and when he comes to Europe in the Autumn. This idea was put forward by Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer, President of the European Parliament, during his visit

to London. Mr Berkhouwer believes his proposal would be a way out of the procedural wrangling that surrounds Mr Nixon's visit: the French object to the suggestion that Mr Nixon should meet the EEC Council of Ministers and have said that he should confine himself to seeing the President of the EEC Council of Ministers and the President of the EEC Commission, or bypass the Community and instead meet the NATO Council. Besides, Mr Berkhouwer feels that the European Parliament should be used by experts to explain their policies, including central bankers and others well versed on the international monetary crisis.

3162. A Conference of 39 Associated and 'Associable' African States came to the final decision of presenting a single standpoint in future negotiations with the Community. Mr Wenike Briggs, Niger's Minister of Trade, was appointed spokesman.

The following Resolution was passed unanimously:

'The African Ministerial Conference on Trade, Development and Monetary Problems, meeting at its second session on 9-11 July 1973 in Lagos;

Mindful of the declaration on cooperation, development and economic independence adopted by the tenth regular session of the Conference of OUA Heads of State and Government;

Mindful of the resolutions on trade, development and monetary problems adopted by the tenth regular session of the Conference of OUA Heads of State and Government, with special reference to the future relations between Africa and the EEC;

Recording the invitation from the EEC to the African States to take part in a consultory meeting in Brussels on 25 and 26 July 1973;

Applauding the reaffirmation by all the States of the principles adopted by the tenth regular session of the Conference of Heads of State and From Day to Day

From Day to Day

Government, principles forming a joint African platform for future negotiations between Africa and the EEC;

- 1. Recommends the OUA States to send representatives at Ministerial level to the meeting of 25-26 July 1973 in Brussels.
- 2. Has decided that the Chairman of the present African Ministerial Conference on Trade, Development and Monetary Problems will be the spokesman of the African Group at the meeting of 25-26 July 1973 in Brussels;
- 3. Asks the OUA General Administrative Secretary to set up immediately a Secretariat for the forthcoming negotiations between Africa and the EEC to be formed from the Secretariats of the AASM and the East African Community.'

12 July 1973

The Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr Renaat Van Elslande, announced that he had asked Mr Jobert, the French Foreign Minister, for clarification on his statement of 19 June on European defence to the National Assembly. For Mr Van Elslande, achievement of the Economic and Monetary Community would mean the tightening of political cooperation. Discussion over cooperation in defence would therefore be inevitable despite the fact that among the Member States Ireland did not belong to the Atlantic Alliance and France took no part in the Allied military organization. Mr Jobert had stated: 'Apart from France, Europe has no autonomy in defence and suffers for it.... The problem of the defence of Europe will in 1973 be the backdrop for all discussions.... The European countries are well aware that the real argument and the real issue are those of their security'.

3164. Speaking at a dinner organized by the Union of the Foreign Press, Mr Van Elslande, the Belgian Foreign Minister, stressed that the

European Summits result in the Commission being infused with a new dynamism. The Minister also found that 'Transatlantic relations have formed the backdrop to the preparatory discussions for the September GATT negotiations and that on this backdrop can be more and clearly seen the shadow of what he called the big "non-attendant" at the Paris defence. You know that it was not because of Belgium that problems of security and defence were not brought up. We are convinced that at their next meeting the Heads of State and Government will no longer be able to study this problem. Indeed they will then have to make decisions on a report concerning the conversion of the entire relationship between Member States into a European Union'.

17 July 1973

3165. During his visit to Paris, Mr John Davies, the British Minister responsible for European Affairs, talked with several members of the French Government, in particular Mr Jobert, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Giscard d'Estaing, Minister of Finance and the Economy.

Outlining his Government's programme to the Senate, Mr Mariano Rumor, President of the Italian Council, declared that concerning the construction of Europe, 'our privileged objective', the Community 'is for us a bond to a type of society to which we wish to be closely tied: which implies a deeper practical commitment by adapting legislation, administration and psychology to the Community decisions in order to relate Italy to all the facets of the construction of Europe. This effort must correspond to a joint commitment with our partners to advance together over the ground of monetary cooperation and regional and social policy. On the political side, added Mr Rumor, the problem of Community Europe is mainly at the moment that of asserting her own identity in the international

field bearing in mind at the same time the European aspects of joint security. To create the instrument which will allow western Europeans to speak with a single voice to both East and West is by far the most urgent task that the Governments of the Nine have to tackle'.

18 July 1973

Mr Willy De Clercq, Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and for six months Council Chairman-in-Office for monetary and financial affairs, talking to the press about the events of his term, hoped that regarding Europe's monetary problems in particular the Commission's Report on the projected reinforcement of European Monetary Cooperation Fund would be adopted. This would make the Community's 'snake in the tunnel' more credible. He also stressed the need to create a European currency. Lastly, while speaking about the transition into the second phase of the Economic and Monetary Union, the Minister highlighted the institutional aspect: 'We are particularly concerned that the question of additional constraints be carefully scrutinized by those responsible for vetting the Commission's proposals.... I think that for the transition into a genuine second phase we must agree to change some of our procedures in order to coordinate our policies more effectively'.

19 July 1973

3168. During the Council session on agriculture on 16 July, Mr Jacques Chirac, the French Minister of Agriculture after calling the Commission's sugar policy Proposal 'ridiculous' lost his temper before the press with three Members of the Commission, in particular with Mr Claude Cheysson. The latter, according to Mr Chirac, had proved his 'contempt of national interests' for 'he was putting himself above any national

The Commission discussed these concern'. remarks during its meeting of 18 July. At the weekly press conference the Commission spokesman reiterated that the Commission was a collegiate body and that consequently its decisions and proposals committed the responsibility of the entire college. Complying with the Treaties and the reality of the facts themselves, went on the spokesman, 'the Members of the Commission discharge their functions fully independently in the general interest of the Community. In carrying out their duties they neither solicit nor accept instructions from any government or any body. They refrain from any act incompatible with the character of their function'. The Commission spokesman also recalled that the Member States had undertaken 'to respect that character and not to seek to influence the Members of the Commission in the performance of their tasks'.

20 July 1973

Welsh Labour M.P.s and Breton Social-3169. ists have decided to organize next Autumn and probably in Lorient a colloquium to study problems in the outlying regions of the Common Market', and find effective solutions to them. The initiative for this meeting was taken by Mr Michel Philipponneau, Professor at the University of Rennes, spokesman of the Bureau régional d'étude et d'information socialiste (BREIS) and by Mr John Roper, the Labour M.P. for Farmworth. In a communiqué the BREIS said concerning the meeting: 'Throughout the Channel area socialists and trade unionists can see that the present economic and political system affords no really effective measures for the promotion of the Common Market outlying regions. The technological development of ocean transport merely leads to strengthening the ocean outlets of industrial Lorraine'.

23 July 1973

3170. The Foreign Ministers of the Nine met in Copenhagen to discuss political cooperation. The Communiqué issued after the meeting indicates the resolve of the Nine to hammer out a definition of 'European identity'. The proceedings continued in the late afternoon in Brussels within the EEC Council.

24 July 1973

3171. The Robert Schuman Prize of the Hamburg FVS Foundation was awarded for 1974 to Mr Altiero Spinelli, Member of the Commission.

25 July 1973

3172. 'The member countries of Comecon have assigned Mr Nicolai Fadeev, General Secretary of Comecon to start negotiations with the EEC'. Mr Thorn, the Luxembourg Foreign Minister, made this statement in Moscow. He added: 'The Member States of Comecon took this decision during the 27th session of the Council held in Prague early in June'. Mr Thorn gave these details during a talk with a group of journalists after conversations with Foreign Minister Mr Gromyko, and Mr Kosygin, president of the Council.

26 July 1973

3173. In an article published in 'Le Monde' Mr Altiero Spinelli, Member of the Commission, stressed the need 'to make a real start in building the personality of Europe which to use the terms of the Paris Summit will have to cover "the entire relationships between the Member States of the Community". It is patently obvious that in wishing for the European Union we cannot claim any prior certainty as to the detailed content of its foreign, military, economic or

social policies.... Where all the governments should reach agreements is on the need for the design and conduct of all its policies to be entrusted to European Authorities of a federal, parliamentary and legislative character, where all our peoples will feel represented and recognized. The Summit has undertaken to discuss this Union in 1975 and achieve it by 1980. But we cannot wait that long. We should anticipate these dates and undertake the task without delay. The Summit has delegated the Community Institutions to prepare the initial report, but this is too vague an assignment and one questions already the meaning of these words.

There is only one European Institution which by its nature and by virtue of the traditions of our representative democracies can draw up and approve the draft constitution of the Union by guaranteeing that all the public bodies of our countries will have shared in it. This is the European Parliament. If it is objected that its members have not been sent to Strasbourg with this mandate, we only have to ask all the National Assemblies to confirm or renew their delegations by giving it to them. This can be done in a forthnight. No other Community Institution would have the qualities required to be the constitutive legislator of the Union. The Commission is supra-national but does not have deep enough political roots. The Council has. But since it has no supranational character, it is ill suited to the task. If the Council were to take it on it would hurriedly entrust it to diplomats who would botch everything. It is therefore the European Parliament whom the Nine Community governments should ask to draw up the draft constitution for the European Union which the national Assemblies would then be called upon to ratify. A year or two would probably be needed for the whole operation. Many things would still be uncertain and obscure. Many options would still be open, but the single fact of having begun would be the token that Europe was on the move'.

11 August 1973

In an interview published by the French weekly 'Le Point' Mr Jacques Chirac, the French Minister of Agriculture said, 'If I hadn't shown my anger, the EEC Commission's Proposals might have had disastrous consequences... whereas all the experts forecast a world shortage of sugar, the price of which has already climbed 120% in eighteen months, all the Commission recommended was to cut European output by 800 000 tonnes and import 1 400 000 tonnes from the Commonwealth. And, naturally France would have had to foot the bill for the transaction with a cut of 600 000 tonnes! This Malthusian policy is a scandal. Moreover, I think Mr Cheysson has realized it since. He let himself be convinced by the Britisher, Sir Christopher Soames, who defends the interests of his sugar industrialists, buyers of Commonwealth sugar, and by the Dutchman, Mr Lardinois'.

Regarding the shortage of soya, about which he had warned his EEC Council colleagues a year ago stressing the gravity of the position, Mr Chirac added, 'our partners didn't want to hurt the Americans by fostering competitive output of soya in Europe. Even in face of the American embargo—a typical aggressive move—they merely sent Mr Lardinois to Washington, cap in hand, to say "Sorry sir, could we have some soya?" Asked, "do you think Europe is on the right track?" the Minister replied: "Germany worries me by keeping her distance from Europe. I have seen this more and more clearly in Brussels for a year or so. I thought at first that it stemmed from a personal attitude of Mr Ertl. When I went to Bonn recently with Mr Pompidou I found that it was actually the position of Mr Brandt's Government".

Questioned by 'Le Monde' Mr Claude Cheysson, Member of the Commission, asserted that he had not changed his mind. The Commission was still holding to its position over sugar. 'It is inaccurate', he said, 'to say that we have proposed to cut European output at a time of world shortage. As long as the shortage lasts output must be as high as possible in all areas of the world. It would be absurd to limit it.

What we have proposed is that, if sugar surpluses do not materialize in a few years time, we then undertake to limit European output to 800 000 tonnes. In that way we can honour the promises we have made to the third world sugar producers'.

Mr Lardinois, Member of the Commission, for his part also rejected Mr Chirac's comments. In an interview with 'Le Figaro' he made the following statement on the Commission's sugar Proposal: 'If the French Minister reads this Proposal, he will see that at a time of world shortage there is no question of decreasing sugar output. We proposed some reduction in the event of surpluses, such as we have had a few years ago. The Proposal was made in the interests of Europe, of France as of Great Britain'. Regarding Mr Chirac's criticisms of several Members of the Commission, Mr Lardinois said, 'They are at all events out of court. 1 do not accept that our objectivity be questioned by a French Minister, nor by anyone else. I am not in the Commission to defend the interests of my country but those of the common agricultural policy. I am a European Commissioner and not a Dutch one. I reject the nationalist slant that Mr Chirac put into his criticisms of Mr Cheysson. This is not a sound approach for Europe. It is a dangerous one'. In conclusion, Mr Lardinois said: 'The common agricultural policy is necessary for Europe. As long as there are no other European policies, it is agriculture which bears the brunt of the onslaughts. I hope it will be possible to implement other policies before long so as to balance Europe. I can, however, say that the common agricultural policy is not in danger. The French and Mr Chirac must realize that they are not alone in

Europe. When there are real problems, the policy must be defended with a more European spirit. I find that Mr Chirac is really a bit too nationalistic and not sufficiently Community-minded'.

In an interview with 'The Times' Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, said that all Mr Chirac's objections were misplaced. When asked why he thought Mr Chirac was being so offensive, Sir Christopher replied, 'I suppose one should allow for the fact that he is feeling very isolated, and this is why he is so vituperative'. In the Council, Sir Christopher said the Commission's Proposals won a large measure of support from eight of the Community delegations. 'Mr Chirac was alone in opposing the principles embodied in the paper', he said.

'Mr Chirac will perhaps come to appreciate, as time goes on, that the balance of internal and external interests and obligations of the enlarged Community of nine countries are in many respects different from that of the original Six.

'The sacrifice of the interests of those sugar producers in the developing world whose economies are dependent on the European market in favour of those small, though rich and apparently highly influencial sugar beet lobbies in Europe, was not one of the purposes of the Community's enlargement'.

Sir Christopher felt obliged to challenge Mr Chirac directly after his accusation that the Commissioner, in some way, was seeking to line the pockets of British sugar refiners.

Replying in the European Parliament to a Verbal Question put by Mr Vals for the Socialist Group as to what moves the Commission had made to refute Mr Chirac's criticisms and whether the Commission thought that such censure concerning the creation of the Economic and Monetary Union and the further development of the Community would help towards the formation of a

European Union, Mr François-Xavier Ortoli on 19 September declared: 'Ministers, like all citizens, are entitled to have their opinions. They are perfectly free, like others and for instance the Parliamentarians here today to disagree with the Commission's proposals. That is the rule of the game and even if it is sometimes unpleasant for us, it is a sound one and certainly we are playing it and will go on doing so.

Conversely, regarding the suing of Members of the Commission blaming them for considering national interests too much or too little, I would make calmly and dispassionately two points, Mr President, which are the very ones which I had the spokesman recall on behalf of the Commission in July when he showed that certain of our colleagues were under question.

In the first place, I will remind you of the wording of Article 10, para. 2 of the Treaty establishing a single Council and a single Commission: the Members of the Commission carry out their functions fully independently in the general interest of the Community. In the discharge of their duties they neither solicit nor accept instructions from any government or any body. They refrain from any act incompatible with the character of their function. Each Member State undertakes to respect this character and not to seek to influence the Commission in the performance of their tasks.

As I have just said, this principle was publicly reiterated by the Commission just before the summer. To this obligation, its charter, the Commission as you know is absolutely devoted perhaps more than to any other and has never failed it. The Commission expects everyone to respect this principle and all the disciplines it entails.

In the second place, I should like to repeat that the Commission is a college and that its decisions commit the responsibility of all its members. The Commission has always seen that this principle also is respected and it would be an inaccurate assessment of the judicial nature and the real terms of discharging its authority to make any personalizations within its ranks or of the decisions it takes. We can make mistakes but our debates are those of a real college and therefore their conclusions commit all us judicially and in reality.

In conclusion and answering the second part of Mr Vals' question, I would say that if the arguments albeit tough but normal and inevitable help towards Europe's progress, the polemics are futile. We do not have to seek a naive unanimity; the matter is too important and the stakes are too great for us to let ourselves be anything but lucid and frank. Nevertheless our long trek towards the European Union will advance all the more swiftly the more we pull all together and the more our daily problems and our inevitable clashes are those generated by the clear confrontation of viewpoints, the quest for progress and not by mutual distrust'.

In Germany, Mr Chirac's remarks provoked a number of reactions from political leaders. In an interview with 'Le Monde' Mr Walter Scheel, the Foreign Minister, asked about Mr Chirac's view that the Federal Republic was keeping her distance with regard to Europe, replied: 'We could answer this reproach with a shrug of the shoulders. But we shall not do so: the reproach hurts, precisely because it comes from a Frenchman, because Franco-German friendship was and still is a pillar of the European unification process. Which Europe are we referring to? It is not only the green Europe of agriculture or the black Europe of coal and steel. Europe is more than the amalgam of various economic sectors. Europe is that Union which at the Paris Summit Conference of 1972 we have all of us set ourselves.

This goal cannot be reached if each of those involved says: "L'Europe, c'est moi". Neither will we reach it by merely making compromises

between the different national interests of the Community's members. We shall reach it only if awareness of the higher interests of Europe in its entirety grows in such a way that, if need be, national interests come second to the whole. Can it be seriously claimed that the Federal Republic of Germany is among the European countries who on the way to that Union are forming a national rearguard? For us, in the Federal Republic, the European policy is more than a single factor of our foreign policy, including non-Member countries. This is how we have designed our policy of détente, as a part also of western Europe's policy towards eastern Europe. How could one otherwise explain the approval which each of the western European governments has given to this policy? In February 1972 President Pompidou spoke with justification of a "perfect fit between the policy of the Federal Republic and the policy of France". No, we are not putting the brakes on now since now it is a question of following up the internal development of the European Community. We are ready to transfer other powers to the Community in order to create the Economic and Monetary Union, going even further than the letter of the Treaty of Rome'.

Mr Josef Ertl, the Minister of Agriculture, said: 'I am all the more surprised that after the lengthy Bonn talks, Mr Chirac had seen fit to stress our broad identity of outlook on the future of the common agricultural market. He even did so in front of Chancellor Brandt'.

For his part, Mr Hans Apel, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, responsible for European questions, declared that there were no grounds for fearing that Germany might move away from Europe. 'It is an absolutely unrealistic eventuality', he said. It was 'not even theoretical, it does not exist'. The promise to create by 1980 a European Union, added Mr Apel, is the 'sole basis of the Ostpolitik' of the Federal Government. The Secretary of State

also categorically denied the possibility of a Bonn-Paris crisis. 'If there are problems, they are not between France and Germany, but between France and her other partners. It would be politically disastrous to isolate France. With a little goodwill on both sides and fewer brusque outbursts things would be easier'.

Asked at his press conference on 27 September about the thinking of his Minister of Agriculture which had resulted in talk of possible Franco-German crisis, Mr Georges Pompidou said: 'I believe that firstly the reconciliation and then the Franco-German agreement as sealed by the Treaty of January 1963 form the necessary element, I would add the basic element of Europe's stability. I think I can say, Sir, counter to what the German press sometimes writes, that I am not obsessed by Germany; moreover, obsession is not my strong point, for those who know me, but I am not obsessed by Germany. I think I can also say that the talks I had in Bonn last Summer with Chancellor Brandt were among the most useful and hopeful. I believe, therefore, that the Franco-German agreement must remain a basic factor of the policy of our two countries, at any rate, of mine, I assure you. Having said that, the Ostpolitik conducted by Chancellor Brandt and which we have approved, encouraged, facilitated, this policy in view of the German situation cannot but leave possibilities visible. It would be absurd to gainsay it. But I am glad for the very reason that the Chancellor has on several occasions, indeed recently, affirmed and reaffirmed that Ostpolitik only committed him further to associate himself with the construction of Europe and with the agreement with eastern Europe. Obviously when we get down to practical issues, to "give and take" as they say and the problem of a price arises for a cereal or butter, or sugar, or carrots, well obviously and inevitably we do not think alike. It is also abundantly clear that our positions are not quite the same and that consequently we need to harmonize them from time to time,

if not often. This is why I put great faith in personal contacts which can only proliferate advantageously. But I say again there is no crisis between France and Germany. There must not be any. Everything would be thrown into confusion to the detriment of both France and the Federal Republic'.

15 August 1973

3176. Mr Ahti Karjalainen, the Finnish Foreign Minister, announced that the Finnish Government was preparing to sign in the autumn probably in late September, the Free Trade Agreement negotiated with the EEC. The Agreement should have been concluded in 1972 but had only at the time been initialled by a Finnish representative.

22 August 1973

3177. In an interview published by the Bonn daily, the 'General Anzeiger' Mr Helmut Schmidt, the Finance Minister and former Defence Minister of the Federal Republic, asked that France reconsider the role she intended to play within Europe. Alluding more specifically to the problems of security, the Minister contended that 'a European answer is not possible unless on the French side serious consideration is given to whether France can in the medium or long term really play a part with a chance of success'. 'Moreover', indicated Mr Schmidt, 'it is possible that within the compass of multilateral conferences on European security and the reduction of armed forces in Europe (MBFR) we may reach a compromise allowing us to align the viewpoints of France and the other western countries'. 'Europe must realize', said the Minister in conclusion that 'in the relationship between forces emerging between four world powers—the USSR, the USA, China and Japan--there is a risk that she may miss her opportun-

ity and not be in a position to defend her interests adequately by herself and play her proper part if—and this depends on France—she does not speed up her efforts towards integration in order to form a political Community'.

24 August 1973

3178. During a press conference held during his visit to Bonn, Mr Joop den Uyl, the Dutch Prime Minister, stressed that he did not have the impression that Germany was keeping her distance from Europe. Mr Den Uyl noted a 'feeling of frustration' on the part of the French who see their position and their role vis-à-vis Eastern Europe diminished. He further indicated that the Netherlands were in principle prepared to carry on with the common agricultural policy but that steps must be taken so that its budget was not overrun again.

27 August 1973

3179. Britain has no intention of trying to destroy the EEC Common Agricultural Policy from within. Mr Joseph Godber, British Minister of Agriculture, told the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs.

However, Britain and the whole Community recognized that they were dealing with a developing situation. This meant that detailed workings of CAP must be reexamined to ensure they were meeting objectives and to see what improvements could be made.

'It is clear, I hope, to all of us in the Community that some improvements are required', Mr Godber said. That was why the Community had committed itself to a review of CAP during the next few months.

Europe was anxious that the achievement of CAP's objectives was not at the expense of

increasing inflation still further. 'Changes will be evolutionary, not revolutionary', Mr Godber said

World agricultural production and trade policies needed to be kept under review. Individual countries could no longer hope to solve their problems by themselves. 'A global approach is now required'.

3180. During his visit to Copenhagen, Mr Ni-kolaj Fadeev, the General Secretary of Comecon (Council of Mutual Economic Assistance) talked with Mr Knut Børge Andersen, the Danish Foreign Minister, and Mr Ivar Nørgaard, the Danish Minister for External Economic Affairs and Chairman-in-Office of the Council of the EEC. Mr Fadeev proposed that the Comecon and the Community appoint delegations with a view to subsequent negotiations. After the talks Mr Nørgaard announced that he would submit e proposals to the next session of the Com-

munity Council of Ministers on 20 and 21 September in Brussels and that he would then reply officially to the General Secretary of Comecon. As Mr Nørgaard disclosed, the problems involved in relations between the two economic organizations have not yet been discussed. Mr Fadeev was in Copenhagen as the private guest of the Soviet Ambassador.

3181. In an interview with the Clermont-Ferrand newspaper, 'La Montagne' Mr Pierre Messmer, France's Prime Minister, said concerning the common agricultural policy: 'If some statement by politicians or foreign journalists have led to the belief that certain of our European partners wanted to contest the basic principles of the common agricultural policy, I do not think that such is either the avowed or concealed intention of any of the EEC Member States' governments'.

2. Published in the Official Journal

From Day to Day

28 August 1973

After talks at Saint Sebastian with his 3182. Spanish counterpart, Mr Laureano Lopez Rodo, the French Foreign Minister, Mr Michel Jobert, commenting on Spain's position in the construction of Europe, said' 'France has expressed the wish to see Spain enter as soon as possible not only the Common Market but the European organization as well, which does not have quite the same meaning. The economic development of the world and of Europe is so swift that I believe Spain will be able to join Europe much sooner than anticipated today. After all Spain is the tenth industrial country in the world and the sixth in Europe in terms of gross national products. She can also integrate easily into the European Community'. Regarding the future of 'political Europe', the French Foreign Minister declared: 'The cohesion of Europe is not basically political. It is rather a cohesion of ways of life, of community of interest, etc. The future of Europe is not easy to draw for it is an element new and all in all unexpected. A place will have to be found for Europe in the world where she does not yet have her place or rather not all of it. There are several ways to create Europe: either by organizations and a central Parliament or through the more flexible system of direct agreement between governments and heads of State or again by way of confederation'.

(This tabulation covers the numbers of the Official Journal published during July and August 1973)

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- 59/73 by Mr John Hill: International Conference on the law of the sea at Santiago
- 61/73 by Mr Vals: Mandate for the negotiation of agreements with the Mediterranean countries
- 67/73 by Mr Thomsen: Right of Establishment in Denmark

Questions put to the Commission of the European Communities:

- 55/73 by Lord O'Hagan: Participation of the European Parliament in the development of the Commission's social action programme
- 56/73 by Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker: Increase in sales of milk and dairy products

Oral Question 48/73 with debate by the Political Affairs Committee to the Council of the European Communities: Action on paragraphs 3 and 5 of section 15 of the Declaration issued on 21 October 1972 in Paris by the Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the enlarged Community

Oral Question 47/73 with debate by Sir John Peel on behalf of the European Conservative Group to the Council of the European Communities: Movement towards European Union

Opinion on a proposal for a transfer of appropriations to the 'Statement of Expenditure relating to research and Investment Activities' for the financial year 1973 (Annex I to Section III—Commission—of the Budget of the European Communities)

Resolution on the draft annual accounts of the European Parliament for the financial year 1972 (1 January 1972 to 31 December 1972)

Resolution on the outcome of the Council of the European Communities meeting of 22 May 1973 on energy problems

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Resolution on the Community's approach to the coming multilateral negotiations in GATT

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Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation 1009/67/EEC on the common organization of the market in sugar

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II. a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of the Community tariff quota for 5 000 live bulls, cows and heifers of certain mountain breeds falling within heading ex 01.02 A II b 2) of the Common Customs Tariff

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