

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

# BULLETIN

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

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# Contents

	<i>Page</i>
263rd PLENARY SESSION .....	3
<b>Adoption of Opinions</b> .....	3
1. Basic Community social rights .....	3
2. Borrowing under NCI V .....	5
3. Package travel .....	7
4. Sewage sludge .....	8
5. Rear-mounted roll-over protection .....	9
6. Fertilizers .....	11
7. Temporary use of goods .....	12
8. Pilot programme of strategic research .....	14
9. R&D programme — Decommissioning of nuclear installations .....	16
10. Teleman programme .....	19
11. Framework agreement for scientific cooperation with Iceland .....	21
12. MAST programme .....	22
13. Cereals premium/animal feed .....	24
14. Imports of yams from ACP countries .....	25
15. Eradication of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia in Portugal .....	25
16. Table wines for distillation in Spain .....	26
17. Testing for brucellosis in swine .....	26
18. Review and follow-up of integrated Mediterranean programmes (IMPs) (information report) .....	27

19. Training and employment of research workers (scientists and technologist in the Community) (information report) .....	28
EXTERNAL RELATIONS .....	31
Activities of the Chairman and the Secretary-General .....	31
Other activities .....	34
NEW CONSULTATIONS .....	35
PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME .....	37
MEMBERS' NEWS .....	43
Appointment .....	43

## 263rd Plenary Session

The 263rd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 22 and 23 February 1989. The session was presided over by the Committee Chairman, Mr Alberto Masprone.

### *ADOPTION OF OPINIONS*

#### 1. BASIC COMMUNITY SOCIAL RIGHTS (Own-initiative Opinion)

##### **Gist of the Committee Own-initiative Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

The Economic and Social Committee (ESC) of the European Communities has completed its task. On 9 November 1988 the President of the European Commission, Mr Jacques Delors, and the then Commissioner for Social Affairs, Mr Manuel Marín, requested this consultative assembly (which groups representatives of employers, workers and other interests — consumers, professions, farmers, SMEs, etc.) to produce, early in 1989, proposals for a 'Community Charter of Basic Social Rights'. On 22 February 1989 the ESC adopted an Opinion on 'Basic Community social rights' (rapporteur — Mr François Staedelin, chairman of the Workers' Group; co-rapporteur — Mr Nikolaos Vassilaras, chairman of the Various Interests' Group) by 135 votes against 22 with 8 abstentions.

Between receipt of the relevant letter and the ESC Plenary Session in February, a 24-member sub-committee met four times, with Mr François Ceyrac (Employers — France) in the Chair. Consensus was reached between employers, workers and 'various interests' on four points:

<sup>1</sup> CES 270/89.

- (i) the basic rights to be guaranteed — the corresponding standards are already set out in conventions signed by the Member States within the ambit of the International Labour Organization, the Council of Europe (Social Charter), the UN and OECD;
- (ii) rights to be protected to ensure 'balanced' implementation of the single market (protection of transfrontier workers against dismissal and unfair exploitation of their non-typical terms of employment; information and consultation of the workforce in the event of company restructuring and mergers and application of existing social legislation and collective bargaining agreements when awarding public contracts);
- (iii) the relevance of basic social rights not only to employers and workers but to the population at large;
- (iv) the fact that there was no need to invent a new instrument since the Treaty of Rome already specified legal instruments applicable in the Community. The question of a 'charter' therefore ceased to apply.

Agreement still had to be reached on how to deploy the provisions 'specified in the Treaty of Rome'. The Draft Opinion submitted by the sub-committee took the view that these provisions guaranteed respect for basic social rights in the 'Community legal system' and facilitated implementation of the social measures vital for smooth operation of the single market. Many of the 32 amendments tabled during the Plenary Session related to this controversial point.

From the start the rapporteur declared his willingness to accept a set of four amendments tabled by members of the Employers' Group (including Mr Werner Löw, Federal Republic of Germany; Mr Francis Whitworth, United Kingdom; Mr Camille Giacomelli, Luxembourg, Mr Paul Arets, Belgium and Mr Gerrit van Dam, the Netherlands), who agreed that the instruments and procedures encompassed by the Treaty of Rome should be used ... but in the context of the legal systems of the Member States. With this proviso the employers were prepared to accept the Draft Opinion, thereby underwriting the concept of a European social area.

By the end of 1989 'the instrument guaranteeing protection of basic social rights will have to be adopted'. As to implementation of the social measures crucial to smooth operation of the single market, a 'fixed timetable geared to the deadlines set for completion of the Community-wide market' will have to be observed.

As spokesman for the economic and social forces at Community level, the Economic and Social Committee should carry out an annual review of the application and updating of the measures adopted in the field of basic social rights. This might mean a first Supplementary Opinion in one year's time.

## 2. BORROWING UNDER NCI V

**Proposal for a Council Decision empowering the Commission to borrow under the New Community Instrument to stabilize the level of debt outstanding for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community**

[COM(88) 661 final — revised version I]

### Gist of the Commission document

#### The objectives of the new NCI

The general focus of the new NCI would again be on SMEs. For several years one of the priority objectives of the Community has been to encourage the creation and development of small firms and to improve their financial environment. The development of these firms will help to spread the entrepreneurial spirit and encourage job-creating investment.

Providing SMEs with loans on the kind of terms enjoyed by the Community will help them to overcome the problems which they have in raising funds compared with large firms. It will also give them the chance to build up their equity capital. NCI IV was allocated entirely to SMEs for this very reason.

Safeguarding rural areas is the first of the more specific objectives which the Commission intends to pursue. This priority is part of an overall Community approach, for the Regulation on the reform of the structural Funds<sup>1</sup> also includes among its objectives the development of rural areas.

Community action is therefore necessary in order to:

- (i) promote the diversification of rural economies; and
- (ii) progress further with the protection of the environment.

<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation EEC 2052/88.

It is important, in particular, to promote the development of an economic fabric with a view to creating and/or maintaining employment in rural areas by providing financial assistance for investments by SMEs — including individual entrepreneurs and cooperatives.

From the geographical point of view, the NCI should be applicable in all rural areas in the Community.

High technology and innovation is the second of the more specific objectives, and it is planned to give NCI assistance to SMEs wherever new technologies and material are incorporated and applied in their investment projects, regardless of the location. These technologies would cover a wide range of materials and products. The specific applications of research findings would also be eligible.

Educational and training costs would be accepted as intangible investments.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

In endorsing the proposal, the Committee is pleased to note that the new Decision incorporates certain key principles and objectives proposed by the Committee in its earlier Opinions on the New Community Instrument.

The Committee endorses the extension of the NCI to cover the safeguarding of rural areas and helping small firms with innovation and new technologies.

Support should thus be extended to individual entrepreneurs, cooperatives, and associations of small firms (including craftsmen) engaged in agriculture and all its various sub-sectors (including tourism), as well as to economic initiatives by workers made redundant owing to rationalization or restructuring.

The Committee also approves the fact that NCI financing for high technology and innovation is to include loans for a wide range of materials and products, as well as the financing of specific applications of research findings.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Economic, Financial and Monetary Questions, chaired by Mr Margot (Belgium — Various Interests). The rapporteur was*

<sup>1</sup> CES 255/89.



*Mr Drago (Italy — Various Interests). This Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

### 3. PACKAGE TRAVEL

**Proposal for a Council Directive on package travel,  
including package holidays and package tours  
[COM(88) 41 final]**

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

The objective of the proposal is to protect the tourist/consumer by obliging organizers of package tours to conform to certain standards regarding travel information, advertising, replacement services in case of cancellation, refunds, etc.

#### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

The Committee recognizes that the present proposal is deliberately restricted to the protection of the consumer in the context of package travel, but draws attention to the necessity of a more thorough examination of related problems when drawing up Opinions on future referrals.

The Committee goes on to list a number of points — both general and specific — which require further examination, mainly in the context of the need to dispense justice expeditiously to the consumer/tourist on the one hand, and the organizer/retailer on the other, and indeed to the parties to disputes within the travel trade itself. These points include certain definitions, the scope of the Directive, price increases, conditions of cancellation, ultimate liability and insurance.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mr Jaschick (Germany — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Vassilaras (Greece — Various Interests). The Opinion was adopted by 78 votes to 5 with 5 abstentions.*

<sup>1</sup> CES 274/89.

#### 4. SEWAGE SLUDGE

**Proposal for a Council Directive amending in respect of chromium Directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture**

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

Sewage sludge is a waste produced by water treatment plants which can be turned to use by spreading on agricultural land as it contains organic matter and nutrients which are good for the soil.

However, it also contains heavy metal concentrations which may be detrimental to the soil. Limits for a number of these (cadmium, copper, nickel, etc.) were established in Directive 86/278/EEC, but one metal — chromium — was not covered at the time because of insufficient technical knowledge.

The present proposal is to amend Directive 86/278/EEC to cover chromium.

##### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

After careful examination of the scientific report produced for the Commission, the Committee approved the draft Directive on chromium, which had been temporarily omitted from the basic Directive (86/278/EEC). The proposed deadline for implementation (1 January 1990) is both realistic and desirable. The ranges in limit values allow Member States sufficient leeway to take account of soil type, climate and farming practices.

It should be pointed out that the upper limits are very high and would not be acceptable for continuous use over a long period. The introduction of limit values for annual amounts will at least allow a standard approach.

Methods of disposing of sludge which exceeds limit values could obviously be harmful to the environment. The Commission should therefore urge Member States to issue recommendations for industries which emit chromium and should seek to reduce such emissions, making use of available state-of-the-art technologies.

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<sup>1</sup> CES 256/89.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mr Jaschick (Germany — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Proumens (Belgium — Employers). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

## 5. REAR-MOUNTED ROLL-OVER PROTECTION

**Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 86/298/EEC on rear-mounted roll-over protection structures of narrow-track wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors**

[COM(88) 626 final — SYN 163]

**Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 87/402/EEC on roll-over protection structures mounted in front of the driver's seat on narrow-track wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors**

[COM(88) 629 final — SYN 164]

**Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 77/536/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors**

[COM(88) 630 final — SYN 167]

### Gist of the Commission documents

(1) and (2) When Directives 86/298/EEC and 87/402/EEC concerning rear- and front-mounted roll-over protection structures were adopted, one Member State objected to the adoption of the Commission proposal regarding the additional impact test in the dynamic tests. The reason given was the inadequate reliability of this test, taking into account the considerations and purely theoretical calculations on which the proposal was said to be based.

The Commission has had practical tests carried out which confirm the rightness of its original proposal. Consequently the Commission is resubmitting the same text, so that the two procedures for the static tests (where an additional crushing test is already provided for) and the dynamic tests will be equivalent.

Furthermore, the proposed Directive amending Directive 86/298/EEC clarifies the wording of the present text concerning the

tyres on the front and rear axles so as to eliminate any possibility of different interpretations of the Directive's scope.

In addition, following the entry into force of the Single Act, the proposals give the Committee for the Management and Adaptation to Technical Progress of the Annexes a purely advisory role.

(3) The proposed Directive amending Directive 77/536/EEC is intended (a) at a technical level, to extend the scope to tractors with a maximum mass of 6 tonnes (present limit 4.5 tonnes) and (b) at a political level, to give the Adaptation Committee a purely advisory role for the reasons mentioned in the previous paragraph.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinions <sup>1</sup>**

The Committee welcomed the amendments contained in the three documents but rejected the introduction of a new procedure giving the Adaptation Committee a purely advisory role. The Adaptation Committee procedure used to date has achieved results and in particular has provided considerable expertise during the preparation of Community legislation. This procedure should be retained for the sake of its clarity, simplicity and speediness.

The Committee also thought that the 1 October 1989 deadline is not realistic. Bearing in mind the facts, it proposed that the Directives enter into force one year after adoption and publication in the Member States.

*These Opinions were drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services chaired by Mr Kazazis (Greece — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Wick (Germany — Employers). The Opinions were adopted unanimously.*

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<sup>1</sup> CES 257/89; CES 258/89; CES 259/89.

## 6. FERTILIZERS

**Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States in respect of the trace elements boron, cobalt, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum and zinc contained in fertilizers**  
[COM(88) 562 final — SYN 168]

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

The purpose of this proposal for a Directive is to supplement Council Directive 76/116/EEC<sup>1</sup> of 18 December 1975 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to fertilizers so as to include the nutrients boron, cobalt, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum and zinc which may be contained in or added to fertilizers or which are marketed as such.

A number of chemical elements (known as oligo-elements) absorbed by plants in very small quantities have been recognized as necessary to growth or quality.

It is not always useful to add these nutrients. It would be wise to draw the user's attention to the need to use a trace element only where this need is confirmed.

Fertilizers containing trace elements are traded between the Member States as required and in accordance with national regulations. It is therefore necessary to harmonize the regulations in order to remove barriers to trade.

The form of declaration for nutrients covered by this Directive is harmonized in the form of elements and not of oxides, in contrast to other nutrients (major and secondary), for which the same will be done in the near future.

The proposed Directive contains a list (Annex, Chapter E) of authorized organic complexing agents for trace elements. This list was drawn up to prevent the use of substances harmful to the environment.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 24, 30.1.1976, p. 21.

## Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>

The Committee supported the proposal for a Directive, subject to the following comments:

- (i) The *bulk* sale of fertilizers containing trace elements should be accepted.
- (ii) The indication of trace element content, for products sold in liquid form, should give the content in kilos per 100 litres at 20°C.
- (iii) The Committee for Adaptation to Technical Progress (CATP) could allow purely technical changes to the list of chelating and complexing agents allowed by the Directive. The Committee proposed three additional agents for the CATP's consideration.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr Kazazis (Greece — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Proumens (Belgium — Employers). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

## 7. TEMPORARY USE OF GOODS

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 3/84 introducing arrangements for movement within the Community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States**

[COM(88) 526 final — SYN 166]

## Gist of the Commission proposal

Regulation (EEC) No 3/84 covers goods granted tax exemption on identical terms by all Member States if temporarily imported.

This situation changed fundamentally upon the adoption by the Council of the 17th VAT Directive which provides that temporary importation exemption shall be granted for virtually all goods (in principle irrespective of the beneficiary). It therefore seems logical to extend the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 3/84 along the same lines. The following amendments are proposed:

<sup>1</sup> CES 260/89.

- (i) the period of validity of the carnet, which is at present limited to 12 months, should be extended to 24 months by analogy with the provisions of the 17th Directive;
- (ii) introduction of a 'Community movement card' (simplified procedure). Sometimes — for instance, when a musician carries his instrument with him for the purposes of a tour in several Member States — the carnet procedure will still be very laborious. In such cases, the Commission suggests a simplified procedure whereby the beneficiary could obtain a Community movement card from the office of departure. Goods under cover of this card would be able to move freely within the Community for 12 months;
- (iii) goods under cover of the Community carnet at present cannot cross the territory of non-member countries. Such a situation can prejudice movement of these goods between two points within the Community customs territory; in such cases, pending the adoption of a suitable solution in conjunction with the third countries concerned, provision should be made to suspend the arrangements for movements within the Community during transit through such countries and re-establish them when the goods in question re-enter the Community customs territory;
- (iv) problems raised by spare parts: here it is clear that spare parts cannot, by their nature, be covered by the Community carnet. But it is also clear that the benefit granted to breakdown technicians for their equipment is lost inasmuch as they must complete formalities at each frontier for the spare parts they carry with them. The proposed Regulation therefore makes specific provision for such cases;
- (v) the Commission is also of the opinion that use of the Community carnet should be allowed for Community works of art.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

The Committee supports the Commission's proposal.

It sees in the expansion of the range of goods covered, the simplification of the procedures and the abolition of controls an exemplary step towards completion of the internal market. Regardless of the objective of complete abolition of internal frontiers as from 1993, it is important that the public should be offered now substan-

<sup>1</sup> CES 261/89.

tial facilities which should not pose any serious problems for the Member States.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr Kazazis (Greece — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Broicher (Germany — Employers). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

## 8. PILOT PROGRAMME OF STRATEGIC RESEARCH

**Communication from the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament concerning a programme of strategic research and technology in the field of aeronautics — pilot phase (1989-90)**  
[COM(88) 393 final — SYN 144]

### Gist of the Commission document

The Community's aeronautical industry, directly employing about 200 000 people in high-technology production, is undeniably of strategic importance in terms of economy and defence. It is necessary to guarantee its future survival in the face of international competition which comes from emerging countries, such as Brazil, Japan and China, but most of all from the United States of America. US firms benefit from a domestic market which is larger, more homogeneous and better organized than the European market; they also receive substantial official aid in the form of installations and project development, provided chiefly by NASA and the Defence Department.

The Commission invited nine Community aircraft companies to analyse the current market situation and prospects up until 2010, assess the options necessary to guarantee competitiveness in world markets, and identify key-technology areas for joint investment.

The Commission gives a full account of the findings of the survey, which highlight the need for:

- (i) closer cooperation in the field of research and technology;
- (i) concentration in key-technology areas; and
- (iii) additional financial resources.

In Communication COM(88) 294 final the Commission outlines a programme of strategic measures in aeronautical research and



technology for Europe. Immediate action is needed in the field of aeronautics because the results of research and new technologies will not actually be put into production for another 20-25 years: 5-6 years will be required to develop a new technology, 5-10 years to build a prototype and the remaining years for production.

As the first part of the above programme, the Commission has developed a two-year pilot programme — 1989/90 [COM(88) 393 final — SYN 144]. The EC has allocated ECU 60 million to this programme, roughly half the cost, which means that pilot projects worth a total of around ECU 120 million will be developed.

The Commission points out that the programme will be of interest even for countries which do not have an aerospace industry. Projects will be required to take the form of cross-frontier cooperation, involving at least two independent firms established in two different countries. Firms in other industrial sectors, especially small and medium-sized firms, and research centres, laboratories and universities, etc. will be able to benefit from the programme, both as suppliers and as partners in research which is usually accessible only to large-scale industries.

During the second year of the pilot programme, the Commission will present concrete proposals for the main programme.

### **Gist of the Committee's Additional Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

The Committee would reiterate the comments made in its earlier Opinion <sup>2</sup> in which it approved the Commission's Communication.

The Committee welcomes the Council's Decision <sup>3</sup> to include a fifth area of research-aeronautics — in the Brite/Euram programme for 1989-92. However, it regrets the fact that the funds initially earmarked for the two-year pilot phase have been reduced to ECU 35 million. The Committee would suggest that some of the topics hit by the cuts be included in other Brite/Euram areas of research.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr Kazazis (Greece — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Flum (Germany — Workers). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

<sup>1</sup> CES 262/89.

<sup>2</sup> CES 1338/89 — SYN 144.

<sup>3</sup> Common position of the Council No 10371/88 of 16.12.1988.

## 9. R&D PROGRAMME — DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS

**Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a research and technological development programme for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of the decommissioning of nuclear installations**  
[COM(88) 415 final]

### Summary of the Commission document

The research programme in the field of the decommissioning of nuclear installations falls under the fifth line of action 'Energy' in the Framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and technological development (1987-91),<sup>1</sup> more specifically its section 5.1 'Nuclear fission: nuclear safety'.

Launched in 1979, the aim of this programme is to reinforce, through the joint development of a system of management for nuclear installations finally shut down and for the radioactive wastes produced in their dismantling, the scientific and technical basis necessary to improve safety and protection when these installations are decommissioned.

The measures proposed in this programme therefore form part of a series of research measures aimed at strengthening the scientific basis necessary to improve the safety of nuclear power plants and activities; they concern, in particular, the fields of reactor safety, waste management, safeguarding of fissile materials, which come under separate programmes.

In practical terms, the programme has three sections:

- (i) *Section A:* R&D measures comprising laboratory research activities and assessment studies in the following fields:
  - (a) long-term integrity of buildings and systems;
  - (b) decontamination for decommissioning purposes;
  - (c) dismantling techniques;
  - (d) treatment of specific waste materials: steel, concrete and graphite;
  - (e) qualification and adaptation of remote-controlled semi-autonomous manipulator systems;

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 302, 24.10.1987, p. 1.

- (f) estimation of the quantities of radioactive wastes arising from the decommissioning of nuclear installations in the Community.
- (ii) *Section B*: Identification of guiding principles relating to:
  - (a) the design and operation of nuclear installations with a view to simplifying their subsequent decommissioning;
  - (b) the decommissioning operations with a view to making occupational radiation exposures as low as reasonably achievable;
  - (c) the technical elements of a Community policy in this field.
- (iii) *Section C*: Testing of new techniques in practice, within the framework of large-scale decommissioning operations undertaken in Member States.

The tests will be focused mainly on a few selected pilot dismantling projects, but include complementary tests performed in other nuclear installations.

The following installations could be involved:

- (i) Windscale advanced gas-cooled reactor (Sellafield, UK);
- (ii) Gundremmingen boiling water reactor (FRG);
- (iii) Mol pressurized water reactor (Belgium);
- (iv) La Hague fuel reprocessing plant (France).

The programme will be implemented mainly in the form of shared-cost research projects. The estimated cost to the Community budget is ECU 31.5 million.

The Commission also sets out the criteria for evaluating the programme, in which third States may be associated.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

The Committee endorsed the new programme which meets the need to reinforce in the Community the scientific and technical basis necessary to strengthen safety and afford increased protection to people and the environment against the dangers of ionizing radiation.

The Committee also approved the additional aims which the proposed programme should help to achieve, namely:

<sup>1</sup> CES 269/89.

- (i) extending the databases for decommissioning cost estimates and, where possible, helping to reduce these costs;
- (ii) speeding up the achievement of a consensus on a Community policy for decommissioning.

The Committee regretted, however, that there is still no overall survey of the work being carried out in this field at national level. In the absence of such a survey it was not possible to give an opinion on the extent to which national and EC activities are complementary or on the extent to which there may be duplication.

In view of the fact that the public is badly acquainted or totally uninformed about matters relating to the decommissioning of nuclear plant, the Committee highlighted the need for an ongoing public relations campaign.

A number of specific comments were also made, namely:

- (i) The sums to be set aside are inadequate and should be increased. The ESC warned against the use of the appropriations in the guise of demolition grants.
- (ii) The Commission was urged to carry out a detailed investigation of the strategies for dealing with radioactive waste deriving from the decommissioning of nuclear plants and to put forward proposals where necessary.
- (iii) The ESC should be informed of the results of the review of the programme and the evaluation report itself.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr von der Decken (Germany — Various Interests). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

## 10. TELEMAN PROGRAMME

**Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a research and training programme for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of remote handling in nuclear hazardous and disordered environments (1989-93) Teleman**  
[COM(88) 416 final]

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

The Teleman programme comes under the energy research line of the Framework programme of Community activities in the field of technological research and development (1987-91),<sup>1</sup> more specifically its sub-division 5.1 'Nuclear fission: nuclear safety'.

The aim of the proposed programme is to strengthen the scientific and engineering bases for the design of tele-operators used in all parts of the nuclear industry, from mining through reactor operation to reprocessing and decommissioning.<sup>2</sup>

One of the specific aims pursued by the Commission is to help the nuclear industry comply with the requirement that workers be exposed to the minimum practicable amount of radiation, which must under no circumstances exceed the basic standards laid down by the Community Directives, without compromising inspection, maintenance and repair operations.

Hence this programme is one of a series of research measures aimed at reinforcing power station safety and protecting the population and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation.

The Teleman programme will comprise four areas:

- (i) tele-operator component and sub-system development;
- (ii) environmental tolerance;
- (iii) development of research machines;
- (iv) product evaluation and studies.

The programme will be implemented through shared-cost research and development actions, concerted actions, studies and coordination activities. Training and mobility grants are also included.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 302, 24.10.1987, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> The tele-operators concerned are mechanical arms to which a variety of tools and sensors can be attached, manipulators attached to moveable gantries and partially autonomous vehicles equipped for specialized jobs.

The necessary funding is estimated at ECU 19 million, to be met from the Community budget.

The Commission proposal further lays down the evaluation criteria for the programme, with which third countries, international organizations or nationals of third countries may be associated wholly or partly.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

The Committee approved the proposal, which should:

- (i) reduce the risks of radiation exposure to workers in the nuclear industry by removing man from potentially radioactive environments;
- (ii) enhance the development and application of advanced remote handling technology;
- (iii) help increase the number and effectiveness of routine operations which can be carried out in hazardous environments.

The ESC also commented on:

- (i) cooperation, coordination and consultation in order to maximize the results of the Teleman programme, given the wide range of projects already underway either in other specific research programmes or national programmes;
- (ii) the need for appropriate arrangements to allow the transfer to Teleman of relevant results of other programmes;
- (iii) the need for appropriate measures to involve small firms in Teleman;
- (iv) the need to ensure that successful results of Teleman are made known widely through appropriate arrangements;
- (v) the need to send the Committee the results of the Commission's review of the programme and its evaluation report.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Campbell (United Kingdom — Employers). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

<sup>1</sup> CES 263/89.

## 11. FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH ICELAND

**Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the European Economic Community, of the Framework agreement for scientific and technical cooperation between the European Communities and the Republic of Iceland**

[COM(88) 527 final — SYN 156]

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

The Framework agreement for scientific and technical cooperation between the Community and Iceland, the conclusion of which is the object of the present proposal, is the latest in a series of such agreements concluded between the Community and the other EFTA countries in 1986.

The aim of the agreement is to establish a framework encompassing all cooperation between Iceland and the Communities in the field of research; organizations and private enterprises may be associated in this cooperation which goes beyond the present *ad hoc* arrangements.

The Framework agreement sets out the forms which this cooperation may take, the ways in which it may be implemented and the procedures for its implementation. A Joint Committee is set up whose duties are described.

It should be noted that this is the *first time* that the Committee has been consulted on a Commission proposal concerning the conclusion of a Framework agreement for scientific and technical cooperation with a non-EC country following the entry into force of the Single Act.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

The Committee warmly welcomed the conclusion of bilateral framework agreements with the individual EFTA countries. It therefore supported the proposed agreement with Iceland.

The ESC also made two suggestions for achieving:

<sup>1</sup> CES 94/89 fin.

- (i) more streamlined and flexible procedures to allow the individual EFTA countries to participate in the various specific research programmes;
- (ii) more effective cooperation between these countries and the Community by attaching national experts to the relevant Commission departments.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr P. Nielsen (Denmark — Workers). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

## 12. MAST PROGRAMME

**Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research and technological development programme in the field of marine science and technology (MAST) (1989-92)**  
[COM(88) 587 final — SYN 162]

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

The MAST programme comes under research line 7 of the Framework programme for Community activities in the field of research and technological development (1987-91)<sup>1</sup> — 'Exploitation of the sea bed and use of marine resources', more specifically chapter 7.1 'Marine science and technology'.

The main objectives of MAST are:

- (i) to gain a better knowledge of European coastal and regional seas, in order to improve their management and protection and to predict change;
- (ii) to encourage the development of new technologies for the exploration, protection and exploitation of marine resources (with the exception of fisheries, hydrocarbons and renewable energy, which are addressed by other Community programmes);
- (iii) to improve coordination and cooperation amongst national marine R&D programmes in the Member States, and to help increase the effectiveness of these programmes through better use of research facilities;

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 302, 24.10.1987, p. 1.



- (iv) to strengthen industrial competitiveness in the relevant sectors;
- (v) to provide the technical basis for, and encourage the development of, common standards and design guidelines, in view of the completion of the internal market in 1992;
- (vi) to encourage European participation in worldwide ocean programmes;
- (vi) to facilitate training and exchange of personnel.

The programme comprises four main headings:

- (i) basic and applied marine science (modelling, oceanography);
- (ii) coastal zone science and engineering;
- (iii) marine technology (instrumentation for science, generic enabling technologies, design aspects of large-scale facilities);
- (iv) supporting initiatives.

A sum of ECU 50 million, to be met from the Community budget, is regarded as necessary for this programme which will be implemented by means of shared-cost research contracts, coordination activities, supporting initiatives, study contracts, training and exchanges of personnel.

The Commission sets out the criteria for the selection of research projects and provides for the possibility of non-member European States and international organizations being associated wholly or partly with the programme.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

The Committee approved the proposal but, given the diverse nature of the projects and the limited finance available, expressed concern about:

- (i) the lack of an inventory of research work, which would help to place the MAST programme in the context of an overall Community strategy;
- (ii) the lack of a clear definition of the specific criteria to be used for selecting a limited number of feasible, useful projects;
- (iii) the coordination machinery, both in the Commission and through international bodies. There is no clear indication that the necessary decision-making can be exercised in such a

<sup>1</sup> CES 265/89.

diverse field of activity to ensure the success of the programme.

The Committee concluded by stressing the importance of using the resources allocated to the MAST programme to maximize the total research potential of the Community across State boundaries, to protect the ever-changing balance between land, air and sea.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy— Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Campbell (United Kingdom — Employers). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

### 13. CEREALS PREMIUM/ANIMAL FEED

**Porposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending  
Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 on the Common  
Organization of the market in cereals  
[COM(88) 614 final]**

#### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

The Committee agreed with the approach taken by the Commission proposal and felt that the 20% minimum rate of cereal incorporation is satisfactory. The Committee also agreed that the scheme should be applicable to all operators, including livestock breeders. It finally endorsed the principal of a flat-rate premium for amounts of cereals between the minimum threshold rate and the reference rate.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Droulin (France — Various Interests). The Opinion was adopted by a large majority, with 3 votes against and 2 abstentions.*

<sup>1</sup> CES 272/89.

## 14. IMPORTS OF YAMS FROM ACP COUNTRIES

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 486/85 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States or in the overseas countries and territories**  
[COM(88) 679 final]

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

The Committee approved the Commission's proposal, but expressed some reservations as to whether it would have the effect of encouraging consumption or establishing a preference for ACP products.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the rapporteur-general (Section for Agriculture and Fisheries), Mr Clavel (France — Various Interests). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

## 15. ERADICATION OF CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA IN PORTUGAL

**Proposal for a Council Decision introducing a Community financial measure for the eradication of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in Portugal**  
[COM(88) 797 final]

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>2</sup>**

The Committee approved the Commission's proposal, although it considered that certain surveys should be carried out in the countries concerned and that the proposed duration of eradication was too short.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France — Various Interests). The rapporteur-general was Mr Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom — Various Interests). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

<sup>1</sup> CES 275/89.

<sup>2</sup> CES 267/89.

## 16. TABLE WINES FOR DISTILLATION IN SPAIN

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) providing for the adjustment of the price applicable to table wines delivered for compulsory distillation in Spain**  
[COM(89) 633 final]

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>**

The Committee approved the Commission's proposal.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France — Various Interests). The rapporteur-general was Mr Riera-Marsa (Spain — Employers). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

## 17. TESTING FOR BRUCELLOSIS IN SWINE

**Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 64/432/EEC as regards administrative areas and a cessation of serological testing for brucellosis in certain types of swine**  
[COM(88) 10 final]

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>2</sup>**

The Committee approved the Commission proposal.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France — Various Interests). The rapporteur-general was Mr Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom — Various Interests). The Opinion was adopted unanimously.*

<sup>1</sup> CES 266/89.

<sup>2</sup> CES 268/89.

## 18. REVIEW AND FOLLOW-UP OF INTEGRATED MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES (IMPs) (information report) Assessment and follow-up of IMPs

### **Gist of the Committee information report <sup>1</sup>**

The report begins by outlining the background to the IMPs, which were first proposed in 1981. The IMPs Regulation (EEC No 2088/85) was adopted in 1985, establishing for the first time an integrated approach to Community structural assistance. The Regulation is to run for seven years (1986-92).

The report considers the first two years of implementation of the Regulation analysing the examination procedures, the methods of assessing the programme and project eligibility, the allocation of budget resources, and the implementation and specific content of each IMP.

The report focuses on the most advanced programmes, in particular the French IMPs and the programme for Crete which was the first to be approved in August 1986. A study group delegation visited Crete in early September 1988, and the Regional Section subsequently met in Athens to hold talks with the Greek authorities in charge of the IMPs at national and local level, as well as the Commissioner responsible for IMPs and various representatives of the French and Italian IMPs.

The main conclusions corroborate the validity of the integrated approach to structural assistance, fostering a partnership between the Community, national, regional and local authorities. However, the report calls for greater involvement of the social partners and economic circles at regional level.

As IMPs are still relatively new, it is difficult to assess their economic results. However, the administrative results have on the whole been favourable, despite initial problems.

The Committee decided unanimously to forward this information report to the Commission and to the Council.

*This information report was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Regional Development and Town and*

<sup>1</sup> CES 498/88 fin + Corrigendum in English.

*Country Planning, chaired by Mr Cal (Portugal — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Saiu (France — Workers).*

## 19. TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF RESEARCH WORKERS (scientists and technologists) IN THE COMMUNITY (information report)

### **Gist of the Committee information report <sup>1</sup>**

Research workers, one of the key elements of a strong scientific and technological base, must be adequate in both number and quality.

Although the term 'research worker' is extremely broad, the Section, for the purposes of the report, has excluded the social sciences, while recognizing that the training and employment of social scientists is worthy of study in the future.

The Section Report is based primarily on the findings of a survey covering persons concerned with R&D in the targeted areas.

The Section starts by asking whether the Community has enough competent, qualified research workers. It notes that none of the studies conducted so far permits a clear-cut reply to this question, in the absence of overall figures for the structure of research worker employment in the Communities. It is therefore uncertain whether there is a shortage of candidates for the job or if the available candidates are not of sufficient quality.

The Section proposes that the Commission consider establishing a database covering this area and notes that many bodies complain of shortages.

In general the results of the survey indicate that research workers feel that improved pay and support through more funding could help to reduce shortages. The Section believes that further measures could be taken by Member States and at Community level in various other areas addressed by the report. These include working conditions, general training of research workers and technicians, research management, the education of future research

<sup>1</sup> CES 388/88 fin.

staff, ways of securing greater mobility, action to upgrade the level of scientific publications and to develop centres of excellence.

*This information report was drawn up by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Moreland (United Kingdom — Various Interests).*

In the course of the discussions, Mr Flum (Germany — Workers) expressed misgivings that restricting the term 'researcher' to a small élite group could give the impression that only someone with an academic training could be a researcher. He also pointed out that the report's conclusions did not mention the moral constraints on current research; and he said that more work opportunities should be created for women, too, in the research field.

The Chairman stated that Mr Flum's comments would be recorded in the minutes.

The Committee decided with no votes against and with 6 abstentions to forward this information report to the Commission and Council.





## External relations

### **Activities of Mr Masprone, Chairman and Mr Moreau, Secretary-General**

On 7 February, Mr Masprone and Mr Moreau had talks with Ambassador de Schoutheete de Tervarent, Permanent Representative of Belgium, and with Ambassador Mathias, Permanent Representative of Portugal.

In the afternoon they met Commissioner Karel van Miert and Ambassador Campbell, Permanent Representative of Ireland and Mr Cogan, Adviser.

On 9 February, Mr Moreau had a meeting in Paris with Mr Scheer, Secretary-General, French Ministry Foreign Relations.

On 13 February, Mr Moreau and Mr Masprone had talks with Mr Augusto Correia, Macao Minister for the European Communities.

On 14 February, Mr Masprone and Mr Moreau met Mr Millan, Commissioner, who had been invited to the meeting of the Section for Regional Development.

Mr Jørgensen, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank, was the Chairman's guest at lunch.

Mr Moreau then went to Paris where he had a meeting with Mrs Cresson, French Minister for European Affairs.

On 20 February, Mr Abdel Hamed Echeikh, Foreign Minister of Tunisia, and Mr Sfar, Tunisian Ambassador, met Mr Masprone and Mr Moreau.

On 22 February, Mr Masprone and Mr Moreau met Ambassador Weyland, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, and Ambassador Larsen, Danish Permanent Representative.

On 27 February, Mr Moreau read a paper on 'Forces économiques et sociales' at Maison de l'Europe, Paris.

On 28 February, Mr Masprone met Mr Ripa di Meana.



*Mr Masprone, Chairman, welcomes Mr Karel van Miert (right), Commissioner responsible for transport policy, who attended the 7 February meeting of the Committee Section for Transport and Communications.*



*Mr Cal, Chairman of the Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning, welcomes Commissioner Millan, who spoke to the Section on 14 February. In the centre, the Committee Chairman, Mr Masprone.*

**Other activities**

On 26 January Mr Kazazis, Chairman of the Section for Industry, met Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan, responsible for competition policy.

On 6 February, Mr Kazazis had a meeting with Mr Bangemann, the Commission Vice-President with special responsibility for the internal market and industrial affairs.

## **New consultations**

Since the last Plenary Session the Economic and Social Committee has been consulted on the following questions:

**Commission proposals on the prices for agricultural products and on related measures (1989-90)**

[COM(89) 40 final]

**Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research and technological development programme of the European Economic Community in the fields of raw materials and recycling (1990-92)**

[Com(88) 795 final — SYN 188]

**Positive measures in favour of maritime transport**

(Own-initiative Opinion)

**Information report on the GATT/Uruguay Round negotiations**



## Provisional future work programme

### March 1989 Plenary Session

#### *Opinions*

Health and environment protection against  
PCBs [COM(88) 559 final — SYN 161]

Freedom of access to information in the environmental field  
[COM(88) 484 final]

Forestry sector: protection against air pollution and fire  
[COM(88) 255 final]

Research and development programmes: Epoch and STEP  
[COM(88) 632 final — SYN 168]

Public contracts in exempted sectors  
[COM(88) 377 and 378 final]

Annual and consolidated accounts — SME exemptions  
[COM(88) 292 final — SYN 158]

Making-up by volume of certain prepackaged liquids  
[COM(88) 750 final — SYN 172]

Utilization of electricity [COM(88) 576 final]

Health conditions governing intra-Community trade in  
bovine and caprine animals [COM(88) 742 final]

Health rules on calf embryos [COM (88) 785 final]

Farm prices

#### *Own-initiative Opinions*

Relations between the EEC and the Mediterranean countries

Relations between the EEC and the NICs of South-East Asia

*Information report*

## Poverty

**SUBSEQUENT PLENARY SESSIONS****April 1989 Plenary Session***Opinions***ECOFIN SECTION**

Statistics on trade in goods between Member States  
[COM(88) 810 final — SYN 181]

**SOCIAL SECTION**

Economic and social integration of least-privileged groups  
[COM(88) 826 final]

Free movement of workers [COM(88) 815 final — SYN 185]

Lingua programme [COM(88) 841 final]

*Own-initiative work*

European cultural area (Additional Opinion)

**ENVIRONMENT SECTION**

Nutritional labelling of foodstuffs  
[COM(88) 489 final — SYN 155]

Batteries and accumulators [COM(88) 672 final]

Banning smoking in public places [COM(88) 674 final]

Protection of fresh water against nitrate pollution  
[COM(88) 708 final]

Veterinary medicines [COM(88) 779 final]

Noise level of subsonic aircraft [COM(88) 662 final]

Drinking water [COM(88) 752 final]

Pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables  
[COM(88) 798 final]

**SECTION FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

13th Annual ERDF Report [COM(88) 728 final]

Poseidom programme [COM(88) 730 final]



**TRANSPORT SECTION**

Capacity of air traffic control systems [COM(88) 577 final]  
Telecommunications open network provision  
[COM(88) 825 final — SYN 187]

**INDUSTRY SECTION**

Units of measurement [COM(88) 751 final — SYN 171]  
Mobile machinery [COM(88) 740 final — SYN 175]  
Guarantees issued by credit institutions or insurance companies [COM(88) 805 final — SYN 180]  
High-definition television [COM(88) 659 final]

**May 1989 Plenary Session***Opinions***ENVIRONMENT SECTION**

Active implantable electromedical equipment  
[COM(88) 717 final — SYN 173]

**INDUSTRY SECTION**

Legal protection of biotechnological inventions  
[COM(88) 496 final — SYN 159]  
Food treated with ionizing radiation  
[COM(88) 654 final — SYN 159]  
Appliances burning gaseous fuels  
[COM(88) 786 final — SYN 178]

**TRANSPORT SECTION**

Driving licences [COM(87) 705 final]  
Maximum alcohol intake for drivers [COM(88) 707 final]  
Speed limits [COM(88) 706 final]

**SECTION FOR ENERGY/RESEARCH**

Radiation protection — research and training  
[COM(88) 789 final]  
Biotechnological research programme  
(Bridge) [COM(88) 806 final]  
Recycling of raw materials [COM(88) 795 final]

**AGRICULTURE SECTION**

Pilot project/rabies [COM(88) 836 final]

*Sub-Committee*

Use of agricultural and forestry resources

**June 1989 Plenary Session***Opinions***ECOFIN SECTION**

Economic situation mid-1989

Directive on takeover bids [COM(88) 823 final]

**SOCIAL SECTION**

Right of asylum and status of refugees

Social developments in the Community — 1988

**ENVIRONMENT SECTION***Own-initiative work*

Consumer information centres

**INDUSTRY SECTION**

Non-automatic weighing instruments  
[COM(88) 780 final — SYN 174]

**TRANSPORT SECTION**

Elimination of frontier controls/road and inland waterway  
transport [COM(88) 800 final]

Weights and dimensions of road vehicles (derogation  
periods) [COM(88) 759 final]

## July 1989 Plenary Session

### *Opinions*

#### SECTION FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

##### *Own-initiative work*

Industrial areas in decline

Contribution of the cooperative sector to regional development

## September 1989 Plenary Session

### *Opinions*

#### SOCIAL SECTION

General system of mutual recognition of professional qualifications [COM(88) 824 final]

##### *Own-initiative work*

Social consequences of cross-frontier mergers

#### INDUSTRY SECTION

Motor vehicle liability insurance [COM(88) 644 final]

Direct life insurance [COM(88) 729 final — SYN 177]

Motor vehicle liability insurance and direct insurance other than life insurance [COM(88) 791 final — SYN 179]

Investment services in the securities field  
[COM(88) 778 final — SYN 176]

Legal protection of computer programs  
[COM(88) 816 final — SYN 183]

##### *Sub-Committee*

##### *Own-initiative work*

Use of agricultural and forestry resources

## **Subsequent Plenary Sessions**

### *Opinions*

#### **ECOFIN SECTION**

Directive on takeover bids [COM(88) 823 final]

#### **ENVIRONMENT SECTION**

Tourism — 5-year programme [COM(88) 363 final]

Protection of the Mediterranean environment

Tourism sector: harmonization and collection of statistical data [COM(88) 652 final]

Protection of natural and semi-natural habitats  
[COM(88) 381 final]

#### **EXTERNAL RELATIONS SECTION**

##### *Own-initiative work*

1992 and the EEC's external trade

##### *Information reports*

GATT/Uruguay Round

EEC relations with Mediterranean countries

##### *Sub-Committee*

Future of rural society — Environment and agriculture

##### *Other work*

Transfrontier television

## **Members' news**

### **Appointment**

The Council of Ministers has appointed, on a proposal from the German Government, Mr Lappas (Workers) to replace Mr Willi Lojewski (Workers).

## **PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

### **General documentation**

The other European Assembly (CES 89-003)  
Leaflet on the ESC

### **Opinions and studies**

Europe and the new technologies (1986) (ESC 89-004)  
Disadvantaged island regions (July 1988) (ESC 88-009)  
Basic Community social rights (Opinion) (February 1989)  
Horizon 1992: The ESC supports the removal of fiscal frontiers (July 1988)  
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(7 Opinions) (ESC 88-010)

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Action by the European Community through its financial instruments  
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Community (Brussels, 1987) (ECU 3.40)  
European environment policy: air, water, waste management (Brussels,  
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Community rail policy (ECU 7.40)  
EEC maritime transport policy (Brussels, June 1986) (ECU 3.40)  
EEC air transport policy (October 1985) (ECU 5.50)  
GATT — towards a new round (Opinion) (Brussels, 1986) (ECU 2.20)  
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