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The Supplements are published separately as annexes to the Bulletin. They include the official texts of the Commission (communications of the Council, reports, proposals) of the documents published under the double responsibility of the Council and of the Commission. The Supplements are not published in Spanish.

BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

**European Coal and Steel Community
European Economic Community
European Atomic Energy Community**

**Commission of the European Communities
General Secretariat
Brussels**

no. 3
1975
8th year

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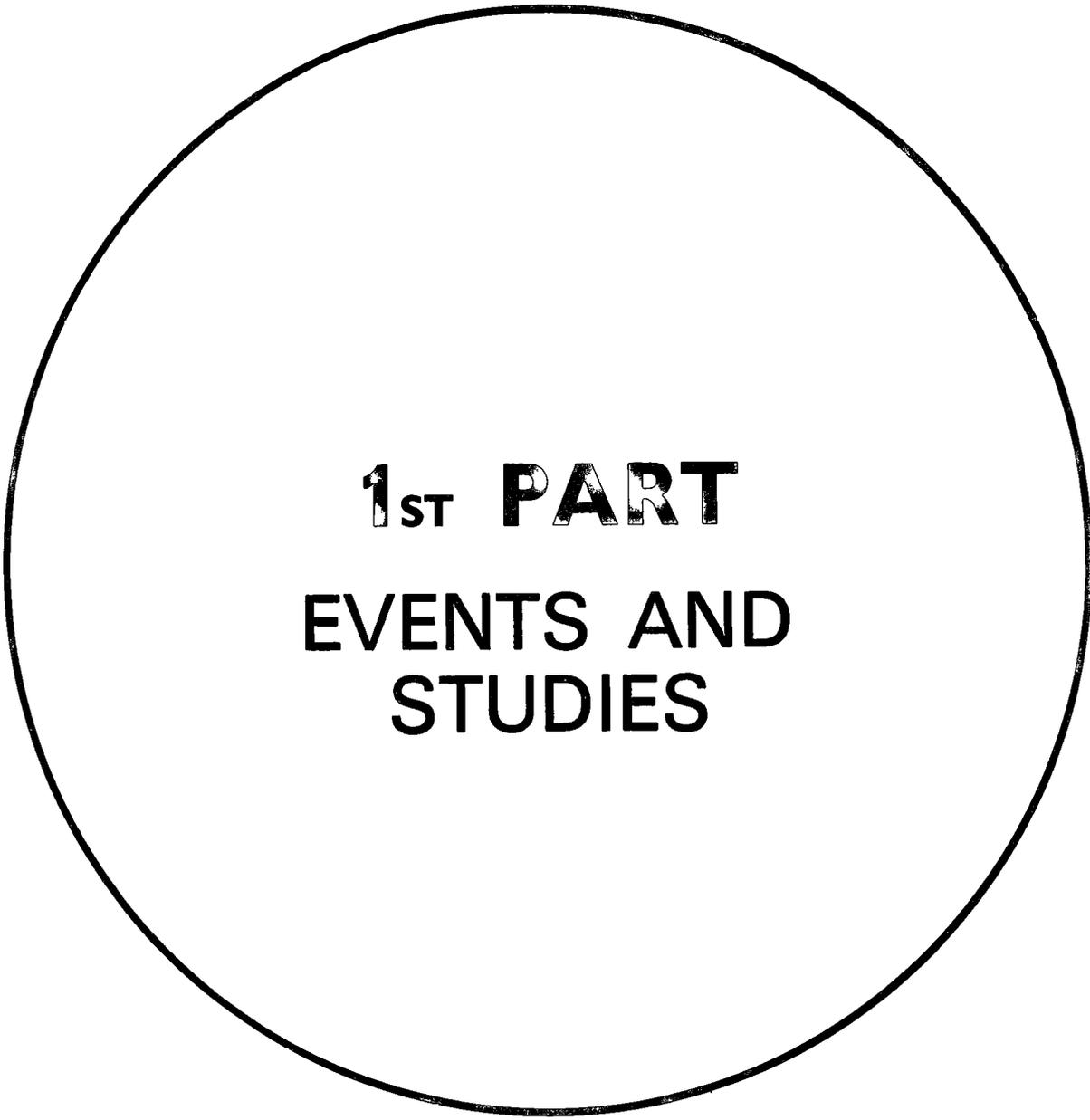
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1ST PART

**EVENTS AND
STUDIES**

1. The British referendum

1101. March saw a number of new developments in the British Government's position concerning the United Kingdom's membership of the European Communities.

These were, the results of the meeting of Heads of Government in Dublin, the decision of Mr Harold Wilson, the Prime Minister, to recommend to the British people to vote in favour of the United Kingdom's continued membership of the Community, when the referendum is held in June, and the publication of a White Paper on the outcome of the renegotiations.

On 1 April¹ and 4 June² 1974, Mr James Callaghan, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, had presented the British Government's position to the Council on the terms for the United Kingdom's membership of the Community. Some of the various questions raised could not be settled until the meeting in Dublin.

Meeting of Heads of Government in Council in Dublin on 10 and 11 March 1975

1102. The Heads of Government meeting in Council in Dublin on 10 and 11 March reached agreement on the outstanding issues: contributions to the Community budget and imports of New Zealand dairy products. The following decision and statement were adopted by the Heads of Government:³

Budgetary correcting mechanism

1103. "The Heads of Government meeting in Council agreed on the correcting mechanism described in the Commission Communication entitled "Unacceptable situation and correcting mechanism",⁴ subject to the following provisions:

1. The criterion concerning the balance of payments deficit and the two-thirds ceiling are dropped.

2. The following provisions will be incorporated into the agreed mechanism:

(a) The correcting mechanism shall be subject to a ceiling of 250 million u.a. However, as soon as the amount of the Community budget exceeds 8000 million u.a., the ceiling shall be fixed at an amount representing 3% of total budget expenditure.

(b) When a moving average drawn up over 3 years indicates that the balance of payments on current account of the country in question is in surplus, the correction shall only affect any difference between the amount of its VAT payments and the figure which would result from its relative share in the Community GNP.'

New Zealand

1104. "The Heads of Government, meeting in Council at Dublin on 10 March, underline the importance which they attach to Protocol 18 of the Act of Accession, as regards the relations of the Community with New Zealand, a traditional supplier of dairy products to a substantial part of the enlarged Community.

They invite the Commission to present a report in order to prepare the review provided for in Article 5 of the Protocol and to submit as soon as practicable a proposal for the maintenance after 31 December 1977 of special import arrangements as referred to in that Article. They observe that the institutions of the Community have already carried out certain price adjustments in the framework of the Protocol. In the same spirit, the Community, which remains attached to a fair implementation of the

¹ Bull. EC 3-1974, point 1104.

² Bull. EC 6-1974, points 1102 to 1107.

³ For the other results of the Dublin Conference, see points 1501 to 1504, 2336, 2347, 2403 and 2420.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1975, points 2504 to 2510.

Protocol is ready to review periodically and as necessary to adjust the prices having regard to the supply and demand developments in the major producing and consuming countries of the world, and also to the level and evolution of prices in the Community—including intervention prices—and in New Zealand, taking moreover into account cost developments in New Zealand and trends in freight charges.

As regards the annual quantities to be established by the Community institutions in the framework of the special arrangements after 1977, these should not deprive New Zealand of outlets which are essential for it. Thus for the period up to 1980, these annual quantities depending upon future market developments, could remain close to effective deliveries under Protocol 18 in 1974 and the quantities currently envisaged by New Zealand for 1975.

They note that Protocol 18 provides that the exceptional arrangements for the import of cheese cannot be maintained after 31 December 1977, and that this situation and the problems which may arise from it will be given due attention with appropriate urgency, taking into account also the considerations in the following paragraph.

The Heads of Government note, moreover, that New Zealand and the Community together provide the major part of world exports of dairy products. They, therefore, express the wish that, in the same spirit with which the Community approaches the application of Protocol 18, an ever closer cooperation be developed between the institutions of the Community and the New Zealand authorities with the objective of promoting in their mutual interest an orderly operation of world markets. Such cooperation, apart from its intrinsic value, should provide a basis from which to achieve, in a wider framework, the conclusion of an effective world agreement such as is envisaged in Protocol 18.'

Statement by Mr Harold Wilson (18 March 1975)

1105. In a long speech in the House of Commons on 18 March, Mr Harold Wilson, the Prime Minister, said: 'Her Majesty's Government have decided to recommend to the British people to vote *for staying* in the Community.

Last Wednesday, after Dublin, I told Parliament that the renegotiations, begun last April, had gone as far as they can usefully go and that while some of our objectives—if Britain remains in the Community—can be pursued in the continuing meetings of the Council of Ministers, we have now reached the point where Government, Parliament, and then the country, must take the decision.'

Mr Wilson then reviewed in detail the seven renegotiation objectives in his party's election manifesto for February 1974, which were reaffirmed in October of the same year. He concluded: 'Some (of these objectives) we have achieved in full; on others we have made considerable progress, though in the time available to us it has not been possible to carry them to the point where we can argue that our aims have been completely realized.

It is thus for the judgment now of the Government, shortly of Parliament, and in due course of the British people, whether we should stay in the European Community on the basis of the terms as they have now been renegotiated.

So, I do not believe that in taking this decision we are entering into a narrow regional grouping to the detriment of our worldwide relationships.

My first regard, ever since I entered this House, has always been more to the Commonwealth than to Europe. We have to take the fact that practically the whole Commonwealth, deciding on the basis of their own interests, want Britain to stay in the Community.'

The British White Paper (27 March 1975)

1106. On 27 March, the British Government published a White Paper on the outcome of the renegotiations ('Membership of the European Community: Report on Renegotiation'). The report concludes:

'The issue of Community membership is of fundamental importance for Britain's place and role in the world... A cohesive Europe is an essential pillar of the Atlantic partnership, and a more cooperative relationship has now been established between the Nine and the United States. There is now a more liberal Community attitude towards the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations.

Better balanced policies of trade and aid are being developed towards the developing world as a whole, so that the countries of Asia benefit as well as the African countries. This will help to avoid confrontation between the developed and developing countries, particularly on commodity matters and raw materials. Commonwealth Governments have made clear their view that they wish Britain to remain in the Community.

The Member States of the Community have closely related and interdependent economies, and what any of them decides in the field of economic policy can affect other Member States... The United Kingdom is more dependent on international trade than most countries, and the Government have been able to ensure that positions taken by the Community, which are of great importance for our trading and financial interests, reflect United Kingdom views.

In the Government's view the consequences of Britain's withdrawal from the Community would be adverse—and would result in uncertainty. This uncertainty could be protracted and would itself be damaging.

There could be a significant effect on confidence, affecting both investment in the United Kingdom

and our ability to finance our balance of payments deficit. There would be a risk of a deterioration, for a time at least, both in the level of employment and in the rate of inflation.

The United Kingdom would have to engage in the negotiation of a new trading relationship with the Community and with the rest of the world this would be bound to be difficult. If it were not possible to secure special trading arrangements with the Community, British exports would face a high Community tariff on such products as chemicals, commercial vehicles and textiles. Even if an acceptable free trade arrangement could be negotiated, this would be accompanied by conditions which would be likely to limit the Government's freedom to give assistance to British industry.

The United Kingdom would no longer participate in the Community's institutions, or in the political cooperation machinery. The Community and its Member States would still be our closest neighbour and our largest market, and Community policies would remain of direct concern to us. But there would be the difficulties of pursuing British interests and of applying British influence, from outside rather than inside the Community.

Our withdrawal would limit the potential benefits of interdependence. It would be a serious setback to the development of closer and more cooperative relations within the Community, and between the Community and the wider world. It would threaten the political stability of Western Europe.

The Government have always believed that, provided the terms of membership were right and fair, it is in the interests of Britain and of Europe that we should be a member of the Community. The wider considerations set out in this Chapter confirm the Government's judgment that continued membership of the Community is in Britain's interest on the basis of the renegotiated terms.

2. Regional policy: a decisive stage

British referendum

Through membership of the Community we are better able to advance and protect our national interests—this is the essence of sovereignty. We are only at the start of our relationship with the Community: we can now begin to play a full part in its construction and development. The Community has shown that it is a flexible organization, which is ready to adapt to the changing circumstances of the world and to respond to the differing needs of Member States.

If our membership of the Community is confirmed, the Government will be ready to play a full part in developing a new and wider Europe. The decision is now for the British people. The Government will accept their verdict.¹

In the referendum bill on Community membership, the question to be put to the British people is:

‘Do you think that the United Kingdom should stay in the European Community (the Common Market)?’ They are to reply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’.

The European Regional Development Fund and the Regional Development Committee

1201. Recognized as a priority by the Heads of Government at the Paris Conference of October 1972, reaffirmed at the Copenhagen Conference in December 1973 and given practical form at the Paris Conference in December 1974, the Community regional policy has just negotiated a decisive stage.

Following Decisions adopted by the Council on 18 March,¹ the Community, as from 1 January 1975, commands two new instruments to serve its regional policy: the European Regional Development Fund and the Regional Development Committee. They signify increased financial means for the benefit of regional development and fresh scope for coordinating regional action in the Community.

Reducing regional disparities

1202. Before describing this new action by the Commission in the regional theatre, it should be recalled that the goal of the Community’s regional policy is to promote the harmonious growth and development of the regions comprising Community territory. In practical terms, Community action must result in a substantial reduction of development disparities.

These disparities, already of sizeable proportions within each State, are even larger when measured on the scale of the whole Community. Between the least and most developed regions there is something like a five to one disproportion in terms of income.

¹ The White Paper was debated in the House of Commons on 7 to 9 April. The House then approved the United Kingdom’s continued membership of the Community by 396 votes against 170.

¹ OJ L73 of 21.3.1975.

The European Regional Development Fund

1203. The European Regional Development Fund will be called upon to play a decisive role in the new European regional policy, owing to the links existing between aid and the configuration to be given to the structures of recipient regions, plus the actual aid which the Fund will grant.

The Fund will not be confined to granting investment subsidies. It will ensure that the investments are consistent with projects undertaken in the regions and that they fit into regional development programmes.

The Fund will be endowed with 1300 million u.a. for a three-year period, with up to 300 million for 1975, 500 million for 1976 and 500 million for 1977. These resources will be allocated as follows: Italy 40%, United Kingdom 28%, France 15%, West Germany 6.4%, Ireland 6.0%, the Netherlands 1.7%, Belgium 1.5%, Denmark 1.3% and Luxembourg 0.1%. Ireland will also receive 6 million u.a. taken from the allotments to the other Member States, except for Italy.

The regions which may receive Fund aid are those which, in each Member State, are obtaining their share of regionally targeted aid schemes. Within these same regions, the national priority areas will have priority for grants from the Fund, due account being paid to the principles for coordinating regional aid schemes at Community level.

Investment aid

1204. The European Regional Development Fund will also provide subsidies for investments in industry, the craft trades, services and infrastructures. These operations will supplement

those by the States themselves and will be accorded only at their request and for any project exceeding 50000 u.a. in any of the stipulated categories.

Investments in industry, the craft trades or services will be able to obtain aid from the Fund in so far as the investments are already benefiting from State regional aid schemes and inasmuch as they are helping either to create at least ten jobs or to preserve existing jobs; in the second instance, the investment must be made as part of a company redevelopment or reorganization plan. The investments will be eligible for a subsidy of 20% of their cost, but not exceeding 50% of the aid granted by the State in applying its regional scheme. Lastly, aid will be limited to a proportion of the investment not exceeding 100000 u.a. per job created and 50000 u.a. per job preserved. By decision of the State concerned, the Fund aid so determined may be added to the aid granted by public authorities or may be retained by them.

Infrastructure investments will also be able to obtain aid from the Fund. They will, for the most part, be infrastructures directly linked with the development of industry, the craft trades or services and which have been taken in hand, partially or totally, by the public authorities or any other body, with the same responsibility as a public authority for installing infrastructures. Aid from the Fund may also assist infrastructure investments in hill-farming regions or agriculturally handicapped areas, in so far as it is needed to preserve and develop country life.

Investment plans presented for Fund aid may obtain either 30% of the cost of the outlay (for investments below 10 million u.a.), or 10-30% of the cost of the outlay (investments exceeding 30 million u.a.). In the second instance, all or part of the Fund aid may take the form of a three-point interest subsidy on loans from the European Investment Bank.

Investment consistency and regional planning

1205. Apart from their sectoral affiliations and the sums involved, the projects which come up for aid from the European Regional Development Fund will have to fulfil two basic requirements. The first can be defined as consistency of investment with action put in hand either by the Member State or by the Community authorities. This can be appraised in terms of how they help the development of the region, improve the situation of the economic sector involved and tie in with the Community's regional objectives. Any border implications of the investment will also be considered.

The second requirement is that of regional programming. The projects will have to be components of a regional development programme which, when completed, will serve to rectify the main regional imbalances in the Community which can hamper achievement of economic and monetary union. By regional development programme, is meant a target scheme on paper detailing the objectives and means for developing the region. The Regional Policy Committee will offer advice as indicated below. The Member States will each year send in to the Commission any information which will enable it to evaluate data on the development of regions and on projects going forward there; this information will serve for a programme until the end of 1977.

Submission, appraisal and monitoring of projects

1206. Applications for aid from the Fund will be submitted to the Commission by the Member States. They will transmit them at the beginning of each quarter, either as a package, for investments below 10 million u.a. or singly, for investments exceeding that figure.

The Fund Committee, made up of delegates from the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission, will rule on the projects submitted.

The Member States will assist the Commission in any monitoring which it might require in administering the Fund, including any on-the-spot checks.

The Commission will present a report each year to the European Parliament and the Council on the stewardship of the Fund and submit its conclusions on any checks it has made.

The Regional Policy Committee

1207. A Regional Policy Committee has been formed to act alongside the Regional Development Fund. It will be a consultative body, composed of State representatives drawn from senior officials responsible for regional policy and Commission representatives. Committee members may be assisted by specialists. The European Bank will appoint an observer. The Committee will be in a position to obtain the views of the regional milieux concerned and of trade union and occupational organizations.

The Regional Policy Committee will act as an adviser to Member States and the Community on anything to do with regional policy. The decision to form the Committee carries a long list of assignments covering most of the problems of regional development, such as:

- regional analysis, from the various angles of regional development and regional policy ways and means;
- regional programming, including methods of drawing up regional programmes and comparing one with another;
- State and Community financial aid and its coordination;

3. Social Action Programme 1974-1976

Regional policy

- guidance for investors to help them in deciding where to invest.

A new stage in the process of European integration

1208. Thus the European Regional Development Fund and the Regional Policy Committee are not merely adjuncts to the existing Community institutions and financial machinery.

These new agencies will play a decisive role in steering the new regional policy.

If, as is often said, finer regional balance is the pivot for successful Economic and Monetary Union, then there is every hope that the process of European integration will enter a new phase.

Introduction to the Social Report 1974¹

1301. The general *economic and social situation of 1974* was characterized by increasing inflationary tendencies, rising unemployment in nearly all Member States and balance of payments difficulties in most of them. By the end of 1974, total unemployment in the countries of the European Communities had reached a peak of almost four million persons out of work, and consumer prices increased during the course of 1974 in some countries by nearly 20% and even more. This deterioration of the economic and social conditions, which to a certain extent has been aggravated by the new situation in the energy sector, has been felt particularly by certain industrial sectors and special groups of the total and the working populations.

The sectors mostly suffering from the slowing-down of demand and activity included the motor vehicle, textile, clothing and building industries, and among the categories of workers threatened by unemployment there was an increasing number of young and older workers, women and—by the end of the year—also migrant workers. The accelerated price increases, on the other hand, had a growing impact on the economically weaker groups of the population, and more especially the non-active people irrespective of their entitlement to social benefits, such as the unemployed, handicapped, sick, those suffering from employment injuries and occupational diseases, the retired and others, as well as workers with lower wages and salaries.

¹ 'Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the Community in 1974' (Addendum to the Eighth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities, in accordance with Article 122 of the EEC Treaty).

These difficulties underline the *need for strong and vigorous action in the social field* as foreseen in the Social Action Programme agreed by the Council at the end of 1973, for which 1974 was the first year of implementation.

1302. This necessity has also been recognized at the *Summit Conference of the Heads of Government* of the nine Member States held in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974, at which they declared that they 'reaffirm the importance which they attach to implementation of the measures listed in the Social Action Programme approved by the Council in its Resolution of 21 January 1974.¹ This declaration reflects the confidence of all Member States in the Social Action Programme, and in its potential in the war against rising unemployment and increasing prices with all the inevitable side-effects.

1303. The various reforms envisaged by the *Social Action Programme* are to be realized in stages in the period from 1974 to 1976. During 1974 the Commission, together with the other Community institutions and the Economic and Social Committee, endeavoured to carry out the individual measures according to the timetable laid down in the abovementioned resolution.

Indeed, by the end of 1974 the Council had decided on seven of the nine proposals which had been submitted to it by the Commission before 1 April 1974. At the *Council meeting on 10 June 1974* the first three proposals were adopted concerning:

- The two decisions and the regulation on action by the European Social Fund (Article 4) for migrant workers and for handicapped persons;
- the resolution establishing the initial Community Action Programme for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons;
- the two decisions on the setting up of an Advisory Committee on Safety and Health Pro-

tection at work, and on the extension of the responsibilities of the Mines Safety and Health Commission to all mineral-extracting industries.

As a result of these decisions the progressive road to the attainment of a comprehensive social policy at Community level and of a strengthened Community solidarity amongst the Member States has been opened, and the means by which the road can be travelled have been indicated. The new possibilities, particularly for the Social Fund, have provoked immediate reaction, since they have enabled the Commission to carry out some worthwhile projects already during the 1974 financial year.

1304. The *Council* agreed on a further four proposals of the Commission at its *meeting on 17 December 1974*:

- The directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women contained in Article 119 of the EEC Treaty;
- the directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to mass dismissals;
- the regulation establishing a European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training;
- the regulation on the creation of a European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions.

The first two of these decisions are of special importance in that the Council by adopting them has accepted the *principle of setting minimum standards* in certain social fields by the *approximation of national legislations*. In fact, the first of the *two directives* agreed on by the Council

¹ OJ C13 of 12.2.1974 and Supplement 2/74 — Bull. EC.

intends to generalize minimum protection standards for women in respect of their right for equal pay, not only by laying down that discriminations still existing in laws or agreements and contracts have to be eliminated, and that the right to pursue equal pay for equal work cannot be frustrated by dismissal, but also by providing that supervision of the application of this right has to be ensured by national law.

The second directive, on the other hand, is aimed at achieving greater security of employment of workers by providing that arbitrary mass dismissals cannot be undertaken without a system of prior consultation and notification that will go some way to alleviating the consequences of dismissals.

1305. The establishment of a *European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training* will expedite the progressive attainment of the principal objectives of a common vocational training policy, and in particular the approximation of training standards in the member countries. The creation of the Foundation, on the other hand, will stimulate not only more intensive study and concertation, but also more precise analyses and scientific research on all factors affecting the living and working environment. Both the European vocational training centre and the *Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions* are extremely useful and necessary instruments for achieving some of the main objectives of the Treaties within the Community.

1306. The remaining two proposals have not as yet been adopted by the Council. They are, however, already being discussed by the Council Committees, and it may be expected that a decision on them will be taken at one of the next meetings of the Council of Labour and Social Ministers that will take place in the course of 1975.

These two proposals concern:

- a recommendation regarding the application of the principle of the 40-hour week and four weeks annual paid holidays;
- a directive on approximation of the legislations of the Member States on the retention of the rights and advantages of employees in the case of mergers, take-overs and amalgamations.

The proposal for a *Council Recommendation* is aimed at achieving minimum standards for *working hours* (the 40-hour week by the end of 1975) and *annual paid holidays* (four weeks by the end of 1976) throughout the Community. It was subsequently examined by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee. In the light of their contributions, an amended proposal has been submitted to the Council and awaits decision.

The draft *Directive on the approximation of national legislations on 'acquired rights' of the workers* will have far-reaching consequences on the labour law in some of the Member States. Therefore a very intensive procedure of consultation with the Community institutions and others has been an essential prerequisite before the Council will take its decision.

1307. In accordance with the priorities laid down in the Council Resolution concerning the Social Action Programme, the Commission drew up during 1974 a *series of new proposals*. These were achieved as a result of continuous consultations, which were both formal and informal. The deterioration of the labour market as mentioned above and increasing inflationary tendencies, both of which had a particular impact on the more vulnerable groups of the population, influenced considerably the attitude of the Commission when drafting the actions to be proposed.

The majority of this series of proposals will be submitted to the Council during the first quarter of 1975.

1308. In the framework of the *first objective* of the Social Action Programme—'attaining *full and better employment* in the Community'—the main proposals which have been or are being prepared include:

- The establishment of appropriate *consultations* between Member States on their *employment policies* and the promotion of better *cooperation* by national *employment services*.

The need for an improved system of consultation and cooperation between the governments and the employment services has been underlined by the development of the employment situation in the course of the year. It is for this reason that the Commission has already taken initial action by forming an *ad hoc* group of Directors-General for Employment in the Member States which has already met on several occasions to discuss the most urgent current problems concerning employment.

- On 18 December 1974 the Commission adopted the *Action Programme in favour of migrant workers* and their families.

This Programme deals with all the crucial problems connected with migration, the living and working conditions as well as the social and educational problems of migrant workers and their families, both nationals and non-nationals of the Community. One of the main objectives of this programme is the progressive elimination of all existing discriminations against the migrants coming from third countries in living and working conditions, once they have been legally admitted to employment in the Community. To achieve this, the coordination of migration policies of Member States is urgently required.

Another objective of this programme is the granting of some civic and political rights to the migrants: it proposes that all migrants should have the right to participate in local elections, at

the latest by 1980, in accordance with conditions still to be defined.

The Commission will, *in the course of 1975 and 1976*, propose to the Council quite a number of new activities in the various fields concerning the migrant workers and their families (free movement and employment, social security, health, education and vocational training, social services, housing...). This action is now even more urgent, given the difficult economic circumstances of this present time. For this reason, the Commission feels it appropriate that the Community should endeavour to strengthen migrants' rights to equal treatment.

- A *memorandum* on measures to achieve *equality between men and women at work*. This memorandum is a comprehensive examination of the whole range of areas where action is needed in order to improve the status of women at work. It covers employment, vocational guidance and training, working conditions, social security and social services.

Some of the conclusions drawn will need a longer term strategy for their completion. But as an immediate step, the memorandum is accompanied by a draft directive aimed at eliminating any existing discrimination of women in the legislation in the Member States as regards access to employment and vocational training, promotion and working conditions.

1309. With regard to the *second objective* 'Improvement of living and working conditions so as to make possible their harmonization while the improvement is being maintained', the Commission has prepared—in accordance with the priorities laid down by the Council in its Resolution—the following activities:

- Appropriate *consultations between Member States on their social protection policies*.

The preparatory work has already been completed: a special working party of 18 highly qualified individual experts, nine of whom represent the

national Governments, is to assist the Commission in developing a common long-term perspective and a coherent framework for the diverse Community measures being prepared in the field of social protection. In this context, attention is drawn to the statement made at the Paris Summit Conference on 9 and 10 December 1974, where the Heads of Government have made it 'their objective to harmonize the degree of social security afforded by the various Member States, while maintaining progress but without requiring that the social systems obtained in all Member States should be identical.'

- An *initial programme on health and safety at work*.

The prevention of employment injuries and occupational diseases is another very important aspect of the 'quality of life'; the establishment of an initial programme on health and safety at work on the basis of and in collaboration with the Joint Committees and the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health set up by the Council decision of 10 June 1974, has been recognized therefore as a priority action. This programme will provide the basic framework for the preparation of specific activities to be carried out in stages.

- A programme of *pilot schemes* and studies to *combat poverty* in the Community.

The purpose of this limited programme of pilot schemes is to develop clearer perceptions as to the causes of poverty and to encourage Member States themselves to develop new techniques to overcome severe deprivation where it exists.

- Finally, a *memorandum on 'humanization at work'* is to be submitted to the Council during 1975.

In order to facilitate the preparation of this memorandum, the Commission organized a conference of experts on 'Work organization, technological development and motivation of the Individual' in Brussels over the period 5 to 7

November 1974. Further discussions with the representatives of both sides of industry are still to take place before the initial proposal will be drafted. The memorandum will try to indicate steps that should be taken in order to offer to the workers greater job satisfaction and increased involvement in decision-making, both in private enterprises and in the public sector.

1310. Although not included in the list of priority actions laid down in the Council Resolution, the Commission has communicated to the Council on 4 December 1974:

- the first *European Social Budget*.

The main purpose of this Social Budget is to give a greater knowledge of the present trends in the Member States up to the end of 1975 in the development of expenditures (and the financing of them) for several sectors of social policy, and especially social security. As the forecasts from 1973 to 1975 have been made on the assumption of existing legislation and on the basis of the economic forecasts made before the energy crisis, the Commission has proposed to the Council to update the data used in this first Social Budget by taking into account new legal measures taken in the meantime as well as the profound economic and social changes caused by the new circumstances; at the same time the Budget should be extended to the year 1976.

1311. The *Conference on future European Social Policy*, which was held in Brussels on 16 December 1974 and which was attended by the Ministers of Labour of the Member States of the Community, representatives of the Commission as well as those of workers' and employers' organizations, provided a new impetus towards the *third broad objective* of the Social Action Programme, namely to '*increase the involvement of management and labour in the economic and social decisions of the Community, and that of the workers in the operation of an enterprise*'.

- One important conclusion reached was the unanimous decision to *reactivate the Standing Committee on Employment* as soon as possible in order to discuss the very urgent problems still to be solved in the field of employment.

This Committee, in fact, has not been convoked for more than two years. A first meeting of the enlarged Standing Committee of Employment for the Community of the Nine took place during February 1975; it had an intensive exchange of views regarding two Commission proposals for actions in the field of employment: the action programme in favour of migrant workers and the intervention of the European Social Fund in favour of industries strongly affected by the economic crisis.

- At this Conference, moreover, both the employers' and the workers' representatives were encouraged to hold *joint sectoral meetings* so that they could coordinate their efforts in respect of problems arising in the various industrial branches.

The Commission, for its part, will shortly submit a communication to the Council concerning the convocation of such joint meetings particularly in those branches where the economic activity has declined.

1312. It is emphasized that the Commission considers that the guidelines laid down in the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 do not constitute a limit to the Community's activity in the social field and that the Commission always retains its right of initiative to make proposals as and when necessary. In the present situation, where serious employment problems affect certain regions, industries and categories of workers, it is proposed to use part of the resources available to the European Social Fund (Article 4) where the employment situation has been particularly affected by the present economic crisis. In the opinion of the Commission, this new measure should be sufficiently flexible to allow a

continual adaptation of the affected industries to the changing situations.

1313. By the beginning of 1975, the Commission had already formulated proposals to cover almost one half of the actions enumerated in the Social Action Programme. The renewed emphasis on social policy stressed at the latest Paris Summit Conference encouraged the Commission who will endeavour to elaborate concrete proposals for the majority of *actions still outstanding* during the course of 1975, with the aim of implementing the complete Social Action Programme before the end of 1976 and within the stipulated time-limit.

Those actions still to be covered include the fields of social security (extension of protection, 'dynamization' of social benefits), the employment problems of special groups of workers (young school-leavers, elderly persons), the social integration of the handicapped, incomes and asset formation, public health, housing as well as implementing proposals arising from the general programmes for migrant workers, for women at work, and for protection against radiation and of the environment.

1314. In 1974 the social problems reached such dimensions that it has become more than ever essential that all *Community policies* are directed to the achievement of the three main *social objectives* determined at the first Paris Summit Conference in 1972. The main targets of economic and monetary policy at national as well as Community level are therefore essentially the fight against inflation and rising unemployment. Furthermore, many social problems existing in the countries of the Community could be alleviated by a coordinated regional policy. The decisions of the Heads of Government at the latest Summit Conference to put the European Regional Development Fund into effect from 1 January 1975 were warmly welcomed by the Commission.

4. European University Institute

Social Report 1974

1315. The gradual and successful implementation of the Social Action Programme which is to continue throughout 1975 and 1976 is certainly a major step towards the establishment of a real *European Social Union*. Social problems evolve as a result of the ever-changing desires and demands of society, and it is necessary to consider the effects on the individual as well as on society as a whole when attempting to find solutions.

The Commission is already well aware that it is necessary to consider the important question of how the Community policy in the social field is to be developed after 1976. Initial reflections have already been made, further consultations are necessary. The Commission will submit to the other Community institutions the results of all these deliberations in good time in order to permit common discussions leading to decisions on the future European social policy.

Official installation

1401. The European University Institute officially came into being in practical terms on 20 March in Florence, with the first meeting of the High Council, the formal appointment of the Principal and the Secretary, and the designation of the first eight professors.

A long road

1402. The installation of the structures of the Institute is the climax of what is now a long story, since the idea of creating a European University was born at the Conference of Messina in June 1955.

It was the Heads of Government meeting first in Bonn on 18 July 1961 and then in The Hague on 1 and 2 December 1969 who took up the idea, declaring that they had decided, through a formal undertaking, to signal their participation in the intellectual life and financing of a European University Institute in Florence.

The problems involved in establishing such an institute for research and post-graduate studies, were resolved at the meeting on 16 November 1971 of the Council and the Conference of Member States' Education Ministers.¹ The Convention to set up the European University Institute in Florence, which the Ministers had agreed in principle at that meeting, was ready for formal signature, a few months later, on 19 April 1972² by the Member States' representatives.

But it was not until early in 1975 that the last necessary ratifications were made, since the three new Member States had meanwhile asked to join the Institute, so that, against the original estim-

¹ Bull. EC 12-1971, Part 1, Chapter III.

² Bull. EC 6-1972, Introductory Chapter.

ates, the Institute will be somewhat behind schedule when it opens to students and researchers.

Role and administration of the University Institute

1403. Since the Institute is a post-graduate establishment, work there will be centred on research teams and seminars. After two years study and having presented an original research project, students will be awarded the title of Doctor of the Institute of Florence in their selected field.

Four departments have been formed: History and Civilization, Economics, Law and Political and Social Sciences. Each department is at the moment headed by two permanent professors.

At its first meeting on 20 and 21 March, the High Council of the Institute, made up of representatives of the Governments of the Contracting States, officially appointed Mr Max Kohnstamm (Netherlands) Principal and Mr Marcello Buzzonetti (Italy) Secretary of the Institute. Both of them had in fact been nominated by the representatives of the Governments of the Contracting States in November 1973, but they could not be formally appointed until the Convention creating the Institute came into being.

Born in Amsterdam on 22 May 1914, Mr Max Kohnstamm was Director for European Affairs at the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which he joined in 1948. He took part in the negotiations which established the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC); in 1952, he was appointed Secretary of the ECSC High Authority; posts which he held for several years.

He was the first representative in London of the High Authority and from 1956 was the Secretary-General, and subsequently Vice-Chairman, of the Action Committee for the United States of

Europe created by Mr Jean Monnet. Since 1958, he had been President of the European Community Institute for University Studies, which studies all the social, economic and legal questions of European integration.

Mr Buzzonetti, before his appointment as Secretary, was a Head of Division in the Commission.

On 20 March, the provisional Academic Committee, which numbers two representatives from each contracting State, selected the first eight members of the teaching staff, the professors, of the Institute, for the four departments:

History and Civilization

- Mr Karl Dietrich Bracher, born 13 March 1932, Professor of Political Science and contemporary History at the University of Bonn.
- Mr Charles Wilson, Professor of Modern History at the University of Cambridge.

Economics

- Mr Louis Duquesne de la Vinelle, born 22 December 1922, Rector of the Catholic University Faculty of Mons, Professor of Economic Systems Theory at the Catholic University of Louvain.
- Mr Pierre Salmon, born 15 April 1938, Doyen of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Dijon.

Law

- Mr Geoffrey Joseph Hand, born 25 June 1931, Rector of the Faculty of Law at University College, Dublin, Professor of the History of Law, Constitutional Law and Comparative Constitutional Law.

5. European Council

European University Institute

- Mr Christopher Sasse, born 6 September 1930, Professor of European Community Law and International Organizations at the Universities of Giessen and Hamburg.

Political and Social Sciences

- Mr Jacques Georgel, Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Rennes.
- Mr Giovanni Sartori, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Institute of Political Studies at the University of Florence.

The High Council has set the date for the opening of courses in the autumn of 1976, the beginning of the next academic year.

First meeting in Dublin on 10 and 11 March 1975

1502. In accordance with the decision taken at their meeting in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974, the Heads of Government of the Community, accompanied by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs, met for the first time as the *European Council* in Dublin on 10 and 11 March.¹ The meeting was chaired by Mr Liam Cosgrave, the Taoiseach of Ireland. The Commission was represented by President Ortoli and Vice-President Haferkamp. The Secretary-General of the Council acted as Secretary for the meeting, assisted, in matters relating to political cooperation, by officials from the Irish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The meeting opened with a dinner offered by the President of Ireland, Mr Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh.² The Council proceedings took place in the St Patrick room in Dublin Castle, which had been completely redecorated in recent months. The meeting, which opened at 3.30 in the afternoon of 10 March, went on until after midnight, which enabled the Heads of Government to celebrate the 59th birthday of the British Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson. The proceedings wound up at about 9 o'clock in the evening of the following day. The working sessions went on at Head of Government and Foreign Minister level. At the request of the Heads of Government, several meetings of senior officials, chaired according to the issues dealt with by representatives of the Commission or the Irish Presidency, took place with the aim of preparing the decisions of the European Coun-

¹ Point 3 of the Communiqué, Bull. EC 12-1974, point 1104.

² Before his election as President of Ireland, Mr Ó Dálaigh had been a judge at the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

cil. Everyone much appreciated the welcome, the atmosphere in which this first meeting unfolded and the excellent amenities for the working sessions.

Statement by Mr Cosgrave

1502. At the close of the meeting, President *Cosgrave*, accompanied by Mr *FitzGerald*, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the Council, President *Ortoli* and Vice-President *Haferkamp* of the Commission, made the following statement:

'I must first say, on behalf of my colleagues, and myself, how sorry I am that we have kept you waiting. The issues before the meeting were complex. They certainly kept us occupied a great deal longer than we had originally anticipated. However, I think that the outcome justified the delay.

This was the first meeting of Heads of Government under the new arrangements agreed in Paris last December. A characteristic of these arrangements is that there should be no formal Communiqué after the meetings. Nevertheless, a number of issues before the present meeting are of such importance and such complexity that my colleagues and I found it necessary to incorporate decisions of the meeting in formal declarations or statements.

On the budgetary question¹ the Council agreed on the correcting mechanism outlined by the Commission in its Communication entitled "The unacceptable situation and the correcting mechanism" with the following modifications:

1. The criterion concerning the *balance of payments deficit*, and the *two-thirds ceiling* are dropped.

2. The following provisions will be incorporated into the agreed mechanism:

(i) The amount of the correcting mechanism shall be up to a ceiling of 250 million

u.a. However, as soon as the amount of the Community budget exceeds 8 000 million u.a., the ceiling shall be fixed at an amount representing 3% of total budget expenditure.

(ii) When a moving average drawn up over 3 years indicates that the balance of payments on current account of the country in question is in surplus, the correction shall only affect any difference between the amount of its VAT payments and the figure which would result from its relative share in the Community GNP.

A statement affecting British membership of the Community deals with the question of the review of the importation of quantities of New Zealand dairy products² to the Community, in accordance with Protocol 18 of the Accession Treaty. The Protocol permits of the importation, free of levy, of certain specified quantities of these products in the years up to and including 1977. Under the terms of the Protocol, these arrangements are to be reviewed before the end of 1975. Our meeting decided on certain guidelines to be given to the institutions of the Community in carrying out this review. You will note that the Commission's proposals on the subject are to be ready as soon as practicable and are to provide for special import arrangements as provided for in Article 5 of the Protocol after 1977. The proposals will provide for price reviews having regard to certain defined criteria. A copy of this declaration is available.

We also had a useful discussion on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which is currently taking place in Geneva. We have agreed on a statement on this subject the text of which is being distributed.³

The subject of energy and the price of energy occupied the attention of the meeting for a considerable time today. It was agreed that

¹ Points 1102 to 1103.

² Point 1104.

³ Point 2347.

under the authority of the Council (Foreign Affairs) a special high level *ad hoc* Committee composed of representatives of the Member States and of the Commission should be established so as to coordinate the approach to this problem in the interests both of consumers and producers, and of economic stability in the entire world. The first meeting of this Committee is being arranged for 19 March. The Heads of Government have incorporated their views on this also in a declaration of which copies are also available.

We also discussed the world economic situation with particular reference to the problems of unemployment and inflation following the steep increase in oil and other raw material prices. There was general agreement that this issue and the views of Heads of Government on it, should be referred to the meeting of Council of Ministers of the Community (Finance) to be held on 18 March.

On raw materials, there was an extremely useful discussion. It was decided that this matter, which was coming before the Heads of Government for the first time, should be referred to the Council of Foreign Ministers on the basis of the proposals put before the Council by the Commission.

On Cyprus,¹ the Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers, recalling the statement issued by the Foreign Ministers following their meeting in Dublin on 13 February, expressed the hope that in the context of the discussions currently being held at the United Nations in New York, there will be an early resumption of negotiations on the question of Cyprus. The Nine will of course continue to keep in close touch with developments as regards the situation in Cyprus.

In conclusion I should like to say how gratifying it has been for me, to have had the opportunity to preside over this Heads of Government meeting which in addition to dealing successfully with the other items on the agenda, has brought to a

conclusion the prolonged discussion of the issues raised by the question of British membership—a conclusion which we naturally hope that the British Cabinet will feel it can recommend to the British people at the forthcoming referendum.²

Mr FitzGerald and Mr Ortoli at the European Parliament

1503. The Presidents of the Council and the Commission immediately went to Strasbourg, where the European Parliament was holding its part-session. Mr FitzGerald, the President of the Council reported to the House on the results of the first meeting of the European Council.²

The President of the Commission, Mr Ortoli then described what he felt to be the role of the European Council, namely to discuss, at the highest level, the major issues of Community concern. This was what happened in Dublin, where the subject matter and the way it was treated had unquestionably been in accordance with what was to be expected of such a meeting.

Mr Ortoli went on to emphasize that the European Council should not turn into an appeal or arbitration authority, and it had avoided precisely this pitfall in Dublin. The political problems arising there were to be solved at the level where they had in fact been solved, which, he added, did not preclude the utmost vigilance for the future.

Mr Ortoli then affirmed that the role of the Commission had been respected in its entirety. The Commission was taking an active part in all the proceedings, in both its legal and policy-making role. It had thus played its full part in the whole process which had culminated

¹ Point 2336.

² Point 2403.

in the European Council's conclusions on the issue of the United Kingdom's membership of the Community.

Lastly, Mr Ortolí declared that the results of the first meeting of the European Council were a move in the direction desired by the Commission, and here he stressed the *savoir-faire* of the Presidency and the efficiency of the organizations behind the meeting, in which the Council Secretariat and the Community interpreters had played their part.

The Commission's appraisal

1504. After the meeting of the European Council, the Commission laid special emphasis on the importance of the discussions in Dublin concerning the United Kingdom's difficulties. On the strength of Commission Proposals, agreement was reached on the budgetary correcting mechanism and imports from New Zealand, with minimal changes in each case.

The agreements which wind up the discussion of the United Kingdom's requests, are of an exceptional political significance which transcends by far the technical nature of the issues.

It is highly significant that the decision was made at the level of Heads of Government, thus testifying to their personal commitment to keep the United Kingdom in the Community.

The Commission also noted that the meeting of Heads of Government had passed off just like a meeting of the Council, respecting both the letter and the spirit of the Treaties.

The discussions opened on the basis of Commission Communications or Proposals, and the Commission representatives, President Ortolí and Vice-President Haferkamp, were able to play their part to the full in respect of policy momentum and the practical substantiation of Commission Proposals.

Finally, the Commission found that the Heads of Government had given fresh impetus to the study of several major projects in the Community institutions (especially the preparation of the future Conference on energy, and the policy on raw materials) and that their Directives on the subject had been strictly in accordance with Community procedure.

The Commission's appraisal of the Dublin meeting is substantially positive, both as regards its outcome and its respect for Community rules.



2ND PART
ACTIVITIES
IN MARCH 1975

1. Functioning of the common market

Customs union

Common Customs Tariff

Classification

2101. On 3 March,¹ the Commission adopted a Regulation detailing the criteria to be met by *lard* and other pig fat, containing small quantities of other fats, in order to be classified under subheading 15.01 A of the CCT.

Nomenclature

2102. On 4 March,² the Council amended its Regulation of 28 June 1968³ relating to the CCT and concerning the exchange rate to be applied in respect of the tariff classification of certain cheeses. The new Regulation stipulates that the exchange rate to be applied in converting the unit of account referred to in CCT heading 04.04 into national currencies is the representative rate used under the common agricultural policy. This derogatory measure was taken to avoid the risk of distorting trade and a disparate classification of the products concerned in the Member States.

Tariff quotas

2103. Acting on a Commission Proposal, the Council on 3 March⁴ adopted a Regulation increasing the volume of Community tariff quotas opened, in respect of 1975, for certain *textile* products (CCT headings 55.05, 55.09 and ex 58.01 A of the CCT), coming from *Turkey*. The volume increases are intended to assure Turkey a no less favourable treatment than that granted to countries enjoying generalized tariff preferences, for whom the Council raised by 5%, for 1975, the volume of preferences stipulated in 1974 in respect of the same products.

Customs value and taxes of equivalent effect to customs duties

2104. On 24 March,⁵ the Commission amended its Regulation of 27 February 1969⁶ on the declaration of particulars relating to the value of goods for customs purposes. The amendment is intended to streamline the customs formalities required in international trade, by raising the limit value below which the Member States may not insist on the declaration of all or some of the particulars relating to customs value. Again for the sake of simplification, this limit *value* will from 1 July 1975 onwards be expressed in *national currency*.

Origin of goods and methods of administrative cooperation

2105. On 12 March,⁷ the Commission adopted a Regulation on the documentary evidence to be presented for the importation of raw or unmanufactured flue-cured Virginia type tobacco, originating in the developing countries. The new provisions adopted will open the preferential arrangements to certain *tobaccos placed in Community bonded warehouses* before the quotas have been opened for those products and for which a certificate of origin has not been established.

2106. Acting on a Commission Proposal, the Council on 18 March⁸ adopted a Regulation declaring temporarily applicable in the Community until the EEC-ACP Convention comes

¹ OJ L60 of 6.3.1975.

² OJ L72 of 20.3.1975.

³ OJ L172 of 22.7.1968.

⁴ OJ L61 of 7.3.1975.

⁵ OJ L76 of 25.3.1975.

⁶ OJ L52 of 3.3.1969.

⁷ OJ L66 of 13.3.1975.

⁸ OJ L84 of 4.4.1975.

into force or until at the latest 31 December 1975, a Decision of the EEC-AASM Association Council concerning derogation from the definition of the term 'products originating'. This is intended to allow for the special situation of Mauritius with regard to certain products of the textile industry. But under a Decision taken by the Commission on 19 March,¹ France has been authorized to exempt from this Regulation any textile products imported from the department of Réunion.

Customs arrangements based on economic considerations

2107. On 18 March 1975,² the Council adopted a Decision on concluding an *International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures* and accepting the Annex thereto concerning customs warehouses. The Convention, which can effectively help the development of international trade, was negotiated within the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC). The Community obtained the inclusion of a clause enabling it to become a contracting party to the Convention.

Internal common market

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical barriers to trade

Foodstuffs

2108. On 5 March the Commission proposed to the Council that an Advisory Committee on Foodstuffs be formed, which could advise the Commission on any problems concerning the harmonization of laws relating to foodstuffs.

The Committee, which would consist of twenty-eight members, would represent industry, the consumers, agriculture, commerce and workers. Its job would be to collate systematically the views of the occupational community, which would constitute an advance on the Commission's former procedure of bringing the trade and consumers together by asking for their views in writing. The creation of an Advisory Committee, recommended by the Economic and Social Committee, will serve to link the business community and consumers more closely with the work of the Commission, enhance the value of mutual discussion and enable the work of harmonizing laws to be speeded up.

*

2109. On 14 March, the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion on the Commission's Proposals to the Council concerning the removal of technical barriers to trade, particularly concerning the approximation of Member States' laws relating to motor vehicles and certain appliances.

Competition policy

Competition policy report

2110. On 17 March the Commission approved the Fourth Report on Competition Policy, annexed to the Eighth General Report on the Activities of the Communities.

¹ OJ L 96 of 17.4.1975.

² OJ L 100 of 21.4.1975.

**Restrictive agreements,
mergers and dominant positions:
specific cases**

Removal of immunity against fines

2111. In relation to a trademark agreement notified in 1973, the Commission issued a Decision on 5 March 1975 informing the undertakings in question that after a provisional review it considered that the application terms of Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty were fulfilled and that application of Article 85(3) was not justified. This Decision, which was taken pursuant to Article 15(6) of Regulation 17/62/EEC, has the effect of removing the interim protection from fines afforded by Article 15(5) of the Regulation and of terminating any provisional validity which the agreement may have enjoyed. The agreement in question concerns similar, but not identical, trademarks for knitting-wools and obliges each party to refrain from marketing its yarns under its own trademark in the Member State of the other party.

*Termination of a standard form
of agreement for the protection
of designs and models*

2112. Following representations by the Commission, a standard form of agreement drawn up by the Stichting Instituut voor Industriële Vormgeving (an Amsterdam industrial design institute), has been terminated by the thirty Dutch firms party to it.

This was an agreement between competing firms relating to a number of products—such as furniture, lighting equipment, tableware, heaters—which could be protected by registered designs. Under the terms of the agreement an office was to be set up where each of the firms concerned could register its designs and

models. The parties undertook not to manufacture, sell or import products similar to the designs and models they had registered with the Institute.

Some of the agreement's provisions clearly constituted market-sharing as they protected products which would not normally be protected under Dutch law, and were therefore inconsistent with the aim of economic integration as laid down in the EEC Treaty. The agreement also extended the protection of registered designs for products which were legally protected to cover cases which would have constituted hidden restrictions on trade between Member States and thus distorted the free play of competition within the common market.

*Withdrawal of an action to quash
a Commission Decision*

2113. The Dutch company BV Van Olffen has withdrawn its action in the European Court of Justice (filed on 11 October 1974) to quash the Commission Decision in the Advocaat Zwarte Kip Case (taken on 24 July 1974). This Decision¹ had found against an agreement sharing out the Benelux market for the liqueur sold under this mark.

The Commission Decision, which has become final now that Van Olffen has withdrawn its action, applies the rule that the restrictive use of trademark rights is caught by Article 85, when it is the object, means or effect of an agreement.

Mergers in the steel industry

2114. The Commission has adopted a Decision under Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty authorizing the *Compagnie Lorraine Industrielle*

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1974, point 2130.

et Financière (CLIF) to acquire control of *Marine Firminy SA*.

Under the terms of the agreement between CLIF (which at present holds 19.4% of *Marine's* registered capital) and Schneider (which holds 32%) CLIF is to transfer all its assets to *Marine*. This would mean that CLIF, with more than 50%, would have sole control of the new CLIF-*Marine* holding company, whereas Schneider's holding would be reduced to about 15%.

By the same Decision, the Commission has revoked the interim measures taken against Schneider and *Marine* on 5 April 1974 and against CLIF on 21 December 1974. A further Commission Decision has revoked the interim measures taken on 21 December 1974 against Denain Nord-Est Longwy.

The CLIF-*Marine* merger was authorized for the following reasons: CLIF and *Marine* already jointly control the Sacilor Group, which accounts for most of their steel production. *Marine* and Schneider jointly control Creusot-Loire which has a majority holding in Framatome, the largest French manufacturer of nuclear power stations.

The only effects on competition will be those arising from the combination of companies controlled by CLIF and *Marine*, whether separately, together or with third parties.

The companies controlled by CLIF produce hardly any steel; they are rollers—particularly of sheet and tinplate. The companies in the *Marine* Group produce special steel at the Creusot-Loire plants, and heavy and light plate at the Dillingen plants. The CLIF/*Marine* transaction will therefore bring together complementary production lines, which for the most part do not compete with one another but will help to give the Lorraine steel industry a more balanced structure.

To maintain effective competition on the oligopolistic steel market, the Commission, having satisfied itself that the conditions of Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty had been met, authorized the transaction on the following conditions:

- Schneider must dispose of its holdings in excess of 10% in the new CLIF/*Marine* holding company by 31 December 1976.
- Apart from joint CLIF/Schneider control of Creusot-Loire, no representative of either group may carry out similar duties in companies belonging to the other group.
- No director of the CLIF/*Marine* Group may hold a similar post in any other steel firm.
- No director of any other steel firm may hold a management position in the CLIF/*Marine* Group.
- Prior Commission authorization must be obtained before the CLIF/*Marine* Group can acquire holdings in excess of 10% in firms involved in the production, distribution or large scale consumption of steel.

While authorizing the CLIF/*Marine* merger, the Commission reserved its position on any resulting concentration in industries other than the steel industry, notably in the metal containers industry. The CLIF/*Marine* Group intends to propose certain reorganization measures which will guarantee effective competition on the French market.

2115. The Commission has also authorized, under Article 66, *Marine/Firminy*, Paris (*Marine*) to acquire a majority shareholding in AG der Dillinger Hüttenwerke (*Dillingen*), a Saar company.

Marine and Saint Gobain/Pont à Mousson (SGPM), who jointly control a number of firms, have decided to exchange the shares SGPM holds in Dillingen for those held by *Marine* in Davum, Trefilunion, Acières de Micheville and ACTU-

MA in order to simplify their financial structures. This transaction will give Marine sole control of Dillingen and, as a result of the current reorganization of the Marine Group, allow Dillingen to be integrated into the Lorraine steel industry, with which it has always had close industrial links.

2116. Also under Article 66, the Commission has authorized *Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd.*, Smethwick (GKN) to acquire exclusive ownership of *W. Brealey & Co. Ltd.*, Rotherham (Brealey). Brealey is a small scale producer of drawn products (an EEC product) manufactured from wire rod (an ECSC product). GKN is a British engineering and steel group which manufactures a range of rolled steel products including wire rod.

State aid

Aid to particular industries

Italy: textiles

2117. The Commission decided on 7 March 1975 to terminate the procedure initiated under Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty against the Italian Outline Law (No 1101) of 1 December 1971 on the reorganization and modernization of the textile industry.

The law contained provisions (in particular those relating to relief from tax and social security contributions) which were incompatible with the Treaty. Consequently, the Commission has had to take three decisions on the basis of Article 93, one in 1970¹ in connection with the draft law, and again in 1972² and 1973³ on the provisions mentioned above.

The Court of Justice in its judgment of 2 July 1974 rejected the Italian Government's appeal

against the third of these decisions, by which the Commission asked the Italian authorities to revoke a measure reducing the social security contributions which textiles firms would normally have to pay.

The law has since been gradually amended in accordance with the Commission decisions. As a result the Commission, after a re-examination of the amended law has decided that it is compatible with the Treaty, since it constitutes an exemption under Article 92(3(c)).

State monopolies of a commercial character

Italy

Manufactured tobacco

2118. The improvement in the payment of bills for supplies from other Member States by the Italian manufactured tobacco monopoly⁴ has been maintained. Most of the Community manufacturers who export tobacco to Italy have informed the Commission that the time taken by the monopoly to settle bills has once again reached an acceptable level following the Commission's action.⁵

¹ Bull. EC 8-1970, Part 2, point 17.

² Bull. EC 9-1972, Part 2, point 23, and 12-1972, point 20.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2114.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2110.

⁵ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2131.

2. Economic and monetary union

Economic, monetary and financial policy

European unit of account

2201. During its meeting in Brussels on 18 March, chaired by Mr Ryan, Ireland's Finance Minister, the Council, acting on a Commission Recommendation, agreed a Decision on defining and converting the unit of account to be used under the Lomé Convention.

The Decision follows on a declaration adopted by the Community, in the context of Article 42 of the Convention signed in Lomé on 28 February 1975 between the Community and 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries,¹ to the effect that the Community would adopt a definition of the European unit of account to be used in expressing all aid mentioned in the Convention, before the latter comes into force.

As a result of recent developments in the monetary system, where gold-based parities have been dropped in favour of central rates, which in turn have given way to floating, it was no longer feasible to go on defining the unit of account in terms of a parity grid, as was done for previous European Development Funds. For lack of any reference to a stable *numéraire*, the unit therefore had to be tied to a currency or the average value of a group of currencies. As the IMF has solved the problem of calculating the special drawing rights (SDRs) by using a 'currency basket', it was clear that a similar solution, based solely on European currencies, would be very well tailored to the needs of certain Community activities and in particular to the European Development Fund. The unit's advantage is that it represents the average value of changes in the Community currencies and therefore reflects their average performance.

The Council's Decision provides for a 'basket' unit of account equal in value to the sum of

various amounts in national currencies. These fixed amounts have been computed by means of coefficients weighted according to the GNP and volume of European trade of each Member State (e.g., 27.3% for the DM, 17.5% for £ sterling, 19.5% for the French franc and 14% for the lira). The value of the unit of account in any currency is equal to the sum of the equivalent value, in that currency, of the nine amounts of national currency. It will be calculated by the Commission on the basis of daily market rates.

Commission statement

2202. At the close of the Council meeting of 18 March 1975, President Ortoli welcomed the fact that financial relations between Europe and the countries associated with it called for a European unit of account. Certainly this was only a first step towards European monetary integration, but it was a step forward.

Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, said that after this Council meeting it was understood that the European unit of account would be the pivot of financial relations between Europe and the 46 associated ACP countries.

The Board of Governors of the EIB had adopted the same unit for the Bank's transactions.²

The choice made by the Ministers met a manifest need, and European integration in fact meant ensuring that manifest needs led to political

¹ Bull. EC 1-1975, point 1101.

² The Board of Governors of the European Investment Bank (EIB) meeting in Brussels on 18 March decided that pending application of a new definition and new conversion method for the Bank's unit of account, the conversion rates for national currencies proposed by the Commission for the new unit to be used under the Lomé Convention, should be used to convert Member States' national currencies into the Bank's unit and vice versa. This unit will, in particular, be used in drawing up the Bank's annual balance sheet.

choices being made. This stride in defining a European monetary personality could only be applauded.

Adjustment of the 1975 economic policy guidelines

2203. As provided under the Decision of 18 February, the Council, at the same meeting, made its first quarterly review of the economic situation in the Community on the basis of various Commission documents and an Opinion from the Economic Policy Committee. Subject to a provisional reservation by the United Kingdom Delegation, the Council agreed the text of a Decision embodying the guidelines proposed by the Commission for drawing up Member States' economic policies in 1975.

These guidelines had been the subject of a Commission Communication to the Council early in March on adapting the economic policy guidelines, adopted by the Council on 24 October 1974,¹ to allow for the new economic situation. As provided under Articles 2 and 12 of the Decision of 18 February 1974, the Commission had also forwarded an 'assessment of the economic policies pursued in 1974' together with a report on the application of this Decision and on the conformity of policies pursued with the objectives set.

In the Communication and the proposed Decision with it, the Commission set out the following as major problems of economic policy which the Community will have to solve in 1975: reabsorption of the unemployed, the battle against inflation, restoration of sound payment balances and the steady elimination of disparities endangering the cohesion of the Community. On the last point the Commission stressed the need for short-term economic policies to complement each other; this responsibility is shared by the member countries in deficit and

those in surplus, since the Community has considerable, but none the less limited room for manoeuvre. The Commission is aware that no such action will yield lasting results unless backed by structural changes.

Regarding the economic policy guidelines for the months ahead, three groups of countries emerge: (i) those with heavy deficits (United Kingdom, Italy and in some respects Ireland), who will have to pursue a globally restrictive short-term policy and accept a slower rise in the standard of living; (ii) those with a substantial balance-of-payments surplus (Germany and the Netherlands), who will have to attend to the results of measures already adopted to restimulate activity; (iii) other countries, in an intermediate position, where the general economic policy may proceed with caution.

All Member States must give selective support to investment and pursue active policies on employment and safeguarding incomes. At Community level, application of all existing instruments of financial cooperation would eliminate the danger of aggressive export and protectionist import measures.

European Monetary Cooperation Fund

2204. On 18 March, the Council discussed for the first time the proposed Council Regulation of 3 April 1973 to set up a European Monetary Cooperation Fund, a Proposal which the Commission had transmitted on 12 December 1974.² Having received relevant Opinions from the European Parliament, the Monetary Committee and the Central Bank's Governors Committee, the Council agreed at the end of the debate to review this question again at a later meeting.

¹ Bull. EC 10-1974, point 2201.

² Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2202.

Abolition of Italian import restrictions

2205. On 24 March 1975 the Italian Government terminated the protective measures adopted in May 1974 in the form of an import deposit scheme for certain goods.¹

The text of the Commission's official Communiqué reads as follows:

'The Commission appreciates the efforts made by the Italian Government which have enabled it to cope with an exceptional situation, and welcomes warmly the decision which has just been adopted by the Italian authorities to discontinue the import deposit scheme, the introduction of which had been authorized by the Commission in a Decision of 8 May 1974.

The protective measures adopted by Italy under this Decision, based on Article 108(3) of the EEC Treaty, were designed mainly to get the Italian balance of payments back on to a sound footing and, combined with national measures, to re-establish a sound economic situation. In the Decision, the Commission had stressed that the authorization was not permanent and that the economic circumstances which had led to it must be carefully monitored.

Since the introduction of the deposit requirement, the Commission, working with the Italian authorities, has kept under close review the balance-of-payments and economic situations in this Member State. This entailed adaptations of the 8 May Decision and in decisions taken in July and October (*inter alia*), the Commission excluded almost all agricultural items from the scope of the requirement.

A Council Decision of 17 December 1974 to grant medium-term financial assistance to the Italian Republic afforded an additional contribution towards restoring the Italian balance of payments and a return to the orderly working of the common market.

Now that Italy has at its disposal appropriate instruments and resources enabling it to cope with the difficulties which had led to an appreciable disequilibrium in its balance of payments, it was natural that, in agreement with the Commission, it should discontinue the protective measures adopted under the Decision of 8 May.'

Monetary Committee

2206. The Monetary Committee held its 202nd meeting in Paris on 4 March 1975 with Mr Ortoli in the chair. The problem of the unit of account was studied with the help of the deputies' report and a simulation exercise prepared by the Commission departments. The Committee adopted a report on the subject to the Council and Commission, explaining the alternatives and preparing the decisions to be adopted in this area. The procedure for implementing the Zeist Agreement on gold transactions by the central banks was also briefly discussed. The Committee adopted an opinion on the conversion rates for the currencies of Member States in agriculture.

Working Party on Securities Markets

2207. The Working Party on Securities Markets met in Brussels on 5 and 6 March 1975 chaired by Mr D'Haese. It continued to study methods to protect owners of fixed income securities against inflation, and the possible effect of such adopted measures on capital movements within the Community. As part of its regular study of capital markets and market trends, the Group reviewed the final quarter of 1974 and noted an improvement in most markets which had spread by the beginning of 1975.

¹ Bull. EC 5-1974, point 1101, and Bull. EC 6-1974, point 1401.

Economic Policy Committee

2208. The Economic Policy Committee held its 14th meeting in Brussels on 12 March 1975 with Mr Tietmeyer, Vice-Chairman, in the chair. The Commission Communication to the Council on Economic Policy Guidelines for 1975 was studied in detail and an opinion approved which supported the Commission's guidelines for each Member State and recognized the need to combat inflation and unemployment and improve the balance of payments situation.

Experts Group on Public Finance

2209. The Group of Experts on Public Finance which the Committee set up at its first meeting, met for the first time in Brussels on 10 March 1975.

Mr O'Horgain was elected Chairman and the Group made a start on its assignment. The scope for a prompt information procedure on decisions of budgetary policy and concerning the execution of budgets was discussed. The experts agreed on a method of analysis for instruments of budgetary policy.

Study Group on Inflation Problems

2210. The Study Group on Inflation Problems held its third meeting in Brussels on 21 and 22 March. Inflation as encountered by the various Member States was discussed and the Group then agreed the plan of the preliminary report which it intends to submit towards mid-1975.

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2211. On 13 March, the *European Parliament* adopted a 'resolution on the economic situation in the Community'.¹

Regional policy

Mounting the Community regional policy

2212. At its meeting of 18 March, the Council formally adopted the basic texts (Regulations and Decisions) enabling the Community regional policy to be implemented.² The Council meeting of 3 and 4 March³ had already seen agreement on the texts but their final adoption was contingent on the Opinion of the European Parliament, which was forthcoming on 12 March.⁴

Social policy

'Social Report' 1974

2213. In March the Commission forwarded to the European Parliament 'The Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the Community in 1974 (Addendum to the Eighth General Report on the Activities of the Communities in accordance with Article 122 of the Treaty of Rome)'.

Each year the Report describes what has been accomplished and this edition presents the Social Action Programme for 1974-1976.⁵

Free movement of and social security for migrant workers

2214. The 141th meeting of the *Administrative Committee* on Social Security for Migrant

¹ Point 2411.

² Points 1201 to 1208 and 2451 to 2453.

³ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2206.

⁴ Point 2404.

⁵ Points 1301 to 1315.

Workers saw a discussion on social security, on 13 March, which centred on two studies by the International Labour Organization.

In its Resolution of 21 January 1974,¹ the Council had expressed its resolve to adopt, for an initial period from 1974 to 1976, the necessary measures to enhance the coordination of social security schemes for self-employed workers as part of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to offer services.

The initial discussions on 13 March focused on the legal character of the coordination instrument and its range of application.

2215. The *Advisory Committee* on Social Security for Migrant Workers met for the second time on 14 March. After adopting its working rules, the Committee got down to a discussion on the design and presentation of guidebooks for migrant workers and then reviewed a number of proposals for future assignments and how to handle them.

Social Fund, re-employment and retraining

2216. On 19 March, the European *Social Fund* Committee held a full meeting to vet the first batch of applications for Fund aid in 1975, on which the Commission will eventually rule. The Committee also heard a report from Mr Agnew, the Director-General of the Irish Industrial Training Authority (ANCO) on the structure of vocational training in Ireland. Lastly, a favourable opinion was given on a proposed pilot project there.

2217. In applying Article 56(2) of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission decided in March to contribute up to £62 000 in the United Kingdom to the cost of *retraining* 180 workers hit by the closure of a steelworks. The British Govern-

ment will also contribute an equal sum to meet this expenditure.

Vocational training and guidance

2218. Together with CEPFAR and the Groupement des coopératives d'épargne et de crédit coopératif, the Commission ran an introductory meeting in Brussels on 4 and 5 March in connection with a three-month training period in various Community countries for thirteen young employees and nine course instructors in the sector of the Caisses d'épargne et de crédit coopératif of the EEC. The training has been organized as part of an initial programme of young-employee exchanges. This is the first occasion since the programme started that training has been prepared for youngsters in this sector.

2219. Commission departments made contact with the Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildungsforschung (Federal Institute for Occupational Training Research) in West Berlin with the aim of collaborating on matters to do with mounting a common vocational training policy.

Social security and social action

2220. On 10 and 11 March, the Commission called in directors of the Community's national associations of qualified welfare workers to review Community activities requiring collaboration on the part of welfare workers, in particular the action programme for migrant workers and the pilot projects to combat poverty.

The associations have formed a Liaison Committee for Community Welfare Workers whose main aims are to study all matters relating to welfare work in the Community, to represent the

¹ OJ C13 of 12.2.1974.

welfare workers in relations with the Community institutions and to take a special interest in the free movement of welfare workers within the Community.

Living and working conditions

2221. Under the second tranche of the seventh programme of aid to finance *low-cost* housing for the personnel of mining and iron and steel industries, the Commission approved the following building projects: Denmark (iron and steel): 9 dwellings for Dkr 360000; France (iron and steel): 1506 dwellings for FF 3410000; Germany (iron and steel): 523 dwellings for DM 5265000 (collieries, as part of a pilot project for migrant workers): 160 dwellings for DM 2379000; France (iron and steel, again as part of a pilot project for migrant workers): 85 dwellings for FF 3610000.

Industrial and occupational relations

2222. On 12 March, the Working Party on the Social Action Programme attached to the Joint Committee on harmonizing living conditions in the *coal industry* held its first meeting in Brussels. After a preliminary discussion, the delegates of the various organizations unanimously agreed on the priority items to be considered.

Health protection

2223. In Luxembourg, on 3 March, a set of projects concerning the campaign against *pollution in the steel industry* was laid before the Research Committee of the ECSC Consultative Committee. Four of them were adopted; the Commission will take a decision. Three concern the treatment of residual water and waste in

the steel industry; the fourth deals with dust sampling in the environment of industrial sites. The projects also received the favourable opinion of the Producers and Workers sub-Committee which met in Luxembourg on 13 and 14 March.

2224. The Select Committee and the *Mines Safety and Health Commission* met on 19 and 20 March 1975, chaired by Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission. They took note of the results of the investigation into the disaster at Lens-Liévin on 27 December, in which forty-two miners lost their lives, and then began to study the problems arising. They also analysed the implementing of the Council Decisions of 27 June 1974 on extending the authority of the Safety and Health Commission to all the extracting industries and decided in principle to form two Working Parties on 'Oil and Gas' and 'Transport'.

The Working Party on Electricity met on 5 and 6 March to finalize adaptation to the conditions of gassy mines of the Directive on the design of electrical apparatus for use in explosive atmospheres.

Environment and consumer protection

Environment

Action taken after the second meeting of Environment Ministers

2225. At its meeting of 3-4 March, the Council formally adopted several texts agreed by the Environment Ministers when they met for the second time on 7 November 1974.¹

¹ Bull. EC 11-1974, points 1201 to 1206.

These include the Resolution on energy and the environment, a Recommendation on the charging of costs and action by the public authorities in connection with the environment, and lastly two Decisions relating to the Paris Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources (pollution of the seas by the discharge of dangerous substances from the land). Since the Convention is open until 30 June 1975 for signature by the States attending the Paris Conference and by the Community, the Resolution passed by the Council calls on the Member States party to the Convention to sign it by 31 May 1975 (if they have not already done so), as the Community will subsequently have only one month in which to sign.

European inventory of sources of information on the environment

2226. On 6 March, the Commission laid a Proposal before the Council to introduce a common procedure for making and updating a European inventory of sources of information on the environment.

The Proposal fits in with the Community action programme on the environment, which provides for a permanent inventory; this would be a European contribution to the International Reference System planned as part of the United Nations programme for the environment, or to other similar international schemes.

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2227. During the part-session of 10 to 14 March, the *European Parliament* adopted several Resolutions and Opinions on the environment, with special reference to protecting the Mediterranean Sea, the preservation of international waterways from pollution, and air pollution from sulphur compounds.¹

Agricultural policy

The agrico-monetary measures adopted in line with the price decisions

2228. Farm prices are set in common units of value, i.e., the units of account. Originally these units were converted through rates which corresponded with the parity of currencies under the Bretton-Woods Agreement.

After the system had been set up, the first devaluations and revaluations occurred in 1969. The adjustments to common farm prices expressed in national currencies, which should have derived automatically from the definition of new parities, understandably posed problems. They were eventually made, albeit belatedly; meanwhile prices remained above or below their common level and *monetary compensatory amounts* were brought in to offset the discrepancies.

The unicity of the market, re-established with considerable difficulty, has again been disrupted by monetary developments since 1971, the end of the Bretton-Woods system and the floating of currencies. Since 1971, the currency conversion rates used under the CAP and the market exchange rates have steadily diverged. This has created a disparity between the price levels actually guaranteed in the various Member States and entailed virtually overall application of the monetary compensatory amounts scheme.

But the Community has been making efforts to restore the single nature of the market. The main resource was to replace the conversion rates linked to the parities declared under the Bretton-Woods Agreements by representative rates more in line with actual conditions on the exchange markets.

¹ Points 2414 to 2416.

This is feasible because the economic conditions themselves tend to restore equilibrium: all in all, the overall increase in prices is not so heavy in countries which have revalued and more pronounced in those which have devalued. It is thus possible to restore the single nature of the market and avoid the disparate development of agricultural incomes in the Community.

The attack focused initially on the devalued currencies: a representative rate was first of all set for the British and Irish pounds and the Danish krone, when the CAP was applied in those new Member States. A rate was then set for the lira and guilder. The new shift in the Council's Decision of February 1975¹ was to set representative rates for all the Member States' currencies more in line with economic reality.

This was a major stride towards restoring the single nature of the market, which, moreover,

followed the basic principles of free movement, since monetary compensatory amounts, though recognized as lawful by the Court of Justice so as to avoid diversions of trade and distortion of competition, could not be used to actually create such distortion, which would inevitably occur if they were not adjusted.

The economic impact of adjusting the representative rates, thus reducing the monetary compensatory amounts, emerged as various increases in the common farm prices expressed in national currency, while the common prices set in units of account remain the same throughout the Community. But taken as a whole, the variations tally closely with the disparate development of prices and production costs in the Member States (see Table 1).

¹ OJ L52 of 28.2.1975.

Table 1

	New representative rate	% Devaluation (-) or revaluation (+)
	1 u.a. =	
Germany (FR)	3.57873 DM	+ 2.27
BLEU	49.64 Bfrs/Lfrs	+ 0.725
Denmark	7.57831 Dkr	0
France	5.63317 FF	- 1.40
Ireland	0.537198£	- 4.46
Italy	857 Lit	- 2.80
Netherlands	3.41874 Fl	+ 0.725
United Kingdom	0.509741£	- 2.17

Besides reducing the monetary compensatory amounts by setting representative rates, the Council also stipulated a cut of 1.25% in the amounts for States with depreciated currencies, who are in fact those States with floating currencies. For the States within the 'snake', the maximum difference between two currencies at any given time may run to 2.25%. For those States whose currency is floating 'independently', the difference taken as the basis for reckoning monetary compensatory amounts is determined in relation to the arithmetical average of the currencies in the 'snake'. The cut of 1.25% means that in respect of the floating currencies the margin of fluctuation without compensation has been widened, thus making the system more flexible.

The practical outcome of the Council's action in respect of compensatory amounts is illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2

	Reduction in points of the percentage as a result of the discussions	Percentage taken in reckoning monetary compensatory amounts on 3 March 1975
Germany (FR)	2.0	10.0
Benelux	0.7	2.0
France	2.75	4.2
Ireland	6.25	6.9
Italy	4.25	2.2
United Kingdom	3.75	12.7

Application of these measures was put in hand by the Commission.¹

The new representative rates took effect on 3 March 1975, i.e., the same date for all the operations under the CAP. The action required was taken to avoid a drop in the amounts expressed in national currency and affecting the producers. So for products covered by common organization of the markets, actual application of the new rates as far as their impact on prices is concerned, has been deferred by means of coefficients up to the opening date of the marketing year for each product.²

As regards structural policy, to avoid any reduction of amounts expressed in national currency, the amounts set in units of account have been raised by 2.27% for all Member States, thus ensuring uniform amounts throughout the Community.

Lastly, certain specific measures were taken. Since the market price for beef and veal is below the intervention level, the Council, under the Management Committee procedure, allowed the Commission scope to adjust, i.e., to reduce the monetary compensatory amounts which have hitherto been computed on the basis of the intervention prices. The Commission has not yet taken advantage of this.

For certain products it was possible to do away with monetary compensatory amounts.³ Their application was justified solely to avoid disruptions in the farm product trade. Conditions in the wine sector enabled the amounts to be discontinued, except for Germany. For processed products outside Annex II of the EEC Treaty, i.e., mostly twice-processed products, revision of the list of items subject to compensatory

¹ OJ L57 of 3.3.1975.

² Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2225, Table 1, last column.

³ OJ L71 of 20.3.1975.

amounts resulted in the elimination of all products which could apparently bear the impact of monetary compensatory amounts on the value of the finished article.

Stocktaking of the CAP

2229. During its meeting of 4 March, the Council held a preliminary discussion on the stocktaking of the CAP presented by the Commission on 26 February 1975.¹ The Council agreed to ask the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee for their opinions and to instruct the Special Agricultural Committee and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to examine the material in preparation for a detailed debate at ministerial level.

Common agricultural prices for the 1975/76 marketing year

2230. On 4 March 1975,² the Council formally adopted the Regulations covering the common agricultural prices valid for the 1975/76 marketing year, which it had set during the meeting of 10-13 February.³ This covers all the products concerned except the products of the milk and beef and veal sectors, for which Regulations had been formally adopted on 27 February 1975.⁴ The Council also determined the subsidies for hop producers in respect of the 1973 crop.⁵

Common organization of the markets

2231. This month the Council discussed the situation on several agricultural markets, with particular reference to wheat, cane sugar produced in the French overseas departments, products processed from fruit and vegetables, beef and veal and fisheries.

2232. The Commission had to set export levies solely on rice and sugar. With the aim of laying down uniform arrangements for all farm products, the Commission adopted⁶ a Regulation establishing common application terms for exports levies and taxes on farm products to supersede the various Community rules in force.

To maintain security of the Community's *sugar* supply, subsidized imports for a further 100 000 tonnes from non-member countries were authorized. This brings the total quantity to be imported up to 500 000 tonnes since the scheme of subsidized imports⁶ was introduced.

There are still surplus problems in the *wine* sector. On the strength of the Council Regulation of 31 January 1975,⁷ which laid down the general rules for table wine distilling operations, the Commission set the total quantity of table wine allowed for distillation at 4 600 000 hectolitres. The quota for distillation applications submitted was therefore set at 20%. A solution will probably be found from the Commission's Proposal to the Council of November 1974⁸ which carries a number of amendments to be made to the Community rules for wine.

Because of the situation on the *beef and veal* market, the Commission extended several intervention measures introduced in 1974. At the end of March, Community stocks were estimated at 300 000 tonnes, which included 100 000 in France, 67 400 in Germany and 63 700 in Ireland. Since 1 January 1975, purchases by the intervention agencies have run to 112 000 tonnes. The situation on the pigmeat market was

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2228 and Supplement 2/75 — Bull. EC.

² OJ L 61 of 7.3.1975 and OJ L 72 of 20.3.1975.

³ Bull. EC 2-1975, points 2224 to 2227.

⁴ OJ L 52 of 28.2.1975.

⁵ OJ L 67 of 14.3.1975.

⁶ Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2230.

⁷ OJ L 30 of 4.2.1975.

⁸ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2245.

coloured by a continuing stabilization of prices at a level just above the basic price, but still below the level which activates intervention measures. Support measures therefore had to be maintained, such as subsidies for private storage on the domestic market and the setting of additional amounts under import arrangements.

In the *fisheries* sector, where conditions have recently deteriorated, the Council asked the Commission to study both the short-term and structural problems and submit appropriate Proposals at the earliest opportunity. Protective measures applied since 27 February¹ to the imports of certain fishery products were extended² until 15 April 1975 since the French market is still disturbed.

Competition conditions

2233. Under the provisions of Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty, the Commission decided to invoke the procedure under Article 93(2) against the *Dutch* Government. This involves aid for the use of natural gas in horticulture.³

In this instance the Commission feels that the refunding of excise charges to major consumers and any extension for 1975 of a subsidy for small consumers of natural gas in horticulture amount to measures which are incompatible with the rules for the proper running of the common market.

Harmonization of laws

2234. Under the procedure of the Standing Veterinary Committee, the Commission on 14 March 1975⁴ took a Decision to make 550000 doses of foot-and-mouth disease serum available to the FAO as an EEC contribution to the campaign against the disease in the countries of south-east Europe.

In seed marketing, the Commission adopted three Decisions⁵ in March to meet the needs of three Member States who have underproduced as a result of adverse weather in the autumn of 1974. The marketing of seeds under less stringent conditions is thus authorized in France until 31 July 1975 for monoecious hemp and sunflower, in the Netherlands and the UK until 30 June 1975 for runner beans and in the Netherlands until 30 April 1975 for spring wheat.

Industrial and technological policy

Industry

Aeronautics

2235. During its meeting of 4 March, the Council formally adopted the Resolution on concertation and consultation between the Member States in respect of industrial policy in the aeronautics sector,⁶ which it had approved on 19 December 1974.⁷

Technology

Telecommunications

2236. On 14 March, the Commission submitted a Communication with a draft Resolution to

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2233.

² OJ L69 of 18.3.1975.

³ OJ C74 of 4.4.1975.

⁴ OJ L71 of 20.3.1975.

⁵ OJ L87 of 8.4.1975 and L96 of 17.4.1975.

⁶ OJ C59 of 13.3.1975.

⁷ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2256.

the Council concerning harmonization of telecommunications services and equipment. The Commission's suggestions are the result of the work done by the Commission departments in close collaboration with the national telecommunication authorities, which culminated in September 1974 in a report on the subject.¹

In the Communication, the Commission suggests the adoption of harmonization measures which, by removing the partitions of national markets, would boost the future development of the European telecommunication networks and enhance the competitiveness of the European industry on the world markets. Besides opening up public contracts for telecommunications equipment, this would involve harmonization of customer services, management procedures for telecommunications systems, technical standards for systems and equipment, and technical procedures and specifications for type approval of equipment leased on contract. The effort to harmonize should not be confined solely to the Member States, but deployed within the scope of the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) organized in 1959 and embracing twenty-five countries of western Europe.

Data-processing

2237. On 13 March, the Commission sent the Council its initial Proposals for priority action in data-processing, which it had approved on 5 February.²

Technical iron and steel research

2238. On 13 March 1975, the Commission formally approved the grant of subsidies amounting to 6298033 u.a. to carry out thirteen iron and steel research projects, and 188966 u.a. to cover the expense of relaying the results and any

related charges. A favourable Opinion from the ECSC Consultative Committee and a confirmatory Opinion from the Council had been obtained in respect of financing the subsidies.

2239. On 10 March, the Commission decided to transmit sixty-three technical iron and steel research projects, totalling 15507872 u.a. (first tranche 1975), to the Consultative Committee and the Council for their opinions. The ECSC Consultative Committee gave a favourable Opinion at its meeting of 14 March.

Science, research and development, education, scientific and technical information

Science, research and development

Energy research

2240. The Sub-Committee on Energy Research and Development of the Committee for Scientific and Technical Research (CREST) held its eighth meeting in Brussels on 13 March 1975. It studied the problem of converting solid fossil fuels into gaseous and liquid hydrocarbons, on the basis of a technical and economic study drawn up by the competent departments of the Commission, and it recognized the usefulness of Community action aimed at developing close collaboration, embracing the industrial sector. The Sub-Committee laid special stress on the fact that this field lent itself

¹ Bull. EC 9-1974, point 2227.

² Bull. EC 2-1975, points 1501 to 1507 and 2241.

particularly well to cooperation with coal-producing countries outside the Community and it requested the Commission to draw up precise proposals with this in view.

The Sub-Committee also gave its attention to comparison of national policies on 'energy R and D'. This comparison of national plans, programmes and budgets should make possible, on the one hand, better coordination of national programmes and, on the other hand, identification of the sectors where Community-level action would be called for. In order to prepare the way for a meeting in CREST for a general comparison on this subject, the Sub-Committee decided to provide the Commission with documents containing all the national data on the problem.

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2241. On 13 March 1975,¹ the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion on the Commission's proposal to the Council on the research and development programmes in the energy sector.

Scientific and Technical Research Committee

2242. At its meeting on 3 and 4 March 1975, under the chairmanship of Mr Schuster, CREST examined in particular the technical and scientific aspects of the Commission's Proposal of 8 January 1975 regarding R and D programmes in the energy sector.² In a report to the competent authorities of the Council, it pointed out once again that it broadly approved the Commission's Proposals and presented some amendments to the draft Council Decision, as well as to the text of a draft Resolution setting up advisory committees on the management of various activities proposed. In accordance with CREST's suggestion, the total amount of appropriations necessary for the implementation of this programme

would be increased to 59 million u.a. for the period 1975 to 1978.

The Committee also approved the creation of a CREST standing sub-committee on 'energy research and development', responsible in particular for supervising the implementation of this programme.

In addition, CREST examined the scientific and technical aspects of the Commission's proposals regarding the data-processing³ programme. On this point it delivered a favourable opinion, stressing that the industrial implications of these proposals did not come within its competence. The Committee also laid down the new terms of reference for the standing Sub-Committee on 'data-processing R and D'.

It also noted, for purposes of information, the steps taken by the Commission with regard to the future activities of the JRC, the 'fusion' programme and the 'biology—health physics' programme.

Meeting of Senior Officials on Scientific and Technical Research

2243. The Committee of Senior Officials on Scientific and Technical Research (COST) met on 14 March 1975, with Mr Silver in the chair. The Committee discussed the following subjects in particular:

Setting-up of an oceanographical/meteorological buoy network in European waters (Project 43)—The secretary of the Technical Committee on Oceanography/Meteorology made an assessment of the drafting of, and the discussions on, the report of the adviser for this project in the Technical Sub-Committee.

¹ Point 2409.

² Bull. EC 1-1975, points 1301 to 1308.

³ Bull. EC 2-1975, points 1501 to 1507.

Electronic traffic aids on major roads (Project 30)—The Committee turned to the ninth preliminary draft international agreement, presented by the Chairman of the *ad hoc* Legal Committee, and took note of a communication from the Belgian Delegation withholding its accession (for reasons of substance and of form) and requesting that the question be referred back to the *ad hoc* group and the Technical Sub-Committee for this project.

Yugoslav proposals regarding agricultural research—The Committee took formal note that CREST had given a favourable opinion on the interest to the Community of three projects in this sector; the Commission is organizing the first exploratory meeting of the *ad hoc* Agricultural Research Committee, which will be held on 19 March 1975.

Joint Research Centre

JRC General Advisory Committee

2244. The JRC General Advisory Committee held its 17th meeting in Brussels on 18 March 1975. After having noted the status of the work being carried out as part of the objectives of the multiannual programme, the Committee examined the guidelines of the new draft revision of this programme.

This revision, called a 'medium-term' revision, should take effect on 1 January 1976. The Committee will meet again at Ispra on 27 and 28 May 1975 to finalize the relevant proposals.

Multiannual programme

Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM)

2245. The ACPM concerned with *environmental research* held its ninth meeting on 12

March 1975, with Professor Passino in the chair. The Committee devoted the greater part of its discussion to the continuation and the conclusion of the examination of the projects which will be proposed by the Commission within the framework of its second multiannual programme (1976-80) on environmental research. It approved the content of a working paper on this subject which took into consideration the various suggestions and comments obtained in November 1974 and February 1975. The draft text of the Commission's proposal on its new programme will be placed before CREST for its opinion at its meeting on 16 and 17 April. The next meeting of the ACPM is scheduled for 5 June 1975.

Coordinating Committee on Materials Testing Reactors

2246. The Coordinating Committee on Materials Testing Reactors held its third meeting at Brussels on 7 March 1975, with Mr Wood in the chair. The Committee examined the current situation with regard to the utilization of the installations and assessed future requirements, relating them to the experimental facilities offered by the installations in the Community.

Education and training

European University Institute

2247. The European University Institute—the establishment of which was the subject of an agreement signed in April 1972—was set up in Florence on 20 March 1975.¹

¹ Points 1401 to 1403.

Youth

2248. The Commission has forwarded to the Council recommendations for the establishment of a committee on youth questions and of a 'European Youth Forum'. These proposals, which date from 1972, were revised after the enlargement of the Community and then amended to take the Opinions of the European Parliament and of the Economic and Social Committee into account.

The committee on youth questions which the Commission recommended to be set up would have the task of ensuring on a permanent basis cooperation and consultation between the Member States and the Commission with a view to informing the youth more extensively on the development of the Community, to associating them with the study and the implementation of certain forms of action provided for by the Treaties, to promoting new steps associating the youth with the construction of Europe, and to take account of the specific interests and problems of the youth in all walks of life.

The 'Forum' would be a body composed of representatives of youth associations, which would be called upon to discuss the political, social, educational and cultural problems of interest to the Community. It would be consulted on the initiative of the European Parliament, of the Commission or of the Council on the forms of action provided for in the Treaties and the follow-ups to such action, as well as on the new steps to be taken to have the youth participate in the building of Europe. The Forum would normally meet twice a year, at least one day per session having to be reserved for a joint meeting with the Community institutions. The Forum could establish relations and give opinions on its own initiative.

Scientific and technical information and management of information

Three-year plan of action

2249. On 18 March 1975,¹ the Council adopted a three-year plan of action in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation, on the basis of proposals drawn up by the Commission in September 1974.²

This Decision is an initial step on the road towards creating in this field a 'common market', which is all the more necessary since the implementation of Community policies requires that all the available data be used. The Council Decision covers three essential points:

- the setting-up of sectoral information systems. In this field, there has been a documentation and information centre for metallurgy since 1971. Similar systems will be set up in the environmental protection, biomedicine and agriculture sectors;
- the creation of a joint information network. In this case, a system will be established which enables the information systems of the Member States to be linked to each other;
- the implementation of new information technology and methodology. The main problem here is to overcome linguistic difficulties and those resulting from the use of different systems.

The cost of the three-year plan of action to the Community budget is estimated to be 6.6 million u.a.; this Community-scale action would have to be accompanied by commensurate spending at the national level.

¹ OJ L 100 of 21.4.1975.

² OJ C 126 of 17.10.1974, Bull. EC 9-1974, point 2236, and Bull. EC 4-1974, points 1201 to 1205.

Committee on Information and Documentation for Science and Technology

2250. The Committee on Information and Documentation for Science and Technology (CIDST) met at Luxembourg from 19 to 21 March and elected as its Chairman Mr C. Giles (United Kingdom) and as Vice-Chairmen Mr J. Delorme (France) and Mr W.L. Renaux (Netherlands) for the period March 1975 to March 1978. The discussions covered the following main points:

- the options and strategy to be used for setting up a network;
- action to be taken on the reports from the sectoral groups;
- preparation of a preliminary draft budget for 1976;
- creation of an *ad hoc* group to examine the legal problems concerning information and documentation;
- adoption of a recommendation addressed to CREST and to the Commission regarding the limited contribution from Community funds to the conversion operations associated with the European scientific and technical information network;
- preliminary negotiations, conducted mainly with the directors of ESRO and the national post and telegraph administrations;
- second provisional technical agreement for the system of documentation and information for metallurgy (SDIM).

Automation of legal documentation

2251. The Commission participated in several meetings of the specialists group—composed of representatives of the Member States and representatives of the Community institutions—set up

by the Council Resolution of 26 November 1974¹ on the automation of legal documentation. This group has first to define the requirements of the potential system users; this will then enable it to determine the technical aspects of the legal documentation system, which could serve the institutions of the Community and of the Member States before becoming accessible to a wider public. The possibility of linking up this system with a European information network, such as that envisaged by the Council Resolution of 24 June 1971, was also discussed.

Energy policy

Preparing and implementing a Community energy policy

Statement on energy by the Heads of Government meeting in Dublin

2252. The Heads of Government meeting in Council in Dublin on 10 and 11 March devoted part of their proceedings to energy problems. The statement on energy published at the end of the meeting, which bears mainly on preparing within the Community for the producer-consumer dialogue,² reads as follows:

'The Heads of Government, meeting in Council in Dublin, examined the problems connected with the International Energy Conference. They agreed that the Community should undertake intensive preparation for this Conference without delay. Preparation will involve listing the various problems, concerning both matters

¹ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 1108.

² The preparatory meeting of the International Energy Conference opened in Paris on 7 April.

specifically relating to energy and directly connected questions concerning economics, finance and the developing countries, to be dealt with at the Conference and the preparatory meeting for it. Preparatory work will also attempt to define the joint responses to be made depending on the positions adopted by the other participants at the Conference.

The preparatory work will be carried out under the authority of the Council (Foreign Affairs) by a high-level *ad hoc* Committee composed of representatives of the Member States and the Commission. It will be based on the inventory, to be drawn up by the Commission, of problems to be dealt with at the Conference and the preparatory meeting, any proposals which the Commission submits to the Council on these problems and suggestions and requests made by the Member States.

The Council will take the appropriate decisions on this basis and in particular will determine the content of and arrangements for the dialogue to be conducted with the other consumer and producer countries.

The Council has agreed to meet at the level of Heads of Government in good time to prepare for the Conference.'

Energy problems and the Council

2253. At its meeting of 3-4 March, the Council discussed the two Communications forwarded by the Commission on 24 February,¹ with the aim of helping to determine the Community's position in the dialogue with the producer countries within the International Energy Agency.

The Council agreed to adopt the following five principles to guide international cooperation in developing energy resources:

- the consumer countries mutually recognize each country's rights of access to energy resources to be developed;

- they forbid any discrimination *vis-à-vis* the consumers of the participating countries in prices and conditions of access to energy resources;
- they will set up, by common accord, all the objectives for the production and conservation of energy, destined to guide their national policies;
- they will establish a procedure for reviewing regularly the progress made and the obstacles encountered in applying these principles and pursuing these objectives;
- in the cooperative development of additional energy resources, the means used to bring such development about shall be shared by the participating countries according to the benefits accruing to each country.

Commission proposal withdrawn and superseded

2254. On 21 March, the Commission laid before the Council a draft Resolution 'on fixing a short-term objective to reduce oil consumption'. This cancels and supersedes the proposed Directive on 'energy economy—fixing a short-term objective', approved by the Commission on 31 January.² Since problems arise within the appropriate authorities of the Council over this proposal, in respect of setting target figures and the nature of the intended legal document itself (Directive), the Commission withdrew the proposal and replaced it with a draft Resolution covering only 1975, and noting the mathematical details provided by the national authorities.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2258.

² Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2256.

Sectoral problems

Hydrocarbons

2255. In a Communication published in the Official Journal of the Communities,¹ the Commission called on the Member States to transmit their 1975 import forecasts per quarter and by company.

Coal

2256. The Commission sent the Council a Memorandum on supplementary financial action in 1973 by the Member States in favour of the coal industry and on their financial action relating to 1974. After conferring with the Council, the Commission will officially approve the aid measures covered by the Memorandum.

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2257. On 13 March,² the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on the Commission's Proposal concerning the objectives of the Community energy policy.

Transport policy

Functioning of the market

2258. On 24 March, the Commission approved the fourth report of the specialized Committee formed under Article 11 of the Regulation of 30 July 1968 on the introduction of a system of *bracket tariffs* for the carriage of goods by road between Member States,³ and decided to transmit the report to the Council and the Member States. It deals with the problems involved in

rating international road haulage due to the current monetary disparities.

Harmonization

2259. On 11 and 12 March, the Commission ran an informatory meeting on *rates for the use of infrastructures*. The main aim was to explain to the new Member States the principles of what had already been done in this area over previous years. In the light of developments since the Commission submitted its Memorandum in March 1971, the delegates were able to express their thinking on how the work should continue and on whether the present scheme was likely to attain the objectives. A meeting of senior transport officials to deal with this question will be held in the second half of 1975.

2260. On 13 March, the Commission ran a meeting of government experts which reviewed the results of calculations by the Member States of the *marginal costs of the use of road infrastructures* and of the minimum taxes on commercial vehicles.

2261. The *Luxembourg* Government consulted the Commission on a national regulation implementing the Council Regulation of 20 July 1970 on the introduction of recording equipment in road transport, which was amended on 25 June 1973.

The Commission found that the draft of the Grand Duchy regulation ensured the full application of the Community Regulation without any additional measures and gave a favourable Opinion.⁴

¹ OJ C56 of 8.3.1975.

² Point 2410.

³ OJ L194 of 6.8.1968.

⁴ OJ L90 of 11.4.1975.

2262. Government experts, meeting in Brussels from 3 to 5 March, reviewed a proposed Regulation to amend the Council Regulation of 20 July 1970¹ on the introduction of recording equipment in road transport (tachometer). Agreement was reached on most of the proposed amendments and a new Proposal, taking account of the remarks by the delegations, will shortly be prepared by the Commission departments.

Safety

2263. An initial meeting attended by government experts, representatives of the Commission and the international organizations, took place in Brussels on 10 March to discuss problems arising from the transport of radioactive material within the Community. The next meeting is scheduled for May.

Ocean and air transport and port policy

2264. On 17 March, the Commission sent the Council a proposed Decision 'concerning common action by the Member States in respect of the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Maritime Conferences'.

The Proposal urges the Council to adopt, within a year, the lines of joint action to be implemented in respect of the Code of Conduct. To help in defining this action, the Member States should try to discover common ground enabling them to settle the contentions underlying their differences regarding the Code.

Transport Advisory Committee

2265. The Transport Advisory Committee formed under Article 83 of the EEC Treaty held a full meeting on 20 and 21 March, when it

started to review a draft Opinion on the future of the railways in the Community transport system. Owing to the size and complexity of the problems involved, the Committee decided to devote a special full meeting, set for 22 May, to a further review of the draft.

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2266. During the sitting of 14 March, the *European Parliament* issued its Opinion on the Commission's Proposal to the Council² to amend the Regulation on aid granted for transport by road, rail and inland waterway, with the aim of harmonizing the Regulation with the Decision on putting the railway companies on a sound footing, which the Council had agreed in principle on 11 December 1974.³

¹ OJ L 164 of 27.7.1970 and OJ L 110 of 27.4.1973.

² OJ C 158 of 17.12.1974.

³ Point 2417.

3. External relations

Multilateral negotiations

Multilateral negotiations

2301. As agreed at the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) in February,¹ the four negotiating groups met during March. After informal talks, it was agreed that three of the six groups set up by the TNC (non-tariff measures, agriculture and protective measures) would be chaired by the GATT Secretariat and the other three (tariffs, sectors and tropical products) by national delegates.

Non-tariff measures

2302. The group on non-tariff measures met from 4 to 7 March and drew up a list of eleven measures which could be matter for negotiation: quantity restrictions, import licences, subsidies, compensatory rights, standards, labelling and packaging, marks of origin, customs value, import documents and consular formalities, nomenclature, and customs procedures.

Four study groups were formed to examine these measures and their work schedule was approved. The group on non-tariff measures intends to meet from 23 to 27 June to prepare its report to the TNC and to try and reach conclusions on the procedure to be followed for measures outside multilateral scrutiny.

Tropical products

2303. Meeting from 10 to 14 March, this group agreed the procedure to be followed in this department: the developing countries should put in their lists of requests if possible by 16 May this year; the requests should be vetted by the Group at a meeting scheduled for 16 June when the terms for submitting initial offers should be set, with the understanding that the negotiations in this sector regarded as a special

and priority issue should be wound up as swiftly as possible.

In contrast to what happened during the Kennedy round, the Group agreed that the negotiations would start without any preconceptions as to what may, or may not, be considered a tropical product.

Tariffs

2304. Meeting from 17 to 21 March, the negotiating group on tariffs succeeded in setting out possible lines of agreement on the following issues involving the basic premises of the negotiations:

- basic rates: a solution will be sought which would retain the bound rates, where they exist, and in other instances the rates actually applied; on this score, countries such as Canada, Japan or Australia, which have gone for unilateral short-term suspensions in 1973 or 1974, will naturally want to work from the rates prior to the suspensions.
- years of statistical reference: it was agreed that basic statistical material will cover the years 1970-1972, with the option of collating more recent data as soon as it comes to hand.
- unit of statistical reference: owing to monetary fluctuations since the dollar was devalued and floated, the EEC proposed that, as a unit of statistical comparison, a more stable unit of account be taken than the current dollar and that this should be the 1971 dollar.

Agriculture

2305. The group on agriculture met on 24 March to define the procedures for multilateral

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2301.

trade negotiations, with respect to the tasks assigned to the group. Owing to certain differences of opinion, which require more time for thought, the group decided on 27 March to break off work until 15 April.

Commercial policy

Preparing and implementing the common commercial policy

Common import arrangements

2306. On 27 March 1975¹ the Council adopted a Decision on autonomous import arrangements for goods from State-trading countries for 1975. This replaces the Council Decision of 2 December 1974² laying down the provisional import arrangements applicable in the Member States to imports of products subject to quantitative restrictions from State-trading countries.

2307. At the same time, the Council adopted a Regulation to discontinue certain quantity restrictions on imports from State-trading countries and to include new products in the annex of the Regulation of 19 December 1969³ establishing common rules for imports from those countries.

Trade protection

2308. On 13 March 1975⁴ the Commission decided to introduce *Community surveillance* of imports of zip fasteners. This step has been taken because of the considerable increase in

imports from non-member countries, particularly Japan, which poses a threat to Community producers. This has proved necessary to enable the Commission to follow market developments.

2309. On 13 March⁵ the Commission also introduced *a posteriori* control of imports of shoes to the Community. This decision has been taken on account of the considerable increase in exports from non-member countries (mainly South-East Asia and Eastern Europe) which is affecting a Community industry at present highly sensitive, particularly in Ireland.

Specific measures of commercial policy

Textiles

Negotiations with Hong Kong and Brazil

2310. Substantial progress was made in the first round of negotiations with *Hong Kong* on a bilateral agreement to cover trade in textiles held in Brussels from 17 to 20 March 1975. There will be a further round in May.

The Council has authorized the Commission to start trade negotiations with *Brazil* on behalf of the Community on an agreement to cover trade in textiles. Like the negotiations already under way with *India*, *Pakistan* and *Hong Kong*, these will be based on Article 4 of the so-called *Multifibres Agreement*, the arrangement governing international trade in textiles.

¹ OJ L99 of 21.4.1975.

² OJ L358 of 31.12.1974 and Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2336.

³ OJ L19 of 26.1.1970.

⁴ OJ L67 of 14.3.1975.

⁵ OJ L90 of 11.4.1975.

Protective measures for Ireland

2311. On 25 March¹ the Council adopted a Regulation introducing a licensing system for imports into Ireland of certain textile products (shirts) from South Korea. This measure, based on the provisions of the international arrangement on cotton textiles, is on the lines of a similar licensing system introduced by the Commission in February.²

Removal of quantitative restrictions

2312. In accordance with the 'Multifibres' arrangement the Community has informed the textiles surveillance body in Geneva of its programme for removing existing quantitative restrictions. The arrangement allows countries to achieve its aims by including existing unilateral restrictions in a step-by-step programme for their removal within a period not exceeding three years from the entry into force of the arrangement, taking into account bilateral agreements already in force or being negotiated.

The Community's programme distinguishes between non-Community countries which are parties to the arrangement with whom the Community does not intend to conclude bilateral agreements, and where the programme is already applicable, and countries with which the Community has offered to negotiate (these are the Community's main suppliers). The programme for the removal of unilateral restrictions will have to take account of the results of the abovementioned negotiations with the second group of countries.

EEC/Switzerland arrangement on textiles

2313. The Joint Committee provided for in the arrangement concluded by the Community and Switzerland on processing traffic in textiles,

met in Brussels on 7 March 1975. By the terms of the arrangement in question, concluded on 1 August 1969, both parties agree to open duty-free import quotas for certain textile products which have undergone specific types of processing.

The Joint Committee found that, as neither party has terminated the arrangement, it was automatically renewed for a further period of two years, that is until 31 August 1977. The Committee also studied recent trends in processing traffic with the aim of facilitating, as far as possible, use of the opportunities provided by the arrangement.

Development and cooperation**Policy for development cooperation**

2314. On 6 March 1975, the Commission presented two important Communications to the Council, continuing the work it has been pursuing since 1972 towards progressive implementation by the Community and the Member States of an overall policy for development cooperation on a world-wide scale. These Communications are concerned respectively with the financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries and the harmonization and coordination of cooperation policies within the Community.

Financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries

2315. The first Communication, entitled 'Community financial and technical aid to non-

¹ OJ L77 of 26.3.1975.

² Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2305.

associated developing countries', sets out the precise Proposals concerning aid to these developing countries which the Commission had promised in its Communication to the Council of 5 November 1974, entitled 'Development aid — Fresco of Community action tomorrow'.¹ These Proposals prepare the way for effective implementation of the Resolution on this subject adopted by the Council in July 1974.²

In this document, the Commission proposes to set aside, in effective disbursements, for financial and technical aid to the non-associated developing countries, an amount rising from 100 million u.a. in 1976 to 200 million u.a. in 1980. In the use of this aid—which could be supplemented by loans from the EIB—priority must be given to the poorest developing countries and to the main objectives—covering food requirements of the developing countries, and promoting regional cooperation and integration—as set out in the 'Fresco'. A limited amount (10 million u.a.) should be kept available for emergency action in disaster situations. Furthermore, the Commission feels that an amount, rising from 5 million u.a. in 1976 to 10 million u.a. in 1980 should be envisaged for the promotion of trade relations.

This Community aid must be channelled to the recipient countries chiefly in the form of direct action, though part of it could be via regional financial organizations; it could equally well take the form of aid to projects, or aid to programmes.

Harmonization of development policies

2316. The second Communication sets out the Commission's views on implementing the Resolution, also adopted by the Council in July 1974, on harmonizing and coordinating development cooperation policies within the Community.³

The Commission proposes a distinction between the 'general and 'operational' aspects of coordination. For each of these, a priority programme is outlined, based on the Resolution's general guidelines. Special attention is paid in the area of coordination to the preparatory work for international meetings dealing with problems of development cooperation.

As regards organization, the Commission proposes to adopt a pragmatic approach: briefly, work on the general aspects should be organized within the Council and the operational coordination should take place mainly in the Commission.

Industrial development

General Conference of UNIDO

2317. The Second Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) took place in Lima (Peru) from 12 to 26 March. Commissioner Cheysson made a statement on 14 March on behalf of the Commission.

Through careful preparation at Community level⁴ and planned coordination in Lima, the Member States were able to play an active part in the Conference. Committed by the Council to seek dialogue with the developing countries and avoid confrontation, the Community representatives worked for final agreement on the main text which comprised an international statement on industrial cooperation and development and an appropriate plan of action.

Unfortunately, the position of certain delegates, which hardened during the last stage of the

¹ Supplement 8/74 — Bull. EC.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1974, point 1222.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1974, point 1215.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2306.

Conference, made it impossible to approve the texts by general assent and a final vote had to be taken. Although the Member States were divided, with some voting in favour and some abstaining, no Member State voted against the final text (as did the United States).

On the basic issues, the Conference made solid headway in all areas directly involved in the problems of industrializing the developing countries and industrial cooperation. By the end of the Conference there were scarcely any differences of opinion on the industrial issues, some of which had occasioned tough negotiations. The overall impression conveyed by the press of the proceedings in Lima may have been somewhat adverse, but this would appear as mainly owing to the conditions surrounding the final vote and to the fact that agreement could not be reached on some major general problems which, however, transcend the concept of 'industrial development'.

Generalized preferences

Council Resolution on the future development of preferences

2318. During its meeting of 3/4 March 1975, the Council adopted the following Resolution (based largely on the Commission's reflections) on the subject of the future development of generalized preferences:

'1. On the basis of a Commission memorandum dated 3 February 1975¹ the Council discussed the future development of the European Community's generalized preferences.

The Council would point out that the Community was the first of the donor countries to implement its generalized tariff preferences system for finished and semi-finished products from

the developing countries, which it did on 1 July 1971. Since that date, the Community system—applied after 1 January 1974 by the enlarged Community of nine Member States—has been considerably improved. The beneficiary countries have on many occasions emphasized the scope and importance of the progress achieved by the Community in the implementation of its system of preferences.

2. The Council stresses that generalized preferences are fundamental to development cooperation. It is determined continually and progressively to improve the system, in accordance with the following policy guidelines:

- greater application of the present Community system by means of measures intended to simplify it;
- better administration of the system;
- appropriate improvements and adjustments to the Community system, taking into account developing countries' export opportunities and the Community's economic capacity.

The Council confirms its intention that such improvements should take particular account of the interests of the poorest developing countries with a view to facilitating their preferential access to the Community market.

3. The system of generalized tariff preferences had originally been intended to apply for ten years, ending in 1980. The Council, however, considers that since the objective of generalized preferences has been and remains to be to increase the export earnings of developing countries, foster their industrialization and step up their economic growth rate, the policy is one which should be continued. A further period beyond 1980 for applying the generalized preferences will, it therefore feels, be necessary.'

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2307.

Food aid

Programme of aid in cereals for 1974/75

2319. On a Proposal¹ from the Commission, the Council adopted on 3 March, the programme (or 'plan of action') for commitments entered into by the Community and the Member States under the Food Aid Convention. These commitments cover a total of 1287000 tonnes of cereals per year, of which 643500 tonnes (50%) will be granted as Community aid, the remainder being covered by bilateral projects.

The aid of the Community and the Member States is intended for 35 countries and 3 international organizations (Table 3).

Emergency action

2320. On 18 March 1975,² the Council gave its agreement to the second tranche of additional emergency aid for *Somalia* proposed by the Commission, consisting of 10000 tonnes of cereals, 2000 tonnes of skim-milk powder and 850 tonnes of butteroil. The quantities would be supplied cif, with the possibility of a lump-sum contribution to cover transport costs to places of destination. The Commission could make these quantities available as requirements arise, by agreement with the Somali Government and in coordination with the competent international authorities.

2321. On the same day, the Council also gave its agreement to the emergency action for populations affected by the events in *Cyprus*.³ This action relates to the supply fob of 300 tonnes of butteroil (through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees) intended for free distribution to all the population affected.

2322. The Commission has decided to adopt two emergency measures involving food aid for free distribution by the International Committee of the Red Cross: the first consists of 40 tonnes of skim-milk powder for the *Khmer* Republic and the second of 100 tonnes of skim-milk powder for *Rwanda*.⁵

These measures were decided on pursuant to the Council's authorizing Decision of 30 January 1975, and under the Agreement of 3 February 1975 with the ICRC.

2323. Lastly, acting on a Commission Proposal,⁶ the Council decided⁷ to grant food aid for *Guinea Bissau* (3000 tonnes of cereals, 350 tonnes of butteroil and 250 tonnes of skim-milk powder) and for the *Cape Verde Islands* (2500 tonnes of cereals, 150 tonnes of skim-milk powder).

Proposals for the 1975 aid programme in milk products

2324. On 11 March, the Commission presented to the Council its Proposal for the establishment of a food aid programme in skim-milk powder for 1975. In view of the deteriorating food situation in certain developing countries, and of the general guidelines laid down by the Commission concerning development aid, the Commission proposed to concentrate aid, much more so than in the past, on the countries most seriously affected.

¹ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2306.

² OJ L71 of 20.3.1975.

³ OJ L84 of 4.4.1975.

⁴ OJ L96 of 17.4.1975.

⁵ OJ L90 of 11.4.1975.

⁶ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2310.

⁷ OJ L78 of 27.3.1975.

Table 3 — 1974/75 plan of action

(in thousands of tonnes)

Recipient countries or organizations	Total	Community projects	National projects
<i>Europe</i>			
Cyprus	6.0	5.0	1.0
Malta	7.0	2.0	5.0
<i>Africa</i>			
<i>Countries of the Sahel, Gambia, Ethiopia</i>	100.0	70.0	30.0
<i>Other countries</i>			
Burundi	3.7	2.5	1.2
Dahomey	2.5	2.5	
Mauritius	7.5	7.5	
Kenya	5.0	5.0	
Rwanda	2.5		2.5
Somalia	28.0	15.0	13.0
The Sudan	10.0	5.0	5.0
Tanzania	21.5	20.0	1.5
Tunisia	10.0		10.0
<i>Middle East</i>			
Lebanon	5.0		5.0
Arab Republic of Egypt	41.0	10.0	31.0
Jordan	10.0	10.0	
Syria	10.0		10.0
Yemen Arab Republic	10.5	7.5	3.0
People's Republic of Southern Yemen	3.0		3.0
<i>Far East</i>			
Afghanistan	2.5	2.5	
Bangladesh	219.3	150.0	69.3
India	295.8	163.0	132.8
Indonesia	10.0		10.0
Pakistan	36.0	20.0	16.0
Philippines	5.0		5.0
Sri Lanka	28.0	20.0	8.0
<i>Latin America</i>			
Haiti	3.0	3.0	
Honduras	3.5	3.5	
Peru	8.5	7.5	1.0
<i>Organizations</i>			
WFP	127.0	40.0	87.0
UNICEF	11.0	10.0	1.0
UNRWA	25.0	20.0	5.0
<i>Reserves</i>	166.2	42.0	124.2

Total: Community aid plus that of Member States = 1287 thousand tonnes.

Commodities and world agreements

Tin

2325. On 26 March the Commission submitted a communication to the Council, backed by a Recommendation, concerning Community and Member State participation in negotiating a new International Tin Agreement.

The fourth Tin Agreement which embraces twenty-two consumer countries (including the nine Member States and the Community as such) and seven producer countries expires on 30 June 1976. A United Nations Conference to negotiate a fifth Agreement will be run in Geneva from 20 May to 20 June 1975.

In anticipation of the Conference, the Commission sent the Council a communication setting out the main lines of the Community's position during the negotiations. It is unlikely that the basic design of the Agreement will be substantially altered. But the Geneva negotiations will range over many problems and the most crucial issue will be the size of the 'buffer stock' and how to finance it. On this score, the Commission is suggesting that the Community opts for raising the stock (from 20 000 to 35 000 tonnes) and for the principle of compulsory cofinancing by the consumer countries. Other major questions include the intervention price scheme, the use of the stock, export controls and action to be taken in times of shortage.

Cocoa

2326. The Commission attended the fourth session of the *International Cocoa Council* in London from 10 to 14 March 1975. The agenda comprised the question of renegotiating the three-year International Agreement of 1972;

the EEC and its Member States were all in favour of renegotiation.

A Preparatory Committee, open to all member countries and non-member countries concerned (the biggest being the United States) was set up by the International Cocoa Council which decided to ask the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to convene a negotiatory conference for September-October 1975.

Sugar

2327. From 3 to 5 March, the Commission took part in an international colloquium on the sugar situation and the outlook for the years ahead. The meetings were attended by cane and beet producers, manufacturers and brokers together with representatives of the various international bodies. The discussions revealed that although figures could be quoted in respect of the needs in 1980 (100 000 000 tonnes) and 1985 (110 000 000 tonnes, i.e. 30 000 000 more than in 1975), it was far harder to estimate the distribution of forthcoming additional supplies and to decide unanimously on the terms for securing effective stability in the midst of plenty.

Mr Claude Cheysson of the Commission, who attended the colloquium, illustrated how special provisions for sugar in the Lomé Convention were a shining example of what could be done in the way of an international commodity policy.

International organizations

Council of Europe

2328. Under the arrangement made in 1959 with the Commission of the EEC and when the Deputies of the Ministers of the Council of Europe met in March, Mr Kahn-Ackermann, the

Secretary-General of the Council invited the Secretary-General of the Commission to take part in the discussions on the Eighth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities.

The 1959 arrangement stipulated that the Commission would send its Annual General Report to the Committee of Ministers, that it would take part in the Committee's discussions on the Report and that a Commission representative would attend the meetings of the Ministers' Deputies on those matters. In a Resolution passed on 24 January 1974 concerning the future role of the Council of Europe, the Ministers' Committee had decided to give full effect to the 1959 arrangement so that, for the first time, the Commission was able to take part in the discussions on the General Report.

The debates on this subject when the Deputies met ranged over three points involving cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Community, namely migrant workers, the environment, and cultural affairs, education and youth.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

2329. During its meeting in Paris on 4 and 5 March, the OECD *Trade Committee* agreed to recommend the renewal of the declaration of 30 May 1974 on international trade.¹ It did further work on export controls and commodities. Within the OECD a fresh *ad hoc* meeting was held on 5 and 6 March to discuss *cooperation and development*.

The delegates got down to a preliminary discussion of preparations for the next Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on international development and cooperation. It also studied the problems of appraising interna-

tional development strategy in mid-decade and reviewed the preparations for the fourth session of UNCTAD.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

2330. The *Council of GATT*, meeting in Geneva on 24 March, examined several questions directly affecting the Community.

EEC-Canada. The Council was pleased to acknowledge the agreement² between the Community and Canada (in respect of the tariff renegotiations under Article XXIV, paragraph 6 of the General Agreement) on the strength of the joint statement concerning cereals.

Import deposits in Italy. The GATT Council welcomed the news that, as from 24 March 1975, the import deposits applied in Italy³ were to be discontinued.

Lomé Convention. The Community representative announced that the Lomé Convention had been concluded and said that the EEC was of course ready to join in a searching appraisal of the Convention, within the boundaries of GATT, when the ratification instruments of the Convention had been notified.

United Kingdom: Export credit insurance. The United States' representative referred in general terms to the export insurance scheme contemplated by the British Government and stipulated that he would bring up the question again under the GATT arrangements. On the strength of the provisions in Article XVI of the General Agreement, the EEC representative reserved his position in respect of the analysis by the United States of the measure in question.

¹ Bull. EC 5-1974, points 2306 and 2307.

² Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2327.

³ Point 2205.

Meat. The Consultative Group set up at the request of Australia¹ held a formative meeting in Geneva on 13 and 14 March. The GATT Secretariat was asked to draw up a questionnaire on the kind of information to be furnished to enable the Group to review the situation in the meat sector. The Group will meet again in June.

United Nations

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

2331. *The third session* of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea opened in Geneva on 17 March and will run until 10 May. The previous two sessions had taken place in New York in 1973 and Caracas in 1974, but had not resulted in agreement.

In contrast to what had transpired at the two earlier Conferences on the Law of the Sea (1958 and 1960) which had culminated in the signature of separate Conventions, this time the delegates want to negotiate a general Convention, embracing the various aspects of the Law of the Sea.

Preparing for the General Assembly's special session on development and cooperation

2332. The *Preparatory Committee* for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on international economic cooperation and development, which will run from 1 to 12 September 1975, held its first meeting in New York from 3 to 7 March. The Committee instructed its Chairman and officers to start talks with the delegations and the groups to sound out the possibilities of reaching general agreement on the aims of the special session.

Mediterranean countries

Greece

2333. On 7 March 1975 the Commission and Greece completed negotiations on the *Additional Protocol* to the Athens Agreement necessitated by the enlargement of the Community.

On 26 March 1975 the Commission and Greece had talks on implementing the commercial provisions of the Additional Protocol, in anticipation of its ratification. An EEC-Greece interim agreement was drafted which will be signed in the near future, probably at the same time as the above Protocol.

Tunisia and Morocco

2334. Negotiations on the conclusion of new, more broadly based agreements were pursued in Brussels from 21 to 23 March with Tunisia, and from 24 to 25 March with Morocco.

The delegations reviewed the various aspects of the draft agreements and, while noting that progress had been achieved in some areas, they were unable to reach total agreement because of certain differences, especially on agriculture. They decided to take time for thought and to meet again in the near future.

Israel

2335. On 12 March the Commission forwarded to the Council a Communication on negotiations between the Community and Israel

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2317.

on the conclusion of an agreement as part of the overall approach. The Communication sets out the results of the negotiations, together with the text of the agreement which the delegations accepted *ad referendum* on 23 January.¹

Cyprus

2336. During their meeting in Dublin on 10 and 11 March 1975, the Heads of Government reviewed the situation in Cyprus and adopted the following statement:²

'The Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers, recalling the statement issued by the Foreign Ministers following their meeting in Dublin on 13 February, hope that in the context of the discussions currently being held at the United Nations in New York, there will be an early resumption of negotiations on the question of Cyprus. The Nine will of course continue to keep in close touch with developments as regards the situation in Cyprus.'

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

Lomé Convention

Preparing for the Convention to come into force

2337. The ACP States and the Community have made a start with their internal preparations for the first meeting of the ACP-EEC

Interim Committee set up at Lomé. The Committee's main job is to prepare the coming into force of the ACP-EEC Convention and deal with any problems involved, if need be by applying the adopted interim arrangements.

Authorization of imports of beef and veal originating in the ACP States

2338. Acting on the commitments made when the Lomé Convention was signed, the Commission, on 25 March,³ adopted a Regulation reauthorizing, until the end of 1975, imports from the ACP countries of quantities equivalent to ten months' importations (i.e., from 28 February, when the Convention was signed, until the end of the year) on the basis of criteria set under the Convention.

ACP-EEC Convention and the European unit of account

2339. During the meeting of 18 March, the Council of Community Ministers for Finance and Economy agreed the definition and conversion of a European unit of account to express the sums of aid under the Lomé Convention.⁴

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2340. On 14 March, the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on the Convention signed in Lomé on 28 February 1975 calling for its ratification at the earliest opportunity.⁵

¹ Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2320.

² This question relates to both Community authority and political cooperation.

³ OJ L77 of 26.3.1975.

⁴ Point 2201.

⁵ Point 2418.

Yaoundé Convention**European Development Fund***New financing decisions*

2341. After a favourable Opinion from the EDF Committee, the Commission decided on 10 March¹ to finance the following five projects with non-repayable grants for a sum of 9 839 000 u.a. under the 3rd EDF and 1 458 000 u.a. from the balances of the 2nd EDF:

Madagascar: Engineering works on the road-link between the central regions and the south for a sum of 5 041 000 u.a. The project involves the building of fourteen bridges and their approaches on the Ankaramena-Ihosy road-link (RN7) and four bridges on the Beraketa-Iscanala road (RN13) so that the centre highways linking the extreme south with the interior will be negotiable all the year round.

Somalia: promotion of the Golwein-Bulo Mererta agricultural fringe: 668 000 u.a. (2nd EDF) and 3 385 000 u.a. (3rd EDF). This financing covers the first leg of the project and mainly involves the installation of basic infrastructures (roads, tracks, buildings, wells etc.) and the laying of a 200 hectare plantation of grapefruit.

Togo: Development of cattle breeding in the Plateaux region and the centre for 790 000 u.a. (balances of the 2nd EDF) and 254 000 u.a. (3rd EDF). This involves a constellation of projects to develop farming productivity and traditional cattle breeding.

Chad: Additional financing of 673 000 u.a. for a bridge on the Ba-illi, necessitated by heavy rises in prices and wage costs. The bridge, 80 m long, will be built on the N'Djamena-Sarh road, 283 km from Sarh.

Dahomey: expansion of the Cotonou water supply. An additional financing of 486 000 u.a. will enable the project to be carried out. It was approved by a financing Decision regarding

appropriations of the 3rd EDF (\pm 2 827 000 u.a.) in 1971. The additional financing is needed as the result of general price trends caused by inflation.

Following these Decisions the total commitments of the 3rd EDF now amount to 819 617 000 u.a. for 302 financing Decisions since the Fund came into operation on 1 January 1971.

Non-member countries*Industrialized countries***Australia**

2342. Under the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Commission asked for official talks to be opened on the restrictions imposed by Australia on imports of footwear and motor vehicles.

Since October 1974, the Australian Government has put a number of restrictions on imports, in several industrial sectors, in order to cope with certain economic problems. Both the OECD and GATT were advised of these measures and the Commission took part in the relevant discussion within those two bodies.

*Asian and Latin-American developing countries***South Korea**

2343. On 20 March, Mr Kim, the *Foreign Minister* of the Korean Republic, was received by President Ortoli and Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames of the Commission. The talks

¹ OJ C63 of 18.3.1975.

bore on the world economic situation and relations between the Community and South Korea.

On 25 March, Sir Christopher Soames received an official visit from Mr Chang, the South Korean *Minister for Industry and Trade*. The aim of the meeting was to discuss immediate problems in the bilateral trade relations and especially the negotiations on textiles which are to open shortly, on the basis of the arrangement concerning the international textile trade, made under GATT and in force since 1 January 1974.

Mexico

2344. During its meeting of 4 March, the Council authorized the Commission to open *negotiations* with Mexico for a non-preferential agreement based on commercial cooperation. This Decision follows on the wish for an agreement with the Community expressed by the President of Mexico during his official visit to the Community in April 1973 and is the result of exploratory talks since then.

2345. At the invitation of the Mexican Government, Sir Christopher Soames will make an official visit to Mexico from 16 to 18 April.

State-trading countries

China

2346. Sir Christopher Soames, the Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities responsible for External Relations, has accepted an invitation from the Institute of Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China to visit China. During his visit to China, Sir Christopher will spend several days in Peking where he will have talks with the Chinese

authorities of the People's Republic about the future development of relations between the People's Republic of China and the EEC. The visit will take place in the first half of May. Sir Christopher will be accompanied by senior Commission officials.

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

2347. At their meeting in Dublin on 10 and 11 March, the Heads of Government discussed the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). They adopted the following statement.¹

2348. 'The Heads of Government reaffirmed the will of the Nine to pursue and develop their policy of *détente* and cooperation in Europe.

They expressed the hope that this policy will encourage ever-increasing understanding and trust among peoples, which is the basis for a genuine improvement of the political climate on the continent. This objective shall find particular expression in the development between States and peoples of relations in which an important part should be played by individuals.

In this context, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the implementation of its decisions, is destined to play an important part.

The Heads of Government expressed their satisfaction with the constructive role which, due to their concerted diplomacy and the common positions they have adopted, the Nine have been able to play in the course of this Conference,

¹ This question relates to both Community authority and political cooperation.

which is closely related to the interests of the European Community.

The Heads of Government examined the development of the work which is currently taking place in Geneva; they noted that substantial progress had already been made, but also that important points remained to be settled.

They pronounced themselves in favour of as rapid a conclusion as possible to this work. To this end, they intend to continue and intensify their efforts to seek, in an open and constructive spirit, positive solutions to the problems which are still under discussion or outstanding.

The Heads of Government wish that all participating States should, as they are themselves determined to do, make every effort necessary to obtain balanced and satisfactory results on all the subjects on the agenda. This would make it possible to envisage the conclusion of the Conference at an early date and at the highest level.'

Diplomatic relations

2349. On 6 March¹ the officiating President of the Council and the President of the Commission received HE Mr Ramon Gonzalez Jameson who presented his letters of credence as Ambassador and Head of Mission for the United States of *Mexico* to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC).

On 13 March¹ the two Presidents received HE Mr James William Crawford Cumes (*Australia*) and HE Mohamed Kamal Eldin Khalil (Arab Republic of *Egypt*) who presented their letters of credence as Ambassadors and Heads of their countries' Missions to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC).

The new Ambassadors succeed Mr Roberto Martinez Le Clainche (*Mexico*), Mr Allan James Eastman, CBE (*Australia*) and Mr Aly Hamdy Hussein (*Egypt*) who have been assigned to other posts.

¹ OJ C71 of 28.3.1975.

4. Institutions and organs of the Communities

European Parliament

European Parliament

Part-session in Strasbourg from 10 to 14 March 1975

2401. The March sittings of the European Parliament featured the opening of the 1975-76 session and the election of the President. The House heard a report by the officiating President of the Council on the first meeting of the European Council in Dublin. Community regional policy and the Community's energy supply were again debated. The House warmly welcomed the new Lomé Convention. A Petition gave rise to a debate on the problem of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea.¹

Parliament paid tribute to Mr Joseph Bech, who at the age of 88 passed away on 8 March and who as Foreign Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg had been one of the signatories of the Treaties founding the European Communities. Mr Bech was a holder of the Aachen Charlemagne Prize, which is awarded for special services to Europe.

Opening of the 1975/76 session— Election of the President (11 March)

2402. Each yearly session of the European Parliament officially opens on the second Tuesday in March. The formative sitting, chaired by Mr *Houdet* (L/F), the oldest sitting member, saw the election of the President and Vice-Presidents.

Four ballots were required to choose the new President. After two ballots contested by five candidates, namely Mr Alfred *Bertrand* (C-D/B), Mrs Leonilde *Iotti* (COM/I), Mr Peter *Kirk* (C/UK), Mr Georges *Spénale* (S/F) and Mr Michael *Yeats* (EPD/IRL) and a third which reduced the number to three (Mr Bertrand, Mr

Spénale and Mr *Yeats*), the fourth ballot decided the issue. According to the Parliamentary procedure, if no candidate secures an absolute majority in the first three ballots, then the fourth ballot is decided between the two candidates with the biggest number of votes in the third one. The two final contenders were Mr *Spénale* and Mr *Bertrand*, and of the 168 votes in the last ballot Mr *Spénale* (S) took 86 and Mr *Bertrand* (C-D) 72.

Georges *Spénale* was born in Carcassone on 29 November 1913. Since 1962 he has sat for the department of Tarn in the French National Assembly and is also the mayor of Saint Sulpice. He entered the European Parliament in 1964, where as Chairman of the Budgets Committee he has made an outstanding contribution towards expanding Parliament's powers. He has been Chairman of the Socialist Group since 1974.

The House also elected the eleven Vice-Presidents. For these offices the aim was to secure the most even representation by nationality and political group. Since the United Kingdom's accession a Vice-Presidency has accordingly been reserved for a member of the British Labour

¹ This report on this part-session of Parliament was prepared from the German edition of 'Informations' published by Parliament's General Secretariat. The Political Group and nationality of members speaking in the debates are indicated in brackets after their names and abbreviated as follows: C-D = Christian Democrats, S = Socialist Group, L = Liberal and Allied Group, C = European Conservatives, EPD = European Progressive Democrats, COM = Communist and Allied Group. B = Belgium, DK = Denmark, G = Federal Republic of Germany, F = France, IRL = Ireland, I = Italy, L = Luxembourg, NL = Netherlands, UK = United Kingdom. The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament during the part-session of 10-14 March are reproduced in OJ C76 of 7.4.1975 and the verbatim report is contained in OJ Annexes 187 and 188.

Party. But, as everyone knows, the Party has so far not been able to decide to work together with the European Parliament.

The new Vice-Presidents who, with the President, form the Presidency, are:

Mr Giovanni Bersani (C-D/I), Mr Friedrich Burgbacher (C-D/G), Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer (L/NL), Mr Ove Guldberg (L/DK), Frederick Earl of Bessborough (C/UK), Mr Lucien Martens (C-D/B), Mr Michael B. Yeats (EPD/IRL), Mr Achille Corona (S/I), Mr Gérard Bordu (COM/F), Mr Jacques Santer (C-D/L), Walter Behrendt (S/G).

On 12 March, the House appointed its thirteen Committees: (the Committees on: Political Affairs; Legal Affairs; Economic and Monetary Affairs; Budgets; Social Affairs and Labour Questions; Regional Policy and Transport; Public Health and the Environment; Energy, Research and Technology; Cultural Affairs and Youth; External Economic Relations; Development and Cooperation; Association).¹

European Council in Dublin (12 March)

2403. The officiating President of the Council, Mr FitzGerald reported on the results of the Conference of Heads of Government on 10 and 11 March. They came together for the first time as the European Council, which, as decided at the last Summit Conference in Paris in December 1974, is to meet three times a year.

President FitzGerald pronounced the first meeting a success. The key result in Dublin was the agreement on improving the United Kingdom's terms of membership. In a Communication to the Council, which served as the basis of the discussions in Dublin, the Commission proposed a 'correcting mechanism', whereby under a num-

ber of precisely defined conditions a Member State could be refunded a certain proportion of its financial contributions under the Treaties.²

Two points at issue up to now were the ceiling amount and whether balance-of-payments deficits were a prerequisite for such refunds. Mr FitzGerald stated that on the strength of a compromise proposed by France, the Commission's suggested correcting mechanism was approved with sundry adjustments.³

Regarding imports of New Zealand dairy products, it was agreed that the Commission should submit a report and proposals by next July. It was hoped that the Community institutions and the New Zealand authorities would cooperate more and more closely. Questions relating to the CSCE and energy policy were also broached. There was also a fruitful discussion of the economic situation and the raw material supply position.

President Ortolí of the Commission highlighted the policy-making character of the European Council's first meeting. The political role of the Commission as guardian of the Treaties and as an initiating force had been respected. The results were satisfactory. It was now up to the United Kingdom to act.

The Group spokesmen, Mr Patijn (S/NL), Mr Girardo (C-D/I), Mr Jahm (C-D/G) and Mr Blumenfeld (C-D/G) welcomed the fact that the Heads of Government had met for the first time within the framework of the EEC and that all the related problems of EC policy had been dealt with. Their remarks expressed the hope that

¹ This new Committee with thirty-five members will be responsible for relations with all associated countries in the Mediterranean and will designate from its ranks the delegations for the Joint Parliamentary Committees of individual Association Agreements.

² Bull. EC 1-1975, points 2503 to 2510.

³ Points 1103 and 1502.

these were the United Kingdom's last demands before the referendum, since there could be no continuing special status for a Community Member State.

Regional policy

European Regional Development Fund (12 March)

2404. Subject to numerous reservations, Parliament approved the Commission's amended Proposals for (i) a Regulation on establishing a European Regional Development Fund, (ii) a Council Decision on forming a Regional Policy Committee and (iii) a Financial Regulation to supplement the Financial Regulation of 25 April 1973 for the draft general budget of the European Communities.

In a Resolution, the House simply made its objections known to the Council and Commission and did not propose any more amendments, so as not to delay the Regional Fund any longer. In general terms it deplored the fact that the planned regional policy projects amounted primarily to no more than a 'policy of aid for national policies'.

The Council had already approved the Commission's Proposals on 4 March, subject to consultation with Parliament.

Parliament emphasized that the earlier percentage allocation of Fund resources between the Member States, as proposed by the Commission, must not clash with the exigency to concentrate the limited resources of the initial stage on the neediest regions (in absolute terms) with the weakest investment capacity. Prior allocation between the Member States did not meet the demands of a true Community policy.

The House also recalled that it had already urged bringing the people of the under-favoured regions into the EEC development programme

through consultation with their democratically elected representatives. This was stressed in the debate by Mr Gerlach (S/G) and Mr Mitterdorfer (C-D/I). Mr Herbert (EPD/IRL) was sceptical, and pointed out the dangers of misuse of the resources. Depressed areas needed long-term, low-interest credit even more than the Regional Fund. Mr Gerlach advocated setting up an advisory board to assist all European regional and municipal associations in peripheral areas to develop the outlines of a European regional policy.

Cross-border regional policy (13 March)

2405. Since the Council had not decided on any regional policy action, Parliament urged the Commission to take initial measures itself to alleviate the problems in regions straddling the Community's internal borders. These should include the preparation of statistics on cross-border regions according to common criteria; economic studies; pooling of experience gained so far in cooperation between such areas; promotion of regional cooperation along all the Community's internal borders, including the Irish border areas.

The debate, which drew on members from the various border regions of the Community, was based on an interim report from the Regional Policy and Transport Committee drawn up by Mr Gerlach (S/G). When the problem has been re-examined in greater detail, a final report will be compiled illustrating the results of informative tours through the regions concerned (the German-Danish, the internal Irish and the German-Dutch borders).

The Regional Policy and Transport Committee felt that in overcoming the difficulties of the border regions, the Community had a special task to accomplish, a task which required all the means at its command. The rapporteur stressed

that an effective regional policy amounted to taking the necessary action to keep a particular area on a sound socio-economic and socio-cultural footing. This therefore constituted a comprehensive social policy project. It was the internal borders of the Community, which, taking Alfred Mozers' term, he called the 'scars of history', neither to be masked nor touched up, which showed how far Europe was integrated. This was also highlighted by the Group spokesmen, Mr Mitterdorfer (C-D/I), Mr Broeksz (S/NL), Mr Herbert (EPD/IRL) and Mr Nyberg (EPD/DK). They supported the rapporteur's call for an institutionalized legal form for local cross-border cooperation which up to now had thrown up many examples in disparate forms. Mr Herbert felt that since the economic problems of the border areas were generated by political decisions, they must be cleared up through political decisions.

Mr Thomson, the Member of the Commission responsible for regional policy, promised that the Commission would step up its efforts to draw up uniform statistics and offered its services as a coordination centre. He was also prepared to initiate special investigations. Of the Commission's new regional policy Proposals, Mr Thomson had high hopes for the border regions classified as promotable. He was more reticent on the question of creating a European legal form for cross-border cooperation and this was countered by the rapporteur to the effect that his own proposal involved no more than an offer to regions willing to cooperate, and not a compulsion. Mr Mitterdorfer asserted that, if the Commission did not take action, then Parliament would have to take the initiative.

Finance

(12 March)

2406. Two reports by the Committee on Budgets dealt with the financial impact of the European Regional Policy. They included a

Regulation on the transfer of 150 000 000 u.a. from the EAGGF to the Regional Fund and the draft of Supplementary and Amending Budget No 1 for 1975, which makes the required resources available to the Regional Fund for 1975.

EAGGF resources in the Regional Fund

2407. By a Council Resolution of 21 March 1972, the EAGGF can be used for the purposes of regional development. Since September 1972, 50 000 000 u.a. a year had thus been set aside for development measures. Since the European Regional Development Fund has been established, the Commission's relevant draft Regulations were withdrawn. From the earmarked EAGGF resources 150 000 000 u.a. will be allocated to the Regional Fund.

Parliament approved this transfer but with major reservations, since it was not clear from the Commission's Proposal how the resources intended for quite specific projects in agriculture were to be used. It would mean a cut in the already limited means of the EAGGF Guidance Section. The House had particular reservations over the allocation of 25 000 000 out of the 'Mansholt' reserve, which was meant for improving farm structures.

The rapporteur, Mr Aigner said it was not good enough that for years Community agriculture had to take the knocks and that others were now reaping the reward. Mr Thomson, the Member of the Commission responsible for regional policy, assured the House that the resources drawn from the EAGGF would not be used for anything other than the originally intended purposes. They would be put to work in under-favoured farming regions.

Supplementary Budget No 1 for 1975

2408. Parliament had major objections of principle to make against the financing of the

Regional Fund, as indicated in the Council's draft of the Supplementary and Amending Budget No 1 for 1975 and accounting for most of the Supplementary Budget.

As the Rapporteur, Mr *Aigner* (C-D/G) pointed out, in the review of the general budget for 1975 the expenditure for the Regional Fund had been classified as 'non-compulsory'. This was the prerequisite for Parliament's approval of the general budget.¹ The Council had now veered away from this joint position of the two budget authorities and intended, for the three-year running-in period of the Regional Fund, to classify the outlay as 'compulsory expenditure', i.e. expenditure on which the Council had the final say. Mr *Aigner* made it absolutely clear that Parliament could in no instance depart from the original classification. Otherwise it would be trampling on its own hard won rights. Apart from this, Mr *Aigner* approved the Supplementary Budget.

The Council President, Mr *FitzGerald* said that the Council had classified the expenditure as compulsory because it had been established as such for the first three years (1975-1977), by the Paris Summit.

Mr *Cheysson* expressed the hope that both budget authorities, the Council and Parliament, would swiftly agree and referred to Parliament's reasonable attitude which, although it asked for the final say, had respected the appropriation ceilings. The Commission shared the views of the House and regarded regional policy expenditure as 'non-compulsory'.

The Group spokesmen, Mr *Notenboom* (C-D/NL), Mr *Gerlach* (S/G), Mr *Shaw* (C/UK) and Mr *Herbert* (EPD/IRL) endorsed the statements by the rapporteurs for the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Agriculture. The division on the Resolution motion by the Committee on Budgets in respect of Supplementary Budget No 1 was deferred until 8 April.

Energy

Energy research and development programmes (13 March)

2409. In its Opinion on the Commission's programme Proposals for research and development in the energy sector,² Parliament recommended that these programmes be of longer duration. New programmes should be presented by one year at the latest before programmes terminated after four years. They should be vetted and, if need be, modified early in 1977. The Commission should initiate cooperation with non-member countries, if this seemed desirable.

The Member of the Commission responsible for research and technology, Mr *Brunner* explained the Commission's viewpoint in respect of the capacity and range of Community research, the basic criteria and actual projects: Community research was to be pursued only when it was not feasible on a national scale (i.e. nuclear fusion), if there was a general need for it (reactor safety and profitability) and in long-term projects (solar energy, geothermal energy).

Mr *Brunner* agreed with the House that Community energy research must be integrated with an overall energy policy strategy and warned against premature optimism over the energy supply position.

Common energy policy—Objectives 1985 (13 March)

2410. Parliament approved the energy policy target figures for 1985 in the Commission's Communication of November 1974.³ So that

¹ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2402.

² Bull. EC 1-1975, points 1301 to 1309.

³ Bull. EC 11-1974, points 1601 to 1604 and 2267.

the overall objective of substantially reducing energy dependence can be attained, the Council and Commission must as soon as possible indicate practical ways and means, of a sufficiently binding nature.

The House called for a plan for energy saving. It approved the Commission's Proposal to limit the rate of consumption growth to 3.5% per year. The disparate energy price rules of the Member States impeded the achievement of the objectives proposed.

In connection with reducing energy dependency, the House approved the intensive prospection of hydrocarbons (mineral oil) within the borders of the Community and in different geographical regions. In promoting nuclear electricity generation, one of the vital prerequisites was accurate information for the public. The House again stressed the need for more intensive exploitation of solid fuels (hard coal) in the Community.

Economic situation in the Community (13 March)

2411. In its comments on the analysis of economic policy presented¹ by Commission Vice-President *Haferkamp*, Parliament agreed that curbs on consumption and encouragement to invest were the ways to effect the changes needed in the Community's economic structure. Both are closely linked with the solution of short-term economic difficulties. But the burden of such measures must be shared equitably. In this connection, the House explicitly approved the Commission's plans to use Social Fund resources for employment policy action.

The Community afforded more than ever the appropriate framework for overcoming the crisis. All in all Parliament supported an 'up-swing, in conditions of stability': Member States with relatively high inflation rates and negative balances of payments, were recommended to

adopt appropriate budget and monetary policies and vocational training programmes. States with relatively low inflation rates and payment balances in equilibrium or in surplus should cautiously pursue a selective policy of expansion. Protectionist tendencies should be forestalled by more intensive promotion of intra-Community trade. But the difficulties could certainly not be overcome without cooperation between the social partners or failing that a common energy policy. This was vital to the competitiveness of the European economy in world trade, which Parliament was eager to see boosted.

The rapporteur, Mr *Cousté* (EPD/F) endorsed Mr *Haferkamp's* conclusions that first and foremost the situation called for solidarity on the part of the Community countries and required that public opinion be accurately informed of the facts. The oil-consuming countries must realize more clearly that they were mutually dependent. Protection of Community stocks, the boosting of world trade and stronger Community solidarity should be the order of the day.

Mr *Haferkamp's* views were wholeheartedly endorsed by the Group spokesmen, Mr *Artzinger* (C-D/G), Mr *Leenhardt* (S/F), Mr *Dykes* (C/UK) and Mr *Normanton* (C/UK), but Mr *Bordu* (F) the speaker for the Communist and Allied Group contended that the multinational companies were solely to blame for the economic crisis.

In his concluding remarks, Mr *Haferkamp* heavily emphasized the value of accurate information. The public should not be misled. What was paid out in the form of services to the oil countries, against the increased prices for oil, could not be consumed again at home, but had to be made up by saving and extra effort. This was one of the roots of the crisis. The other was that the oil crisis occurred at a time when

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2404.

States and economies had for years been overstrained, and this had triggered off an excessive increase in the growth rates of national budgets. Rebutting Mr Bordu's comments, he stressed that this was not a crisis peculiar to the West, since the Eastern bloc countries were now also having to cope with higher prices. The western economic system, though in need of reform, had proved itself under fire.

Question Time (12 March)

2412. Questions were answered in the House by the President-in-Office of the Council, Mr FitzGerald Ireland's Foreign Minister together with Vice-Presidents Sir Christopher Soames and Mr Haferkamp, and Mr Cheysson, Mr Lardinois and Mr Gundelach, Members of the Commission.

Trade in live sheep, mutton and lamb

Mr McDonald (C-D/IRL) to the Council:

'Will the Council say what the situation will be regarding the access of Irish live sheep, mutton and lamb to the French market at the end of the transitional period in 1977; also would the Council say why certain other Member States have more favourable access than Ireland to the French market for these products?'

2412a. Mr FitzGerald replied that the Council was counting on the approval of a common organization of the markets for these products by 1977. Until then a number of national mechanisms from the period before the enlargement were being retained for the time being.

Whether there was a Community market organization or not, trade conditions would in any case

apply uniformly to all EEC countries from 1977 onwards.

National contributions to Community expenditure

Mr Durieux (L/F) to the Council:

'Does the Council envisage having recourse to the procedure under Article 235—as proposed by the Commission—in respect of the correcting mechanism for national contributions to Community expenditure?'

2412b. Mr FitzGerald felt that this Article of the Treaty (autonomous extension of the Treaties) would in all probability be applied.

The House could rest assured that it would be consulted.

West Berlin as the site of the European Vocational Training Centre

Mr Marras (COM/I) to the Council:

'Has the Council, in choosing West Berlin as the location for the European Vocational Training Centre considered the difficulties that will beset the Centre's functional operation owing to the fact that Berlin has a special status under international law?'

2412c. Mr FitzGerald replied to the effect that the decisive factor in favour of Berlin was that a highly qualified scientific infrastructure was available there, since the Centre would primarily be undertaking research work. The Council had been guided in its Decision by the viewpoint of the German Delegation and the western guarantee powers, who considered that such a centre was compatible with the status of West Berlin. Several German MPs pointed out in supplementary questions, that under the Treaty of Rome, West Berlin was part of the Community.

Bilateral agreements with State-trading countries

Mr Blumenfeld (C-D/G) to the Council:

'How does the Council view the fact that bilateral agreements on trade, credit and cooperation between individual Member States and non-members countries, especially State-trading countries, are still being concluded (e.g., the recent agreement between the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union) and what position will it adopt on this question?'

2412d. Mr FitzGerald emphasized that the negotiation and conclusion of cooperation agreements still came under the authority of the Member States. This equally applied to the latest Agreement quoted in the question. On a previous occasion, the United Kingdom had advised the responsible Committee in good time according to the procedure. Since no Member State had called for the introduction of a consultation procedure, it was to be assumed that there were no objections.

The Community's observer status at the United Nations

Mr Glinne (S/B) to the Council:

'What arrangements regarding representativity, competencies (Article 229 of the Treaty) and practical organization has the Council made now that the 29th General Assembly has granted the Community observer status at the United Nations with the right to speak in committee?'

2412e. Mr FitzGerald indicated that the Community was represented by a delegate from the country holding the Presidency of the Council and a delegate from the Commission. The position of the Nine was being coordinated by the appropriate bodies in Brussels or on the spot. The Community's spokesmen were the Council or Commission delegate, who dealt respectively with matters falling within their province.

Arrests in Spain

Mr Radoux (S/B) to the Commission:

'Following the arrest of a certain number of prominent persons in Spain after the creation of the "Junta Democrática de Madrid", can the Commission say what have been the results of *démarches* made by a certain number of its members to obtain the release of these persons?'

2412f. Sir Christopher Soames replied that to his knowledge none of the persons concerned were under arrest at the present time.

Storage capacity for oil

Mr Normanton (C/UK) to the Commission:

'What practical measures have been adopted by the Commission to establish increased storage capacity for oil and oil products within the Community and is the Commission satisfied with the progress to date?'

2412g. Acting for Mr Simonet, the responsible Vice-President, Mr Cheysson replied that the Community's stocks of crude oil in 1974 would have lasted for about 125 days. It was planned to hold stocks for 90 days. The storage capacity could therefore be regarded as adequate.

Feed-grain prices

Mr Kirk (C/UK) to the Commission:

'What is the difference between landed prices (including MCA payments) of feed grains from Community countries and from non-member countries at Liverpool and Belfast?'

2412h. Since the matter was still being investigated, Mr Lardinois could give no ready explanation of this anomaly which Mr Kirk had pointed out on a previous occasion.

Shareholdings in non-member countries

Lord Reay (C/UK) to the Commission:

'Is the Commission considering proposals in order to prevent the possibility of Member States adopting divergent regulations to limit the extent of shareholdings taken up in Community undertakings by residents of non-member countries, and if so, are they thinking along the lines of a limitation of shareholders, voting rights, or of the establishment of an international investment fund with specified powers of investment in such undertakings, or other possibilities?'

2412i. Mr Gundelach replied that the Commission was looking into this matter in collaboration with the OECD; it was still too early to say what action would be taken.

United States' monetary policy

Mr Terrenoire (EPD/F) to the Commission:

'To what extent is the Commission of the European Communities disturbed about the United States' present policy of *laissez-faire* in monetary matters and its consequences for:

- (i) the pattern of international trade and, in particular, Community exports;
- (ii) the direction taken by the recycling of the funds released by the oil-producing countries?'

2412j. Mr Haferkamp stressed that the Commission was aware of the problem, which stemmed from the downward movement of the dollar rate and in general terms from the international monetary system. The Commission felt that firmer multilateral coordination of economic and monetary policy was needed, *inter alia* on the question of interest policy.

Voting 'ad referendum'

(12 March)

2413. In Oral Questions to the Council and Commission, the Liberal and Allied Group asked whether '*ad referendum*' voting, as practised by

the Council, was compatible with the procedures provided in the Treaties for a Community institution. The rapporteur, Mr Durieux felt that it came to the question of the validity of the Council's acts. The Commission was asked how, with regard to the facts of the matter, it saw its role, as incorporated in the Treaties, of ensuring the application of the Treaties and their uniform interpretation.

The officiating President of the Council, Mr FitzGerald considered that the procedure in question was perfectly in keeping with the voting provisions of the Treaty and that in some instances it facilitated or speeded up Council decisions. He added that this involved conditional approval which after a period of grace, would be confirmed or withdrawn by the Minister concerned. The decision took effect only after it was confirmed.

Vice-President, Sir Christopher Soames put forward the same view for the Commission. The advantage of the mechanism was that it shortened the Council's decision procedure. If the approval of one of its members was still to come, the Council decision could be given full effect without the Council having to meet again. It also prevented Ministers from coming with rigid mandates from their governments. The procedure was a sound, pragmatic solution which was used only in exceptional cases involving unanimous decisions.

*Environment**Petition for protection of the Mediterranean Sea*
(10 March)

2414. The high degree of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea is seriously endangering the population of the coastal States, and plant and animal life. The Community institutions must take the necessary action to curb pollution and

the discharge of contaminants, otherwise the Mediterranean will soon become a dead sea. This was the substance of Parliament's grave warning in a Resolution endorsed by all the Groups. The Resolution stems from a Petition, laid before the European Parliament in April 1974 by a member of the French National Assembly, Mr Virgile Barel of Nice.

The House threw its support behind the alarm sounded in the Petition and reiterated its appeal of September 1974 to the Council and Commission to work for an agreement to combat pollution of the Mediterranean.

The rapporteur, Mr Premoli (L/I) spoke feelingly of the appalling situation in the Mediterranean, which as a well-nigh landlocked sea, could not command the water renewal required to ensure its purity. Commission Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza said that the Commission shared Parliament's alarm and promised that an appropriate Proposal for a Directive would be submitted.

Safeguarding international waterways from pollution
(14 March)

2415. Pollution of international waterways must be curbed by a European protection agreement, embracing the Member States of the Council of Europe and consequently the EEC. The Community as a whole must take part in the agreement alongside the Member States and be represented by the Commission in the organs of the agreement. The House approved an appropriate Proposal from the Commission for a Council Decision.

Exchange of data on air pollution
(15 March)

2416. In its Opinion on a Commission Proposal for a Council Decision on introducing corre-

sponding procedures at Community level, Parliament considered that the Member States' governments should intensify their cooperation with other European States in respect of a more substantial exchange of data on air pollution by sulphur compounds and particles in suspension. The House welcomed the Proposal as a useful move which should be backed up by further action.

Transport policy

Aid for road, rail and inland waterway transport
(14 March)

2417. Parliament approved a proposed Regulation to amend the procedure whereby the Commission is advised of national aid granted to road, rail and inland waterway transport. The House welcomed the proposed measures for putting the railway companies on a sound footing and harmonizing the rules governing the financial relationships between the railways and the States. The Member States should be allowed to give some financial support to the rail companies under their activity programmes, especially until budgetary equilibrium is secured.

Lomé Convention
(14 March)

2418. Parliament applauded the successful conclusion of the Convention¹ which bore the stamp of determination, realism and political resolve to protect the interests of both sides. The House was particularly gratified that joint institutions and a Consultative Assembly had been retained.

¹ Bull. EC 1-1975, points 1101 to 1106; 2-1975, point 2324.

The Convention is based on permanent dialogue between the partners on equal terms. This was highlighted by the Group spokesmen, Mr *Deschamps* (C-D/B), Mr *Dondelinger* (S/L) and Lord *Reay* (C/UK). The Convention is underwritten by joint institutions.

GATT negotiations (12 March)

2419. Replying to an Oral Question from Mr *Couste* (EPD/F), who asked about the Directives which the Council had given the Commission for the multilateral GATT negotiations in Geneva, Vice-President Sir Christopher *Soames* said that he could not publicly disclose the contents of the Directives, since this would weaken the Community's negotiating position. In drawing them up, the Council had for the most part followed the Commission's Proposals.

Council

European Council (Dublin 10 and 11 March 1975)

2420. *President*: Mr *Cosgrave*, Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland.

From the Commission: Mr *Ortoli*, President; Mr *Haferkamp*, Vice-President.

In accordance with the decision at their Paris meeting in December 1974, the Heads of Government of the Member States of the Community met for the first time as the European Council.

Budgetary correcting mechanism: The Heads of Government meeting in Council agreed on the correcting mechanism in connection with Mem-

ber States' financial contributions to the Community budget.¹

New Zealand: The Heads of Government adopted a Statement on imports of dairy products.²

World economic situation and the Community's economic and social situation: The Heads of Government meeting in Council discussed the world economic situation and the Community's social situation. They took note of a draft Resolution presented by Mr *Tindemans*, the Belgian Prime Minister and asked the Council of Ministers for Finance and Economy to consider it at their meeting of 18 March.

Raw materials and the developing countries: The Heads of Government discussed raw materials in general. They delegated the Council of Foreign Ministers to make it a priority to examine the problems of raw materials against the background of all relationships with the developing countries. These studies will be based mainly on recent Commission Communications.

Dialogue between the oil-producing and oil-consuming countries and problems of Community energy policy: The Heads of Government examined the problems relating to the International Energy Conference.³

Statement on steel by the British Prime Minister: The Heads of Government heard a statement on steel by the British Prime Minister. The solution to the problem described in the statement was deferred to a later stage of Community activity.

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe: A statement was adopted on the CSCE.⁴

Cyprus: The situation in Cyprus was reviewed and a brief statement adopted.⁵

¹ Point 1103.

² Point 1104.

³ Point 2252.

⁴ Point 2347.

⁵ Point 2336.

2421. The Council held three meetings on general matters, agriculture and economic and financial affairs.

333rd Meeting—General matters
(Brussels, 3 and 4 March 1975)

2422. *President:* Mr FitzGerald, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President; Sir Christopher Soames, Mr Simonet, Vice-Presidents; Mr Borschette, Mr Thomson, Mr Gundelach, Mr Cheysson, Mr Brunner, Members.

Budgetary correcting mechanism: The Council noted the results of the preparatory work and found that it was not in a position to secure a final solution. It therefore felt that the question should go to the European Council meeting in Dublin on 10 and 11 March.

Generalized preferences: The Council debated the future development of the Community's generalized preferences and adopted a statement.¹

United Nations Conference on Industrial Development: The Council discussed the preparation of the second Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.²

Food aid: The Council laid down the 1974/75 schedule in respect of commitments by the Community and the Member States under the Food Aid Convention.³

Energy: The Council agreed certain principles which, in the light of opening the dialogue with the producer countries, the Community feels should govern international cooperation in developing energy resources.

Regional policy: The Council found that there were no longer any difficulties preventing adoption of the texts concerning the formation of the European Regional Development Fund and the

Regional Policy Committee. A concertation meeting on this was held between the Council and a delegation from Parliament led by the President. It transpired that a broad measure of agreement existed in respect of the texts. The Council agreed that it would formally adopt them as soon as Parliament issued a new Opinion. It is expected that the regulations on regional policy will take effect retroactively to 1 July 1975. The Council also established the draft of Supplementary and Amending Budget No 1 for 1975, mainly intended to implement the European Regional Development Fund.

Negotiations with Mexico: The Council decided to authorize the Commission to open negotiations with Mexico for a non-preferential Agreement based on commercial cooperation.

334th Meeting—Agriculture
(Brussels, 4 March 1975)

2423. *President:* Mr Clinton, Ireland's Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Lardinois, Member.

Stocktaking of the CAP: The Council held a preliminary discussion on the stocktaking of the CAP presented by the Commission.

Hill-farming: The Council found that, at this stage, it was unable to formally adopt the Directive on hill-farming in certain underfavoured areas or the Directives concerning the Community list of the farming regions involved. It therefore agreed to adopt the texts on hill-farming at its next session, with the understanding that in the meantime the question of the proportion of Community financing would still be open for discussion.

¹ Point 2318.

² Point 2317.

³ Point 2319.

Sugar: The Council cursorily debated the cane sugar production problems in the French overseas departments.

Fisheries: The Council had a general discussion on fisheries. Since the situation has deteriorated of late, the Commission was asked to study both the short-term and structural problems and to submit appropriate Proposals.

The Council also considered the beef and veal market situation and certain problems involving fruit and vegetables.

335th Meeting—Finance and economy (Brussels, 18 March 1975)

2424. *President:* Mr Ryan, Ireland's Minister for Finance.

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President; Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President, Mr Thomson, Member.

The meeting was also attended by: Mr Oort, Chairman of the Monetary Committee, Mr Murray, Chairman of the Coordination Group for Short-term Economic and Financial Policies and Mr Malinvaud, Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee.

Adjustment of economic policy guidelines in 1975: The Council made its quarterly review of the Community's economic situation. The end of the debate saw agreement on a Decision comprising the guidelines for the Member States in preparing their economic policies.¹

Unit of account: The Council agreed the text of a Decision proposed by the Commission, whereby the sums of aid quoted in the Lomé Convention are expressed in units of account composed of a 'basket' of Community currencies.²

European Monetary Cooperation Fund: Having received the Opinions of Parliament, the Mon-

etary Committee and the Governors' Committee of the Central Banks, the Council held an initial discussion on the proposed Regulation to amend the Regulation setting up a European Monetary Cooperation Fund.

Commission

Activities

2425. The Commission held four meetings in March. The dominant features of the discussions were the meeting of the European Council in Dublin³ and economic and financial affairs. The Commission also adopted its work schedule as far as August 1975.

Economic and financial affairs: The Commission adopted several reports and proposals for the Council meeting on financing and economy on 18 March: Proposals to define a European unit of account which would progressively become the sole unit of account for all Community activities; a report on the way in which the 1974 decisions relating to the convergence of economies were applied; a Proposal on economic policy guidelines for 1975, by adapting those defined last autumn on the basis of the most up-to-date assessment factors.

The Commission noted with satisfaction the results of this Council meeting and the meeting of the EIB Board of Governors in Brussels also on 18 March. For the new European Development Fund appropriations and in line with the Commission's Proposal, the Council decided to use a European unit of account based on a 'basket' of Member States' currencies. The

¹ Point 2203.

² Point 2201.

³ Points 1501 to 1504.

Governors of the EIB then decided to use the same unit in drawing up the Bank's balance sheet. The Commission pointed out the importance of this two-fold decision. Its aim is to examine how the areas in which the European unit of account is used can be progressively extended.

Agricultural policy: The Commission considered the current troubled state of the wine and the beef and veal market. For wine it decided to announce that it intended to submit a Proposal to the next Council meeting of Agriculture Ministers for the opening of a new distillation tranche in order to clear part of the market surplus.

Development aid: The Commission adopted two Communications to the Council on a policy in respect of the developing countries. The first defines priority areas where coordination between national policies and Community Development Aid Policy, decided by the Council in 1974, should be applied, and the second is intended to define forms of Community financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries. The Commission's priority objectives are to ensure that the developing countries' food needs are met by all available means, to favour cooperation and regional integration among the developing countries, and to foster Community exports. The Community will have to enter increasingly bigger appropriations into its budget.

Information programme 1975: The Commission adopted an additional information programme for 1975 with a view to using the supplementary appropriations granted as a result of the European Parliament's action. Within the Community, the programme mainly covers large scale publicity drives (mobile exhibitions, a competition on the Community's structure and activities, activities relating to the regional press,

etc.). New activities *vis-à-vis* non-member countries will be linked with implementing the Lomé Convention, which embraces 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, and with extending the network of delegations and the Commission Information Bureau.

Official visit of Sir Christopher Soames to China: Sir Christopher Soames informed the Commission that the Chinese Ambassador to Brussels had sent a letter from the Peking Institute of International Relations inviting him to visit China in his capacity as Vice-President of the Commission. With the Commission's agreement he accepted this invitation, and will go to China in May.

Court of Justice

New Cases

Case 24/75—Mrs T. Buroni-Petroni, Cagli, and Mrs S. Amarelli-Petroni, Fano, v Office national des pensions pour travailleurs salariés, Brussels

2426. On 6 March, in a case concerning calculation of a retirement pension for an Italian national who had worked in Belgium and Italy, the Brussels tribunal du travail (Labour Court) asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the compatibility of Article 46(3) of Regulation 1408/71¹ on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community with Article 51 of the EEC Treaty and on the interpretation of that Article.

¹ OJ L149 of 5.7.1971.

Case 25/75—Van Vliet Kwasten- en Ladderfabriek NV, Nijmegen, v Fratelli Dalle Crode, Conegliano

2427. On 7 March the Arnhem Arrondissementsrechtbank (District Court) asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 3 of Regulation 67/67¹ on the application of Article 85(3) of the EEC Treaty to certain categories of exclusive dealing agreements. The court particularly wished to know whether such an agreement qualified for exemption under Article 85(3) if it contained clauses whose sole purpose was to prevent manufacturers and intermediaries in the manufacturer's Member State from selling the goods covered by the agreement in the territory covered by the agreement, when intermediaries and users established in the territory covered by the agreement were prevented simply from obtaining the relevant products in the manufacturer's Member State.

Case 26/75—General Motors Continental NV, Antwerpen, v the Commission

2428. On 19 December 1974 the Commission adopted a Decision relating to a procedure implementing Article 86 of the EEC Treaty, whereby it fined General Motors Continental 100 000 u.a. for having abused its dominant position by charging an excessive price for issuing the certificate and shield which Belgian law requires it to issue after verifying that Opel vehicles are in conformity with the certificate of type approval and after identifying those vehicles; on 7 March General Motors applied to the Court of Justice for annulment of the Decision.

Case 27/75—MG Bonaffini et al v Istituto nazionale della previdenza sociale, Enna

2429. On 11 March the Enna Pretura, (Magistrates' Court) which was hearing a case con-

cerning the conditions to be met by migrant workers in order to qualify for unemployment benefit, requested the Court of Justice to give a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of the expression 'frontier worker' in Article 71 of Regulation 1408/71² on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community. The court also asked whether Article 69 of that Regulation which prescribes a waiting period of four weeks during which the unemployed person must remain available to the employment services of the relevant State, meant that the unemployed person could not obtain unemployment benefit in his Member State of origin if he failed to comply with such waiting period.

Case 28-75—Baupla GmbH, Import und Vertrieb von Baustoffen, Saarlouis, v Oberfinanzdirektion

2430. In a case on the tariff classification of prefabricated external wall sections, in respect of which the applicant contested the official tariff classification notice (verbindliche Zolltarifaukunft), the Bundesfinanzhof (Federal Finance Court) asked the Court of Justice, on 12 March, for a preliminary ruling on whether, in cases where a composite product may be classified under two or more tariff headings, each relating to one of the materials used in the composite product, Rule 3(a) of the General Rules for the interpretation of the nomenclature of the Common Customs Tariff was to be interpreted as meaning that the more specific heading did not prevail and that tariff classification was to be based on General Rules 3(b) and (c).

¹ OJ 57 of 25.3.1967.

² OJ L149 of 5.7.1971.

Case 29/75—Kaufhof Aktiengesellschaft, Cologne, v the Commission

2431. On 17 March a German chain-store organization applied to the Court of Justice for annulment of the Commission Decision of 20 January 1975¹ authorizing the Federal Republic of Germany not to apply Community treatment to preparations and preserves of beans in pod, falling within subheading No 20.02 ex G of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in the People's republic of China and in free circulation in the other Member States, to the extent that it applied to goods in respect of which applications for import licences had been submitted to the German authorities when the Decision entered into force.

Case 30/75—Spa Unil-It, Milan, v Amministrazione finanziaria dello Stato, Rome

2432. On 18 March 1975 the Corte suprema di cassazione (supreme Court of Cassation) asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Regulation 13/64² on the progressive establishment of a common organization of the market in milk and milk products and the Decision of 17 July 1962³ laying down special methods of administrative cooperation for the application of levies in intra-Community trade introduced under the common agricultural policy, in order to establish which documents were necessary to qualify for the intra-Community scheme applicable to milk products imported in 1964.

Case 31/75—Official of the Commission v the Commission

2433. On 18 March 1975 a Commission official applied to the Court of Justice for annulment of a Commission Decision refusing to admit him to an internal competition.

Case 32/75—Mrs A. Christini, Vve Fiorini, Vénissieux, v Société nationale des chemins de fer français, Paris

2434. On 21 March the Paris Cour d'Appel (Court of Appeal) which was hearing a case on the issue by the SNCF of a reduced rate passenger ticket for large families to an Italian national asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on whether such a ticket constituted a 'social advantage' within the meaning of Article 7 of Regulation 1612/68⁴ on freedom of movement for workers within the Community.

Case 33/75—Mr B. Galati, Terrasini, v Landesversicherungsanstalt Schwaben, Augsburg

2435. On 24 March the Augsburg Sozialgericht (Social Court), which was hearing a case on observance of the waiting period for entitlement to disability pensions, asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 15(3) of Regulation 574/72 fixing the procedure for implementing Regulation 1408/71⁵ as regards calculation of periods of insurance. The Court also asked how the competent social security authority should regard periods of insurance completed in another Member State and affecting the waiting period in that State.

Case 34/75—Sirdar Ltd of Bective Mills, Alverthorpe, Wakefield, v the Commission

2436. By its Decision of 5 March 1975 under the procedure laid down in Article 15(6) of Regulation 17⁶ (first Regulation implementing

¹ OJ L23 of 30.1.1975.

² OJ 34 of 27.2.1964.

³ OJ 76 of 4.8.1962.

⁴ OJ L257 of 19.10.1968.

⁵ OJ L149 of 5.7.1971.

⁶ OJ 13 of 21.2.1962.

Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty), the Commission informed the applicant and Mulliez, a French firm, that initial consideration had shown that their agreement on trademarks, dated 15 September 1964, was caught by the prohibition contained in Article 85(1) of the Treaty.

On 28 March the Court of Justice received an application for annulment of that Decision, on the ground that it did not comply with the procedural rules laid down in Regulations 17¹ and 99/63² on the hearings provided for in Article 19(1) and (2) of Regulation 17.

Judgments

Case 31/71—Official of the Commission v the Commission

2437. In this case which concerned the composition of the Invalidity Committee required to examine the plaintiff, the Court gave a second interlocutory judgment on 12 March, declaring that the action had become devoid of object but reserving the decision as to costs.

Case 189/73—Official of the Commission v the Commission

2438. By its judgment of 19 March the Court dismissed an application for annulment of the Commission's express rejection of a request for classification in Category A and for payment of indirect damages and compensation for material damage.

Case 23/74—Official of the European Parliament v the European Parliament

2439. By its judgment of 12 March the Court dismissed the application by an official of the European Parliament for recognition of his status

as an official temporarily called upon to occupy a post in Grade A3 and for payment of the appropriate differential allowance.

Case 28/74—Official of the Commission v the Commission

2440. By its judgment of 18 March the Court dismissed this application which was for annulment of the Commission decision rejecting the applicant's request for payment of the voluntary resignation allowance on the basis of Article 42 of the ECSC Treaty and laying down terms for conversion of the sums due.

Joined Cases 44, 46 and 49/74—Officials of the Commission v the Commission

2441. By its judgment of 18 March the Court dismissed the actions brought by 539 Commission officials for annulment of the Commission decision of 21 September 1973 to make deductions from salaries for strike action. This judgment applies the general principle of labour law that salaries are not payable to staff who are on strike.

Case 65/74—Mr G. Porrini et al. v (1) European Atomic Energy Community and (2) SpA Comont, Milan; Mr A. Bellentano et al. v (1) European Atomic Energy Community and (2) SpA Cemi, Milan

2442. In the proceedings before the Varese Court relating to the application of Italian Law No 1369 of 23 October 1960³ (employment agencies) in which Euratom was the defendant to actions by persons employed by Italian firms

¹ OJ 13 of 21.2.1962.

² OJ 127 of 20.8.1963.

³ Gazzetta Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana No 289 of 25.11.1960.

working under contract to the Joint Research Centre in Ispra (the 'appalti' cases), the judge had asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on 12 September 1974. The Court was asked, *inter alia*, whether the correct interpretation of Article 152 of the Euratom Treaty was that the Court of Justice had jurisdiction over disputes between the Community and persons who, although not on the Community's staff, claimed that status and whether a decision of the court could take the place of the letter of appointment as an official.

Giving judgment on 11 March 1975, the Court held that Article 152 applied not only to persons having the status of official or other members of staff (other than local staff), but also to those who claimed such status, while the employment relationship between the Community and its staff, other than local staff, could not be based on the decision of a national judge.

Case 72/74—Union Syndicale—Service Public européen, Brussels, et al. v the Council

2443. This action for annulment of the Council Decision of 22/23 July 1974, in that it rejected all proposals for adjusting the remuneration of European officials, and for recognition of the right to compensation for the loss suffered thereby, was dismissed as inadmissible.

Case 78/74—Firma Deuka Deutsche Kraftfutter GmbH B.J. Stolp, Düsseldorf, v Einfuhr und Vorratsstelle für Getreide und Futtermittel, Frankfurt-am-Main

2444. In a case concerning the refusal by the defendant to grant an additional premium for denaturing certain varieties of common wheat, the Verwaltungsgerichtshof (Higher Administrative Court) of Hessen asked the Court of Justice on 17 October 1974 for a preliminary ruling on

the validity of Regulation 849/70 amending Regulations 1403/69 and 1404/69¹ as regards the denaturing of common wheat.

Giving judgment on 18 March the Court held that the Regulation was valid.

ECSC Consultative Committee

169th Meeting

2445. The Consultative Committee held its 169th meeting in Luxembourg on 14 March, chaired by Mr *Arnaud* and attended by Vice-President *Simonet* of the Commission.

Mr *Arnaud* paid tribute to Mr *Joseph Bech*, Luxembourg's honorary Minister of State, who recently passed away, and to the forty-two miners who lost their lives in the Liévin disaster. He then informed the Committee of the proposal from the bureau to set up a special committee for energy problems. The Committee endorsed the proposal.

Energy situation: Vice-President *Simonet* outlined the present situation, coloured by a surplus in the supply of oil products resulting from a fall in consumption. This in no way negated the need to implement a long-term energy policy, so as to reduce the Community's external dependence by 50% by 1985. Mr *Simonet* highlighted the value of an oil prices policy and felt that, if oil prices did fall, we should not underestimate the risk that the Member States might falter in their resolve to pursue a new policy. On coal, Mr *Simonet* stressed the need to keep up a Community output of 180 million oil equivalent tonnes.

¹ OJ L 180 of 22.7.1969.

Coal forecasts: presentation of the forward coal programme for 1975 provoked comment from several members. Their remarks focused on the over-optimistic outlook on increasing production, on the meagre investments in electric power stations to support mining operations, the steep upswing in imports, half of which came from Eastern European countries, and lastly, the major social problems in the pits.

Steel forecasts: despite the more modest figures in the revised version of the Commission's forecasts in its forward programme, the Committee again felt them to be over-optimistic. The reservations were based on a theoretical increase in the level of the GNP currently estimated at only 1.5%, on a drop in exports to non-member countries, on Japanese competition and the slackness of the American market. The Committee agreed, however, to publish the programme provided that the forecasts were clearly dated and that the situation would be reappraised in June.

On *technical steel research*, the Committee agreed the financing of 63 projects for a sum of 15.5 million u.a.

European Investment Bank

A new unit of account for the EIB

244. The Board of Governors of the EIB met in Brussels on 18 March to take a decision on the unit of account to be applied by the Bank in calculating conversion rates.

The EIB statutes define the unit of account to be used by the Bank in relation to gold, and stipulate that the conversion rates between this unit and national currencies will be calculated on the basis of gold parities declared with the

International Monetary Fund. The major changes in the international monetary system over the last three years have indicated more and more clearly, that the position of gold, and consequently the gold parities, would be substantially transformed. In consideration of these developments, the EIB Board of Governors had decided on 15 July 1974 that the Bank's statutes had to be amended, so that the Governors, in a unanimous ruling, would be in a position to alter the definition of the unit of account used by the Bank and the method of converting the unit into national currencies and vice-versa. Since the proposed amendment must be ratified by each of the nine Member States, the procedure could well be a lengthy one. Consequently, at the meeting of 18 March, the Board authorized the Bank, as from 30 December 1974 and until the amendment took effect, to use conversion rates, in drawing up its balance sheet, which reflected the market exchange rates, and to discard the gold parities, which in practice, have steadily lost their significance.

The new conversion rates will be calculated on the basis of the conversion rates between national currencies and a new European unit of account, with a value equal to that of a basket of currencies made up as under:

DM	0.828
£	0.0885
FF	1.15
Lit	109
Fl	0.286
Bfrs	3.66
Lfrs	0.14
Dkr	0.217
£Ir	0.00759

This is actually the new unit of account as proposed by the Commission in the context of the Lomé Convention and adopted by the Council at its meeting of 18 March.¹

¹ Points 2201 and 2424.

The conversion rates between the new unit of account and Member States' currencies and other currencies used by the Bank in its transactions (such as US\$ and the Swiss franc) will be determined each working day by the Commission, using a method akin to the one applied by the IMF in the daily calculation of the SDR. These settings will be directly transmitted by the Commission to the central banks and the EIB. The Commission also intends to publish them in the Official Journal of the Communities so that the public may have an independent guide.

The Bank will thus be the first institution to use conversion rates in its accounting, which have been reckoned by reference to the new European unit of account.

The Governor representing Denmark agreed to the Board's decision subject to the approval of the Finance Committee of the Danish Parliament.

Loans issued

2447. The EIB has signed an underwritten agreement with a syndicate of Dutch banks concerning the placement on the Dutch market of a bond issue for Fl 75 million (24.4 million u.a.).

The loan bears interest at $8\frac{3}{4}\%$, payable annually on 1 May, and matures over a maximum of 15 years; it is redeemable at par after a five-year grace period in ten equal instalments to be drawn by lot. Advance redemption is excluded over the first ten years and subsequently only at 101%.

The loan is the Bank's ninth public issue in the Netherlands.

Loans granted

France

2448. The Bank has granted a global loan of an equivalent value of FF 20 million to the Société lorraine de développement et d'expansion (LORDEX), which will be used to finance small- and medium-sized enterprises in the region, which is facing special problems of industrial redevelopment.

The loan bears interest at $9\frac{7}{8}\%$ and matures over ten years. Investments involving the creation of new jobs, or which would safeguard existing jobs will have first call on it.

The Lorraine is in the throes of structural changes in coal, iron and steel, and textiles, the three major industries of the region, where the labour force has had to be reduced over recent years.

It is also faced with economic problems peculiar to the border districts, where traditional trade partners are changing and the neighbouring countries are showing uneven growth.

The situation in the Lorraine calls for a reorganization of industry there, where the expansion and modernization of small and medium-sized enterprises can play a major role.

Turkey

2449. The Bank has granted a loan of 6.35 million u.a. (US\$ 7.7 million) to build a cement works in central Anatolia.

The project is being carried out by the Yozgat İşçi Birliği İnşaat Malzemeleri Ticaret ve Sanayi AŞ (YİBİTAS), a joint stock company formed in 1973 to enable migrant workers from Yozgat to put their savings into productive investments in their native province.

After detailed studies to determine the best form of industrial investment for the development of the Yozgat, YIBITAS decided to build a cement works which will use local raw materials and Turkish lignite as fuel.

Financing Community activities

Stewardship of the 1974 budget

2450. On 25 March, the Commission sent Parliament and the Council the report on the execution of the budget for 1974, as stipulated in Article 35 of the Financial Regulation of 24 April 1973.¹

The report comprises an analysis of the treasury situation for each of the main sections of the budget.

On the revenue side, the proceeds from own resources should run to about 3 000 million u.a. which represents an increase of roughly 60 million u.a. as compared with the original budget, but a decrease of some 150 million u.a. as against the latest forecasts incorporated in the Supplementary Budget No 1. This alteration is mainly due to a slowing down in the collection of customs duties over the second half of 1974.

Supplementary and Amending Budget No 1/75

Allotment of appropriations to the Regional Fund

2451. On 21 January, the Commission had sent the Council a preliminary draft of Supplementary and Amending Budget No 1 for the financial year 1975.² Its main purpose was to

enable the Regulations concerning the European Regional Development Fund to be implemented.

The Council accepted the Commission's Proposals for the most part, namely that 300 million u.a. in commitment appropriations and 150 million u.a. in payment appropriations be entered under the Regional Fund in 1975, but did not allow the appropriation for the studies to be entered separately. At the Council meeting of 3 and 4 March, a draft budget was correspondingly drawn up.

Parliament debated the draft during the March part-session,³ but the final division was deferred until 8 April. In contrast to the Council, Parliament considers that from the outset of the three-year trial period, this expenditure must be of a 'non-compulsory' nature, so that the House can modify it as a last resort.

Allocation to the Regional Fund of EAGGF Guidance appropriations

2452. Within the draft of Supplementary and Amending Budget No 1/75, the Council had accepted the Commission's Proposal to draw the 150 million u.a. representing the payment appropriations for 1975 from the 'reserved' appropriations of the EAGGF Guidance Section, including: 125 million u.a. out of the reserve provided under Article 833 (operations in priority agricultural regions) and not utilized between 1972 and 1974, and 25 million u.a. by broaching the 1969 tranche of the 'Mansholt' reserve provided under Article 880.

Since this twin drawing results in an *a posteriori* reduction in the annual endowment of the EAGGF Guidance Section, it meant a departure

¹ OJ L 116 of 1.5.1973.

² Bull. EC 1-1975, points 2454 to 2456.

³ Point 2408.

from the provisions of Article 6 of the Council Regulation of 21 April 1970 on financing the common agricultural policy.¹ So the Commission sent the Council a proposed Regulation to this effect; despite reservations, Parliament approved it during the sitting of 12 March;² on 18 March, the Council adopted the Regulation allowing the relevant appropriations to be transferred.³

Financial Regulation

2453. After the creation of the European Regional Development Fund,⁴ the Council, again on 18 March, adopted a Financial Regulation consolidating the Financial Regulation of 25 April 1973 applying to the general budget of the European Communities.⁵ The new Regulation details the special terms relating to the Fund's revenue and expenditure.

Own resources

2454. Under the procedure provided in Article 6(2) of the Council Regulation of 21 January 1974,⁶ the Advisory Committee on Own Resources made its first review of the reports by the Commission departments when the own resources had been checked, established and made available. The Commission was involved in these operations over the first half of 1974 in accordance with Article 14 of the Council Regulation of 2 January 1971.⁷ The Committee also considered the remarks by the national authorities.

The finalized programme for 1975 of inspection visits under Article 14 of the Council Regulation of 2 January 1971 was forwarded to the Member States' representatives.⁷

ECSC loans

2455. During March, the Commission signed a bond issue contract for DM 150 million. This loan, underwritten by a syndicate of German banks, bears interest at 8.50% p.a., matures over 10 years and was offered to the public at 99%.

With this transaction the total of loans on 1 April 1975 contracted by the ECSC since it started activities amounts to 2 189.6 million u.a. equivalent value.

¹ OJ L94 of 28.4.1970.

² Point 2407.

³ OJ L73 of 21.3.1975.

⁴ Council Regulation of 18.3.1975, OJ L73 of 21.3.1975.

⁵ OJ L20 of 24.1.1974.

⁶ OJ L3 of 5.1.1971.

⁷ Bull. EC 10-1974, point 2458.

5. Institutional questions— European policy

Member States' participation in financing the Community budget

2501. At the first meeting of the European Council¹ in Dublin on 10 and 11 March, the Community Heads of Government agreed, subject to certain provisions, the budgetary correcting mechanism² described in the Commission Communication entitled 'unacceptable situation and correcting mechanism'.³

Political cooperation

2502. At this first meeting of the European Council,¹ the Community Heads of Government dwelt on two issues involving political cooperation, namely the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE)⁴ and the situation in Cyprus.⁵

Relevant considerations had been prepared by a meeting of the Political Committee on 3 March and at a brief meeting of the Foreign Ministers, both of which took place in Brussels.

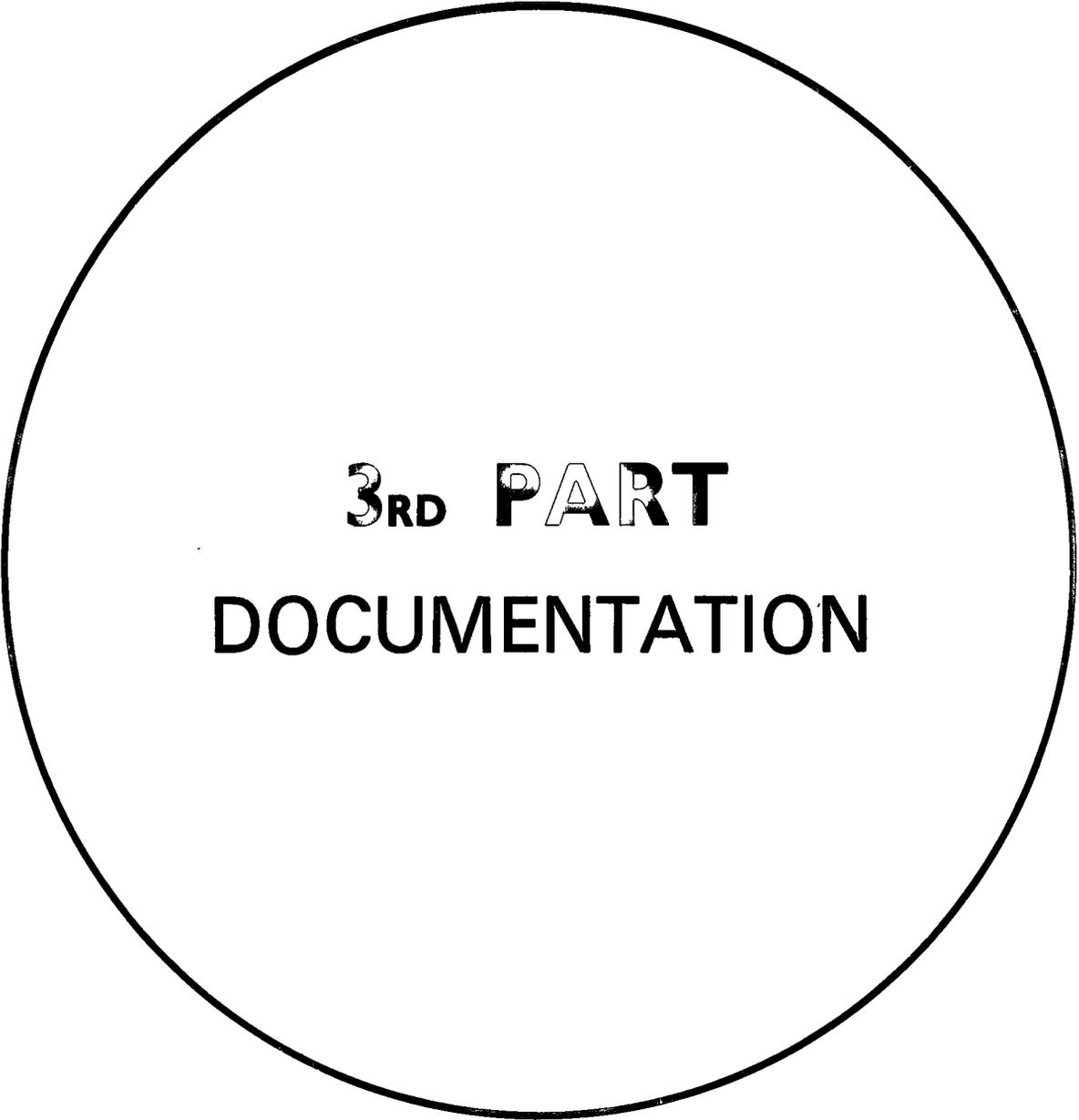
¹ Point 2420.

² Points 1103 and 1502.

³ Bull. EC 1-1975, points 2503 to 2510.

⁴ Point 2347.

⁵ Point 2336.



3RD PART

DOCUMENTATION

Note to the reader

The section 'Published in the Official Journal' no longer appears in the Bulletin of the European Communities. The Information concerned can be found in a more comprehensive form in the monthly Methodological Tables of the Official Journal of the European Communities. They can be obtained from the Official Publications Office of the European Communities or from the Sales Offices (see the last page of the Bulletin) at the following prices: Bfrs 50, Dkr 7.80, DM 3.40, £ 0.55, FF 6.20, Lit 850, Fl 3.45, US \$ 1.20.

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The Commission of the European Communities will award in 1975-1976 15 research grants of Bfrs 120 000 maximum. Priority will be given to research projects dealing with the recent evolution and the development—political, economic, social and legal—of the European Communities.

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The application must include:

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- the final quarter upon reception of the typed manuscript referred to below.

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Employees of the institutions of the European Communities and their spouses and children may not apply.

The study must be written in one of the official languages of the European Communities. Two copies of the final typewritten text must be submitted before 31 October 1976.

The Commission of the European Communities may also participate in the publication costs of the study, up to an amount not exceeding Bfrs 25 000.

Decisions to award grants are taken by 31 October at the latest.

Applications must be submitted before 30 June to:

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Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Bruxelles (Belgique)—tel. 735 0040/735 8040.

*

¹ Application forms may be obtained from the Youth, Schools and Universities Division, Directorate-General for Information, Commission of the European Communities, Berlaymont 2/74, Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels, or from any of the Information Offices of the European Communities listed below:

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 (1975). 4 p. (E)

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