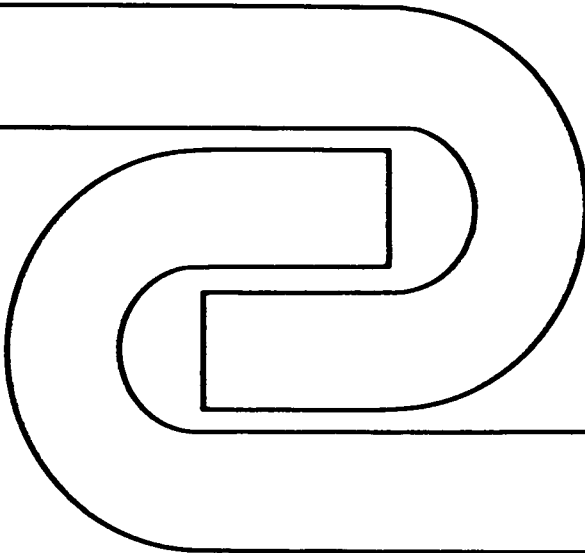


ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

BULLETIN



Brussels - N.8/1980

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— I —
182nd PLENARY SESSION

Election of the Chairman

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 182nd Plenary Session at the Committee building, Brussels, on 29 and 30 October 1980. During the first part of the Session the Committee appointed Mr Tomas Roseingrave (Ireland — Various Interests) as its new Chairman and Mr Norman Miller (UK — Employers) and Mr Antoine Laval (France — Workers) as Vice-Chairmen. It also appointed a new Bureau (see page 25).

The first part of the Plenary Session was chaired by the outgoing Chairman, Mr R. Vanni, the second by the Chairman-elect.

SPEECH BY THE NEW CHAIRMAN, Mr. ROSEINGRAVE

In his inaugural speech, Mr Roseingrave said that among the future tasks of the Committee it was essential to define more clearly the Committee's role alongside that of the European Parliament. Misconceptions and inaccuracies about its function had to be removed and relations with the Parliament had to be improved. Mrs Simone Veil, President of the Parliament, had made a good step forward some months ago when she addressed the Committee; it was up to the Committee, Mr Roseingrave said, to follow up the guidelines which had been suggested at that time for a better liaison with Parliament. The President also proposed to take advantage of what his predecessor, Mr Vanni, had achieved in obtaining a more effective relationship with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as well as with the Commission. All these efforts should bring about an appropriate recognition of the work of the Economic and Social Committee.

While the Committee was engaged in contributing towards Community efforts in tackling the great issues of unemployment, inflation, high interest rates and investment (issues which would be with us for some time) it was important to develop the Committee's press relations to publicize the views of the members of this forum. Mr Roseingrave then reminded members of the effects which Greece's accession to the Community would have on the Committee's work and of the fundamental problems concerning trade between the Community and industrialized countries, as well as of the Community's responsibilities towards developing countries



The outgoing Chairman, Mr Vanni, handing over to his successor, Mr Roseingrave.



The new ESC Chairman, Mr. Tomàs Roseingrave.

The Chairman concluded by asking for the members' full cooperation in carrying out the tasks before them and pledged all his energy and resources to making the Economic and Social Committee more productive, effective and efficient.

Adoption of Opinions

1. GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCES 1981/85

« The Commission Proposal to the Council Fixing the Community's Five Year Scheme of Generalized Tariff Preferences for Period 1981-1985 and the Opening of the Scheme Applicable in 1981 ».

Gist of the Commission's proposal

The Commission's proposals are the tangible expression of the guidelines published at the beginning of the year, and on which the Economic and Social Committee issued an Opinion on 30 April 1980.

Their aim is to lay down the customs duties to be imposed on imports from the developing countries.

a) Those concerning agricultural products are basically the same as those currently in force.

b) Industrial products are divided into two groups, « sensitive » and « non-sensitive », and their access to the EEC is controlled in the light of the competitiveness of their country of origin.

c) Textile products are subject to the same arrangements as before.

Gist of the Opinion (*)

The Economic and Social Committee protests at the attitude of the European Commission which has failed to take into account the Committee's recent proposals. It also wants the scheme of generalized tariff preferences for the period 1981-1985 to last just one year and be reviewed at the end of this first year.

In its Opinion, adopted by 55 votes with 3 votes against and 9 abstentions, the Committee calls once more for a review of the scheme in the light of the rapid changes that have occurred in the world economy and after consultations with socio-economic interests, including the Eco-

(*) Doc. CES 1107:80.

conomic and Social Committee. To this end Member States are called upon to submit their statistics to the European Commission without delay. The Committee has misgivings about the effectiveness of the Commission's proposed scheme to protect sensitive products (shoes, glass, etc.).

Pointing out that some less-developed countries have attained a level of development which enables them to compete on international markets without privileges, the Committee would like to see the GATT rules applied progressively to these countries (most-favoured-nation clause, quantitative restrictions...).

On the other hand, the scheme of generalized tariff preferences must provide aid to the poorest LDCs by offering them preferential access to Community markets.

The Committee urges once more that a clause on minimum labour standards be included in the scheme of generalized preferences so that working conditions can be improved.

It also feels that the inclusion of Basmati rice on the list of products covered by the GSP poses a problem because it comes under the common marketing arrangements of the CAP.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for External Relations under the chairmanship of Mr de Precigout — France — Employers. The rapporteur was Mr Cremer — Germany — Workers.

2. PAPER RECYCLING RESEARCH (AMENDMENT)

« Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 78/384/EEC adopting a Multiannual Research and Development Programme for the European Economic Community in the Field of Paper and Board Recycling (Indirect Action) ».

Gist of the Commission document

On 17 April 1978 the Council adopted a research and development programme for the European Economic Community in the field of paper and board recycling. The programme — which was to run for three years from 1 January 1978 and had an upper limit of expenditure of 2.9 million EUA — is due to end on 31 December 1980 (OJ No. L 107 of 21.4.78).

The majority of the projects, which were based on the award of contracts, could not be started until January 1979.

Gist of the Opinion (*)

The Economic and Social Committee approves the proposal in an Opinion which was adopted unanimously.

The Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen — Netherlands Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr Masprone — Italy — Employers.

3. RECYCLING OF PAPER AND BOARD

« Draft Council Recommendation to the Member States concerning the recovery and re-use of waste paper and board ».

Gist of the Proposal for a Recommendation

The European Community Action Programme on the Environment, 1977-1981, which was approved by a declaration of the Council of the European Communities and representatives of the Member States meeting in Council on 17 May 1977, explains the need for an « active anti-waste policy » and sets out priorities in this field — the recycling of waste paper and board is one such priority. The Programme covers the prevention of waste, its reclamation and recycling as well as possible re-use.

The recommendation to the Member States aims, inter alia to :

- encourage the use of recycled — and recyclable — paper and board, especially in the national administrations, public bodies and those national official services which can set an example;
- encourage where feasible, the use of recycled paper and board containing a high percentage of mixed waste paper;
- re-examine, in the light of recent technological advances, the existing specifications for paper products which restrict, for reasons other than adequacy of a product for its task, the use of recycled paper;
- implement programmes of consumer and manufacturer education to promote paper and board products made from recycled fibres;
- develop and promote uses for waste paper other than as raw material for the manufacture of paper and board.

The Committee has dealt with questions concerning paper and board production in the following Opinions :

(*) Doc. CES 1104/80.

1974 - Memorandum on problems raised by the pulp, paper and board industry;

1974 - Directive on the reduction of water pollution by paper mills;

1977 - Pluriannual research programme into the recycling of paper and board.

Gist of the Opinion (*)

The Economic and Social Committee considers that the re-use of waste paper and board makes a substantial contribution to safeguarding the environment and our natural heritage, and reduces the Community deficit in the paper sector (some 5,500 million ECU). It therefore urges the Member States to respond to the initiatives and needs of regions and local authorities.

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee deplores the fact that the draft Recommendation of the Commission does not cover collection and considers that it is essential to encourage selective collection of waste paper before it is mixed with other refuse.

The Committee points out that it is more energy efficient to make paper and board from waste paper than from timber. As regards the incineration of waste, removing waste paper by collection at source hardly reduces the quantity of recoverable energy, particularly if glass and metal waste is recovered before-hand. However, this is a complex question warranting an overall approach which takes account of raw-material and energy costs.

This Opinion was based on work prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr. van Campen — Netherlands -- Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr Masprone — Italy — Employers.

4. NEW ZEALAND BUTTER

« Proposal for a Regulation (EEC) of the Council amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1655/76 extending the Transitional Arrangements for the Import of New Zealand Butter into the United Kingdom.

Proposal for a Regulation (EEC) of the Council relating to the Importation of New Zealand Butter into the Community on Special Terms ».

This Opinion was postponed until a later session.

(*) Doc. CES 1105 80.

5. EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND — TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES, MIGRANT WORKERS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN

« Proposal for a Council Decision concerning use of the European Social Fund to help persons employed in the textile and clothing industries, migrant workers, persons affected by employment difficulties (young people under 25) and women ».

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Among the decisions to grant aid from the European Social Fund adopted under Article 4 of Council Decision 71/66/EEC, those concerning workers in the textile and clothing industries, migrant workers, young people under 25 and women will expire on 31 December 1980. It is proposed to the Council to take a Decision to extend these four decisions until 1 January 1983.

Each of the Decisions resulting from measures adopted in connection with Community policies or common actions relates to an imbalance in the employment situation for a given category of workers. As these imbalances persist, and in view of their scale, the Commission feels that Community action is justified.

The Commission also feels that the context in which Fund assistance is given today may, depending on the area, have changed to a greater or lesser extent as compared with the situation at the time the initial decisions granting aid were adopted. This does not mean that the Decisions should be amended as regards the persons to whom they apply or the type of aid given : the annual adjustment of the Fund budget and the guidelines for the management of the Fund make it possible, in their application, to take account efficiently of specific needs.

It is proposed to extend the Decisions for two years, taking account of the time limit imposed for the next review of the Social Fund, which must take place at the latest by 31 December 1982.

Gist of the Opinion (*)

The Committee unanimously approves the extension of the decisions to grant aid from the European Social Fund to the categories and sectors concerned but stresses that the economic and social situation has deteriorated since the initial decisions to grant aid were adopted and that the future outlook gives little cause for optimism.

(*) Doc. CES 1097/80.

It notes that, despite the efforts made, the Fund's resources are unable to cope with the gravity of the present employment situation and therefore calls for an expansion of the budget.

In general terms the Social Fund can only be fully effective if it forms a greater part than it does at present of an overall Community policy covering such aspects as employment and industrial policy.

Finally, the Committee notes that Social Fund aid is only a partial solution and must not be a barrier to the search for, and implementation of, longer-term solutions designed to attack the root causes of employment problems.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Houthuys - Belgium - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr Laval - France - Workers.

6. TAX ON INCOME OF NON-RESIDENT EEC EMPLOYEES

« Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the harmonisation of income taxation provisions with respect to freedom of movement for workers within the Community ».

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

This Draft Directive is designed to establish a common procedure in the Community as regards the taxation of the income of the 1.600.000 or so EEC nationals working in Member States other than their own. The 1968 Council Regulation on Freedom of Movement for Workers within the Community provides, inter alia, that a worker who is a national of another Member State « shall enjoy the same social and tax advantages as national workers ».

The tax problem arises from the fact that employees and especially frontier workers, who reside in one Member State and work in another are generally taxed under long-standing international practice in the country of activity.

The Draft Directive provides for a common procedure to be adopted as regards

- the taxation of the income of frontier workers,
- the taxation of the income of other non-resident employed persons,
- the taxation treatment of certain payments.

The principal features of this Proposal are :

- that frontier workers, as defined, should be taxed in their country of residence,

- that other non-resident employees be taxed in the country of activity and that their taxation in that country should be neither less nor more favourable than that of resident employees,
- that employees, who would normally be eligible for tax deductions in respect of payments to certain institutions like insurance companies and banks, should not be discriminated against just because they work in another country from that in which they reside.

The Commission's Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Draft Directive makes several references to back up its case, to the Committee's Opinion on the Problems of Frontier Workers (published in O.J. No. C 128 of 21.5.1979).

Gist of the Opinion (*)

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It generally welcomes the Commission's initiative in proposing this Directive.

However, whilst the draft Directive makes provision for frontier workers to be taxed in the country where they reside, the Committee would have a so-called frontier worker defined as being « any worker employed in the territory of a Member State and residing in the territory of another Member State to which he returns as a rule daily or at least once a week ». The Commission proposes that the provisions of this Directive affect frontier workers who return to their place of residence as a rule daily. The Committee bases its argument upon the fact that Regulation EEC 1408/71 regarding the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community defines frontier workers as those who return at least once a week.

The Committee would have the provisions of the Directive extended so that a worker resident for tax purposes in one Member State should have his dependents taken into account even though they reside in a different Member State.

Furthermore the provisions of the Directive should be changed in certain respects so as not to discriminate against the self-employed persons receiving their taxable income (in this case pensions) in a Member State in which they are non resident.

The wording of the title given to this draft Directive was criticised on the grounds that it is ambiguous and in no sense takes into account Part IV of the Proposal (Article 9) concerning tax relief for certain payments.

(*) Doc. CES 1110/80.

The Committee is equally critical of the indiscriminate use of the words « workers », « employed persons », and « employees » in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Proposal.

This Opinion was based on work prepared by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Rollinger — Luxembourg — Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr Delourme — Belgium — Workers.

7. LOME II

« Recommendation for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the conclusion of the second ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé ».

Gist of the Commission document

The Commission is proposing to the Council to approve the second ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé between the European Economic Community and sixty or so countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific signed at Lomé on 31 October 1979.

As well as forwarding the Recommendation, the Council has asked the Economic and Social Committee for an Opinion on the second Lomé Convention itself. The Committee intends to examine the Convention in the light of the experience acquired during the period when the first Convention was in force.

Gist of Opinion (*)

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It looks forward to early ratification, and thus implementation, of the Convention by the EEC and ACP countries. It considers that the agreements between the EEC and the ACP countries give a lead and are a concrete contribution to the North-South dialogue. The aims and implementation of this contribution should be constantly improved. The Committee will submit its detailed views on Lomé II in a subsequent Opinion.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for External Relations under the chairmanship of Mr de Precigout — France — Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr Clavel — France — Various Interests.

(*) Doc. CES 1101/80.

8. MANAGEMENT OF FOOD AID

« Communication from the Commission to the Council on Food Aid ».

Gist of the Commission Communication

This consultation relates to the draft Resolution and Regulation for facilitating the Community decision-making process concerning food aid, in particular by :

- a) putting food aid on a multiannual basis so as to integrate it with the other development policy instruments ;
- b) providing for a Community contribution towards the creation of food aid stocks;
- c) making it possible for the Community to supply new products (other than cereals, milk products and sugar) as food aid.

Gist of the Opinion (*)

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee acknowledges the importance of the Commission's aims, viz :

- multiannual programming so that food aid becomes a component of the development plans of the countries concerned;
- building up food stocks in regions where shortages often make emergency action necessary;
- providing for the supply of new foodstuffs geared to individual national requirements.

In its comments, the Committee dwells on the importance of :

- careful country programming of all forms of Community assistance to developing countries so that food aid can be coordinated with other forms of development aid;
- adjusting food aid to the particular country's level of administrative efficiency;
- undertaking a thorough examination of the needs that new commodities would satisfy before supplying them as food aid.

Lastly, the Committee points out that the CAP and food aid are closely interlinked and states its intention of returning to the matter in the detailed Opinion it is shortly to give on the food aid issue as a whole.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for External Relations under the chairmanship of Mr de Precigout — France — Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr Williams — United Kingdom — Various Interests.

(*) Doc. CES 1102 80.

9. DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

« Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the fifth time directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations ».

Gist of the Proposal

The aim of the Commission proposal is to restrict the marketing and use of asbestos fibres.

It is thus proposed that the use of crocidolite be banned, except in the manufacture of certain industrial products where the harmful release of fibres is prevented. In the case of the other fibres, such as chrysolite, the Commission is proposing a ban on certain applications which are particularly dangerous from a health point of view.

It is also proposed to ban the marketing and use of products containing asbestos which have only a decorative purpose.

Gist of the Opinion (*)

Asbestos fibres are a danger to human life and health and to the environment and so the Economic and Social Committee is calling for protective measures capable of reducing the dangers arising from contact with this material.

In an Opinion adopted by a large majority with 4 abstentions, it presses for the Community action proposed by the Commission to take account of the following aspects :

The Committee suggests that the Community should continue to encourage all investigations which will provide a better picture of asbestos' effects on man or which aim to develop new technologies which will reduce, if not eliminate altogether, the release of asbestos fibres during production, processing and utilization.

Every effort should be made so that less hazardous substitutes are used and so as to ensure effective environmental protection. In view of the fact that asbestos released into the environment (earth, water, air) is indestructible, the Community should take the matter up at international level, for instance by urging the World Health Organization (WHO) and similar bodies to take appropriate action.

(*) Doc. CES 1106/80.

There should be rules on the packaging and labelling of asbestos.

The authorization to use blue asbestos (crocidolite) must not be extended beyond 31 December 1983, unless the Commission can provide scientific proof that crocidolite is at least relatively harmless before this deadline. Everything must be done to ensure that crocidolite substitutes are brought into use as soon as possible.

The Committee deplores the fact that workers', consumers' and environment protection organizations' representatives were not consulted when the proposal was drawn up and trusts that this lapse will not be repeated.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for the Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Miss Roberts — United Kingdom — Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr Piga — Italy — Various Interests.

10. ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES

« Proposals for Council Directives on electric washing machines; electric dishwashers with cold water supply only; and electric refrigerators, frozen food cabinets, freezers and their combinations, implementing Council Directive 79/530/EEC on the indication by labelling of the energy consumption of household appliances.

Gist of the Commission's Proposals

The three proposals come under the Basic Directive on the labelling of household appliances' energy consumption, electric ovens, which has already been adopted.

The three types of appliances chosen are heavy consumers of energy and are found in very many homes. This, coupled with the fact that standards for measuring their energy consumption exist, has led to them being selected as subjects for directives.

The Environment Section issued an Opinion on the proposals for the Basic Directive and the Electric Ovens Directive on 6 March 1979.

Gist of the Opinion (*)

In a unanimous Opinion, the Committee approves the three proposals.

(*) Doc. CES 1098/80.

It is, however, worried about the fact that once the proposals have come into force, only an ad hoc committee is to be consulted about their adaptation to technical progress. This procedure should be used as long as it is merely a question of technical adjustments being made, but the Economic and Social Committee should be consulted about new applications, such as the introduction of Directives relating to the provision of information about appliances' water consumption or noise levels.

With regard to the proposal's content, the important role which could and must be played by consumer organizations in the field of consumer information and education is emphasized.

The Committee also stresses the importance of having uniform methods for measuring household appliances' efficiency and trusts that the relevant standardization work at CENELEC and CEN will be completed as soon as possible.

It is hoped that consumers will be involved in the work of these standardization bodies.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Miss Roberts United Kingdom -- Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr Bernaert -- Belgium -- Employers.

11. R & D - Fusion

« Proposal for a Council Decision amending Council Decision 80/318/Euratom of 13 March 1980 adopting a research and development programme (1979-1983) for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion ».

Gist of the Proposal

This proposal amends Decision 80/318 EURATOM (which was the subject of a referral in 1979) to increase the funds available for the construction phase of JET, in view of the current rate of inflation. The rest of the programme remains unchanged. The increase takes account of the need to revise the provision for contingencies. Further proposals may be necessary to cover diagnostic equipment, additional operating and personnel costs, and inflation beyond January 1981. The decision of the Council is needed urgently because the ceiling set by the current decision will not permit completion of the JET device as foreseen in the timetable.

Gist of the Opinion (*)

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It takes the view that the training and research programme should go forward as planned, without amendments or delays. The principal reason for this new proposal is to take account of the rate of inflation (which is higher than was foreseen at the time of the original proposal) and the Committee feels that the necessary adjustment is wholly justified.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr. von der Decken — Germany — Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr Friedrichs — Germany — Various Interests.

12. COMMON WINE MARKET

« Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 337/79 on the common organization of the market in wine ».

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The use of certain ion exchange resins in the preparation of wines is allowed until 31 August 1980 for the purpose of preventing the precipitation of excess calcium at the time of their release for consumption. It is envisaged that this method will be replaced by another method which is still being studied. It is therefore proposed that the period during which the use of ion exchange resins is allowed should be extended by one year.

The adoption of this proposal for a Regulation has no consequences as regards the Community budget

Gist of the Opinion (*)

In a unanimous Opinion the Committee approves the proposal by the Commission.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr Emo Capodilista — Italy — Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr Rainero — Italy — Various Interests.

(*) Doc. CES 1103 80

(*) Doc. CES 1099 80

13. AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN SARDINIA

« Proposal for a Council Decision on financial aid from the Community for the eradication of African swine fever in Sardinia ».

Gist of the Commission document

The persistence of African swine fever in a region of the Community, even if this region is an island, is a permanent threat to all the Member States because, whatever precautions are taken by the responsible authorities, the disease could be introduced accidentally on the continent by pigmeat-based products or food waste.

This grave risk prompted the Italian authorities and the Commission to consider a specific procedure for the total and definitive eradication of the disease in Sardinia. For this purpose the Italian Government requested financial aid from the Community to carry out a five-year plan intended to eliminate the disease, to prevent its recurrence by restructuring pig farming and, by means of supplementary measures, to maintain the disease-free situation by reforming production structures and applying measures relating to public hygiene and the environment.

Gist of the Opinion (*)

The Committee unanimously approves the measures proposed by the Commission and emphasizes their urgency. It further notes that in the specific case of Sardinia these measures must, if the disease is to be eradicated successfully, be supplemented by aid to improve structures so that the traditional rearing methods characteristic of the region can be phased out.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr Emo Capodilista — Italy — Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr Wick — Germany — Employers.

(*) Doc. CES 1100/80

— II —
EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Official visit to Greece
by the Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, Mr Raffaele Vanni, made an official visit to Greece from 30 September to 2 October 1980.

The Chairman was accompanied by the two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, Mr Edmond Renaud (France) and Mr Tomas Roseingrave (Ireland) and the Committee's Secretary-General, Mr Roger Louet.

Mr Vanni had an audience with the President of the Republic of Greece, Mr Karamanlis, talks with the Minister for European Affairs, Mr Kontogeorgis, the Minister of Labour, Mr Laskaris, and Mr Palaiokrasas, Secretary of State at the Ministry for Coordination. The Chairman's programme also included meetings with representatives of the Union of Greek Industries, the Confederation of Greek Farmers and the Greek General Confederation of Labour.

The Chairman's talks focussed in particular on issues relating to the accession of Greece to the European Community.

Meeting with national Economic
and Social Councils in Athens

The Chairman's official visit was followed on 3 October by a meeting of the chairmen and secretaries-general of the national economic and social councils at the headquarters of the Greek Economic and Social Council.

Meeting of the Committee's Regional
Development Section in Newcastle (UK)

How the European Community can help the North East of England and how it affects its citizens emerged very clearly during the visit of the Regional Development Section of the Economic and Social Committee to Newcastle from 22 to 24 October.

The group first saw Consett and met officials of the British Steel Corporation and of the trade unions, discussed what European funds could be brought to bear and heard what is being done to create new industries. The Section, which was accompanied by the Committee's President, Mr Raffaele Vanni, then visited a high-technology factory and the English Industrial Estates Corporation in Team Valley, Gateshead.

Later, members who come from the nine Member States, were taken to the Sunderland shipyard of Austin and Pickersgill and to the Swan Hunter Shipyard of British Shipbuilders Ltd. where projects of the industry in the North East were discussed. In the evening of Thursday, 23 October, members were the guests of the Chairman of Durham County Council, when they were able to meet industrialists, trade unionists, educationalists and representatives of the professions from the five northern counties.

On 24 October the Section held a formal session under the chairmanship of Mr James Milne to discuss the future of EEC regional policy.

At a lunch offered by the Tyne and Wear County Council, Section members met elected representatives and chief executives of the five Northern Counties and the five Metropolitan Districts to obtain an overall view of the regional problems of the North.



From right to left : Mr. Dawson, Chief Executive of Dunham County Council, Mr. Roseingrave, Vice-Chairman of the ESC, Mr. Natirass, Chairman of Dunham County Council, Mr. Loebel, a member of the ESC, Mr. Vanni, Chairman of the ESC, Mr. Pearson, a member of the ESC, and Mr. McLaughlin, an ESC Director, during their visit to Newcastle.

— III —
NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

During the month of October, the Council requested the Committee to deliver Opinions on :

- The annual economic report 1980-1981 (COM(80) 596 final)
- Proposal for a second Council Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure of agents at work : asbestos (COM(80) 518 final)
- Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the sixth time Directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (benzene) (COM(80) 570 final)
- Proposal for a Council Directive amending the first Council Directive of 23 July 1962 on the establishment of common rules for certain types of carriage of goods by road between Member States and Council Directive 65/296/EEC (COM(80) 509 final)
- Proposal for a Council Decision on acceptance by the Community of a draft resolution of the European Conference of Transport Ministers on the introduction of an ECMT licence for international removals (COM(80) 508 final)
- Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 724/75 establishing a European Regional Development Fund (COM(80) 368 final)
- Proposal for a Council Decision laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations (COM(80) 400 final)
- Proposal for a Council Directive on aid to shipbuilding (COM(80) 461 final)
- Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the Common Organization of the market in sugars (COM(80) 553 final)
- Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a third plan of action (1981-1983) in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation (STID) (COM(80) 552 final)
- Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of laws of the Member States relating to the indication of the origin of certain textile and clothing products (COM(80) 557 final).

— IV —
**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE
WORK**

November Plenary Session

Opinions requested by the Institutions

- Aid to shipbuilding industry
- Legal expenses insurance
- Proprietary medicinal products
- Annual report on the economic situation
- Non-TVA taxes on manufactured tobacco
- Convention on the protection of the Rhine against pollution
- R & D environment and climatology
- Preservatives in food
- Antioxidants
- International standards on shipping and prevention of pollution
- International convention for safe containers
- Community quota for road haulage
- International removals
- Development of agriculture in the French overseas departments
- Structural policy in the fisheries sector
- Organization of markets in the sugar sector
- Uranium exploration and extraction
- Amendment to Regulation establishing European Regional Development Fund

Own-initiative Opinions

- Investment guarantees in less-developed countries
- Distribution of catch possibilities in the Community fishing zone.

December Plenary Session

Opinions requested by the Institutions

- Income support for shipyard workers
- Health protection against microwaves
- Social security of migrant workers
- Plan to combat oil pollution of the sea
- Saint Geours Report (long-term consumption of energy)
- Machine translation

- Development of transport infrastructures
- Technical Standards and Regulations

Own-initiative Opinions

- European Regional Development Fund Annual Report
- Community accession to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Information Report

- Common Agricultural Policy.

January 1981 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by the Institutions

- Registration of ADN work
- International trade in endangered flora and fauna
- Environmental impact of public and private works
- New information technologies
- Transport of goods by road between Member States.

Study

- DNA conjectural risks.

Subsequent Plenary Sessions

Opinions requested by the Institutions

- Protection of workers against asbestos
- Medium-term economic policy
- Safety of toys
- Dangerous substances (benzene)
- Civil liability insurance for motor vehicles
- Origin of textile and clothing products
- Scientific and technical information and documentation
- Microelectronic technologies and telecommunications
- Flavourings
- Second Lomé Convention (Part 2).

Own-initiative Opinions

- Quota-free-aid - regional policy
- European Regional Development Fund Annual Report
- Food aid
- Competition policy
- Construction.

Studies

- Integrated operations — regional policy
- Consistency of external policies
- Agricultural aspects of the negotiations with Spain
- Turkey.

— V —
MEMBERS' NEWS

Biographical Note on Mr Tomás Roseingrave

Born in Gort, Co. Galway, Ireland, on 4 July 1918.

Educated in Dublin and Limerick and University College, Dublin. Master's degree in Social Sciences.

From 1960-1979 National Director, Muintir na Tire (Irish Community Development Movement).

Previously Director of Manpower Service in Department of Labour.

Senior research fellow in Department of Sociology of University College, Dublin. Lecturer in industrial Relations at Dublin Institute of Adult Education. Head of Department of Industrial Relations, 1958-1967. Did lecture tours in U.S. and Canada on sociological subjects dealing mainly with social change. Regularly associated with radio broadcasting and television since the 1940's.

Member of Broadcasting Review Committee, 1971-1974. Member of Commission of the Gaelic Athletic Association, 1969-1972. Member of National Social Service Council since 1971. Member of National Combat Poverty Committee since 1974. Member of the Board of Dublin Institute of Adult Education since 1960.

Member of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities since January 1973.

President of the Committee's Section for the Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs from 1974 to 1978.

Vice-President of the Economic and Social Committee October 1978-October 1980.

The composition of the Committee's new Bureau

The Committee has elected the following new Bureau :

EMPLOYERS	WORKERS	VARIOUS INTERESTS
Messrs. AMMUNDSEN	CHRISTENSEN	BERNS
BLASIG	DELOURME	DOBLE
DE BIEVRE	FRIEDRICHS	HENNIG
LOUGHREY	VAN GREUNSVEN	HILKENS
MASPRONE	LAVAL	LAUR
MILLER	VANNI	PIGA
RENAUD	WALSH	ROSEINGRAVE

Resignation

Mr Georges Croese has resigned as a member of the Economic and Social Committee.

Appointment

The Council of Ministers has appointed Mr Knud Christensen a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr Poul Ny-rup Rasmussen.

Mr Christensen is Vice-Chairman of the Danish Trade Union Confederation (LO).

- VI - PRESS SHOW

THE IRISH TIMES

30.10.80

LLOYD ANVERSOIS, 4.11.80

ECHOS

NOUVEAU PRESIDENT DU COMITE ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL DES COMMUNAUTES EUROPEENNES

M. Tomas Rosengrave a été élu nouveau président du Comité économique et social des Communautés Européennes. M. Rosengrave (Irlande) est un des vice-présidents sortants et a été précédemment, au sein du comité, président de la section du développement régional. Il appartient au groupe Activité diverses. C'est à ce titre qu'il succède au président sortant, M. Raffaele Vanni, qui est membre du groupe Travailleurs.



Mr. Tomas Rosengrave, the former national director of Muintir na Tíre, yesterday became the first Irishman to be elected chairman of the EEC's economic and social committee writes John Crowley from Brussels. His victory over a Belgian candidate was seen as an acknowledgment of Ireland's reputation for community-mindedness, and for his own hard work on the committee since 1973.

IL POPOLO 2.11.80

Succede a Raffaele Vanni

E' Inglese Il nuovo presidente del C.E.S.

BRUXELLES - Thomas Rosengrave 62 anni presidente dell'Irish Community Development Movement - è stato eletto presidente per il prossimo biennio del comitato economico e sociale delle comunità europee. Succede all'italiano Raffaele Vanni, ex segretario generale della Uil.

Rosengrave è rappresentante della categoria "attività diverse" (artigiani agricoli, consumatori ecc.) una delle tre grandi suddivisioni del Consiglio che comprende anche rappresentanti dei lavoratori e degli imprenditori.

Il Consiglio ha rinnovato anche il suo ufficio presieduto da comprende 21 membri. Di questi tre sono italia-

ni. Alberto Mastrapascente speciale per i problemi comunitari della Confindustria in rappresentanza degli imprenditori, Raffaele Vanni ex segretario generale della Uil per i lavoratori, Vincenzo Piga membro del Comitato esecutivo della sezione «credito alla cooperazione» della Banca Nazionale del Lavoro per il settore «attività diverse».

Nel corso della riunione, Vanni ha denunciato «le visioni lacune in tema di politica sociale e di politica industriale» del processo di integrazione. «In questo piano manca di risugno» ha aggiunto «è che l'impressione di più è la mancanza di un disegno di una strategia di obiettivi nuovi».

DAILY TELEGRAPH, 30.10.80

EEC POST

Mr. Tomas Rosengrave an Irishman has been elected President of the Economic and Social Committee. He is a former national director of Muintir na Tíre, the Irish community development movement.

IRISH PRESS, 30.10.80

Muintir man wins top EEC job

TOMAS Rosengrave, the former national director of Muintir na Tíre, yesterday became the first Irishman to hold the Presidency of one of the European Community's institutions, when he won a close election to become head of the EEC's Economic and Social Committee (EM) for the next 2 years.

A member of the EM since Ireland joined the Community in January 1, 1973, Mr. Rosengrave said afterwards he hoped his election would be considered "an recognition of the part played here over the last year by Irish members of the committee."

He will have a tough two years ahead of him in attempting to attain greater influence in the opinions which the EM possesses on every piece of proposed Common Market legislation.

A purely advisory body that brings together 164 members - 136 next year when Greece joins the Community - the EM has always lived in the shadow of governments that take the actual legislative decisions and report of the directly elected Parliament.

But Mr. Rosengrave pointed out that the Committee's role is more one of analysis of the issues at stake in any given proposal rather than of attempting to yield the same political influence as the European Parliament.

Yesterday's vote was the first real election held in the recent years. Previously lull agreements between the three groups - a complex trade network and various international standardisation to be reviewed - were proposed. On this occasion, the convention broke down and Mr. Rosengrave won 57 of 117 votes, at more than his opponent, Belgian Alfons Turgot.

LA STAMPA 31.10.80

Nuovo vertice economico Cee

BRUXELLES - Il Consiglio Economico e Sociale che nel corso della sua sessione plenaria avrà effetto mercoledì 13, ha designato Thomas Rosengrave alla presidenza al posto di Raffaele Vanni, ieri ha rinnovato anche l'ufficio esecutivo che comprende 21 membri. Di questi tre sono italiani. Alberto Mastrapascente speciale per i problemi comunitari della Confindustria, Raffaele Vanni ex segretario generale della Uil, Vincenzo Piga membro del comitato esecutivo della sezione «credito alla cooperazione» della Banca Nazionale del Lavoro.

LE SOIR, 4.11.80

Un Irlandais à la présidence du Comité économique et social de la C.E.E.

M. Thomas Rosengrave (Irlande) vient d'être élu à la présidence du Comité économique et social des Communautés européennes. Il succède à M. Raffaele Vanni. Dans le cadre du renouvellement de son bureau, le Comité économique et social a également désigné ses fonctions de vice-président M. Maurice Miller (Royaume-Uni), et Antonio Lavezzi (France).

THE GUARDIAN 24.10.80

EEC team hints at special aid for Consett

By Malcolm Pithers
Consett, the town in County Durham devastated by the closure of its steel works, may receive special help from the EEC.

This was hinted at yesterday when members of the EEC's economic and social committee visited the North-east to discuss the area's problems.

The committee's president, Mr Raffaele Vanni, compared the region to southern Italy and said that there were special problems relating to Consett. He said that something would have to be done at European level for the town.

The North-east has received £114 million in regional aid in the past five years and Mr Vanni pointed out that anything the regional development section did must be in addition to aid from the British Government.

The committee would now draft its opinions about the town so that proper attention could be drawn to the area.

The committee is an advisory body and its opinions are not binding on the institutions of the EEC, although it does carry a great deal of weight. Its 14 members are drawn from the nine member states and include 24 from the United Kingdom.

FINANCIAL TIMES

7.11.80

Mr Norman Miller, an executive director of Baxi and Fracpar Group, has been elected vice-president of the ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.

Mr James Milne, a member of the committee and general secretary of the Scottish Trade Union Congress, toured the North-east with the party yesterday and said he had been "shocked" by what he had seen.

"We are here to see for ourselves what is happening. We have seen human suffering and the dashed hopes of young men wanting work. Frankly, we have been shocked."

But anyone who thinks we are here with a bagful of solutions would be quite wrong. The solutions can only come from the Government. Anything from the regional fund is very much in addition and not in stead of.

Mr Vanni and Mr Milne refused to be drawn on whether finance would be made available in the region and if so, how much. They did confirm, however, that funds are available.

The committee members also toured the Scunthorpe shipyard of Austin and Pickeringly and the Swan Hunter shipyard of British Shipbuilders Ltd. Today they will hold a formal session to discuss the future of EEC regional policy as far as the North-east is concerned.

DAILY MAIL, 20.10.80

EEC jobs mission

heads North

A GROUP from the Common Market is to see how the EEC can help fight unemployment in the North East.

Representatives of all nine countries will start a three-day tour of the area on Wednesday. The first stop will be the abandoned steel works at Consett.

Funds

The representatives are members of the regional development section of the EEC's economic and social committee. A tentative itinerary which sends the Council of Ministers of the Nine and the Common Market Commission on EEC legislation.

They are due to meet officials of the British Steel Corporation and trade unions to discuss how EEC funds can be brought in to help and to hear what is being done to create new industries in the region.

Generalanzeiger (Bonn), 22.10.80

EG untersucht Fischvernichtung

Waren Subventionen legal?

C.W. Bonn. (Bj. Ber.) Die EG-Kommission will die Frage untersuchen, ob die deutsche Fischwirtschaft Vernichtungsgebühren in Millionenhöhe legal oder illegal kassiert hat. Wie die Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Verbraucher (AgV) gestern mitteilte, hat sich der Vizepräsident der EG-Kommission, Hans Gundeck jetzt angekündigt. Gleichzeitig will die Kommission prüfen, wie der Umgang der Fisch-Intervention durch Änderung des Marktorganisations-Beschlusses insgesamt verringert werden kann.

Die jetzt bevorstehende Untersuchung führters Johannes Jäschke zurück, da dieser ein Mitglied des Britischer Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschusses im Juli ergriffen hatte. Jäschke hatte damals auf die Erklärung der Fischwirtschaft hingewiesen, der mit Steuergeldern vernichtete Rohbarsch sei künstlich gewesen. Gleichzeitig riefte Jäschke an dem EG-Agrarkommissar die Frage, wie sich die deutsche Interventionsproportion Marktordnung vertragen, nach EG-Recht Interventionen nur für marktübliche Ware — im Interesse der Preisstabilität — zulässig sei.

Wie die AgV gestern erklärte, werden allein in der Bundesrepublik jährlich tausende von Tonnen Rohbarsch vernichtet. Dies sei im letzten Jahr mit fast sechs Millionen Mark aus Steuermitteln subventioniert worden.

De Nieuwe Gids, 18.11.80

Crisis van industriële maatschappij

BRUSSEL. — Talrijke belangstellenden hebben deelgenomen aan het colloquium, dat de Belgische Vereniging voor de Maatschappelijke Vooruitgang te Brussel heeft gewijd aan de fundamentele problemen van de crisis van de industriële maatschappij.

De voornaamste spreker was de h. Louet, secretaris-generaal van het Economisch en Sociaal Comité van de Europese Gemeenschappen. Hij had felle kritiek op sommige structuren van de huidige maatschappij. Vooral de moderne staat van onze westerse maatschappij moest het ontgelden, omdat in die staat de concentratie van de macht steeds meer is aangepast aan het individu en zijn behoeften. De staat heeft zijn essentiële rol verloren, met name schiedrecht te zijn en de ongelijkheden te corrigeren, aldus de h. Louet.

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

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- The Economic and Social Committee (April 1979) (A descriptive brochure) 16 p.
- Annual Report (1978) 115 p. (1976) 80 p.
- Directory (January 1980) (List of Members)
- The Right of initiative of the Economic and Social Committee (October 1977) 124 p.
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- Conference on the Enlargement of the European Community — 26 and 27 June 1980 (Extracts) ± 150 p., September 1980

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- Community Advisory Committee for the Representation of Socio-Economic Interests (£8.50)
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