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The Supplements are published separately as annexes to the Bulletin. They include the official texts of the Commission (communications to 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
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* In preparation.



1ST PART

**EVENTS AND
STUDIES**

1. North-South dialogue: The Paris meeting

1101. A Conference on International Economic Cooperation, assembling eight developing and nineteen industrialized countries will be held in Paris from 16 December for two or three days, at Ministerial level and attended by the United Nations Secretary-General. This conclusion was reached by the Preparatory Meeting in Paris from 13 to 16 October, called at the instance of the French Government.

Leading up to the dialogue

1102. The recent Preparatory Meeting was born of the energy crisis and the various reactions it provoked in 1974.

The idea of a dialogue between oil-producer and consumer countries had been broached last year by the Shah of Iran; the Minister for Petroleum of Saudi Arabia, Mr Yamani; the President of France, Mr Giscard D'Estaing; and Mr Gerald Ford, President of the United States.

On 1 March 1975, President Giscard d'Estaing convened a preparatory meeting in Paris for the International Conference on Energy and related economic problems. Invitations went out to four oil-producing countries (Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela), three non-producing developing countries (Brazil, India, Zaïre) and two industrialized consumers (United States, Japan) plus the Community as such.

1103. The meeting, which ran in Paris from 7 to 15 April,¹ ended in adjournment, owing to conflicting views throughout the discussions. Some of those attending (in particular the United States) wanted the Conference to focus exclusively on energy problems and especially relations with the producer countries. Conversely, the developing countries raised all the problems posed by their deteriorating economic situation: i.e. energy, but raw materials and developments as well.

The communiqué issued at the close of the meeting acknowledged moreover that the discussions 'did not enable a clear definition to be made of the points to be dealt with by the Conference or determine their relative importance'.¹ But it also expressed the wish of the delegates to resume the dialogue 'as soon as conditions are favourable'.

1104. The period between May and September was to see a substantial development in thinking and attitudes, more favourably disposed to the developing countries. At Community level, the Commission, in May and June, presented a series of Communications² to the Council on: the problem of raw materials and relations with the developing countries;³ the contribution which the Community could make to the questions to be treated at the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September;⁴ the agreements by product to curb excessive price fluctuations;⁴ international action to stabilize export earnings.⁴ Energy was not overlooked either: the Commission laid two Communications⁵ before the Council in June, including 'renewal of the dialogue' begun in Paris in April. As nearly as May the *Council* was grappling with the raw material question 'with a view to resolving the problems and concerns of the developing countries', and was engaged in preparation for the 7th Special Session.⁶

A similar pattern could be seen, from the end of May, within the *OECD*, whose Council of Ministers (hoping, after the International Energy Agency (IEA) had been created, that the Paris dialogue would be renewed), emphasized the importance of energy problems, commodities and relations with the developing countries.⁷

¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, points 1401 to 1407.

² Supplement 6/75 — Bull. EC.

³ Bull. EC 5-1975, points 1401 to 1404.

⁴ Bull. EC 6-1975, points 1301 to 1309.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1975, points 1401 to 1408.

⁶ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 1406.

⁷ Bull. EC 5-1975, points 1407 and 1408.

Renewal of the dialogue was also desired by the IEA when it met on 1 July.

Looking forward to the 7th Special Session, the *European Council*, meeting in Brussels on 16 and 17 July adopted a statement concerning the United Nations, which stressed the value of the dialogue in strengthening the position of the developing countries.¹

The *seven developing countries* which had attended the April preparatory meeting were getting together in anticipation of a new meeting, and defined their position at a Geneva meeting on 10 to 12 August.

The fresh Preparatory Meeting was now in sight; on 18 August the *French Government* sent the delegates to the coming meeting (the same as those in April) the text of an *aide memoire* specifying the criteria on which it considered agreement could be reached to renew the dialogue.

Having received the replies and comments of those concerned, on 15 September the French Government sent out invitations to a new preparatory meeting in Paris on 13 October. The invitation to the Community was accepted on September by the Council.

The October Preparatory Meeting

1105. The new preparatory meeting ran in Paris from 13 to 16 October, attended by the same number as in April (i.e. ten) and with Mr Louis de Guiringaud, France's Permanent Representative to the United Nations as technical Chairman.

Community statement

1106. At the first sitting, the Community representative made the following statement:

'On behalf of the European Community and its

Nine Member States I should like to say how pleased we are to resume today, under your chairmanship, the dialogue which we began last April and in which you played such an important part. We should also like to offer our sincere thanks to those Governments which, since that time, have tried through their contacts to facilitate an agreement on the content and procedure for this dialogue.

At this first preparatory meeting we were not able to reach agreement on the matters to be discussed in the course of this dialogue. The meeting did, however, enable us to gain a deeper insight into our mutual interests and also to reach certain conclusions, the importance of which should not be underestimated. All participants showed their support for the principle of cooperation and recognized the need for a dialogue as a contribution to resolving economic difficulties. Furthermore, all said they were prepared to approach this dialogue in a frank and constructive spirit and appreciated that if tangible results were to be achieved the dialogue must take place in a restricted framework but one which was nevertheless representative of all the interests involved.

Six months have, of course, elapsed since the suspension of our talks, but everyone will agree that this has not been time wasted. It has, in fact, enabled the respective attitudes to be brought considerably closer, thanks to intensive diplomatic activity and talks in various international forums. And I think I can say in this connection that everyone is particularly pleased with the outcome of the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

We are now agreed on the matter of this dialogue. It is agreed that it will deal with energy, raw materials, development problems and all the financial questions relating to these three spheres, including monetary aspects. These topics will be given equal treatment, and all the participants in

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2333.

the dialogue have pledged to spare no effort in striving for constructive solutions on these questions.

The task which faces us is therefore immense, both because of the extent and complexity of the problems we will have to examine in an overall perspective, although with varying approaches, and because of the diversity of the positions and hence the preoccupations of the various countries concerned.

On a number of these problems, particularly those connected with raw materials, development and the related financial questions, including the monetary aspects of these, important work has already been done in other international bodies, and we shall have to take this into account in our own discussions with an eye to effective and rapid progress. In these fields we shall have to seek to make appropriate contributions and give the necessary spur to the talks being held in other forums. It has not yet been possible to do such work in the case of energy, in which recent events have demonstrated more and more clearly the extent to which it conditions the operation of our economies, since up to now there has been no international forum where the parties concerned could discuss these problems together.

Our immediate task, however, is simply to prepare the way for this dialogue. The talks conducted by the French Government have produced a consensus which will form a basis for our work, and should enable us to overcome quickly the last remaining obstacles to the opening of this dialogue.

The events of recent years have demonstrated increasingly clearly the economic interdependence between the industrialized countries and the developing countries and their joint responsibility for the growth and prosperity of the world economy. Hence the importance of the dialogue we are preparing for: it should make a genuine contribution to advancing the movement—already under way—towards a more just and more equitable economic order, by righting the imbalance

between industrialized and developing countries and making the latter more capable of developing themselves, while respecting the interests of all concerned. Special attention will thus have to be given to the problems of the countries in greatest need.

If we are to achieve positive results, it is essential that we approach the problems currently confronting the world economy in a spirit of openness and mutual understanding so that consensus can be reached acceptable to both sides.

It is in this spirit that the Community will approach the dialogue, with these aims in mind and prompted by this spirit of cooperation. We plan to play an active and constructive part and we are prepared to take our share of the effort that will be needed. We are convinced that this approach is shared by our partners.'

The talks proceed

1107. The Paris discussions unfolded in an atmosphere different from that of the April meeting, and were marked by several significant developments.

- The climate surrounding the talks was permeated by the changes in attitudes and stances adopted since the spring.¹
- The outcome and tenor of the 7th Special Session of the UN General Assembly probably acted upon the Paris discussions.
- The Community played an activating role and carried along the other industrialized countries, who showed that they were determined not to finish up with another adjournment, or even failure.
- The fact that the developing countries had a single spokesman (Venezuela's representative) facilitated the 'negotiations'.
- It was significant that the title of the future conference which in April was to bear on energy,

¹ Point 1104.

then, according to the French Government's invitation, on relations between the industrialized and the developing countries, was changed on the very first day, into 'Conference on International Economic Cooperation', one very much akin to that of the Resolution passed by the 7th Special Session of the UN General Assembly: 'International Cooperation and Development'.

- The subjects with which the four Commissions of the future Conference will be dealing show that the problems of energy, raw materials, development and financial affairs are closely interwoven, which had not been acknowledged by some of the participants at the first preparatory meeting.

- The thorniest questions (the size of the Financial Affairs Commission, the 'general guidelines' for the four Commissions) were settled at the meeting.

- But it must be noted that the United States and a group of developing countries each tabled a list of 'guidelines'; these will be discussed within the four Commissions of the December Conference.

Final Declaration

1108. On 16 October, the Preparatory Meeting adopted the following Final Declaration:

1. The participants in the Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference proposed by the President of the French Republic, which was held in Paris from 7 to 15 April 1975, met again at the International Conference Centre from 13 to 16 October 1975 under the technical chairmanship of Mr de Guiringaud, Ambassador of France, with a view to pursuing preparation for the dialogue on energy, raw materials, problems of development, including all related financial questions.

2. The ten delegations confirmed the agreement of their authorities on the convening of an international conference on these questions. They

decided that the Conference will be called the "Conference on International Economic Cooperation", that it will be held in Paris, that it will be composed of 27 members designated as indicated below, and that it will be convened at ministerial level on 16 December 1975 for a session of two or possibly three days. The Secretary-General of the United Nations will be invited to the Ministerial Conference.

3. The European Economic Community, the United States and Japan, on the one hand, and the seven developing countries participating in the Preparatory Meeting (Algeria, Brazil, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Zaïre), on the other hand, will assume responsibility for the designation, from among their respective groups and according to the procedures which the industrialized countries and the developing countries, respectively, deem appropriate, of five industrialized countries and twelve developing countries, to be added to the present participants so as to bring to twenty-seven the number of participants in the Conference. The French Government will be notified, within a period which should not exceed one month, of the list thus established of the delegations to be invited to the Ministerial Conference.

4. The ten delegations also decided that the Conference should have two Co-Chairmen chosen respectively by each of the two participating groups from among its members, and that they should preside alternately over the meetings in a manner to be agreed between them. The participants in the Preparatory Meeting recommend that the two Co-Chairmen should be designated as soon as possible after the lists of participants in the Conference have been completed, and they suggest that the two Co-Chairmen should begin, immediately after being designated, to take together all necessary steps, in liaison with the host country, to ensure that the Ministerial Conference proceeds satisfactorily.

5. The Preparatory Meeting proposes to the Ministerial Conference that it set up a Commis-

sion for Energy, a Commission for Raw Materials, a Commission for Development and a Commission for Financial Affairs. Each of these Commissions should consist of fifteen members, ten of them representing developing countries and five representing industrialized countries, chosen by each of the two groups of participants in the Conference from among its members.

6. In determining the composition of its representation in each Commission, each of the two groups at the Conference should choose from among its members those who, because of their special interest and the overall significance of their participation, seem best suited to take part in order that the work may be carried out in an effective and responsible manner.

7. The chairmanship of each of the Commissions should be assumed by two Co-Chairmen designated by each of the two groups respectively. Joint meetings of the Co-Chairmen of the Commissions may be planned if the need arises.

8. The Preparatory Meeting recommends that the intergovernmental functional organizations which are directly concerned with the problems considered, and which the Ministerial Conference deems to be able to make a useful contribution to their discussion, be represented on a permanent basis in the corresponding Commissions by observers with the right to speak but without the right to vote, and hence not participating in the formation of a consensus. In addition to the United Nations Secretariat, the list of these organizations should include, in particular, OPEC, IEA, UNCTAD, OECD, FAO, GATT, UNIDO, UNDP, IMF and IBRD. Furthermore, each Commission may invite appropriate intergovernmental functional organizations to participate as observers *ad hoc* in the examination of specific questions.

9. Members of the Conference wishing to follow the work of a Commission to which they do not belong should be entitled to appoint a representative in the capacity of auditor without the right to speak.

10. The activities of the four Commissions whose establishment is recommended by the Preparatory Meeting will proceed on the basis of the relevant paragraphs of the *aide memoire* annexed to the French Government's invitation to this Meeting, in the light of the following clarifications and interpretations:

(a) It is understood that the Commission on Energy will facilitate all arrangements which may seem advisable in the field of energy.

(b) It is understood that the Commission on Raw Materials will take into account the progress made in other international forums and will be entrusted with facilitating the establishment or reinforcement, as the case may be, of arrangements which may seem advisable in the field of raw materials—including foodstuffs—which are of particular interest to developing countries.

(c) It is understood that the Commission on Development will take into account the progress in other international forums and the results achieved, and will be entrusted with facilitating the establishment or reinforcement, as the case may be, of arrangements for accelerating the development of developing countries, on the basis of close cooperation.

(d) It is understood that the Commission on Financial Affairs may discuss financial issues, including their monetary aspects, of importance to member countries, while respecting the jurisdiction of international institutions (IMF, IBRD).

(e) It is understood that the four Commissions should function in parallel and that the results of their work are linked and should be submitted to the Ministerial Conference.

11. It is agreed that any delegation may raise any subject relevant to the themes of the dialogue for discussion in the Commissions.

12. It has been agreed in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the above-mentioned *aide memoire* that the Ministerial Conference will be called upon to set the general guidelines for the work of the Commissions.

13. The Preparatory Meeting recommends to the Ministerial Conference that the relevant paragraphs of the abovementioned *aide memoire*, as interpreted and clarified above, as well as the abovementioned principle that any relevant subject may be raised for discussion in the Commissions, serve as the general guidelines for the Commissions.

14. Some delegations have already tabled with this Preparatory Meeting documents proposing subjects to be discussed in the Commissions. The Preparatory Meeting recommends that the Ministerial Conference agree that these and any other proposals which may be tabled subsequently in accordance with the general guidelines be discussed in the Commissions.

15. As regards the practical measures, the Preparatory Meeting recommends that the Conference adopt English, Arabic, Spanish and French as official languages and working languages.

16. The Preparatory Meeting recommends that the Conference adopt the Rules of Procedure which it itself had adopted, and which are based, in particular, on the principle of "consensus", according to which decisions and recommendations are adopted when the Chair has established that no member delegation has made any objection.

17. The Preparatory Meeting considers that the Conference should have an International Secretariat with an exclusively administrative and technical function, the Ministerial meeting being responsible, on the basis of proposals by the two Co-Chairmen, for determining its organization, establishing its operational procedure and allocating the financial costs in respect of it. It is understood, however, that pending a decision on the provisions to be adopted for the continuation of the work, the French Government will assume responsibility and provide the secretariat for the Ministerial meeting scheduled for December 1975. Under the conditions in which these services were provided for the Preparatory Meeting.

18. The Preparatory Meeting finally recommends that the Ministerial Conference decide to meet again at ministerial level in about twelve months' time. One or several meetings of the Conference at the level of government officials could possibly be held at least six months after the first meeting of the Conference at ministerial level.

19. In conclusion, the participants paid tribute to President Giscard d'Estaing for the initiative taken by him, thanks to which a dialogue was successfully initiated, and to the French Government for all the efforts it has made towards that end.'

After the Paris Preparatory Meeting

1109. Preparations on the Community side for the December Conference began immediately after the Paris meeting so that the positions to be presented on the various matters can be finalized in good time. The United Kingdom Government officially announced its decision to take part, separately, in the Conference; this was the subject of a debate and a Resolution in the European Parliament.

Preparing the Community position

1110. The following communiqué was published after the Council meeting of 6 November:

'The Council took note of the progress made in preparing the general position to be adopted by the Community at the Conference on International Economic Cooperation which is to open in Paris on 16 December 1975.

The statement of the Community's position will comprise a general introduction and four sections

on energy, raw materials, development and financial problems.

At this meeting, the Council concentrated on a number of important questions submitted to it by the Permanent Representatives Committee. After noting that considerable progress had already been made, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete the task of preparing the Community's general position by 20 November at the latest, so that the draft may be submitted for the approval of the Community authorities before the Conference opens.'

The United Kingdom and the North-South Conference

Statements by Mr Callaghan

1111. Mr James Callaghan, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, advised his colleagues at the Council meeting of 6 and 7 October (before the Preparatory Meeting opened therefore) of his Government's position regarding the Conference. He confirmed this on 10 November in the House of Commons. Mr Callaghan said, in particular: 'I would be neglecting my responsibilities if I did not claim on behalf of the United Kingdom a seat at this Conference. We have done nothing to hinder the presence of the Community at the Conference so far, but I warn now that if they go to the Conference with the present lack of preparation, I see nothing but impotence and frustration'. Earlier he had pointed out that by 1980 the United Kingdom would be producing 90% of Europe's oil and 45% of total production of energy in the Community. There was no agreement that there should be a minimum selling price. Neither was there agreement on the price of energy inside the Community. '... We believe the Conference will do useful work... If we are present, as I trust we

will be, we shall do our best to make a success of it. But we cannot afford to fail to indicate to the Community, the United States and Japan (...) that we have important interest in the matter'.

Resolution of the European Parliament

1112. On 16 October, the European Parliament passed the following Resolution concerning the Conference on International Economic Cooperation:

'The European Parliament

— having taken note of the outcome of the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 7 October 1975 concerning the preparation of the Paris Conference to be held between the industrialized countries, the oil-producing countries and the developing countries, and especially the announcement that a Member State would be individually represented,

1. Expresses its concern at such attitudes which could present a threat to a future Community energy policy;
2. Is convinced of the need for the Community to speak with a single voice on such occasions;
3. Urges all Member States to concert their views in preparation for the conference on international economic cooperation;
4. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.'

2. The aircraft industry: Commission Action Programme

Aircraft

A political choice

1201. Can an independent aircraft industry survive in Europe? In the next two years (perhaps much sooner) decisions will be taken which will determine the answer. The Commission is well aware of this and its Action Programme for the Aircraft Industry¹ which it presented on 3 October to the Council highlights the critical character of the present situation and the decisions that have to be made.

The facts

1202. A great deal is at stake. The aircraft industry employs over 400 000 people. Its technology has an impact on a much wider range of industries and it is a key factor in Europe's defence. But above all, this is the type of industry, highly skilled, commanding sophisticated technologies, to which Europe must move in the future as the industrialization of the Third World proceeds and a wider international division of labour unfolds.

Yet while Europe itself offers some 20% of the world market for civil aircraft, its industry's share of the world civil market has fallen to the depressed level of 7% in 1974, and in the military sector the challenge of new American technologies and products has brought new commercial setbacks, such as the decision by four countries to procure the US F 16.

In the past ten years while the European industry has launched as many new programmes for large civil airlines as the American industry, the average production run has been only one-fifth as long. There is a need to concentrate resources on a few successful programmes to achieve commercial success and economies of scale.

The need for concentration of effort has been reflected, in recent years, in the development of a series of bilateral or trilateral *ad hoc* programmes. Indeed, the aircraft industry has de-

veloped international collaboration further than any other major sector of industry. These bilateral projects, however, remain marred by contradictions between national policies, by absence of a coherent overall strategy, and by lack of systematic common financial support.

Despite all this, the European aircraft industry has two important advantages:

— it has a real technological capability, and its civil and military products could still compete on world markets if all its technological and commercial possibilities could be harnessed to a joint effort;

— the growing size (in relative terms) of markets outside the United States should provide new opportunities in the next ten years.

To realize these potentialities, however, major political decisions are needed. The Governments of the Community now need to move beyond the phase of intergovernmental cooperation between separate and divergent national aerospace policies and commit themselves to a common programme for the aircraft industry under the sponsorship of the Community.

Solutions proposed by the Commission

1203. The Commission has therefore proposed the following decisions to the Council:

1. To establish a common programme for the development, production and marketing of large civil aircraft. Its themes would be a realistic exploitation of existing potential, plus rationalization.

2. The financing by the Community of the programme, insofar as public finance is required. In the years 1969 to 1973 Member States spent on average 400 million u.a. per year on civil R&D alone. The same order of resources, spent jointly through the Community, on a single rationalized

¹ Supplement 11/75 — Bull. EC and OJ C265 of 19.11.1975.

programme, could achieve much greater results and place the industry by the mid 1980's in a position where it can fund a large part of its own development.

Community financing will be needed not only to support development and production tooling but the sales financing of aircraft. The Commission has proposed that a European Export Bank be established, which could in fact take on this task.

3. The establishment of a common programme for basic research, funded by the Community and designed to provide the same kind of stimulus to new technology as NASA programmes do in the United States.

4. The establishment of a common external policy with regard to industrial collaboration with non-Community countries, for instance the United States, Japan, and even Russia. If key industrial countries negotiate separate arrangements with Boeing or Douglas, regardless of their own and indeed the common European interest in presenting a united front, the European industry may end up as a weak and divided subcontractor, despite tempting initial terms.

5. The creation of a common market on the civil transport side, by the establishment, over a period of years, of a common policy for civil air transport and a common policy toward the outside world.

6. The creation of an *ad hoc* Agency concerned with procurement and development of airborne weaponry (aircraft, missiles, etc.), with the tasks of coordinating procurement, standardizing, where possible, on existing European aircraft and identifying joint areas for development (e.g. a future European advanced combat aircraft).

Discussions with the United States, designed to bring about a major growth of balanced transatlantic trade and collaboration in arms procurement and development would have to accompany this development.

Since over 60 per cent of the European industry serves the military market, no policy for the air-

craft industry is complete without this military aspect.

In the civil field the Commission has suggested that a common programme could be based largely on further development of existing products and could include:

(1) In the category below 100-110 seats, support for existing programmes and notably the F 28 and its further developments.

(2) In the category between 120 and 180 seats, study of a possible twin-jet, using new 10-ton engines and based on derivatives of one or other existing aircraft (Mercure, Trident or BAC III).

(3) In the category between 180 and 300 seats, vigorous support for the existing A 300 Airbus (B 2 and B 4), which is beginning to penetrate world markets successfully and possible development of a smaller version (the B 10).

(4) In the longhaul area (apart from Concorde) study of the possibilities of developing the four-engined version of the A 300 (B 11).

1204. With the major American companies on the move, Europe needs to move fast if it is to seize what is perhaps the last chance to develop a viable and competitive aircraft industry. Above all a political decision has to be made, perhaps at a summit conference, to work out a common programme and provide, through the Community, the funds to carry it out.

3. Third meeting of the Environment Ministers

Environment Council

1301. New advances in Community internal development—in the matter of environmental protection—were made at the Council meeting of Environment Ministers in Brussels on 16 October 1975.

It was the third time that the Council had met in this form since 22 November 1973,¹ when the Ministers formally adopted the Community action programme on the environment,² thus implementing a wish expressed at the October 1972 Summit Conference. The second Council meeting on the environment, on 7 November 1974,³ approved a number of measures provided for under the action programme. On 16 October 1975 a new step in the same direction was taken by the Ministers, who endorsed a number of Proposals made since 1974 by the Commission, and held an initial discussion on drafting a second action programme to cover the 1976-80 period.

Second action programme: possible guidelines

1302. The Council held a general debate on the Commission's 'initial reactions' concerning a second environment action programme, as presented last June.⁴

Statements made by the delegations reveal the following as guidelines:

- (a) the aims and principles embodied in the first action programme still apply and deserve more thorough study and application in the new programme;
- (b) environment policy should not be made subordinate to the economic situation of the moment;
- (c) harmonious balance should be sought between ecological requirements and economic needs;
- (d) the utmost possible programme continuity should be ensured and every effort made to carry through the operations envisaged in the first pro-

gramme, as well as those decided on meantime by the Council;

- (e) particular attention should be paid to selecting priorities; the new programme should be multiannual, whilst providing scope for fixing specific priorities at regular intervals;
- (f) stress should be laid on the preventive character of environmental policy; among measures cited which might help to achieve this were implementing procedures to assess impact on the environment, and developing of a Community ecological 'mapping' system;
- (g) particular attention should be given to protecting natural resources through vigorous action against wastage, and especially measures to facilitate the recycling and re-use of waste material.

Some delegations also said they attached special importance to the following:

- (i) preservation of sensitive zones and protection of the human genetic heritage, as well as vegetable and animal species;
- (ii) protection and improvement of the environment as a means of remedying structural and regional imbalances;
- (iii) importance to be accorded to the fight against cross-frontier pollution;
- (iv) application of environmental quality targets and, in appropriate cases, setting of minimum standards of emission, at Community level;
- (v) a thorough study of the 'polluter pays' principle;
- (vi) application of the 'standstill' principle, to prevent any further environmental deterioration;
- (vii) expediency of organizing informal meetings of Environment Ministers, mainly to improve coordination of national policies;
- (viii) ecological policies to be taken into account in development aid policy.

¹ Bull. EC 11-1973, point 2232, and 7/8-1973, point 2224.

² OJ C 112 of 20.12.1973.

³ Bull. EC 11-1974, points 1201 to 1206.

⁴ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2233.

In conclusion, the Council endorsed the general outlines of the paper produced by the Commission, and the latter agreed to prepare proposals for the second action programme, in the light of the discussions in the meeting.

Inventory of sources of information on the environment

1303. The Council agreed in principle to institute a joint procedure to set up and maintain an inventory of sources of information on the environment, within the Community, in line with the Proposal submitted by the Commission last March.¹

This list, a kind of permanent stocktaking—as envisaged incidentally, in the action programme—will include, for each Member State, the centres and services of scientific and technical information and documentation, centres of expert knowledge and independent experts, as well as research projects under way or planned.

Sulphur content of gas-oils

1304. The Council also endorsed a Directive aimed at reducing the sulphur content of gas-oils, which fits into both the general programme to eliminate technical barriers to trade, and the environmental action programme. Under this Directive on 'the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels'—which was the subject of a Proposal sent by the Commission to the Council in February 1974¹—the maximum sulphur content will, as of 1 October 1976, at the latest, be limited to 0.5 %, and as of 1 October 1980, at the latest, to 0.3 %. For areas with a low level of atmospheric pollution, or where gas-oils do not account for a significant proportion of atmospheric pollution, the rates will be 0.8 % and 0.5 % respectively.

Pollution of bathing water

1305. The Council also approved the draft Directive on 'pollution of sea water and freshwater for bathing (quality objectives)', which the Commission sent to the Council in February, 1975.²

This Directive calls upon Member States to make all the necessary arrangements to ensure that waters used for bathing conform within ten years to the standards laid down in the Directive; 'mandatory' standards are stipulated for certain parameters, as well as 'guide' standards for others (which Member States must try to achieve) or one or other of these in other cases. The purpose is to reduce existing pollution and prevent any further pollution. The Directive lays down the methods of analysis, the frequency of sampling with due regard to the importance of the bathing areas authorized, the number of bathers, and the water temperature.

Pollution of the sea by 'red sludge'

1306. During the discussions, the French Minister for the Quality of Life stressed the importance his delegation attached to a speedy solution of the environmental problems presented by 'red sludge', the waste materials deriving from the titanium dioxide industry.

In July the Commission sent the Council¹ a proposed Directive aimed at progressively reducing and finally eliminating the pollution caused by such waste.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2226.

² OJ C 35 of 28.3.1974 and Bull. EC 2-1974, point 2111.

³ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2222.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2241.

Prevention of marine pollution in the Mediterranean

1307. The Council adopted a decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate in the name of the Community—and alongside the Member States directly concerned (France, Italy and the United Kingdom)—a convention, accompanied by protocols, to prevent sea pollution from land-based sources in the Mediterranean. The Commission was given guidelines for the negotiations, which will take place in Barcelona in February 1976, on the occasion of an intergovernmental meeting called as part of the United Nations' environmental programme.

The Community's participation in these negotiations reflects its concern—in the matter of protecting the aquatic environment against pollution—to ensure the maximum of coherence between measures taken under the EEC Treaty and action programme, and measures decided on the basis of international agreements, of universal or regional application. For that reason too, the Community took part in the negotiations which produced the Paris Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources, a Convention which it signed on 23 June.¹ On similar grounds, the Community hopes to take part in the negotiations on protecting the Rhine from chemical pollution.

Protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution

1308. After briefly discussing the matter, the Council agreed to return to the question of Community participation in the negotiations for an agreement on protecting the Rhine against chemical pollution, at its meeting on 8 December. Last June the Commission presented to the Council a draft Decision authorizing it to take part in the negotiations for such an agreement, which is at present under discussion by the Internal Rhine Commission.

Discharge of dangerous substances in the aquatic environment

1309. A Proposal submitted by the Commission to the Council in October 1974,² on limiting the discharge of dangerous substances in water (sea, watercourses, lakes, etc), was thoroughly debated by the Council, but no decision was reached on account of certain differences of view.

The delegations of eight Member States and the Commission were of the opinion that the definition of 'quality objectives' was inadequate for the most toxic substances (mercury, cadmium, organic halogen compounds, etc.), an opinion which was not shared by the United Kingdom delegation.

The debate will resume when the Council meets on 8 December to discuss the environment.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2234.

² Bull. EC 10-1974, point 2226.

4. Research and development policy

Objectives, priorities and resources

1401. The principles underlying implementation of actions of Community interest and the objectives to be pursued in research and development were treated on 29 October in a Commission Communication to the Council.

Entitled 'Objectives, Priorities and Resources for a Common Research and Development Policy', this paper highlights:

- the medium-term objectives (1976-80) and priorities which the Commission proposes for adoption at Community level;
- the basic principles for carrying out the relevant projects of Community interest, including direct actions carried out at the JRC;
- the order of magnitude of the financing that is to be anticipated for the fulfilment of the projects proposed or in the process of being worked out within this priority framework.

The Communication prepared at the requests of the Council on 26 June and 15 July is to serve as the basis of a sounding debate during the Council meeting scheduled for this December.

In accordance with the Resolution adopted by the Ministers on 14 January 1974 concerning 'coordination of national policies and the definition of projects of Community interest in science and technology',¹ the Commission will present a report to the Council by the end of 1976 on the conclusions to be drawn from the initial experiments carried out during this experimental three-year period as foreseen in this Resolution.

1402. Regarding the *medium-term objectives and priorities* for the Community, the Commission proposes that future activities be selected either as a contribution to developing the sectoral policies adopted by the Community (e.g., agriculture, energy...) or with the aim of helping to map out new policies which the Community would

like to debate (e.g., raw materials, social research...)

This double line of approach would embrace the following sectors and sub-sectors, of which some have already come under recent Council decisions and other are awaiting approval, particularly under the proposed programmes of indirect actions:

- Resources: energy, agriculture, raw materials;
- Environment;
- Economic and industrial development for both traditional and advanced industries;
- Life of society: social research, biomedical research, urban development, transport and telecommunications.

Projects will be adopted in consultation with CREST and with an eye on the scope and desirability of cooperation between the Community and non-member countries, and the methods for carrying out the projects will have to be defined *case-by-case*: direct action, indirect action, concerted action, coordination of national programmes, or any appropriate combination of the above. Cohesion of actions developed by the Community in one and the same sector of activity will be ensured by Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM) for each sector.

1403. Annual estimates of *funds required* for the action programmes which appear to be needed immediately, are respectively about 160, 210, 220, 230 and 240 million u.a. for 1976-1980 inclusive; these figures do not include expenditure for projects undertaken under the ECSC Treaty.

1404. The *basic principles* underlying implementation of projects of Community interest will have to give due consideration to the 'strong points' of each Member State in sharing out tasks, to the links to be established in each case

¹ Bull. EC 1-1974, points 1401 to 1402, and OJ C 7 of 27.1.1974.

5. JRC: Guidelines of the future programme

Research and development

between the research and development stage and the operational stage and lastly to the methods for disseminating and using the results of research.

1405. The role of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) described in the Commission's Communication to the Council on the 'Overall Concept of the Next Multiannual Programme for the JRC',¹ also adopted in October, dovetails into such a common R & D policy; the JRC will have a fourfold role to play:

(a) to serve as a focal point, point of crystallization, or as a catalyst to actions coordinated at Community level through its own research activity and in close association with corresponding indirect action programmes;

(b) to carry out by means of direct action research activities of a central nature, highlighted by the setting up of large installations or experiments.

(c) to also carry out research or a certain amount of independent assessment where the absence of participation in industrial development puts important economic interests at stake;

(f) finally, to support Community sectoral policies with scientific and technical expertise and, according to need, provide back-up in the formulation of new policies.

1406. Finally, the Communication indicates that the Commission is planning to present Proposals to the Council in 1976 on the *long-term objectives and priorities* of a Community research and development policy based, in particular, on the study 'Europe + 30'² which has just been completed.

1501. While the Joint Research Centre (JRC) is tackling the final stage of the programme assigned to it by the Council in 1973 (for the period 1973-76), the Commission sent the Council a Communication on 24 October concerning the Overall Concept for the Next Multiannual Programme of the JRC.

Acting on the Council's request at its meeting of 15 and 16 July, the Commission was now presenting the guidelines of the next programme covering 1977-80. This meant designing the blueprint for the JRC's future role in Community research and the direction to be imparted to its scientific and technical work.

1502. The searching appraisal of the present programme revealed that it comprised too many research targets, some of which were of proportions near the critical minimum. The Commission conceived the guidelines of the future programme with keen concern for maximum efficiency. So existing manpower and resources will be concentrated on a limited number of objectives, selected from those forming the programme now under way.

Activities proposed for the JRC would therefore focus on the following:

Conventional nuclear energy: nuclear safety; advanced plutonium fuels; management of nuclear materials and radioactive waste;

Non-electrical applications of nuclear energy: high-temperature materials; hydrogen production;

New forms of energy: solar energy; fusion reactor technology;

Environment and resources;

Measurements, standards and reference techniques;

Service activities.

1503. To carry out the future programme, the Commission assumes a staff of 1 888, including 1 000 people directly assigned to research.

¹ Points 1501 to 1503.

² Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2243.

On the financial side, estimates anticipate a sum of about 390 000 u.a. (valued as at 1 January 1977) for the new four-year period. It is also planned to make an appraisal at Council level each year to allow for monetary erosion.

The JRC's operating methods will be rationalized and improved for the future programme. The Commission intends to make clear-cut definitions of the research projects and strike a finer balance between long-term and medium- and short-term research. It is vitally important that the work of the JRC fits into the sectoral policies of the Community.



2ND PART

**ACTIVITIES
IN OCTOBER 1975**

1. Functioning of the common market

Customs union

Customs union

Tariff economy

Tariff quotas

2101. On 29 October,¹ the Council, acting on a Proposal from the Commission adopted several Regulations on opening, allocating and administering conventional or autonomous Community tariff quotas for 1976. The following products are concerned:

Customs arrangements for the movement of goods

Transit

2102. On 8 October² the Commission presented a Proposal for a Regulation relating to Community transit, whose main purpose is to recast the applicable texts (which have undergone many amendments) to facilitate application of these

¹ OJ L 292 of 12.11.1975.

² OJ C 244 of 24.10.1975.

Table 1 — *Tariff quotas (1976)*

Description of product	Quota volume	<i>(in tonnes)</i> ¹	
		Initial allocation	Reserve
<i>Conventional:</i>			
Newsprint	2 250 000 ²	2 141 000	109 000
Ferro-silicon	20 000	20 000	—
Ferro-silicon-manganese	50 000	48 000	2 000
Ferro-chrome containing 0.10 % or less by weight of carbon and more than 30 % up to 90 % inclusive of chromium (super refined ferro-chrome)	3 000	3 000	—
Certain coniferous plywoods	635 000 cu. m ³	614 800 cu. m	20 200 cu. m
<i>Autonomous :</i>			
Fresh eels (alive or dead) frozen or deep frozen intended for processing by curing or skinning companies or intended for the industrial manufacture of products under heading 16.04	5 700	5 200	500
Dried grapes in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less	8 373	8 373	—
Rosins (including 'brais résineux')	24 468	24 468	—
Raw silk (not thrown)	2 500	2 000	500
Silk yarn not put up for retail sale	60	47	13
Yarn spun from silk, not put up for retail sale	195	162	33
Unwrought lead, other than bullion lead	27 000	25 500	1 500
Unwrought zinc	10 000	9 000	1 000

¹ Unless otherwise indicated.

² Including 750 000 tonnes, under autonomous.

³ Including 235 000 tonnes, under autonomous.

provisions by the national authorities and other users.

*

2103. During the part-session of 13 to 17 October, the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion on several Commission Proposals to the Council on opening and administering tariff quotas for various products. *The Economic and Social Committee*,¹ meeting on 29 and 30 October, issued an Opinion concerning a proposed Directive from the Commission to the Council on harmonizing provisions concerning deferred payment of import or export duties.

Competition policy

Restrictive agreements, mergers, dominant positions: specific cases

Termination of an agreement on industrial timber

2104. Following representations by the Commission, a number of agreements concluded by Belgian board manufacturers within the *trade association for users of industrial timber*, of which all the board manufacturers are members, have been terminated. The statutes of the association have also been amended.

The agreements in question affected Belgium and the border areas of other timber-producing Member States. Under the terms of the agreements, the members undertook not to buy timber at prices above the maximum fixed by the association each year for each production area, to refrain from granting loyalty rebates, to draw up a list of suppliers, to exchange the information needed for preparing harmonized purchasing programmes and to use a standard form of contract.

The parties claimed that the agreements were intended to prevent disruptions of the market for industrial timber from adversely affecting the performance of contracts between growers and users. They were also intended to prevent excessive speculation on the relevant market which might lead to a substantial decline in the competitive position of Belgian users, including board manufacturers, joiners, printers and publishing houses, and thus expose them to the risks of takeover by foreign companies.

Despite these claims, the Commission felt that it could not authorize the agreements, which, taken together, constituted a serious restriction of competition between the members at the purchasing stage. There were also problems as regards the agreements' compatibility with the rules of competition set out in the Rome Treaty in view of their possible effect on the sales policy of the firms involved. In this specific case the Commission stressed that where measures were required to help out a market in difficulty, it was not permissible for private groups to take steps which would restrict competition: it was for the public authorities or the Commission to look into the matter and take the necessary action.

Decision on adopting interim measures

2105. On 29 October the Commission adopted a Decision consisting in interim measures aimed at enabling the *National Carbonising Company Ltd. (NCC)* at Manvers to continue the operation of its hard coke coking plants until the outcome of proceedings now before the Court of Justice. The question revolves around a conflict of interest between NCC and the *National Coal Board (NCB)* concerning the price structure of coking coal and domestic hard coke.

The interim measures are that NCB should reduce by £2.79 per tonne, for an interim period,

¹ Point 2455.

the effective price of coal supplied to NCC and used for the production of domestic coke for sale within the Community, provided that, to ensure fairness to NCB, NCC provides adequate guarantees. This Decision is of course, without prejudice to the final judgment of the Court of Justice.

NCC is a private company producing, *inter alia*, industrial and domestic hard coke. NCC has approximately about 7% of the total hard coke market in the United Kingdom. This includes 9% of the market for domestic hard coke.

The NCB is a publicly owned enterprise with a virtual monopoly of coal production in the United Kingdom and about 95% of the market for coal there. Its wholly owned subsidiary, *National Smokeless Fuels Limited* (NSF) produces *inter alia* industrial and domestic hard coke. NSF has approximately 84% of the market for industrial and domestic hard coke and 88% of the market for domestic hard coke, in the United Kingdom.

NCC buys all the coal it requires for coke production from the NCB. As NSF is price-leader for industrial and domestic hard coke in the United Kingdom, NCC is unable to sell its identical products above NSF's prices.

The National Carbonising Company (NCC) complained to the Commission that it was encountering difficulties in covering its costs of production of domestic coke. According to NCC its losses arose from the inadequacy of the margin between the high prices of coking coal and the prices of domestic coke which were fixed too low. According to NCC, the behaviour of the NCB amounted to an abuse of a dominant position, as set out in Article 66, paragraph 7, of the ECSC Treaty.

The services of the Commission, after an examination of the facts and of information available to it, notified NCC that they had concluded that the complaint that NCB had abused its dominant position was without foundation. NCC then appealed to the Court of Justice of the European

Communities against the opinion of the services of the Commission. The Court of Justice decided that the Commission should take such interim measures as it considered to be strictly necessary for the survival of NCC until a final decision on the matter and should fix all adequate guarantees for the repayment by NCC of the costs of the interim measures should the Court ultimately decide against that company.

The Decision adopted on 29 October by the Commission thus imposes reciprocal obligations on the parties concerned to maintain the status quo during the proceedings before the Court and in order to balance equitably the obligations and risks which are entailed in interim measures for both parties.

Mergers in the steel industry

2106. By a Decision of 27 October, the Commission, under Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty authorized the acquisition by *Klößner & Co*, Duisburg of *BV Gemeenschappelijk Bezit Metaalmaatschappij van SA Vles & Zonen*. Vles & Zonen is a small distributor of pig-iron and scrap on the Dutch market. Klößner & Co is one of the major distributors for these products in the common market. But this take-over will result in only a slight expansion of the Klößner Group and will not make any difference to the number of suppliers on the Dutch market. This being so, the Commission considered that this operation would not obstruct effective competition in respect of the products concerned.

State aid

General aid schemes

Denmark

2107. On 17 October, the Commission decided not to oppose application of a draft law, notified by the Danish Government, which provides for

State intervention in favour of certain investments for *improving and erecting buildings for industrial, commercial and agricultural use*.

The draft law stipulates an overall budgetary sum of Dkr. 520 000 000 to apply this aid scheme which will terminate on 31 March 1977, the date on which the investments must be completed.

The following are eligible for aid: investments enabling energy to be saved in industrial, commercial and agricultural buildings; investments to enhance working conditions and for erecting buildings intended for handicraft, industrial or commercial activities.

The aid will be granted in the form of expendable subsidies.

In view of Denmark's present economic and employment situation and since, for a limited period, activity in the building industry is being stimulated to reduce unemployment, the Commission considered that this aid scheme could take advantage of the derogation provided in Article 92, (3b) as 'aid to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State'.

Sectoral aid

Germany

2108. On 16 October, the Commission decided not to raise any objection to implementing an aid scheme in Germany for the *electronic components industry*. To promote research and development in the industry, the German Government will make research subsidies available for a period of five years. Research is vitally important to this sector in view of its rapidly changing technology.

The Commission stressed the need for collaboration with the other Member States. It plans to ask them for information on the nature of their programmes in this field to enable Community action and coordination to be determined.

United Kingdom

2109. On 8 October, the Commission decided not to raise any objection to implementing (under Section 8 of the 1972 Industry Act) an aid scheme for the *smelting industry*, a scheme which had been notified by the British Government.

The industry which embraces many small and medium-sized companies, depends substantially on demand from the metal manufacturing industry, which has slowed right down owing to short-term economic difficulties.

The objective of the Government's aid is to promote reorganization of the smelting industry by encouraging investment. There is only a very limited trade in smelting products between the United Kingdom and the other Member States.

Environment aid

Belgium

2110. On 28 October, the Commission decided to close the procedure under Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty which it had invoked in February 1974 in respect of the draft Belgian royal decree which would provide financial assistance to industrial firms to instal purification plant for their waste water.¹

Under this procedure, the Commission had told the Belgian Government that the former could allow the scheme to be applied provided it was made to conform to the principles defined by the Commission in its Communication to the Member States in November 1974² on fitting in state environment subsidies at Community level.

Most of the provisions of the royal decree in question, adopted on 23 January 1974, already

¹ Bull. EC 2-1974, point 2118.

² Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2115.

corresponded with the specifications of the subsidies which the Commission had said it was prepared to allow for adapting firms by 1 January 1975 to the new constraints imposed by the environment.

But although the rates of aid stipulated by the royal decree of January 1974 remained within the limits imposed by the 'fitting in' for the financial years before 1979, this did not hold true for the rate applicable during the past year. The Commission had therefore asked the Belgian Government to re-examine this provision.

Since the Government has adopted and published a new royal decree, rescinding the previous one, whose provisions conform entirely to those stated in the 'fitting in', particularly in respect of the aid rates, the Commission therefore decided to close the procedure opened in 1974.

Fiscal policy and financial institutions

Taxation

Indirect taxes

Exemptions

2111. On 30 October, the Commission laid before the Council two new major Proposals for Directives on the subject of tax exemptions. On several occasions business organizations and members of the European Parliament have by means of Written Questions, alerted the Council to the problems involved in movements between Member States of chattels, cars, caravans and other personal property, in the course of removals by private individuals, and to the problems raised by private or business use of certain modes of transport in several Member States.

To eliminate the difficulties, the Commission decided to present two proposed Directives to the Council on (a) exemptions for permanent importations of private property from a Member State and (b) temporary importation, within the Community, of certain modes of transport.¹

2112. The first Directive would allow exemption from all consumer taxes *when a private individual's used personal property is permanently imported on his move* from the Member State where his main residence is situated to a Member State where he has at least a secondary residence. The Directive also covers removals of personal property, where ownership or usufruct was acquired by a private individual through inheritance, and private property removed following marriage.

The differences between national laws governing the arrangements peculiar to these goods when imported are hard to understand for the citizen, who cannot imagine that the relocation of personal property in the Community raises such problems. Moreover, these tax barriers, which sometimes run counter to the principle of free movement and right of establishment for persons, are hardly compatible with the principle of forming an economic market with all the features of an internal market. The Commission therefore felt that it should present a package of measures which would as far as possible obviate double taxation on the importation of private property, as defined in its first Proposal.

2113. The second proposed Directive would, under certain conditions, grant *temporary imports* exemption from any taxes in the importing Member State on *certain modes of transport* whether the taxes derive from the purchase, placing in service or movement of these vehicles, except for taxes paid for their direct use, such as charges for fuel oil, repairs, parking, tolls, etc.

¹ OJ C 267 of 21.11.1975.

2. Economic and monetary union

Fiscal policy and financial institutions

Since the two international Conventions concluded in New York on 4 June 1954 (temporary importing of private road vehicles) and in Geneva on 18 May 1956 (taxation arrangements for private road vehicles in international traffic) no longer entirely meet the requirements of the common market, the Commission considered that it should propose a package of measures to avoid, here again, as far as possible, any double taxation when such vehicles are temporarily imported.

The proposed Directive covers motor vehicles, including trailers (but excluding commercial vehicles), caravans, pleasure-boats, sports aircraft, bicycles and riding-horses (riding excursions).

2114. The exemption schemes proposed by the Commission do not rule out the possibility, for certain Member States, of retaining or bringing in more apposite measures than those they will formally be required to apply under the Directives, since the schemes therein are regarded as a minimum basis of exemptions which private individuals are to be accorded for their relocations within the Community.

The two new Proposals show that the Commission is determined to secure a real internal market for the benefit of private individuals, even if this must still be hedged round with certain limits and conditions.

2115. The *Economic and Social Committee*,¹ meeting on 29 and 30 November, gave its Opinion on a Commission Proposal to amend the Council's 1972 Directive on taxes other than turnover taxes on the consumption of manufactured tobaccos.

Economic, monetary and financial policy

Preparing for the tripartite Conference on the economic and social situation

2201. Anticipating the meeting on 18 November of the tripartite Conference, assembling, within the Council, the Ministers for Economic Affairs, Finance and Labour, both sides of industry and the Commission, the Commission sent the Council a Communication on 27 October analysing the position and discussing action which could be taken.¹

Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community

2202. On 16 October the Commission sent the Council its fifth Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community, drawn up in compliance with Article 4 of the Council Decision of 18 February 1974 on achieving a high degree of convergence between Member States' economic policies.² As soon as the Council has adopted the report, after consulting the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, and determined the guidelines for each Member State in its economic policy for 1975, the governments will turn over the report to the national parliaments.

The report expresses the Commission's view that in several Community countries the downswing in the short-term economic trend is now petering out and that the economic climate is starting to improve. Inflationary trends have abated everywhere and substantial headway has already been made in 1975 towards regaining the Community's external balance.

If, over the next few months, the trend towards rebuilding stocks, recovery of external

¹ Point 2454.

¹ Point 2210.

² OJ L 63 of 5.3.1974.

demand and normalization of consumer demand hardens and spreads, it seems likely that 1976 will see a moderate growth of the Community's gross product in real terms. This could attain an annual rate of $3-3\frac{1}{2}\%$ for 1976, whereas 1975 saw a decline of about $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ in the Community's gross product in real terms. But through 1976 industrial capacity will still not be fully utilized and the employment situation will pick up only very gradually.

Although recovery will continue to be slow, the dangers of inflation are still there. It will take a considerable effort by the Member States to keep the rate of inflation below 10% throughout the Community. Moreover, the Community's current account, and those of the individual Member States, should begin to worsen in 1976.

The most pressing problem for the Community over the months ahead is how to ensure that the short-term economic recovery can really start and to bring about the conditions for lasting growth and a better employment situation, while taking care not to revive inflationary pressures.

In most Member States, budgetary policy will again be required, over the coming months, to prop economic activity. But since a fresh bout of inflation would nip the reviving business upturn in the bud, excessive stimulation of internal demand or over-heavy monetary financing must be avoided. In monetary policy, the expansionary stance should generally be maintained.

Collaboration between both sides of industry and the public authorities is a decisive factor in restoring confidence in future economic development. Entrepreneurs can be expected to improve their financial situation by boosting productivity and by fuller use of capacity, and to take the greatest care with their price policies. But better company profits and a firmer inclination to invest on their part also implies a reasonable trade union attitude in wage claims and, for a limited period, foregoing increases in real incomes as high as those gained over recent years.

Since uncertainty persists as to the behaviour of the economic operators, we cannot rely on the extent or duration of the anticipated economic recovery. The Commission therefore emphasizes that further short-term economic trends must be very carefully watched, through frequent consultation and close collaboration between the Member States.

In the immediate future, the Community should not count too much on short-term economic stimuli from non-member countries. Its weight in international trade obliges it to make its own contribution to world economic recovery. The Member States have a similar responsibility, on a Community footing.

Economic situation:

Mr Haferkamp's statement

2203. On 14 October, Vice-President Haferkamp of the Commission made a statement in the European Parliament on the Community's economic situation, which included the following:

Economic Policy

'...The Commission has tried during the past 18 months to develop an economic policy which takes account of the differing situations in the Community's Member States. It is perfectly clear that where one Member State has an inflation rate of 6% or 7% while in another inflation is running at a rate of more than 20%, and where there are major differences in balance of payments situations and in the economic situation as a whole, we cannot expect to be able to pursue a uniform economic policy which is equally applicable to each Member State and applies the same methods and machinery across the board. We have therefore concentrated — and I think we have succeeded — on taking these differences into account, while at the same time developing a policy which is constructive and prevents

national economic measures being taken which compete or clash with one another. We have been doing this consistently for a year and a half and we have just heard how the coordinated programmes of the past few months came into being. They came into being on the basis of these efforts and, on behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank Parliament and particularly its Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, for having helped us in these efforts, and express my thanks also to the ministers concerned who met at monthly intervals throughout this difficult period to make this agreed policy possible.

The question has been put, in connection with the most recent programmes, as to whether they are adequate, or whether more could and should have been done. Our view is this: the President of the Council pointed out that we must fight recession and at the same time avoid restimulating inflation. Excessively massive programmes could turn this second danger into immediate reality and result in a considerable setback for further economic development. That is why we believe that it is preferable not to do too much at the moment, or perhaps not even too little, but are prepared—and we have spelt this out, and the ministers said so publicly at their meeting of 24 August—to keep a constant watch on the situation and, should it prove necessary, to introduce immediate *ad hoc* measures.

We think that this is the right approach and on behalf of the Commission I can assure you that we shall not hesitate, if we feel it is necessary, to propose that new measures be adopted. I am equally sure that, given the way the discussions with the Council of Ministers and the governments are going, we shall, if we want to implement the Venice Declaration of 24 August, find support here also.'

Short-term economic situation

'...As far as the short-term economic situation is

concerned I believe I can see certain positive elements. I am far from concluding from this that our difficulties are at an end. What we do have however is an improvement of the short-term economic climate and the bottoming out of the recession in France, Germany and Denmark. The first signs of recovery are appearing in the United States, Japan and Canada. This will undoubtedly have a stimulating effect on the development of world trade.

Also positive is a rapid and unexpected improvement in the balance of payments situation in the Community as a whole and some success in the fight against inflation. These features are not enough in themselves, of course, but the measures that we have taken should be seen in this context, should be pursued and, as I have already said, strengthened if necessary.'

Structural problems

'...There is one final point I should like to make here. Even when the conjunctural difficulties have been overcome, we will still face great difficulties in finding a solution to the structural problems. We are facing changes in our economies which will be long lasting and extremely onerous for us all. This must be clearly understood.

If the economic situation should suddenly look brighter tomorrow, we should not fool ourselves into thinking that we have left our difficulties behind us. We shall then be only at the beginning of a greater and more important process. The elimination of economic difficulties and a general resurgence are certainly prerequisite but they are not the solution.

Unemployment will continue to be higher than it has been at any time since the war. We shall see a structural reorganization of production, and we do not know precisely where this will lead. But one trend is already clear. In other parts of the world finished products, which for decades have traditionally been manufactured by us, are being

assembled locally. We shall have to produce other things instead. Speaking very generally, the tendency will probably be for "simpler" products to be manufactured elsewhere and we shall have to devote ourselves to more complex production which requires greater technological knowhow and productive skill.

This will have a considerable effect, for example, on all labour-related problems, on questions of investment and on mobility of capital and labour. It is going to present us with major problems and we are not going to see any return to the postwar era when, for two and a half decades, prosperity and private consumption grew extremely rapidly.

It is quite apparent that we have now entered a phase in which prosperity and consumption are going to grow more slowly than in the past. We are going to have to pay the higher bills for oil and other imported products with goods and services. We cannot at the same time consume the money we shall need for this purpose.

We shall also have to invest more in the structural reorganization of industry than we had perhaps thought. The money we shall need for that cannot be used for other purposes either. We must accept the fact that we cannot produce 100 % and distribute 120 %.

There is no way for us to trick our way past the fact that we are dealing with real resources, that we are going to have to pay for what we get with goods and services and that we are going to have to step up investment. This is absolutely certain and it is a point we must not lose sight of.

What is just as certain is that we must do everything to ensure that the burdens which our economies and societies will have to bear—and borne they will have to be—are fairly distributed. I am perfectly aware that that is more easily said than done. All the same, it is a point which cannot be often enough stressed and repeated.

It is certainly the case that we are entering a period in which great emphasis will have to be placed on cooperation, discipline and solidarity

between the social partners and the States, between the Member States and the Community as a whole and the rest of the world. If we do not approach these problems in such a spirit we will not succeed in solving them.¹

Institute for Economic Analysis and Research

2204. On 10 October the Commission sent the Council a proposed Regulation on establishing a European Community Institute for Economic Analysis and Research.¹

Its task would be to study 'the problems connected with the principal economic and social aspects of the economic integration of the Community, as a contribution and social aspects of the economic integration of the Community, as a contribution to the development of scientific bases for action in the field of economic policy in the Community'. The main lines of research which the Institute could pursue include: the diminished effectiveness of traditional economic policy instruments, the necessary remodelling of the industrial machine in national economies as a result of the new relative prices for energy and raw materials, and the imbalance between the Community's central and peripheral regions.

The Commission's Proposal is the logical culmination of a need which has been felt with growing intensity for several years. Economic research and analysis concerning the process of European integration have not kept abreast of the more and more complicated problems encountered. This holds particularly true today, when the Community must at the same time advance economic and monetary union and solve the interwoven problems of employment, inflation and external balance.

So, after consulting a group of Member States' experts, the Commission, in keeping with the wishes expressed on several occasions by the European Parliament and the Economic and

¹ OJ C 258 of 11.11.1975.

Social Committee, proposed to endow the Community with a scientific instrument of economic analysis operating on a European basis but drawing substantially on the various national research centres with which it would establish close collaboration. The Institute is therefore designed as the catalyst for more intensive and fruitful development of the whole European research potential.

One salient feature of the Commission's Proposal is that the Institute should be free to work as independently as possible. But it would work in close contact with Community institutions, who have a special call on the Institute for research, analysis and views in their areas of chief concern. Although the Commission's Proposal would have the Institution financed mainly by annual subsidies drawn from the Community budget, it would also be free to carry out studies, against payment, for agencies other than Community institutions but with the *proviso* that such work did not exceed a limited percentage of all its activity.

The Institute, manned by a permanent but small staff, would be run by a Director and a Management Board, representing the Member States, the Commission and the European Investment Bank.

Monetary Committee

2205. Two meetings of the Monetary Committee were held in October, chaired by Mr Oort:

(i) At the 210th meeting in Brussels on 3 October, the Committee discussed application of the Washington agreement on gold and on organizing the Paris Conference between the industrialized and developing countries;

(ii) At the 211th meeting on 30 October, the Committee examined Luxembourg's monetary policy, discussed international monetary problems and began a study on financing Member States' budgetary deficits. It also heard a verbal report from the Chairman of the *ad hoc* Group on Italy, assigned to examine Italy's economic situation in

connection with the medium-term financial aid granted in 1974.

Economic Policy Committee

2206. In October, the Economic Policy Committee met twice in Brussels:

(i) At the 19th meeting on 6 October in its smaller 'budgets' format, chaired by Mr Middelhoek, the Committee appraised Member States' budget prospects for 1976 in connection with drawing up the draft of the Annual Report of the Economic Situation in the Community, and reviewed the 1976-78 three-year financial estimates of the Community's general budget;

(ii) At the 20th meeting on 7 October, chaired by Mr Malinvaud, the Committee, at full strength, reviewed the preliminary economic budgets for 1976 and the draft of the Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community.

The fourth meeting of the *group of experts on Public Finance*, attached to the Economic Policy Committee, was held in Brussels, on 14 October, chaired by Mr O'Horgain, to complete the study of the budgetary policy instruments, which will be laid before the next meeting of the Committee, and to examine a draft work programme on the medium-term aspects of public finance.

2207. Meeting on 29 and 30 October,¹ the *Economic and Social Committee* issued an Opinion concerning the Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community.

¹ Point 2451.

Regional policy

Financing operations

European Regional Development Fund

First grants from the Fund:
160 600 000 u.a.

2208. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), established by the Council on 18 March,¹ became operative on 16 October. On that day the *Commission* approved the first tranche of aid from the Fund, the details of which are shown in Table 2.

On 14 and 15 October the *ERDF Committee* had given its opinion on 83 draft decisions, involving all sectors of operation covered by the Regulation of last March. Earlier, on 6 and 7 October, the *Regional Policy Committee* had been consulted on draft decisions regarding aid to infrastructure projects amounting to more than 10 000 000 u.a.

The collaboration links established with national authorities enabled the applications to be swiftly appraised, which in turn facilitated the *Commission's* work.

This first allocation from the Fund involves more than half of the 300 000 000 u.a. available for the first year. The 83 decisions concern a total of 655 investment projects for a sum of 1 254.4 million u.a. Aid granted covers three main types of investment project:

(a) 90 100 000 u.a. to finance 353 infrastructure projects needed to *develop industrial and tourist activity*, consisting of: 50 000 000 u.a. to finance 11 projects of more than 10 000 000 u.a. each, and 40 100 000 u.a. for 342 projects of less than 10 000 000 u.a. each.

Infrastructure projects received Fund aid amounting to 468 600 000 u.a. The main Member States to benefit are Italy (45 900 000 u.a.), the United Kingdom (21 200 000 u.a.) and Ireland (6 100 000 u.a.).

¹ OJ L 73 of 21.3.1975 and Bull. EC 3-1975, points 1201 to 1208.

Table 2 — *Aid from the ERDF (1st tranche 1975)*

Member State	Number of aid decisions	Number of investment projects	Investments concerned (in million u.a.)	Aid granted (in million u.a.)
Belgium	—	—	—	—
Denmark	4	34	26.3	3.9
Germany	11	20	100.9	6.2
France	26	147	351.2	22.0
Ireland	2	88	94.0	14.2
Italy	28	126	527.8	86.8
Luxembourg	1	1	3.5	0.7
Netherlands	3	3	79.9	5.6
United Kingdom	8	236	70.8	21.2
Total	83	655	1 254.4	160.6

(b) 60 000 000 u.a. to finance 207 projects *involving industrial, handicraft and service activities*. This comprises 29 500 000 u.a. to finance 8 projects of more than 10 000 000 u.a. each and 30 500 000 u.a. for 199 projects of less than 10 000 000 u.a. Investments in this sector received Fund aid of 741 200 000 u.a. The main Member States to benefit are: Italy (34 400 000 u.a.), France (14 900 000 u.a.) and Ireland (8 100 000 u.a.).

(c) 10 500 000 u.a. to finance 91 infrastructure projects in the regions covered by the Directive on *hill-farming and farming in certain underfavoured areas*, mainly in southern Italy and the south of France. Investments under this head received 44 600 000 u.a. of aid.

Regional Policy Committee

2209. The Regional Policy Committee held its second *meeting* on 6 and 7 October. It adopted the plan determining the contents of the regional development programmes, i.e. an economic and social analysis of the region concerned, the region's development objectives, the projects intended to attain them, the allocation of funds proposed to implement the programme, details of those responsible and the timetable for carrying the programme out.

The Committee reviewed the yearly particulars supplied by the Member States for 1975, in compliance with the Council Regulation of 18 March establishing the ERDF, and which, under the terms of that Regulation, stand for regional development programmes. From this review the Committee made its decisions on infrastructure investment projects costing 10 000 000 u.a. or more.

Feeling the need to examine the types of infrastructure likely to benefit from Fund aid, the Committee assigned an *ad hoc* Group to do so.

The Committee discussed the ways in which the Member States see the supplementary nature of

Fund operations, and intend to ensure that these back up national endeavours.

Lastly, the Committee elected Mr L. Leonard, Deputy Assistant Secretary at Ireland's Ministry of Finance, Vice-Chairman, to succeed Mr M.F. Doyle assigned to another post.

Social policy

Preparing for the tripartite Conference on the economic and social situation

2210. As requested by the European Council, which met in Brussels¹ on 16 and 17 July, the Commission on 27 October laid a Communication before the Council entitled 'Economic and Social Situation in the Community and Outlook'.

The Commission considers that the tripartite Conference which, on 18 November, will convene the Ministers responsible for social affairs and economy, representatives of both sides of industry and the Commission, could take as its objectives: to expose the dangers of the present economic situation, to try and identify the most urgent problems and to map out the bearings of possible solutions.

After a brief appraisal of the main features of the economic situation today, the Commission stresses the solidarity which must underlie the attack on these problems, on a world scale, as well as between the Community States and between the social groups within States. The need for solidarity appears all the more urgent in that the major current difficulties are in the main grounded in problems of distribution, to which no satisfactory answers have yet been found.

The Commission's paper goes on to describe the short-term action which can be contemplated to soften the effects of the present recession, especially with regard to employment.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2418.

But it is the medium-term outlook which stands out. The necessary cutback in private consumption will pose the most complicated problems of balance and adjustment. Conversely, efforts must be made to offer workers adequate compensation.

The paper also considers the connection between foreign trade and Community employment; the Commission reiterates the need to preserve freedom of trade, especially with regard to the least-favoured countries outside.

From this angle employment problems must be the focus of special attention over the coming years and should be jointly studied. Experience has demonstrated the shortcomings of employment policies largely based on expanding overall demand: they feed inflation without solving the basic problems of employment.

The Commission's paper ends with an appeal for concertation on the national scale between the social groups, and at Community level between the member countries. The Commission feels that any further reflation, to meet the aims of workers, and reduce uncertainty among entrepreneurs, must permit the healthy recovery of business activity and lay the foundations for balanced and lasting growth.

Employment

2211. On 14 October the Commission sent a Communication to the Council on *improving Community employment statistics*, the purpose being to acquire better knowledge of the labour markets and their trends.

The main aim of the work programme for the Statistical Office is to make the information available from each Member State more comparable and to turn statistics in their present form into a consistent system of data on the labour market. The sample surveys since 1968 will continue every other year and will be expanded by adding ques-

tions on unemployment among young people, women and 'masked' unemployment.

Statistics on employed wage and salary earners in industry will be extended to cover all branches of activity. A special effort will also be made concerning the monthly data on job applications and vacancies.

Free movement and social security for migrant workers

2212. At its 145th meeting on 16 October, the *Administrative Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers* studied the texts of the new guidebooks to acquaint migrant workers and their families with their social security rights, and the administrative formalities involved in claiming them. The text of the general guidebook was adopted; drawn up individually by each Member State, it is in two parts: a statement of the basic Community rules and an outline of the social security organization in the relevant State. Like other guides, this handbook, soon to be approved, will be available in the six Community languages and will be distributed as widely as possible.

Social Fund, re-employment and readaptation

2213. On 14 October the Commission sent the Council, which had signified its agreement at its meeting of 22 July,¹ a new Proposal relating to Social Fund activity under Article 4, i.e., in favour of *occupational adaptation operations* to assist people engaged or who were engaged in *sectors particularly hard hit by the unbalanced employment situation due to the recession*, with due regard to the regions most affected by employment problems.²

¹ OJ L 199 of 30.7.75 and Bull. EC 6-1975, points 2212 and 2424.

² OJ C 258 of 11.11.1975.

After many talks it seemed that, rather than draw up a more or less sizeable list of sectors regarded as particularly affected, it would be better to suggest that the conditions triggering the Fund's operations be decided in terms of the most objective criteria possible, applicable at Community level. So the Commission is proposing that the Fund act to help sectors showing a growth in unemployment, since early 1974, distinctly higher than the Community average, or an equivalent trend, on the manpower side; and in regions showing, since then, a rise in unemployment distinctly higher than the national average, or where people employed in those same sectors represent a major proportion of the active population, bearing in mind the absolute level of regional unemployment.

The Commission considers that 'region' should be taken to mean not an administrative unit but a zone determined in terms of the labour market: a 'pool of employment'. To qualify, any application for aid from the Fund should match the combined criteria of 'sector' and 'region' so defined.

2214. On the same day the Commission proposed to the Council that the decision by the latter on 19 December 1972,¹ authorizing the Fund to act, for a three year period, to help *people engaged in the textile sector*, be prolonged and extended to Community workers employed in the *clothing industries*.²

2215. The *European Social Fund Committee*, meeting on 23 and 24 October, processed 39 applications for Fund aid, presented under Article 5, i.e., for operations to help unemployed or underemployed workers in less-developed Community regions, or to train workers so as to meet the needs created by technological and industrial advance.

Vocational training and guidance

2216. The Management Board of the *European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training*,³ held its first meeting in Berlin on 23 and 24 October. After electing the Chairman and three Vice-Chairmen, it adopted its rules of procedure, approved the draft forward budget for 1975-1976 and selected the building which will house the Centre.

2217. A European seminar on educational and vocational guidance was run in Kollokole (Copenhagen) from 22 to 24 October, to enable executives in Member States' vocational guidance services to learn about guidance structures in Denmark and to compare experiences with their Danish colleagues.

Social security and social action

2218. The *heads of Member States' social security organizations* attended a meeting on 10 October on setting up appropriate concertation of rational policies for social protection, under the social action programme.

Health protection

2219. On 2 and 17 October the Commission took three decisions relating to ECSC research on *safety and health in the mines*. Under the first, twelve research projects in the third programme on health in the mines received financial assistance totalling 1 120 306.85 u.a. The projects are the responsibility of seven Community research institutes. Four concern the physical properties

¹ OJ L 291 of 28.12.1972.

² OJ C 258 of 11.11.1975.

³ OJ L 39 of 13.2.1975 and Bull. EC 12-1974, point 1304.

and measurement of dust and four concern technical means of eliminating dust. Two more cover the epidemiology of pneumoconioses, one has to do with health in iron ore mines and one with the measurement and study of gases.

Regarding safety in the mines, the Commission approved a memorandum on five research projects to be handled by four Community institutes. The memo will be sent to the ECSC Consultative Committee for consultation and to the Council for a confirmatory opinion. The amount of aid proposed is 550 567.32 u.a.

2220. Then on 30 October the Commission decided to grant aid totalling 802 377.53 u.a. to finance four research projects concerning the technical centre to counter *pollution from steel-works*.

2221. On 9 and 10 October the Commission ran a meeting in Luxembourg of national experts to establish criteria (the ratio of dose to effect) for *oxides of nitrogen present as pollutants in the environment*. The criteria will serve as a basis for drawing up a proposed directive on atmospheric quality standards in respect of oxides of nitrogen.

2222. On 7 and 8 October the Commission ran a briefing and training seminar on recent developments in radiation protection for the benefit of Member States' trade union representatives. The aim was to provide objective information on the current status of radiation protection and the outlook for the future; as well as on the new trends in protection deriving from the new ICPR recommendations, and their inclusion in the draft directive revising the basic standards in force since 1959.

Paul Finet Foundation

2223. The *10th anniversary of the Paul Finet Foundation* was celebrated in Luxembourg on 3 October. Vice-President Hillery of the Commission

officialiated and the event was attended by many prominent figures. Over the ten years, 2 879 candidates made 6 890 applications and were granted 4 843 scholarships totalling Bfrs 39 000 000; 1 342 students were thus able to complete their studies under better conditions.

2224. The *Foundation's Executive Committee*, meeting in Luxembourg on 29 October, examined 203 applications, and 180 grants were awarded totalling Bfrs 1 662 000.

Thus since the Foundation was established on 30 June 1965, it has received 7 093 applications and awarded 5 022 grants totalling Bfrs 40 645 000 (FF 4 516 000). So far 1 371 candidates have been able to complete their studies under better conditions with the help of the Foundation.

2225. During the part-session from 13 to 17 October,¹ the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion on a Commission Proposal to standardize the arrangements for paying family allowances to workers whose families live in a Member State other than the one in which the worker is employed. The *Economic and Social Committee*, meeting on 29 and 30 October,² gave its Opinion on two other Commission Proposals concerning the action programme for migrant workers and extension of trade union rights to workers who move within the Community.

Environment and protection of consumers

Environment

Meeting of Environment Ministers

2226. The Council meeting of Environment Ministers on 16 October³ agreed a number of

¹ Point 2412.

² Points 2456 and 2457.

³ Points 1301 to 1309.

Directives and Decisions concerning: the sulphur content of gas-oil, pollution of bathing water, compiling a list of data sources on the environment, and negotiation of a Convention on preventing sea-pollution in the Mediterranean.

Consumer protection

Consumers' Consultative Committee

2227. The Consumers' Consultative Committee, meeting in Brussels on 13 and 14 October, took a hard look at the effects of the common agricultural policy on consumer interests. Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza of the Commission asked the Committee to convey its views on the formation and effects of farm prices.

The Committee then went on to prepare its contribution to the discussions on the 'stocktaking of the agricultural policy'. Regarding the proposed Directive drawn up by the Commission departments concerning general consumer credit conditions, the Committee put forward a number of suggestions to improve consumer protection. The labelling of textiles and door-to-door selling were also discussed.

Agricultural policy

Assessment of the CAP

2228. At its meeting in Luxembourg on 29-30 October, the Council got down to a searching debate on the major future guidelines of the CAP. The debate was prepared, during October, by the Special Committee on Agriculture, meeting at high level with membership restricted to State Secretaries and heads of agricultural departments, on the basis of the 'Stocktaking of the Common Agricultural Policy' presented by the Commission last February.¹

The Council proceedings, attended by all the Ministers of Agriculture, were marked by a contribution from the UK Secretary of State responsible for consumer protection.

The debate showed that two basically different features were to be considered in this assessment: first, the role and meaning of the CAP in relation to the other sectors of European integration such as Community external relations and social and economic policy, and second, the more specific problems of organizing and administering the CAP.

The Council endorsed the Commission's view, that the assessment of the CAP's fifteen years was largely positive. But a general resolve emerged to make all desirable improvements to the instruments of the policy and its stewardship, without calling into question its basic principles (singleness of the market; Community preference; financial solidarity).

The Council took a hard look at questions involving the balance of the markets, productivity and incomes, the single nature of the market, the cost of the agricultural policy and certain particularly sensitive products such as milk, wine and cereals.

Lastly, the Council considered it was worthwhile to set out certain general guidelines to be laid before the European Council which will meet in Rome early in December; but it was decided to do further work on this in November.

Measures in connection with the monetary situation

2229. The Council set new representative rates in October to be used in agriculture for the *Irish and British pounds* ('green pounds').² The rates indicate a devaluation of the Irish and British pounds of 2.22 % and 5.8 % respectively, and are

¹ Supplement 2/75 — Bull. EC.

² OJ L 269 of 18.10.1975.

nearer to economic reality. This decision enabled a further step to be taken towards restoring a system of single prices. The Irish and British farm prices in national currency were raised and the monetary compensatory amounts correspondingly reduced.

It was decided that the rates concerned would take effect: on 27 October for most products, for which the marketing year has already begun; on 3 November for cereal products except common wheat; on 5 January 1976 for beef and veal products and on 1 July 1976 for common wheat and derived products. These exceptions had to be made to take account of the market conditions for the products in question.

The devaluation percentages of the two currencies are not the same. This time the rates of the Irish and British green pounds which varied by about 5.4 % have been aligned (the gap is now only 1.5 %), which enabled the Commission to do away with monetary compensatory amounts between the UK and Ireland.¹ This will naturally apply from the different dates set for the new rates to take effect.

Besides purely technical measures, concerning in particular the method of calculation, the Commission adopted a Regulation¹ to avoid deflections, which could occur in the trade of certain farm products with the United Kingdom, when the representative rate is changed. Thus, before the new rates take effect, the monetary compensatory amounts applicable to certain sectors (milk and milk products, pigmeat, beef and veal) will continue to apply to exports from the UK for two months to prevent purely speculative consignments of goods.

The Regulation fixing monetary compensatory amounts from 4 August has been superseded since 27 October. Before the new rates were set, the amounts had been adjusted as from 13 October to allow for changes in the exchange rates of the Irish and British pounds.

Common organization of the market

2230. At the Council meeting in mid-October, no headway was made on wine;² the situation will be reappraised in November. Again in November, the Foreign Ministers are to take a final decision on the favourable disposition (secured at the Council meeting of Ministers of Agriculture) towards negotiating long-term trade agreements with Egypt on supplying foodstuffs.

On 14 October the Regulation completing revision of the common organization of the sugar market and the Regulation fixing subsidies to hop producers³ for the 1974 crop were formally adopted. The Council also adopted⁴ several Regulations codifying Community rules for cereals, pigmeat, eggs, poultrymeat, ovalbumin and lactalbumin. Action to simplify agricultural Regulations continues; the Commission sent the Council and European Parliament a relevant Communication and proposed a Resolution on measures to be taken.

To deal with surpluses, the Council adopted a measure concerning the milk sector, while the Commission fixed export refunds on wines going to Austria and doubled the amount of the refunds for shell eggs exported to non-Community European countries. There are some problems on the olive oil market.

2231. Regarding the arrangements covering preferential imports, the Council this month⁵ consolidated the revision, made in October 1974,⁶ of the basic Regulation for *sugar*. It settled the crux of the problem posed by the scheme to apply to sugar originating in the OD and ACP to ensure equal competition conditions between the two (subsidies and levies). The Commission adopted⁷

¹ OJ L 276 of 27.10.1975.

² Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2220.

³ OJ C 267 of 16.10.1975.

⁴ OJ L 281 and L 282 of 1.11.1975.

⁵ OJ L 268 of 17.10.1975.

⁶ OJ L 359 of 31.12.1974 and Bull. EC 10-1974, point 2230.

⁷ OJ L 280 of 31.10.1975 and L 283 of 1.11.1975.

the necessary application methods for importing preferential sugar as from 1 November and the terms for granting the amount set for refining raw sugar as from 1 November and the terms for granting the amount set for refining raw sugar produced in the French overseas departments. Certain trade provisions for sugar in the Lomé Convention have been applied in advance.

2232. Because of the difficult situation on the *olive oil* market (belated disposal of Community production and falling prices), the Commission decided on 13 October¹ to grant premiums for private storage of certain qualities of olive oil from the 1974 harvest. Those holding virgin oil of superfine, fine and standard quality, produced in the Community during the 1974/75 olive oil marketing year, had the chance to ask, before 1 November, for storage contracts concluded for 90 days and automatically renewable for a further 90 days, unless terminated by the party concerned. The sum of the premium was fixed at 5.5 u.a./100 kg for the first 90-day period and 6.5 u.a./100 kg for the second.

2233. Regarding *wine*, the Council held a political debate on following up the work of improving the wine market regulations;² it was decided to complete the work in November.

The Council also took note of the Commission's statement concerning the tax imposed on French imports of Italian wine since 12 September, which announces the Commission's decision to invoke the official procedure of Article 169 of the EEC Treaty. The French Government had been asked for its comments within ten days. On 24 October France's reply to the Commission confirmed that the tax was still in effect. Proceeding to the second stage of the procedure, the Commission, on 29 October, adopted a reasoned opinion asking France to remove the tax within a week.

In addition to the measures taken last September,³ an administrative step was taken to ease the disposal of table wines. On 10 October,⁴ to extend

the delivery areas for which export refunds may be granted on the wine market, the Commission fixed the refund amounts for exports to Austria at 0.35/degree/hl for white wine of type A I and for red wine of types RI and R II, and at 3.50 u.a./hl for whites of types A II and A III.

The Commission also laid a Proposal⁵ before the Council which fits in with the package of measures already proposed to clear up the wine crisis. This involves a reconversion premium (to encourage the grubbing of certain vine varieties of indifferent quality) of 1 500 u.a./h for the 1975/76 marketing year, 1 400 u.a./h for 1976/77 and 1 300 u.a./h for 1977/78. These amounts cover the expense of uprooting and compensation against loss of income for the growers. The EAGGF Guidance Section would bear 50 % of the expenditure incurred by Member States. The reconversion premium would go to growers who undertake not to replant vines on the ground involved (estimated at some 120 000 h) for a period of ten years.

2234. For *milk and milk products*, the Council on 29 October⁶ adopted a Regulation which would allow disposal of skimmed milk powder from public storage in the form of compound animal feeds. On the basis of this Regulation some 80 000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder will be released to internal and external markets.

The Council reappraised the question of stocks of skimmed milk powder during the meeting on the assessment of the CAP. Stocks amount to about a million tonnes, whereas only 400 000-500 000 tonnes can be considered as a 'normal' stock for the Community which depends heavily on imports for its protein supply.

¹ OJ L 265 of 14.10.1975.

² Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2220.

³ OJ L 246 of 20.9.1975.

⁴ OJ L 263 of 11.10.1975.

⁵ OJ C 249 of 30.10.1975.

⁶ OJ L 280 of 31.10.1975.

The Commission paid particular attention to the structural changes to be made concerning operations in the milk sector where absorption of surpluses will entail heavy charges: 2 000 million u.a. have in fact been allocated in the Community's 1976 budget to support the milk market.

2235. Under the intervention arrangements, the granting of aid to private storage of *beef and veal* was modified from two angles. First, because of the market trends and the predictable seasonal price movements, the Commission terminated,¹ as from 31 October, the conclusion of contracts concerning storage of forequarters. Second, as from 1 November,² aid has been granted to private storage for carcasses, half-carcasses and unboned quarters, known as compensated quarters; this aid was fixed in advance at a flat rate. The Commission will re-examine this measure as soon as contracts have been concluded for 20 000 t.

Structural policy

2236. In October, the Commission adopted two Decisions³ and issued three Opinions on implementing the reform of farm structures in the *Netherlands, Denmark and France* after appraising statutory provisions announced in the Directives of 17 April 1972.⁴

EAGGF

2237. On 21 October, the Commission presented a report to the Council which examines how cooperation has advanced between the Member States and between the Member States and the Commission, in *preventing and deterring irregularities* at the expense of the EAGGF. The Commission draws the inference that the arrangements for exchanging information, for coordi-

nation and tighter checks, introduced in 1972 by the Regulation of 7 February⁵ has generally speaking worked well. At the same time the Commission stresses the need for certain improvements and stipulates that it will make proposals to this end.

From 1971 to the first quarter of 1975, the amounts paid in error by the EAGGF as a result of irregularities totalled 16 410 000 u.a., i.e., 0.12 % of the overall expenditure incurred over the same period (about 13 446 million u.a.). The irregularities at the expense of the Guarantee Section (market support) reached 15 880 000 u.a. with the Guidance Section (improvement of farm structures) paying out 530 000 u.a. also because of irregularities. Meanwhile, 10 130 000 u.a. have been recovered and efforts are still being made to recover the balance. Irregularities not yet cleared up therefore amount to 6 280 000 u.a., i.e., 0.05 % of the total expenditure incurred by the EAGGF over the period in question.

2238. In October the Commission sent the Council two Proposals for Regulations *to raise the 1975 appropriations to 212 600 000 u.a. and to extend the coverage of the EAGGF Guidance Section to the French overseas departments (OD)* to enable them to improve their agricultural structures with Community assistance.

Harmonization of laws

2239. On 1 October,⁶ under the procedure of the Standing Veterinary Committee, the Commission decided to make 500 000 doses of foot and mouth disease vaccine available to the FAO,

¹ OJ L 188 of 18.7.1975 and OJ L 273 of 24.10.1975.

² OJ L 274 of 23.10.1975.

³ OJ L 286 of 5.11.1975.

⁴ Bull. EC 4-1972, Part 1, Chap. 1.

⁵ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2235 and 4-1972, point 47.

⁶ OJ L 261 of 9.10.1975.

as a Community contribution to the campaign against the disease in the countries of south-east Europe. The vaccine will come out of the Community stock, built up since March 1973, for prompt action against outbreaks of foot and mouth in the Community and, if need be, in non-Community countries. Since 1974, a total of 2 300 000 doses of Community vaccine have been given to the FAO, representing a value of 509 000 u.a.

Farm Accountancy Data Network

2240. The Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) has been working in the field since 1968 in the original Member States and since 1973 throughout the enlarged Community. In 1975, it was based on a sample of 15 810 returning holdings whose details are collated and analysed by the Commission. In line with the provisions of the Council Regulation of 23 October 1973¹ for gradually increasing the number of returning holdings to 28 000 in 1978, the Commission set their number at about 17 120 for the financial year 1976.²

2241. During its part-session of 13 to 17 October, and at a meeting on 29 and 30 October, the *European Parliament*³ and the *Economic and Social Committee* respectively gave their Opinions on several Commission Proposals concerning various agricultural problems or sectors.

Industrial and technological policy

Industry

Iron and steel

2242. The deteriorating conditions on the steel market, marked in September and early October by

several new developments,⁴ obliged the Commission to take another hard look at the problems of the iron and steel industry and to call for an urgent appraisal within an international organization, namely the OECD.⁵

Commission decisions:

2243. The Commission's deliberations on this issue were published in a communiqué on 23 October:

'By virtue of the special responsibilities conferred upon it by the Treaty of Paris as regards the common market in steel, the Commission has issued the following guidelines:

1. The extremely difficult situation on the Community steel market (a substantial decline in production and a serious drop in prices jeopardizing the enterprises' financial balance) is an indication of the effects of the world recession on this very sensitive branch of heavy industry. Though the problems that have to be faced by the Community's steel industry are in certain aspects even more acute than those faced by other countries, they stem from the same root and should not therefore be treated in isolation.

That is why the Commission considers that there is need for international measures to remedy the situation as far as possible while waiting for the economic upturn to bring better prospects.

After having informed the Member States of its intentions, the Commission has also requested urgent discussion within the OECD of the problems facing the steel industry in the present economic situation as part of the consultative procedure provided for by the Trade Pledge. It considers that

¹ Bull. EC 10-1973, point 2242.

² OJ L 272 of 23.10.1975.

³ Points 2417 and 2418.

⁴ Bull. EC 9-1975, points 2232 to 2235.

⁵ The date for this consultation on steel within the OECD has meanwhile been set for 13 and 14 November.

concerted self-discipline should be able to lead to an international trade in steel with prices and quantities that do not aggravate an already very difficult situation.

2. As part of the same procedure, and without prejudice to special measures in the event of imports under conditions that do not comply with international rules, the Commission proposes, in close consultation with the Member States, to examine with its partners the advisability of a system of statistical supervision of trade intended to help detect trends likely to compromise efforts to remedy the situation.

3. The Commission is also examining the conditions under which and the ways in which certain internal measures would be likely to back up and complement the effects of the international co-operation referred to above. In this connection, it is planning to start consultations on whether or not it is advisable to fix minimum prices for Community steel production.

Furthermore, the quarterly forward programmes which the Commission has drawn up since June will in future cover the broad categories of products. This measure will mean that enterprises can be supplied with more precise quantitative data.'

The reasons and background

2244. On the same day, the grounds and range of the Commission's considerations were elucidated by the spokesman in the following statement to the effect that 'the decisions taken by the Commission were the result of a difficult situation, of international proportions, in the steel industry. The problems were more acute for steel insofar as production and the price of crude steel had in general fallen more heavily in comparison with other major producers. While output declined in the Community during May, June and July by 25 %, in the USA by 27 % and in Japan by 12 %, Community prices, as compared with 1974, fell by 35-45 % ; US prices rose by 5-10 % and in Japan they went either up or down

by 10-15 % depending on the category of product. To cope with this serious situation the Commission had, in the previous months, already adopted a whole series of measures :

- (i) preparation of three-year forward programmes since June;
- (ii) expanded investment appropriations under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty;
- (iii) recommendation to governments to take short-term economic measures in support of the building industry.

If further action by the Commission now appeared to be required, then anything to be done internally must reckon with the fact that in 1974 the Community exported 26 200 000 tonnes of steel, whilst it imported 5 200 000 tonnes. So the Commission felt that international concertation was required on the problems of the steel industry before considering the advisability of internal measures such as setting minimum prices. This could only affect the market favourably insofar as Community imports were reasonable in volume and price.

The main countries from whom the Community imported steel were: Eastern Europe (24 %), Japan (14 %), Sweden (13 %), Austria (12 %), Spain (9 %). Since most of them belonged to the OECD, that organization seemed to offer the appropriate setting for international concertation. So the Commission had, yesterday, called for urgent discussion within the OECD to secure concerted self-restraint by its members regarding the quantities and prices of steel products.

Concerning the Eastern countries, the chief Community importers from them (Benelux, the Federal Republic and Italy) were known to be still running a quota scheme on a yearly basis. In the next few weeks the Commission would be presenting its ideas, which would serve as the Council's basis of discussion in determining quotas for 1976.

With regard to the Trade Pledge mentioned in these considerations, it must be remembered that the Trade Pledge was adopted for one year by the

OECD on 30 May 1974. It was a joint commitment by all the OECD countries, aimed at forestalling any unilateral action, especially to restrict imports, designed to deal with balance of payments problems in the wake of increased oil prices. Any unilateral measures taken by one or more OECD countries would merely aggravate the problems of the others, and threaten to spread, thus becoming "counter productive" for everybody.

In May 1975, the Trade Pledge was renewed for another year, but backed by some commentary, the effect of which was to widen the range of the commitment by the OECD countries to avoid recourse to unilateral trade measures. The new Trade Pledge was actually concerned with unilateral measures which would be provoked not only by persistent balance-of-payments difficulties and inflation problems but also by deterioration of the economic situation and heavier strains on the structural side. The reasoning was the same: unilateral measures might well set off chain reactions and worsen the general situation. Moreover it was expressly stipulated that "when several countries are confronted with the same structural or sectoral problems, *ad hoc* consultations could help in finding positive and mutually acceptable solutions".

It was clear from this that resorting to the OECD was not to be regarded as a prelude to unilateral measures, but as the very way to avoid such recourse.'

Investment trends and production potential

2245. The Commission's annual survey among producers indicated that this time investment outlay in the iron and steel industry in 1975 would exceed that of the previous year, but these forecasts will very probably be revised, in view of the problems in this sector.

The steel companies forecast that their investment in 1975 could amount to over 3 000 million

u.a., as against 2 800 million u.a. in 1974. Already in 1974 a year during which the steel industry's financial situation was relatively good, some investments were apparently postponed or curtailed owing to the uncertainties over trends in the demand for steel, persistent inflation, exchange rate instability and difficulties on the long-term capital market. Under present conditions, it is possible that some steel companies may be led to further revisions of their plans in 1975 and 1976.

If the investment plans disclosed in the survey are carried out in line with the forecasts, *crude steel* output potential in the Community could rise from 179 000 000 tonnes in 1974 to 213 000 000 tonnes in 1978. This increase would correspond to an annual growth rate of 4.4%. *Continuous casting* could account for more than 24% of crude steel production in 1978, as against the 13% of 1974.

The growth in crude steel production potential, which for some years has been explained by the expansion of coastal works on the continent is expected to be sustained in the future by the following developments:

- (i) an increase in capacities for *LD steels* at coastal works in the United Kingdom, which will be only partially offset by closures of open-hearth steelworks elsewhere;
- (ii) modernization of capacities on the Rhine, in the Saar and Lorraine regions which will incorporate extensions of some existing works;
- (iii) the rapid and continuing increase in production potential for *electric steel* which should rise from 29 m tonnes in 1974 to 42 m tonnes in 1978.

Between 1974 and 1978 production potential for finished *flat products* should increase at an average of 4.1% p.a., while that for *sections* should grow at 3.3% p.a. The survey announces a particularly rapid expansion of rod mill capacities.

The Community's 'Memorandum on the General Objectives for the Iron and Steel Industry for the

period 1980-85' which is now in preparation will contain a close examination of the possible impact of demand trends on expected production potential.

Aircraft industry

2246. On 3 October the Commission presented the Council with an *Action Programme for the Aircraft Industry*.¹ The Commission Communication would initiate a common policy in the civil aircraft industry; it is backed by a draft Resolution of the Member States meeting within the Council, which concerns the military aircraft market.

Technology

Research programmes concerning nuclear reactors

2247. On 29 October, the Commission presented to the Council a proposed research programme concerning *fast breeder reactors* (liquid metal-cooled). The aim of the programme is to provide a scientific and technical back-up to the activities of various working parties within the Co-ordination Committee on fast reactors.

On 28 October the Commission proposed to the Council that a programme be adopted concerning *nuclear plant safety*. The programme will help in implementing the Resolution on technical problems of nuclear safety, adopted by the Council on 22 July 1975.²

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

Science, research and development

Common research and development policy: Commission Communication to the Council

2248. On 30 October the Commission adopted a Communication entitled: 'Objectives, Priorities and Resources of a Common Research and Development Policy'.³ This paper will serve as the basis for a discussion, within the Council, on the guidelines to be followed and on the main objectives to be adopted in this field until 1980.

2249. The CREST Sub-Committee on Energy Research and Development held its 10th meeting on 22 October, chaired by Mr De Meester. In connection with mounting the Community's energy research and development programme,⁴ the Sub-Committee was advised of the status of work being done by the five Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM) who met in September and October;⁵ the Sub-Committee recommended that everything be put in hand to launch the projects quickly, so that the programme revision scheduled for the end of 1976 can be made on a reliable basis. The Sub-Committee also discussed for the first time the comparison of national energy research and development programmes.

¹ Points 1201 to 1204, Supplement 11/75 — Bull. EC and OJ C 265 of 19.11.1975.

² OJ C 185 of 14.8.1975 and Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2262.

³ Points 1401 to 1406.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2263 and OJ L 231 of 2.9.1975.

⁵ Point 2250 and Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2240.

2250. The two ACPM on 'Production and Use of Hydrogen' and 'Geothermal Energy' projects in the Community's new energy R&D programme met on 13/14 and 21 October respectively.

Regarding 'Production and Use of Hydrogen', the Committee chaired by Mr Bergès, and authorized for direct action had its terms of reference enlarged to cover indirect action. It adopted the detailed programme of research actions to be undertaken and decided to appeal for research proposals via the Official Journal¹ and through the national ACPM delegates.

In respect of 'Geothermal Energy', the ACPM elected Mr Leardini Chairman; several points of detail in executing the programme were worked out and it was decided to send proposals to the Commission from the various research bodies by 31 June 1976.

Scientific and Technical Research Committee

2251. On 9/10 and 30 October, CREST held its 17th and 18th meetings, chaired by Mr Schuster. The Committee had a searching discussion on the 'Objectives, Priorities and Resources of a Common Research and Development Policy'² and on the 'Overall Concept of the Next JRC Multiannual Research Programme'³. Regarding the first item, the Committee highlighted the value of coordination as one of the most efficient tools of cooperation; comparison of national budgetary estimates must be made along those lines. Moreover, the ACPMs' terms of reference should be revised to ensure consistency between the actions of Community interest in all their forms (direct, indirect, concerted), and they should be selected in line with Community sectoral policies.

Concerning the JRC, CREST stressed the need to spell out the reasons for the actions to be proposed and to justify the resources to be allocated to them; the assignments to be performed by the JRC should fit in with the Community's sectoral

policies and should also focus on Community public services, technical expertise and back-up for the major scientific instruments.

The procedure for implementing *concerted actions of Community interest* was debated at length and the Committee agreed to 'test' it on practical examples proposed by the Commission, in the sectors of town-planning, environmental research and oceanography.

The Committee also decided that the Commission should present Proposals to the Council for *research projects in various sectors*: social science, organic micropollutants in water, the footwear industry.

European Research and Development Committee

2252. On 2 October the CERD held its 10th meeting, chaired by Mr Danzin. The Committee decided that it would give priority to its forthcoming assignments with the greatest long-term impact. With this in mind, it took note of an initial report on the status of two studies which it is sponsoring on the 'low energy-consumption society' and the 'definition of a European identity for research'. Lastly, the CERD intends to collaborate in the possible organization of a 'European scientific and technological year'.

European Science Foundation

2253. The European Science Foundation⁴ held its general meeting in Strasbourg on 7 and 8 October, which dealt mainly with the first annual activity report and defined future tasks. The Commission was represented by its Director-General of Research, Science and Education.

¹ OJ C 243 of 23.10.1975: the published Communication concerns all sectors covered by the research programme in the energy field.

² Points 1401 to 1406.

³ Points 1501 to 1503.

⁴ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2257.

The ESF decided to form a series of specialized working parties on those subjects where its role as coordinator seems most needed; this applies now to astronomy, archeology, space, genetic engineering and position-electron accelerators. Other subjects will be added in the near future.

Joint Research Centre

Guidelines of the next multiannual programme

2254. On 24 October the Commission sent the Council a Communication on the 'Overall Concept of the Next Multiannual Programme of the Joint Research Centre'.¹

General Advisory Committee

2255. On 15 October, the JRC General Advisory Committee met in Brussels to review the main lines of the JRC's future programme.¹

The various questions dealt with at the meeting were covered in a letter to the JRC's Director-General from Mr von Bülow, the Chairman of the General Consultative Committee. The main points arising from the discussion can be summarized as follows:

Generally speaking, the GAC is satisfied with the major changes being made to the JRC's management structures, to the methods of carrying out programmes and in tackling budgetary problems.

Several members said they were concerned about the previously slender scientific operational appropriations and hoped that such conditions would be avoided in the new programme. This is why they stressed that if the proposed overall budget appropriation proved out of reach for the Member States, a corresponding cut largely involving manpower should be considered.

Lacking a political decision on the total volume of funds and manpower, the Committee assumed that

the funds mentioned in the JRC paper would be available and on that basis examined the balance between the various sectors of activity.

The Committee approved the efforts towards concentration already made and urged the JRC to follow them up so that the detailed programme proposals achieve a radical change compared with the present scattered and often overmodest activities.

The magnitude of the change cannot be assessed until the detailed programme proposals are out. The proposed main lines should point the way to a new programme substantially different from the old one.

When the detailed proposals come up for discussion, the Committee hopes to hear full particulars of the activities to be dropped and of the new use of the potential thus released.

The balance resulting from the various concentrations proposed in the paper seems on the whole acceptable. But the programme proposals relating to fusion technology, hydrogen production and solar energy should be very carefully scrutinized by the Committee.

The big problem of staff mobility came up again during the discussion and the Committee was pleased to hear that preliminary measures to solve it are planned for the near future.

Multiannual programme

Thermonuclear fusion

Colloquium with industrialists

2256. On 13 and 14 October the Commission ran its first colloquium with industry to illustrate the Community's work in controlled thermonuclear fusion, and the multiannual programme proposals presented by the Commission;² special emphasis was put on the JET project.

More than 150 representatives of industry took part

¹ Points 1501 to 1503.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1975, points 1501 and 1502.

in the colloquium which highlighted the interest in fusion in Europe. The Commission will be organizing more colloquia of this kind to establish a continuous dialogue between industrialists and research bodies associated with the Community in the programme on controlled nuclear fusion and plasma physics.

Cooperation in the field of fusion

2257. On 14 October, the Swiss mission to the European Communities informed Mr Brunner of the Commission that the Swiss Government wished to open negotiations with the European Atomic Energy Community for a Cooperation Agreement on thermonuclear fusion and plasma physics. Negotiations have already taken place for a similar Cooperation Agreement with Sweden.¹

Fuel cycle

Recycling plutonium

2258. The Advisory Committee formed under the programme for recycling plutonium in light-water reactors, held three meetings, the last on 17 October. Assisted by a group of experts, the Committee reviewed the work done by the Commission and, in particular, the proposals for post-radiation tests of plutonium fuels submitted by some 20 Community industries and agencies. The Committee expressed a unanimously favourable opinion on the Commission's Proposals concerning a financial contribution from the Community to these studies, which over a period of four years, will amount to 1 700 000 u.a. The Commission is going to negotiate these shared-cost study and research contracts with the groups concerned.

Radioactive waste

2259. The Advisory Committee for the programme on 'treatment and storage of radioactive

waste' (direct and indirect actions) met to examine the programme planned by the Commission in indirect research. The Committee approved the Commission's actions in the sectors allowing a prompt start-up and in particular a project on plastic resin coating of medium-active solid radioactive waste. Groups of experts will examine the proposed studies and research requested by the Commission from Community industries and organizations.

Education and training

Educational Committee

2260. The Education Committee, chaired by Mr Marchini Camia, met four times in October to finalize the draft resolutions shortly to be presented to the Ministers of Education. The Committee also reviewed the financial side of an action programme it recommends.

Doctors

2261. The Committee of Senior Officials for Public Health, formed by the Council on 16 June,² when it approved the various texts on mutual recognition of diplomas and the right of establishment, was officially inaugurated on 9 October by Mr Brunner of the Commission.

After discussing the situation of medical practice in the Community, the Committee decided to gather various data on medical services in the Member States and on trends in that field. The data will be studied at a meeting early in the new year.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2247 and 7/8-1975, point 2268.

² Bull. EC 2-1975, points 1202 and 1204, 6-1975, point 2272.

Scientific and technical information and management of information

2262. More than 500 people took part in the *2nd International CAMAC Symposium* (standardization in data-processing) sponsored by the Commission in Brussels on 14 to 16 October.

The aim of the Symposium was to discuss the experiences of CAMAC equipment systems in relation to computers, and to present new CAMAC applications, especially in industry and medicine, for measurement and control. CAMAC is the designation of a system of rules for the design of a modular electronic system for processing information. In supporting CAMAC the Commission intends to foster the use of common techniques in the data-processing industry and ensure that both hardware and software of different origins are compatible.

Energy policy

2263. Energy problems were discussed again in October, at international level or within the Community, without any firm decisions being reached.

The most important event was the fresh *Preparatory Meeting*¹ in Paris for a Conference in December between the industrialized and developing countries. Energy is certainly not the sole theme of this Conference, as happened at the meeting convened in Paris in April,² but it is one of the four main subjects to be discussed.

Concerning the Paris meeting, the *European Parliament*,³ in a Resolution passed on 16 October, reiterated its concern over the future of a Community energy policy. The *Commission* is taking a hard look at the future of the Community's energy policy and intends to present a relevant Communication to the Council. The *Economic and Social Committee*,⁴ meeting on 29 and 30

October discussed the New Energy Policy Strategy for the Community which the Commission laid before the Council in 1974.

Sectoral problems

Hydrocarbons

2264. On 6 October⁵ the Commission adopted two Regulations relating to the application of two earlier Regulations on notifying the Commission of hydrocarbon imports and exports.

The aim of these texts is to simplify the present notification arrangements and standardize the particulars to be sent in by the Member States and by companies. The 'basic' Council Regulations on these particulars date from 18 May 1972⁶ for imported hydrocarbons and from 13 February⁷ 1975 for hydrocarbons exported to non-member countries.

Transport policy

The Council tackles transport problems

2265. The Council meeting of Transport Ministers in Luxembourg on 15 October was devoted mainly to a general discussion on the Commission's Communication to the Council of 25 October 1973⁸ concerning the development of the common transport policy, in the light of Opinions since given by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee. The debates

¹ Points 1101 to 1112.

² Bull. EC 4-1975, points 1401 to 1409.

³ Point 2402.

⁴ Point 2452.

⁵ OJ L 275 of 27.10.1975.

⁶ OJ L 120 of 25.5.1972.

⁷ OJ L 45 of 19.2.1975.

⁸ Supplement 16/73 — Bull. EC.

also focussed on certain specific issues, namely common organization of the transport market, coordination on infrastructures and the matter of applying the EEC Treaty to sea and air transport (Article 84).

At the close of the proceedings, the Council set out a package of priority measures which will come up on the agenda of its next meeting, set for 10 and 11 December: social problems in road transport, taxes on commercial vehicles, weight and dimensions of vehicles, extension of the tariff regulations and the Community quota in international road transport.

The Council also discussed the problems of river shipping in international transport and application of a Community summer timetable (a matter on the agenda of the next European Conference of Transport Ministers).

Functioning of the market

2266. In implementing the common transport policy, the Commission, on 10 October, sent the Council a *Communication on the future development of the carriage of goods through Member States*; this was backed by eight Proposals to initiate action in this area.

Two of the contemplated measures, one concerning the Community quota for the haulage of goods by road between Member States and the other again extending, for one year, the Council Regulation of 30 July 1968 on introducing 'a system of bracket tariffs for the carriage of goods by road between Member States', should be decided by the end of 1975, since the Regulations in force expire on 31 December.

At the same time the Commission presented a *report* to the Council for information, on the situation of the land transport markets within the Community, to facilitate an objective assessment of the Proposals concerned.

2267. Following a request from the Netherlands Government to revise the Agreement of 21 March 1955 on establishing *direct international rail tariffs* for the carriage of coal and steel, discussions took place on ECSC tariff No 2001 between the Commission and railway experts. At a meeting on 7 October agreement was reached on the basic questions concerning the revision.

2268. On 15 October the Council officially adopted two Decisions. One authorizes the Commission to *negotiate an Agreement between the Community and non-member countries, on the arrangements applicable to international passenger transport services* by bus and coach. The other lays down the negotiating directives. The non-Community countries involved are Austria, Spain, Greece, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Yugoslavia, countries with which the traffic pattern has developed most.

The importance of this Council Decision, taken unanimously, lies in the fact that for the first time in transport, the Community is using its exclusive authority to act for the conclusion of an Agreement with outside countries in areas which are from now on integrated with the common transport policy.

On the economic side, conclusion of such an Agreement will lead to less complicated administrative formalities and will expand existing Community liberalization of certain forms of passenger transport to take in a wider area on the map, and thus benefit international tourism throughout Europe.

2269. In accordance with the Council's Decision of 21 March 1962¹ (prior examination and consultation procedure for certain legal or administrative provisions planned by the Member States in the field of transport) amended on 22 November 1973,² the *Belgian* Government transmitted the

¹ OJ 23 of 3.4.1962.

² OJ L 347 of 17.12.1973.

text of a draft law to the Commission on introducing a *licence for operating internal shipping vessels* and financing the *Institut pour le transport par batellerie*. In an Opinion adopted on 31 October,¹ the Commission made no objections to the draft.

Harmonization

2270. On 20 October, the Commission sent the Council a Proposal for a Directive concerning *mutual recognition of certificates of Sailing Worthiness* issued for inland waterway craft.² The aim of the Proposal is to establish such certificates for larger vessels; promote their mutual recognition; and plan the introduction of standard technical specifications within a clear-cut time limit.

2271. In a letter of 13 October to the *British Government*, who had asked the Commission and the other eight Member States whether it could hold back *application in the UK of two transport Regulations* the Commission, while sympathizing with the British viewpoint, stated that it could see no legal basis for justifying any such deferment.

This actually concerns the two Regulations on harmonizing certain social provisions³ and introducing a recording device in road transport.⁴ The British Government had advised the Commission and the other eight Member States of the problems it was encountering to ensure that the two Regulations were applied from 1 January 1976.

2272. During a meeting on 16 and 17 October, Commission departments and government experts examined the application terms of the Decision of 20 May in respect of *putting the railways on a sound footing*⁵ and studied the projects which the Member States should initiate on this basis. The discussions also bore on application of the Regulations relating to *public service obligations*⁶ and to *standardizing railway accounts*;⁶ some alignment was reached on certain points.

2273. On 29 October,⁷ the Commission sent the Council a Proposal which would amend the Regulation of 20 July 1970⁴ on introducing *recording equipment* in road transport. The aim is to facilitate uniform interpretation of the text of the Regulation; take account of practical requirements, on the strength of experience gained since 1970 in respect of construction and use; consolidate the arrangements concerning procedures to be followed when any disputes arise between Member States concerning type-approval, and strengthen the role of the Commission in settling disputes; lastly, to set up a Committee to adapt the Regulation to technical progress.

2274. On 20 October 1975 the Commission organized a meeting of government experts concerning a *European tax for road vehicles carrying out international goods traffic* and thus reduce the differences between current national tax rates. Data on current systems and rates of vehicle tax applying in the Member States were assembled and a tentative comparison was carried out.

Infrastructure

2275. On 10 October 1975 the Commission sent the Council an interim report on the results to date of studies carried out since its Proposal and Memorandum of 1971 on the introduction of a system of *charging for the use of transport infrastructure*.

The Council had asked for these studies in order to ascertain the effect of the Proposals on transport by rail, road and inland waterway. The report sets out the studies carried out so far and shows in what areas concrete results have been

¹ OJ L 291 of 11.11.1975.

² OJ C 265 of 19.11.1975.

³ OJ L 77 of 29.3.1969.

⁴ OJ L 164 of 27.7.1970.

⁵ OJ L 152 of 12.6.1975.

⁶ OJ L 156 of 28.6.1969.

⁷ OJ C 267 of 21.11.1975.

obtained and where difficult problems still need to be resolved.

reviewed a draft opinion on *urban and suburban transport*, mainly with regard to the possible effects of Community rules on such transport, and any action, peculiar to urban transport, at Community level.

Safety

2276. On 20 October, a meeting of government experts examined the problem of *harmonizing maximum speed limits* for commercial vehicles, buses and coaches and, in particular, analysed the existing differences between the Member States in respect of the various categories of vehicle and road. This work will be resumed in the spring of 1976.

Sea and air transport — port problems

2277. A meeting of government experts on 16 October appraised the effects of applying the competition rules to civil aviation. The discussions bore mainly on the types of agreement now running between carriers and their role in the arrangements governing air transport. The Commission departments will present a questionnaire on these points to the experts.

2278. The Port Working Group met on 28 and 29 October in order to discuss the outline of their final report, following the receipt, translation and circulation to group members of the replies to the questionnaire from 76 ports of the Community. The general lines of the report were agreed together with a programme of activities for the next six months.

Transport Advisory Committee

2279. The Transport Advisory Committee, meeting in full session in Brussels on 16 October,

3. External relations

Multilateral negotiations

Multilateral negotiations

Trade Negotiations Committee

2301. October saw meetings of several Groups or Sub-Groups formed within the Trade Negotiations Committee. It was also marked by the problems encountered in agriculture as a result of rather sharp differences of concept, mainly those already identified between the Community and the United States.

Agriculture

2302. The Agriculture Group was still unable to finalize its negotiation procedures in some respects,¹ despite discussions which have been running since July. In accordance with the Tokyo Declaration on the specificity of agricultural problems, and in line with the Group's terms of reference, it is recognized that the Group is to lead the negotiations in agriculture, on behalf of the Community, and is empowered to examine every aspect of the problems involved in negotiation. Informal contacts are still going on with the aim of resolving differences of approach.

2303. The Sub-Groups on *Dairy Products*, *Meat* and *Cereals* carried on with their assignments: an in-depth study of agricultural policies in the sectors of the negotiating countries, and a first appraisal, from the technical angle, of negotiation proposals. The Community was able to explain its proposals in detail to its partners, which involve implementation of a world agreement on cereals and certain dairy products.

Technical barriers to trade

2304. The Sub-Group on Technical Barriers to Trade, meeting at technical level since 23 September, had the task of drafting the text of pro-

posals concerning the draft Standards Code. This work which went on for two weeks centred on the definitions to be adopted for the draft instrument, and on the various comments made by the participating countries concerning the draft code.

Customs questions

2305. The Sub-Group on Customs Questions met in Geneva on 7 and 8 October. The main item on the agenda was the question of customs value. From the work done on this subject the Sub-Group concluded that a more detailed appraisal would have to be made. It was agreed to study at the next meeting the main points of new international rules or principles which might be adopted in respect of customs valuation, on the basis of the documentary material available, and further communications by the various delegations on specific points (legal procedures, publication of laws, regulations, administrative decisions, etc.). It was also decided that the next meeting would look into the question of import documents and customs formalities.

Non-tariff measures

2306. The Non-tariff Measures Group, meeting from 13 to 15 October, was mainly devoted to studying the advisability of drawing up a second list of measures capable of multilateral treatment, and whether new Sub-Groups should be formed as the need arose. No agreement emerged on this. The Community stressed that the Group should concentrate initially on the eleven measures of the first list, which covers most of the significant measures. In answer to a proposal from the USA and Australia to set up a Sub-Group to examine the various levies and minimum prices in respect of imports, the EEC pointed out that these matters affected for the

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2301.

most part farm products and were already under discussion in the agricultural Sub-Groups.

Regarding a Canadian proposal to form a Sub-Group assigned to consider possible amendments to the anti-dumping code, the Community indicated that at this point in time it was rather a question of abiding by the existing rules, an allusion to the recent complaints in the United States against Community exports.

Tariffs

2307. The Tariffs Group held its fourth meeting in Geneva on 14 to 16 October. No solution has yet been found to the problem of the formulae for reducing customs duties. The United States Delegation announced that it could not make up its mind on these items before the end of the year and that next year it was planning to present a new formula, based on the principle of 'equal access in duty rates'. The EEC's formula for harmonization continued to find support from the Scandinavian countries, Japan and Switzerland.

On the strength of a proposal from Brazil, discussion resumed on laying down special procedures for negotiations between the industrialized and developing countries. Most of the delegations acknowledged that decisions should be taken on these procedures at the latest when the overall formula was approved.

Tropical products

2308. The Tropical Products Group, meeting on 20 to 23 October, set 1 March 1976 as the target date for presenting the offers of the developed countries. It is anticipated that between now and then, bilateral consultations will continue and that the developed countries will then express their initial reactions to the developing countries' requirements. No agreement was reached on transmitting offers (bilaterally or multilaterally).

This will be discussed again at the next meeting of the Group.

Commercial policy

Preparing and implementing the common commercial policy

Trade agreements: renewals, derogations or authorizations

2309. On 7 October¹ the Council adopted a Decision authorizing the *extension or tacit renewal* of certain Trade Agreements made by Member States with non-Community countries (4th tranche 1975), which are due to expire between 1 November 1975 and 31 January 1976.

Trade protection

2310. On 29 October, the Commission presented a Proposal to the Council concerning the application of *safeguards* stipulated by the Geneva arrangement (known as the Multifibres Arrangement) concerning the international *textile* trade. The intention is to enable the Community to deal with market disruption, particularly in the textile industry, by defining the conditions under which Community rules are applied in such cases.

¹ OJ L 265 of 14.10.1967.

Specific measures of commercial policy

Textiles

Agreement with Malaysia

2311. Negotiations for an Agreement on trade in textiles took place with Malaysia on 16, 17 and 20 October; they culminated in an Agreement whose text was initialled on 23 October.

The draft Agreement, based on Article 4 of the Multifibres Arrangement sets quantitative limits for Malaysia's exports to the Community between 1 November 1975 and 31 December 1977. The limits concern, in particular, shirts for men and, in respect of certain regions of the Community market, cotton fabrics and selected made-up articles.

The successful negotiations with Malaysia mean that the Community has now made six bilateral Agreements under the Arrangement concerning the international textile trade; the five earlier Agreements were with India,¹ Pakistan,² Hong Kong,² Singapore³ and Macao.³

Negotiations with Brazil

2312. An initial round of negotiations between the Community and Brazil for an Agreement on trade in textiles took place on 22 to 24 October. Both sides expounded their viewpoints; it was agreed that fresh discussions would be held very shortly.

Agreements signed with India and Pakistan

2313. The Agreements negotiated by the Community with India and Pakistan, and initialled on 5 June and 4 July respectively, were formally signed in Brussels on 24 October.

The Agreements, made on the basis of Article 4

of the Arrangement concerning international trade in textiles, will run for three years (1975-77) and are designed to promote opportunities for growth of Indian and Pakistan textile exports to the EEC, in such a way as to eliminate risks of market disruption in the Community.

Development and cooperation

Development and Cooperation policy

Council meeting on development problems

2314. The Council held a meeting on development in Luxembourg on 13 October. The discussions centred on the following points:

(i) financial and technical assistance from the Community to non-associated developing countries;⁴

(ii) implementing the Resolution to harmonize and coordinate development cooperation policies within the Community;⁵

(iii) action to be taken after the World Food Conference:⁶ International Agricultural Development Fund, food aid;

(iv) result of the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.⁷

¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2309.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1975, points 2310 and 2311.

³ Bull. EC 9-1975, points 2305 and 2306.

⁴ Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2315.

⁵ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 1215.

⁶ Bull. EC 11-1974, points 1401 to 1407, and 5-1975, point 2315.

⁷ Bull. EC 9-1975, points 1101 to 1104.

The conclusions of this Council meeting could not be considered as very positive, since the discussion will have to be resumed later between the Ministers. But agreement was reached on the trade promotion programme for the non-associated developing countries, and a sum of 3 500 000 u.a. was provided for this, after certain Member States had lifted their reservations.

The Council confirmed its agreement in principle on Community assistance to non-associated countries, with priorities for the worst off developing countries and for agriculture. Regarding the International Agricultural Development Fund (IADF), the Council was in favour of putting contributions on a Community footing, though no agreement was reached on their amount.

Dialogue between industrialized and developing countries

2315. At the invitation of the French Government, a preparatory meeting¹ for the Conference on International Economic Cooperation, scheduled for December 1975, was held in Paris from 13 to 16 October. Four topics will be discussed at the Conference: energy, raw materials, development and financial problems.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Talks with the UNCTAD Secretary-General at the Commission

2316. On 31 October, Mr Gamani Corea, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, called on the Commission where he had detailed talks with its Members, particularly Mr Cheysson, responsible for development matters.

The visit was part of the preparations for the fourth UNCTAD which will take place in Nairobi in May 1976. It yielded a worthwhile discussion

of the various items on the agenda for that meeting. The talks centred mainly on the commodity problem and particularly on the integrated programme drawn up by UNCTAD on this subject. The other questions on the UNCTAD agenda, particularly those concerning manufactured and semi-finished products, financing and the transfer of know-how, and the situation of the least-advanced developing countries, were brought up.

The discussions on these matters proceeded with due regard to the prospects for the forthcoming meeting of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation in Paris next December.

The contacts between the Community and the UNCTAD Secretariat will be followed up during the months before the Nairobi meeting.

OECD Meeting to prepare for the Nairobi Conference

2317. The Commission attended an *ad hoc* meeting on cooperation and development on 23 and 24 October within the OECD. The meeting was devoted to preparations for the fourth UNCTAD in Nairobi in May 1976.

It was noted that the Nairobi Conference must be thoroughly prepared and that there seemed to be some prospects of agreement, especially since the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The preparations for UNCTAD, and the Conference on International Economic Cooperation, were regarded as complementing one another, since the 'dialogue' might provide a certain 'political' stimulus for the Nairobi meeting.

Among the subjects to be discussed, special attention was accorded to raw materials. The OECD countries recognize that this is a priority matter and are ready to negotiate practical solutions with the developing countries. In the same

¹ Points 1101 to 1112.

way they will put forward proposals for the transfer of technology.

Food aid

Emergency action

2318. Since the situation in *Angola* has deteriorated, the Community decided to make a first allocation of emergency food aid consisting of 100 tonnes of skimmed milk powder for the stricken population, through the International Committee of the Red Cross.¹

In view of the urgency, and since it is impossible to send the consignment by sea because the ports are blocked, it will be flown in. The cost of the operation amounts to 170 000 u.a.

2319. During the part-session from 13 to 17 October,² the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion on the Commission's Proposals to the Council concerning application of the generalized preferences for 1976.

Commodities and world agreements

FAO Commodity Committee

2320. The Commodity Committee of the FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) met in Rome from 14 to 24 October. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Community, United Nations special agencies and sixteen international bodies.

The discussions bore mainly on the FAO's role in international action involving agricultural products and the future role of the Commodities Committee. The Committee also reviewed the

situation and world market prospects for the main farm products.

Cocoa

Conclusion of a new international agreement

2321. A new International Cocoa Agreement was concluded at the end of the Conference on renewing the 1972 Agreement which expires on 30 September 1976. The Conference ran in Geneva from 22 September to 20 October and was attended by the Community and its Member States.

In accordance with the Council Decision of 22 September,³ the Commission was authorized to negotiate on behalf of the Community for questions falling within the Community's competence; actually all the negotiations were conducted on behalf of the Community whose spokesman intervened on all the major questions.

The Conference culminated in a new three-year Agreement, which may be extended for two more years without fresh negotiations. The Agreement is still based on a quota system for exports and the operation of a buffer stock; but numerous modifications were made to the machinery of the 1972 Agreement, specially the price range fixed in the Agreement which was substantially raised and extended. The agreement prices, revised in 1974, were 29.5 cts/lb (minimum) and 38.5 cts/lb (maximum) with a margin of 9 cts. The new prices are 39 and 55 cts respectively with a margin of 16 cts.

Two major delegations did not accept the new draft Agreement: the US Delegation (the USA was not a party to the 1972 Agreement) who would have preferred negotiations on the basis of their proposals (buffer stock agreement) and the

¹ OJ L 277 of 28.10.1975.

² Point 2411.

³ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2315.

Ivory Coast delegates, who felt that the adopted price levels and price-protection mechanisms were unsatisfactory.

The Agreement will be open for signature until 31 August 1976 and its entry into force on 1 October 1976 will assuredly depend on the participation of most of the major importing and exporting countries, particularly the Ivory Coast.

International organizations

Council of Europe

2322. The Commission was represented at the second part of the 27th session of the *Parliamentary Assembly* of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg from 1 to 9 October.

Much of the Assembly's discussions centred on Spain and Portugal and the eighteen governments were urged to provide Portugal with substantial economic, financial and technical assistance. A delegation from Portugal's constituent assembly took part in the debate.

At the end of the discussion on Spain, the Assembly passed a Resolution calling upon the 'Member States of the Council of Europe to re-examine their practice regarding cooperation with the present Spanish regime and in any event not to increase this cooperation in the present circumstances'.

As part of a discussion on the Council of Europe's general policy and the results of the CSCE the Assembly also examined certain ways to improve cooperation between western Europe and North America. Parliamentary delegations from the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan attended the session.

The Assembly considered finally the prospects for European Union and the problems which might arise therefrom for the Council of Europe.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

2323. After the preparatory meeting for the 'dialogue'¹ and before the ministerial meeting of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation, the 13th meeting of the *Executive Committee* in special session was given over to questions of psychology, policy and organization rather than matters of substance. Delegates to the preparatory meeting, especially the French and American representatives, defended the structures set up for the dialogue and spoke of the spirit in which they approach it: no issue will be dodged *a priori* and the dialogue proceedings must serve to impart fresh impetus to the work of the existing international bodies. The other delegations stressed the need but also the difficulties of the industrial countries to prepare adequately as a group meeting within the OECD.

Since there are already various Committees within the OECD (the temporary working party of the Economic Policy Committee, called the Van Yperzele Group, the high-level *ad hoc* Group on relations with the developing countries known as the Robert Group, the high-level *ad hoc* Group on raw materials referred to as the Preston Group, not to mention the International Energy Agency) which almost correspond to the structure of the four Commissions installed for the 'dialogue', the Executive Committee in special session agreed that, in addition to their regular and long-term assignments, these Committees will serve usefully as channels of preparation for the 'dialogue' so as to secure a 'certain concertation' of views between the OECD countries.

¹ Points 1101 to 1112.

2324. On 23 and 24 October, the Commission attended an *ad hoc Cooperation and Development meeting*,¹ on preparing for the 4th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to take place in Nairobi in May 1976.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

The Committee on Anti-dumping Practices

2325. At the request of the Community, the Anti-dumping Committee met ahead of schedule in Geneva from 21 to 24 October. Two issues dominated the discussions: the procedure now in motion in the United States with respect to imported motor cars originating in Community countries;² and the adjustments to the US dumping rules following adoption of the Trade Act.

At this meeting, the Community reiterated the sharp criticisms it had made, elsewhere, and on other occasions, of the way in which the procedure had been initiated and conducted, and of the fact that US legislation and rules were still out of line with the anti-dumping provisions of the GATT code. Following these remarks, the Committee agreed to make a detailed list of problems and questions deriving from the code and its application by the countries party to it, and instructed the Secretariat to report back on these points for further discussion.

Accession Protocols for Hungary and Poland

2326. The first consultation within the working party on *Hungary* under application of paragraph 6 of the Protocol on Hungary's accession to GATT bore mainly on the trend of Hungary's foreign trade and on advising the Contracting Parties of the restrictions applying to imports from Hungary.

The eighth annual consultation within the working

party on *Poland*, in accordance with the Protocol on Poland's accession to GATT, met on 9 and 20 October. The appraisal centred on the trend of Poland's foreign trade and the question of setting a termination date for the transitional period, at the end of which discriminatory quantitative restrictions must be eliminated.

During the proceedings of both meetings, the Community representative, in particular, raised the question of the diverse forms of direct or indirect subsidies or aid for exports, which were being applied in Hungary and Poland.

Consultative Group on Meat

2327. The Consultative Group on Meat³ held its third meeting on 2 and 3 October. In line with the procedure adopted at previous meetings, the Group appraised the present situation and foreseeable market trends based on information and particulars supplied by its members.

EFTA countries

2328. The Joint Committee of the *EEC-Switzerland Clock and Watch Agreement* held its 15th meeting in Brussels on 14 October.

The two delegations discussed the present position of and outlook for the clock and watch trade between the Community and Switzerland, and in relation to certain other non-Community countries. They also discussed certain specific questions such as recasting the list of equivalent calipers.

¹ Point 2317.

² Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2338.

³ Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2330 and 6-1975, point 2327.

Mediterranean countries

2329. During its meeting of 7 October, the Council took stock of the negotiations with the Maghreb countries and Malta. It also discussed the status of work towards drawing up directives for negotiation with the Machrak countries. There are still some difficulties in respect of Malta (owing to a reservation by one Member State) and the Machrak countries, but the Commission is hoping to resume negotiations with the three Maghreb countries shortly and wind up, if possible, by the end of 1975.¹

Spain

2330. Following the executions in Spain, September and early October saw a number of positions taken by the Community institutions and the Member States' Governments, which culminated in the statement published on 6 October by the Foreign Ministers of the Nine, backed by a Council communiqué recording on the same day that 'negotiations between the EEC and Spain cannot be resumed at this time'.²

2331. On 8 October the Spokesman told the press that at its meeting the day before, the *Commission* noted that the Council had followed its proposal by deciding not to resume negotiations with Spain.

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2332. On 15 October,³ the *European Parliament* held a debate on action taken following its Resolution of 25 September 'on the situation in Spain'.⁴ The Council President, Mr Mariano Rumor, recalled the representations made and positions taken by the Ministers of the Nine and the Council itself. Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, emphasized the stance taken by the Community and in conclusion declared that in these distressing circumstances,

the Commission had played its part in keeping with its political responsibilities. His words were endorsed by a large majority of the House.

Portugal

2333. A joint press communiqué, issued after a meeting in Luxembourg on 7 October between the Council and representatives of the Portuguese Government, announced that the Community had granted emergency *financial aid* to Portugal and that a number of *other measures* had been adopted as part of a discussion process which will help to intensify Community support, and co-operation with Portugal.

At the meeting of 6 October the Council took another hard look at the Commission's June Proposals⁵ with a view to granting Portugal special emergency aid and to opening negotiations with the Portuguese authorities on their requests in respect of trade, labour, social security and technical, technological and financial cooperation.

These matters were discussed at a meeting at Ministerial level on 7 October between the Community and a Portuguese Delegation led by the Foreign Minister, Mr Melo Antunes.

On the first question, at the end of the meeting the Community decided to make credit up to a total of 150 000 000 u.a. available to Portugal in the form of loans to carry out investment projects. The loans will carry a 3 % interest subsidy.⁶

Regarding the negotiations on the other sectors based on the ongoing clause in the 1972 Agreement, the Community assured the Portuguese Delegation that it would put everything in hand

¹ The Council expressed its appreciation at the meeting of 6 November 1975.

² Bull. EC 9-1975, points 2326 to 2331.

³ Point 2407.

⁴ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2328.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2338.

⁶ The subsidy amounts to an increase in actual aid of some 30 000 000 u.a.

for the negotiations to take place before the end of the current year. The negotiations will centre on drawing up a standard Financial Protocol which, following the procedure required to implement it, will take over from the special financial aid.

A Commission delegation went to Lisbon on 20 and 21 October to speed up application of the special aid.

Lebanon

2334. In Brussels on 13 October¹ the Agreement was signed renewing from 1 July 1975 the *Trade and Technical Cooperation Agreement* made between the Community and the Lebanon in 1965. At the Lebanon's request, this is the fifth consecutive extension of the Agreement.

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

Lomé Convention

Interim Committee

2335. The ACP-EEC Interim Committee, meeting in Brussels on 22 October, appraised the application of the trade arrangements under the Lomé Convention, which took effect on 1 July under the Interim Agreement of 28 February (exchange of letters annexed to the Convention); the Committee reviewed the status of work being done by a number of its Sub-Committees.

Regarding customs cooperation, the Community pointed out that not all the ACP States were in a position to furnish the EUR 1 movement certificate required for their products to gain free

access to the Community market. On a provisional basis, the Community declared that until 1 January 1976 it was willing to accept other certificates provided that the basic conditions were fulfilled. Conversely, certain ACP States were insisting on this same certificate when products of Community origin were imported; the Community pointed out that this was not in accordance with the Lomé Convention (no preferential arrangements in its favour) and could result in discrimination against the Community.

Reiterating that it had discharged all its obligations in applying the Interim Agreement, the Community acknowledged the immense difficulties facing some of the ACP States, especially in applying Article 7 of the Convention (non-discrimination—most-favoured-nation clause). The ACP States are in fact making the point that they have to adjust many customs tariffs and that this requires some time.

In connection with presenting the Lomé Convention within GATT, the ACP States and the Community agreed to furnish joint answers to the questionnaire they will receive.

The ACP States expressed the fear that the Community's 1976 generalized preferences scheme would finally erode the benefits they are getting from the Lomé Convention, and hoped that the scheme would be adjusted to preserve them. The Community gave an assurance that requirements expressed on this point would be most carefully and thoroughly examined.

The Standing Joint Group on Bananas, provided for under the Lomé Convention, was formed. Lastly, the Interim Committee examined various points relating to: the application period of the Convention's provisions for stabilizing export earnings, the work of the Sub-Committee on Sugar, activating industrial cooperation and the Committee's own working rules.

¹ OJ L 278 of 29.10.1975.

New Member States for the Convention

2336. Problems arising from the accession of more States to the Lomé Convention and possible solutions were treated in a Commission Communication presented to the Council on 17 October.

A considerable number of countries, with a structure comparable to the ACP Member States, and already or about to become independent, have expressed a wish to join the Convention. One of them (São Tomé e Príncipe) has already filed a formal request;¹ several others have already made official or informal contacts with the Community.

Since such applications raise specific problems on several grounds (time taken to ratify the Convention, which will not come into force until early 1976, complex and protracted accession procedures), the Commission's Communication to the Council proposes that, with the approval of the ACP States and the Community, the accession procedures be initiated with the applicant countries, without waiting for the ratification procedures to be completed by the Nine.

Ratifications

2337. In October six more ACP States deposited the ratification instruments of the Lomé Convention with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities. They were *Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Botswana, Tanzania, Grenada and Chad*. Thus, by 31 October, 27 ACP States and one member of the Community had ratified.

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2338. During the part-session of 13 to 17 October,² the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on the Lomé Convention, gave an Opinion on a Commission Proposal to the Council concerning safeguards provided by the Convention and an

Opinion on another Proposal by the Commission concerning relations between the EEC and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT).

Non-member countries*Industrialized countries***United States***Talks between the USA and the Commission*

2339. Ambassador F. Dent, US Special Trade Representative, called on Sir Christopher Soames on 17 October to discuss both bilateral questions and problems arising in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva. Mr Lardinois and Mr Gundelach were present. In particular, the discussion dealt with certain procedural problems in the agricultural sector which had arisen in the Geneva talks.

2340. Also on 17 October, Mr D. MacDonald, Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury Department, discussed with Commission officials the circumstances under which VAT is not imposed on Community exports.

Anti-dumping procedures

The United States decides not to initiate an investigation into Community steel exports

2341. The problems arising from the petition to apply countervailing charges on Community steel

¹ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2333.

² Points 2409 and 2410.

exports, which had led to the Commission adopting a position in September¹ and a call for international concertation in October,² now seems at least partially solved. The US Treasury Department issued the following statement on 20 October:

'Assistant Secretary of the Treasury David R. MacDonald announced today that the Treasury has decided not to initiate an investigation into the alleged subsidization of steel exports by seven European countries. The United States Steel Corporation on 18 September 1975, petitioned for the assessment of countervailing duties on imports into the US of steel products from the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Italy. The petition charged that direct and indirect bounties or grants are being bestowed on the manufacture, production and export of steel products by reason of the operation of the value-added tax system of these countries.

Mr MacDonald said that the action he was announcing means that the Department has concluded that the information and allegations contained in the US Steel petitions do not on their face describe a bounty or grant and are therefore insufficient to warrant initiation of formal investigations. Treasury has consistently over the years held that rebates or remissions of indirect taxes, directly borne by exported products are not bounties or grants within the meaning of the Countervailing Duty Law. Value-added taxes are, in the Treasury view, such indirect taxes.

Steel imports from these countries in 1974 were approximately 2 000 million dollars.'

2342. The Spokesman of the Commission declared that:

'The Commission is delighted by this decision of the US Treasury which it considers fair minded and in harmony with international practice in GATT. One of the complaints involving a high volume of Community exports to the United States has now been satisfactorily answered.'

Aide-memoire from the Commission concerning export of cars to the USA

2343. The Commission, which had already taken a position in August³ and September⁴ on the enquiry opened in the United States, sent an *aide-memoire* to the US Treasury Department.

In a strongly worded *aide-memoire* delivered yesterday to the US Department of State, the Commission stressed that:

- Imports of EC cars into the US are reasonably priced and are manifestly not injuring the US motor industry. The compact and subcompact section of the US automotive industry—the only one where EC cars compete directly with US production—is prospering despite the industry's general recession.

- Factors other than imports are hurting the US car industry—the economic recession, the energy crisis, and delayed response by manufacturers to the shift in consumer demand to fuel-efficient smaller models.

- The investigation is inconsistent with the anti-dumping code within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) signed by the United States as well as the Community.

Canada

2344. On 3 October, the *Prime Minister of Alberta*, Mr Peter Lougheed, called on the Commission with a big delegation from Alberta including Ministers, public servants and representatives of the private sector. He was received by President Ortolí. The talks bore on all aspects of relations between the Community and Canada which involve Alberta, against the background of the contemplated outline agreement.

¹ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2339.

² Points 2242 to 2244.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2352.

⁴ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2338.

Japan

2345. The 21st session of the regular ECSC-Japan consultations took place in Brussels on 9 and 10 October. The discussions ranged over the general economic situation, the condition of the steel market, investment in the iron and steel market, environmental problems and raw material supply. The next meeting will probably be held in Tokyo in the first half of 1976.

Asian and Latin American developing countries

Singapore

2346. In the second week of October, President Ortoli and Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames of the Commission received Mr S. Rajaratnam, Singapore's *Minister for Foreign Affairs*. The talks reviewed the trend of bilateral relations between the Community and Singapore and touched on certain questions of world interest, particularly energy and raw materials. The Commission reiterated its intention to intensify the longstanding dialogue between the EEC and Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), to which Singapore belongs, through the Joint Study Group which met for the first time in June.¹ Mr Rajaratnam put forward his Government's views regarding certain features of the Community's generalized preferences scheme.

Brazil

Joint Committee

2347. The Joint Committee set up by the EEC-Brazil Trade Agreement, signed on 19 December 1973 and taking effect on 1 August 1974, met for the first time on 20 and 21 October. The Committee's proceedings were largely devoted to reviewing application of the Agreement and the

prospects for developing trade between the two parties.

Trade between the EEC and Brazil has developed appreciably over recent years to the extent that the Community is now Brazil's chief trading partner. But this does not mean that certain problems or concern are not felt in various quarters whether they concern Community rules or specific products. Thus the Community raised the problems involved in Brazil's export subsidy policy and the export restrictions on certain raw materials. Brazil, which is still making little use of the Community's generalized preferences scheme, asked for more flexible arrangements in the scheme and more openings for processed farm products. Brazil was also concerned about the repercussions which the Community's association policy might have on her exports and about the future trend of the Community beef and veal market.

The Commission offered to run seminars in several big towns in Brazil during 1976 to give Brazilian entrepreneurs more detailed knowledge of the export possibilities offered by the Community's generalized preferences scheme.

The Joint Committee formed a specialized Sub-Committee to follow the trend of Community imports of soluble coffee and cocoa-butter from Brazil, and to examine the difficulties which could crop up, despite the tariff concessions which these products enjoy as a result of their inclusion in the generalized preferences scheme following signature of the EEC-Brazil Agreement. The Sub-Committee was asked for its conclusions.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2349.

4. Institutions and organs of the Communities

European Parliament

European Parliament

*Part-session in Strasbourg
from 13 to 17 October 1975*

2401. The main theme of Parliament's October sitting was the strained economic and social situation—which demands both economy on the part of public authorities and urgent action in the field of social policy as it affects the hardest hit areas and business sectors—together with the repercussions on the budget. This permeated the first general debate on the Community's draft general budget for 1976. In a debate lasting several hours, with the Council and Commission in attendance, Parliament considered measures to reinvigorate the economy. This subject was taken up again at a later stage in connection with a question on imminent mass dismissals in certain branches of industry.

Relations with Spain were again on the agenda. The Chairman of the Community Foreign Ministers' Conference reported on progress in political cooperation. A third group of topics concerned relations with the developing countries. In the shape of numerous technical details, the common agricultural policy again came up for discussion as part of the debate on the budget.¹

Separate UK representation at the World Raw Materials Conference (16 October)

2402. The UK's plans for a separate seat at the World Raw Materials Conference in Paris on 13 December generated a heated debate in the House. Three Resolution motions tabled under urgent procedure, expressed more or less pungently the general concern over the common energy policy. After the Christian Democrats and Liberals had withdrawn their own more sharply worded motion, they supported the European Conservatives and

the EPD Group's joint motion for growth, which was carried by a narrow majority.

In the Resolution the House confirmed its conviction that at international conferences the Community must speak with a single voice. It was alarmed at the UK announcement that Britain would not let the Community represent her, but would appear alone, and felt it a threat to future energy policy.

The keen debate saw nearly all the British members of the Socialist Group take the floor. They called for a sympathetic understanding of Britain's difficult position as the future oil producer in a Community which for the rest was simply a consumer.

The SNP representative, Mrs *Ewing* (non-affiliated) (UK) doubted whether a common energy policy could offer Britain any protection. Mr *Evans* (S/UK), who spoke on his own behalf, declared that North Sea oil was to Britain what the CAP was to France. Mr *Stewart* (S/UK) pointed out that there could be no automatic agreement when interests diverged so much.

The debate finally crystalized around the basic question of whether a Member State was or was not entitled to self-representation at international conferences. Mr *Burgbacher* (C-D/G) resolutely contended that it was not. One was in the Community with one's liabilities and one's assets. Mr *Springorum* (C-D/G) asked why the EC should aid New Zealand and India, except out of solidarity. North Sea oil must therefore be a Community affair. Mr

¹ The 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, L ~ Luxembourg, NL ~ Netherlands, UK ~ United Kingdom, I ~ Italy.

The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 257 of 10.11.1975 and the verbatim report of the part-session is contained in OJ Annex 195.

Yeats (EPD/IRL), *Mr Normanton (C/UK)* and *Lord Gladwyn (L/UK)* supported this view.

Mr Flämig (S/G) explained why his Group would not condemn the British Government. The European Parliament should not be a censor of Governments, but promote comprehensive agreement, which also embraced energy policy. Patience and understanding must therefore be shown for the British attitude, and an attempt made to bridge the differences. Other member governments ought to be beating their breasts, for that matter, when it came to the common energy policy.

Draft of the 1976 budget (15 October)

2403. The President of the Council, *Mr Rumor*, officially introduced the draft of the Community's general budget for 1976.¹ This was followed by a preliminary debate. The House will vote on any amendments and proposed modifications in November. Then in December it will again examine and confirm the draft, with any changes made by the Council.

This opening debate in the 1976 budgetary procedure was dominated by criticism of the general design of the draft and of the Council's cuts in the Commission's preliminary draft.

The Council President justified the cuts totalling more than 500 000 000 u.a. by reference to the difficult economic and social short-term situation. The Community budget mirrored the financial caution enjoined by the Member States at national level. *Mr Rumor* said that the Council had, in a statement, taken account of the Federal Republic's appeal during the Council's deliberations on the budget for even greater economy.¹ It could not follow Member States on all points, since it had to honour its institutional and Treaty obligations.

The rapporteur of the Committee on Budgets *Mr Cointat (EPD/F)* stressed that Parliament wanted a 'policy orientated' draft which offered a preview of

policy for the coming financial year. In its present form it was merely a piece of bookkeeping. The justification for the cuts was unsatisfactory.

But *Mr Cointat* could see a bright outlook for the future course of the conciliation procedure between Council and Parliament, which had been applied for the first time this year. He described as negligible the difference in interpretation still to be clarified in respect of the 'room for manoeuvre', i.e. Parliament's scope for increases. This involves classifying the Regional Fund outlay as non-compulsory expenditure. Including the Regional Fund what was involved was some 70 000 000 u.a. (according to Parliament), without the Regional Fund only 66 000 000 u.a. (according to the Council).

Why had the Council cut down on social and research expenditure and not on agricultural? This question hung over the debate, in which the phrase 'sacred cow' was heard again and again, as if this was how the CAP was regarded. If there were to be economies, then let them be made everywhere, but in the present economic situation certainly not in social expenditure. Regarding the cuts in research where expenditure on staff was practically all that was left, the word 'vandalism' was heard.

Speaking for his Group, *Mr Lange (S/G)*, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, described the Council's draft as retrogressive. It was top heavy in relation to agricultural policy, while extensions to other areas were stifled. *Mr Lange* announced that the House would shape the draft so that in its eyes it corresponded to real needs. Focal points were the reform of agricultural policy and, as *Mr Lange* put it, 'more for people'. *Mr Aigner (C-D/G)* also complained that the EC draft was turning into a kind of accounting without any forward impetus. The Council's justifications for the cuts were hopelessly inadequate. He contested the assertion that the Community was costing more and more. By comparison with the GNP growth rate and that of Member States' budgets this would not hold water. The fact that the agricultural policy cost so much could

¹ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2464.

not be blamed on the budget. The sum of all the Member States' agricultural expenditure was much higher. But, he conceded, something must be wrong, for this sector to account for over 70 % of total Community expenditure.

Mr *Durieux* (C/F) summed up his Group's viewpoint by saying that not only budgetary stringency, but European unity also was a priority. Mr *Yeats* (EPD/IRL) stressed that the Council's cramping attitude could only harm the European idea and the Community's further development. Mr *Kirk* (C/UK) attacked the Council for shirking its responsibility by leaving it to Parliament, within its narrow confines, to patch up what was left, after itself wielding the butcher's knife. Mr *Fabbrini* (COM/I) criticized the Council members for allowing electoral strategy considerations to creep in to the budget, and for overlooking the goals of a progressive democratic Community.

Twenty more speakers from all Groups highlighted specific chapters in the draft budget.

Commissioner *Cheysson* said he was impressed by the common attitude of the Groups, expressing misgivings over a draft budget which failed to live up to the intentions proclaimed. At the end, Council President *Rumor* pointed out that the draft budget did not satisfy all governments; it was simply a compromise.

Internal rules of procedure for consideration of the draft general budget for 1976
(15 October)

2404. Parliament established the procedures for examining and drawing up the Community budget for 1976. The basis of the 1976 budgetary procedure is still the Treaty of 22 April 1970, which required such procedural rules to be laid down. Last year's procedure was therefore extended by one year. The Treaty signed on 22 July 1975 on enlarging Parliament's budgetary powers is not yet ratified.

Economic and social situation
(14 October)

2405. A question from the EPD Group on Community measures to revive the economy, and two statements by the Council and the Commission were dealt with in a general debate on the economic and social situation. The Group's question doubted the expediency of individual Member States' attempts at various times and with varying intensity to reboost the economy. The Group also called for forceful leadership by the Commission in these measures in the interests of a common economic tack.

Mr *de la Malène* (EPD/F), who opened the debate, emphasized that the past year had been the worst in the Community's history: high unemployment coupled with a high rate of inflation. But in his opinion the common market had helped to prevent even worse. For the future he called for a return to stable exchange rates and no more dissociation of economic from monetary problems.

The Council President, Mr *Fabri*, State Secretary at the Italian Ministry of the Treasury, had to confirm the questioner's hard facts. But he was fairly optimistic as to the future: the latest appraisals had indicated that most Member States were slowly moving towards economic revival. Mr *Fabri* commented on the Member States' individual programmes for economic recovery. It was the task and the aim of the Council to ensure that actions converged. This had been the prime topic of many ministerial and expert sessions. He was optimistic regarding the positive effects of the forthcoming tripartite Conference between both sides of industry, the responsible government authorities and the Community institutions. Vice-President *Haferkamp* of the Commission, despite all the tribulations, discerned a plus: the return of the French franc to the currency 'snake'.

Solidarity and collaboration must be the mottoes of Community economic and social action. Dealing with social policy aspects, Vice-President *Hillery* said it was wrong to make the Community institu-

tions the main culprits in the present difficulties, and referred to the decisive role of Member States' governments and of both sides of industry. The Commission was acting where it could, but its scope should not be overestimated; bounds were set by its limited financial instruments.

Mr *Albertsen* (S/DK) said that full employment was a constitutional right. Mr *Lange* (S/G) suggested that European unemployment insurance be created. Mr *Prescott* (S/UK) and Mr *Gordon-Walker* (S/UK) pointed to the structural causes of unemployment. Mr *Walkhoff* (S/G) said that honest information would help the citizen to appreciate unpopular measures.

Mr *Blumenfeld* (C-D/G) felt that for European industry to export more the 'exorbitant' protective duties of the developing countries had to come down. Mr *Girardin* (C-D/I) called for a new model of economic development.

Mr *Couste* (EPD/F) warned against an 'unhealthy renaissance' of protectionism. Sir Brandon *Rhys Williams* (C/UK) offered many suggestions for monetary policy. Mr *Bordu* (COM/F) called for radical economic and political changes. The Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee, Mr *Bertrand* (C-D/B) could not associate himself with the subdued optimism of the Council and Commission. He complained bitterly about the inadequate endowment of the Social Fund.

Political cooperation (15 October)

The Council President's report

2406. In his annual report, the Council President and Chairman of the Foreign Ministers' Conference, Mr *Rumor*, expressed his satisfaction with the results of political cooperation between the Nine.

He said that one of the major results of the past year was the formation of the European Council, which he described as an element binding and cementing

the EC and European political cooperation. Among the themes which had commanded the attention of the Community Heads of Government over the past year, Mr *Rumor* mentioned the question of British membership, energy and raw material problems, Portugal and the independence of her overseas territories, Spain, Cyprus, the United Nations and, last but not least, the CSCE in Helsinki, which had been an acid test for European political cooperation. On the Community side, the European Council had been engaged with the question of direct elections, the report on European Union and establishment of a European Passport Union.

The Group spokesman, Mr *Behrendt* (S/G), Mr *Bertrand* (C-D/B), Mr *Berkhouwer* (L/NL), Mr *Krieg* (EPD/F), Mr *Kirk* (C/UK) in the ensuing brief debate made it clear in which areas they would welcome more intensive European political cooperation: i.e. the Raw Materials Conference next December, Mediterranean policy and world monetary questions. Mr *Lemoine* called upon the Community to give notice of its resolve to be independent *vis-à-vis* both the USA and the Socialist States.

Relations with Spain (15 October)

2407. On the initiative of the Socialist Group, the European Parliament, on 25 September, had called on the Council to freeze relations with Spain, as a token of protest against the death sentences on five opponents of the Franco regime, until democracy and freedom were restored in Spain.¹ The President of the Council, Mr *Rumor*, pointed out that the Council had responded when on 6 October it decided for the time being not to resume negotiations with Spain on expanding the existing Agreement as part of the Community's Mediterranean policy. This attitude on the part of the Council was justified by its concern over the impairment of democratic freedom and human rights, and the consequent tragic escalation of violence.

¹ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2402.

The President of the Commission, Mr *Ortoli*, endorsed these words. The statements of the Group spokesmen by and large expressed satisfaction with the stance adopted by the Community. They expressed their appreciation of the stance adopted by the President of the Commission, who at the Council meeting of 6 October had acted as the representative of a political body and had personally defended a courageous position. Mr *Fellermaier* (S/G) and Mr *Lücker* (C-D/G) stressed that Parliament would always support the Commission even against its critics within the Council, whenever it acted as custodian of the Treaties. Mr *Kasperleit* (EPD/F) and Mr *Kirk* (C/UK) spoke more cautiously. Mr *Sandri* (COM/I) commended both the Council and Commission.

Lomé Convention (16 October)

2408. Parliament approved the Lomé Convention¹ and in the Resolution described it as a milestone in international economic relations, since it introduced a new model for relations between the industrialized and developing countries. The House urged Member States to ratify the Convention without delay, so that it could come into force on 1 January 1976.

Safeguard measures of the Lomé Convention

2409. A further Resolution concerned safeguard measures which the Community can apply to imports of products from the ACP States. It was emphasized that these measures must be applied only where absolutely necessary.

Relations with overseas countries and territories

2410. The overseas countries and territories (OCT), linked with the EC Member States by special relations, are associated with the Community. The

rules applying to these areas are to be brought into line with the Lomé Convention. Parliament approved a relevant Commission Communication.

Generalized preferences (16 October)

2411. The Commission's Proposals for the 1976 generalized preferences² were approved. In the Resolution motion regarding the continuing deterioration of the economic situation, Parliament described these as realistic. The House recommended that with the aid of a documentation and information agency it should be made easier for the developing countries to claim these preferential advantages.

Social Policy (14 October)

Family benefits for migrant workers

2412. Parliament urged France to promptly apply the uniform rules proposed for all Member States by the Commission regarding the payment of family benefits to workers whose families reside in a country other than the country of employment.³ General agreement prevailed throughout the brief debate. Only *Abbé Laudrin* (EPD/F) had misgivings that standardization would be too difficult to apply in the short term, as long as the level of social changes varied.

Mass dismissals in two multinational companies

2413. Extensive dismissals, which to all appearances were being considered in AKZO and Philips in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands, were

¹ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2317.

² Bull. EC 1-1975, points 1101 to 1105, 2-1975, point 2324.

³ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2212.

the subject of a question from the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment. The Committee inquired about the Commission's scope for action and whether it was prepared to support the international trade union movement in making its influence felt *vis-à-vis* the employers. Vice-President Hillery explained the facts on the basis of information available to the Commission: AKZO intended to reduce its manpower from 43 000 to 37 000 by the end of 1977, which corresponded to an annual cutback in production of 60 000 tonnes. Philips had problems due to the reorganization of the computer industry. The trade unions had been briefed. Alternative jobs would be offered as and when they were available. At EC level the Directive on mass dismissals, which would be in effect by 1977, would be applicable. Aid was also possible on the basis of Article 4 of the Social Fund Regulation.

Fraudulent practices in the pharmaceutical industry (13 October)

2414. A lively debate followed on a question and Resolution motion tabled by the Socialist Group calling for more stringent controls on the Community pharmaceutical industry in respect of prices and product safety. Mr *Lagorce* (S/F) said it was a scandal that the pharmaceutical industry, which should particularly be serving public health, was bringing products onto the market through worldwide multinational companies with scarcely any controls, and setting exaggeratedly high prices which were borne by the social insurance paid by the general public. He asked for strict Community rules which would prevent medicaments being 'marketed like washing powder'. The Community Directives so far were utterly inadequate. Mr *Espersen* (S/DK) said that the behaviour of this branch of industry was often criminal.

The question generated a heated debate in which the Liberals, Conservatives and EPD Group defended the pharmaceutical industry, but certainly did not deny that malpractice existed. Mr *De Clercq*

(L/B) stressed that the massive investments in drug research could no longer be carried out at national level. But he felt that a wider and stricter application of the national controls hitherto imposed would suffice at Community level. He rejected nationalization. Mr *Rivièrèz* (EPD/F) endorsed these contentions.

Mr *Spicer* (C/UK) was also emphatically against any form of nationalization. Mr *Bordu* (COM/F) doubted whether a nationalized industry would be any less efficient than a private one. After repeated claims that the Socialists wanted to nationalize the pharmaceutical industry, Mr *Walkhoff* (S/G) pointed out that neither in the question nor in the Resolution motion was there any suggestion of nationalization. Mr *Klepsch* (C-D/G) and Mr *Artzinger* (C-D/G) plainly refused to charge the pharmaceutical companies *in toto* with impropriety and fraudulent practice, and the governments with incompetence or overtolerance. Mr *Fellermaier* (S/G), summing up, said that the heat of the debate showed that the Socialist Group's question had dug into a hornet's nest meaning that the matter was extremely urgent.

On a motion from the Socialists themselves, the much disputed motion was referred back to the responsible Committee for further scrutiny.

Commissioner *Borschette* resolutely defended the Commission against the charge of inactivity. With its small teams in the responsible departments the Commission, in three or four years, had made four cartel investigations among the pharmaceutical companies alone. In view of the evidence which it had had to bring forward in all these cases, this was anything but a poor showing. Mr *Borschette* also spoke of two new Directives on pharmaceutical supplies and the obligations of producers.

Export aid systems (14 October)

2415. In a question Mr *Kofoed* (L/DK) criticized the lack of progress in restricting distortion of com-

petition between Community exporters. He asked the Commission about the status of its work on export aid systems and the prospects for an agreement on establishing a Community export bank.

Vice-President Sir Christopher *Soames* replied that progress was hard to achieve since in this field the Member States were jealously guarding their independence. In harmonization, there was still much to be done. The Commission would present Proposals for a European Export Bank which would grant credits to Community export consortia.

Community monetary system (14 October)

2416. Mr *Cointat* (EPD/F) asked the Commission what measures it was thinking of proposing to restore monetary equilibrium in the Community. At the moment the heavily fluctuating, differing exchange rates were a danger to the agricultural market and a source of strain on the industrial markets.

Vice-President *Haferkamp* replied that the only solution lay in coordinating economic policies and Community solidarity in practice. Commission action up to now had served well (Community loans, short-term support, Proposals on the unit of account).

Agriculture

Aid to hop producers (13 October)

2417. Community hop producers were assured a reasonable income through the Regulation on aid for the 1974 harvest. The hop market situation had deteriorated even further over the last year. The House approved a relevant Commission Proposal for a Regulation. The rapporteur, Mr *Früh* (C-D/G) said that the difficulties were

due to the competitiveness of US produce on the world market, consumption, which had remained the same, and the minor use of hops in beer production.

Incomes in the fishing industry (16 October)

2418. Mr *Scott-Hopkins* (C/UK), Mr *Jakobsen* (C/DK) and Mr *Corrie* (C/UK) asked the Commission about its plans to stop the regression of incomes in the fishing industry. Replying for the Commission, Mr *Lardinois* acknowledged that the situation was serious and said that the Commission would be presenting Proposals in the weeks ahead. The worst of the crisis was past, since export figures had improved and stocks in store had been correspondingly reduced.

Question Time (15 October)

2419. In Question Time the Commission answered seventeen questions. No questions were put to the Council.

Measures for the textile industry

Mr *Terrenoire* (EDP/F):

'In view of the continuing crisis in the natural or man-made textile industry, in the spinning, weaving and clothing sectors, does the Commission intend to propose measures to protect these sectors against excessive foreign competition, which sometimes contravenes the rules laid down in the Treaty of Rome and the GATT agreements?'

Vice-President Sir Christopher *Soames* replied that as a party to the Multifibres Arrangement under GATT, the Community was working for a balanced expansion of world trade in textiles. In bilateral negotiations the Commission had tried to make headway with textile exporting countries. It had also ordered import restrictions and

did not rule out the possibility of further safeguards in the future.

Liquefaction and transportation of petroleum gases

Mr *Osborn* (C/UK):

'To avoid waste of energy through the flaring of gases (as part of the extraction of oil), what initiatives are the Commission taking to promote the liquefaction and transportation of petroleum gases?'

Vice-President *Simonet* pointed out that the Commission had already presented a Proposal to the Council on developing technological processes.

Newspaper industry

Mr *Kirk* (C/UK):

'What action can the Commission take to help the Community newspaper industry overcome its present difficulties?'

Mr *Spinelli* emphasized that action by the Commission was confined to the Treaties. Several measures were already in force which indirectly affected this industry, such as the Regulation on Community newsprint supplies. It was stressed from the floor of the House that the present difficulties must in no way impair the multiplicity of the news media and freedom of the press.

Kilometre tax

Sir *Geoffrey de Freitas* (S/UK):

'Why is at least one Member State imposing a kilometre tax on each British motor coach passenger who enters that country?'

Mr *Simonet* explained that this tax, imposed in Belgium, France and the Netherlands, was the lump-sum payment of VAT from cross-frontier passenger transport. The Commission was trying to standardize this with its Proposals on standardizing the assessment basis of VAT

EEC uranium supplies

Mr *Dalyell* (S/UK):

'Will the Commission make a statement on the latest position in their negotiations about the supply of uranium to the EEC, with the United States Government?'

Mr *Simonet* said that there were currently no negotiations running between the Commission and the US Government, although such a dialogue could certainly serve a purpose. Questions of uranium supply were settled unilaterally by the USA; at all events the Commission and the Euratom Supply Agency were in regular contact with responsible American authorities. The latest interruptions in deliveries were due to the reorganization of US Service departments.

Dialogue between energy and raw material producing countries, consumer countries and poor countries

Mr *Kaspereit* (EDP/F):

'In view of the problem created by the considerable fluctuation in prices of raw materials and successive increases in the price of oil and the impoverishment of most developing countries, what steps do the Council and the Commission intend to take to bring about the resumption of the dialogue between the consumer countries, the producer countries and the poor countries, with a view to creating a new world economic balance?'

Sir *Christopher Soames* felt that the Community had done much to improve the international climate surrounding the dialogue between the producer and consumer countries.

Community milk production

Mr *Scott-Hopkins* (C/UK):

'Why has the level of liquid milk production within the EEC for the year ended June 1975 declined in relation to that of the previous year, 1974, and has not this trend been apparent in all the countries of the EEC, and what regulations of a

hygiene nature inhibit the free movement of liquid milk supplies throughout the Community?’

Sir Christopher *Soames* pointed out that milk production in 1975 was expected to reach the same figures as in 1974. Since there were no Community health policy regulations, the Member States were allowed to apply their national rules.

Trade and aid links between the Community and India

Mr *Corrie* (C/UK):

‘Does the Commission intend to continue to give sympathetic attention to the development of trade and aid links between the Community and India in the light of India’s retreat from democracy?’

Sir Christopher *Soames* gave an affirmative reply. India was particularly hard hit by the world economic trend. The Community must therefore continue its aid and efforts to promote India’s foreign trade.

Medical research

Mr *Normanton* (C/UK):

‘Does the Commission agree that the Community has a large potential role to play in the alleviation of human suffering, by promoting and coordinating medical research into diseases such as multiple sclerosis?’

Mr *Brunner* explained how the Commission could play only a limited role in this area. The Subcommittee on Medical Research, which had been formed in the Commission, and was working actively on diagnosis, prevention and rehabilitation, was a first step towards practical actions.

Crisis in the Community iron and steel industry

Mr *Couste* (EDP/F):

‘In view of the particularly serious difficulties now facing the

Community iron and steel industry, does the Commission not feel that the EEC is in a period of manifest crisis?’

Mr *Spinelli* said that the crisis in the iron and steel industry was certainly serious, even if it was but one facet of the general economic crisis. But there was no ‘manifest crisis’ in the sense of the ECSC Treaty which would confer special powers on the Commission to act.

Present crisis in the iron and steel industry

Mr *Lagorce* (S/F):

‘Is the Commission aware of the serious difficulties facing the economy of Lorraine, which have been aggravated by the present crisis in the iron and steel industry, and what measures does the Commission intend to take to help the population of Lorraine to overcome these difficulties?’

Mr *Thomson* replied that the Commission was aware of the problems in the Lorraine. Aid had come from the Social Fund and the EAGGF. The Regional Fund was also involved.

Co-responsibility

Mr *Gibbons* (EDP/IRL):

‘How does the Commission justify the imposition of co-responsibility on agricultural producers at a time when agricultural input costs are soaring, agricultural incomes are falling and the gap between agricultural and industrial incomes is widening?’

Sir Christopher *Soames* pointed out that in fixing production prices and through further measures care had been taken to prevent chronic suspenses. This kind of co-responsibility was in the interests of the whole Community and must be accepted by the farmers.

Concept of a European single market economy

Mr *Hamilton* (S/UK):

‘Does the Commission consider that the concept of a European single market economy based on free competition is

compatible with regional policies designed to distort competition in the interests of deprived areas of the Community?’

Mr *Thomson* said that he saw no contradiction between the concept of a single economic market and a regional policy. The competition rules of the Treaty of Rome were there to ensure a balance in competition, and particularly under-favoured regions were supported as required.

Reopening of the Sulcis mines

Mr *Marras* (COM/I):

‘Can the Commission indicate its views on the advisability of a study by the Italian Government of the possibility of re-opening coalmining activities in the Sulcis coalfield (Carbonia, Sardinia) as part of an overall attempt to diversify the sources of energy supply?’

Mr *Simonet* said that an in-depth study would have to be made on the profitability outlook for this mining district. But on the whole he was very optimistic.

Processing for the purposes of agricultural development of data obtained by remote sensing

Mr *Noè* (C-D/I):

‘Does the Commission not think it would be desirable for more intensive work to be done by the Joint Research Centre on the processing of data made available by remote sensing, so as to contribute, firstly, to the search for new resources and to the observation of factors of importance to agricultural development in the Member States?’

Mr *Brunner* explained that the Commission was already active on the basis of a NASA competition in relating to the work with the satellite Landsat II. This work would then serve in monitoring environmental protection and later in determining soil humidity, which was also of interest to the developing countries.

Draft directive on equality of treatment between men and women workers

Mr *Spicer* (C/UK):

‘What steps is the Commission taking to ensure the full application in its own staff affairs of the standards set out in its draft directive on equality of treatment between men and women workers?’

Mr *Borschette* said that in respect of its personnel the Commission was adhering to those standards. But he pointed out that there was an inevitable backlog and that the number of women applicants was usually quite low.

Council

In October the Council held six meetings on foreign affairs, cooperation and development, agriculture, transport and the environment.

360th Meeting — Foreign Affairs (Luxembourg, 6 and 7 October)

2420. *President*: Mr *Rumor*, Italy’s Minister for Foreign Affairs.

From the Commission: Mr *Ortoli*, President, Sir *Christopher Soames*, Vice-President, Mr *Cheys-son*, Member.

Spain: The Council found that the negotiations between the Community and Spain could not be resumed at the present time.¹

Overall Mediterranean approach: The Council appraised the status of negotiations with the Maghreb countries and Malta.

¹ Point 2330.

Portugal: The Council proceeded to prepare the Community position to be adopted at the meeting with the representatives of the Portuguese Government which took place shortly afterwards.¹

Long-term export contracts for agricultural products — Egypt's requests: The Council discussed various aspects of this matter.

North-South dialogue: This was debated in preparation for the fresh Preparatory Meeting of the International Conference proposed by the President of France.²

361st Meeting — Cooperation and development (Luxembourg, 13 October)

2421. *President:* Mr Battaglia, Deputy State Secretary at the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

From the Commission: Mr Cheysson, Member.

The deliberations centred on the outcome of the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Community financial and technical assistance to non-associated developing countries, action to be taken following the World Food Conference and implementing the Resolution on harmonizing and coordinating cooperation and development policy within the Community.³

362nd Meeting — Agriculture (Luxembourg, 13-14 October)

2422. *President:* Mr Marcora, Italy's Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Lardinois, Member.

Long-term Trade Agreements: The Council signified that it was favourably disposed to the main lines of the Commission's Proposals concerning the long-term Trade Agreements to be negotiated with Egypt.⁴

Irish pound and pound sterling: The Council gave its agreement in principle on the Regulation concerning the rate of exchange to be applied in agriculture for the Irish pound and the pound sterling.⁵

Milk products: The Council gave its agreement in principle concerning the Regulation on establishing a specific measure covering the disposal of skimmed milk powder from public stock in the form of compound animal feeds.⁶

New Zealand butter: The Council took note of a Commission Communication concerning the derogation arrangements for United Kingdom imports of New Zealand butter.

Wine: The Council took note of a Commission statement concerning the tax imposed in France on imports of Italian wines.⁷

363rd Meeting — Transport (Luxembourg, 15 October)

2423. *President:* Mr Martinelli, Italy's Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation.

From the Commission: Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza.

Common transport policy: The Council discussed in general terms the Commission's Communication on development of the common transport policy.⁸

River shipping: On the basis of a note from the Belgian delegation, the Council discussed the problems of river shipping in international traffic.

¹ Point 2333.

² Point 1101 to 1104 and 2315.

³ Point 2314.

⁴ Point 2230.

⁵ Point 2229.

⁶ Point 2234.

⁷ Point 2233.

⁸ Point 2265.

The Commission was asked to make use of all appropriate means to enable it to promptly adopt a lasting solution to the serious situation in international river shipping.¹

International road transport: The Council definitively adopted the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate an agreement between the Community and non-member countries on the system applicable to international road passenger transport by bus and coach. A Decision determining the negotiating directives was also adopted.²

Summer time: The Council got down to a discussion on the significance for transport of applying summer time throughout the Community.

364th Meeting — Environment (Luxembourg, 16 October)

2424. *President:* Mr Pedini: Italy's Minister for Scientific Research.

From the Commission: Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza.

Second action programme: The Council got down to a sounding debate on the Commission's tentative thoughts concerning a second action programme for the environment. It signalled a positive outlook on the main lines of the Commission's paper. The Commission said it was ready to draw up Proposals for the second programme in the light of the meeting's discussion.³

Inventory of sources of information on the environment: The Council gave its agreement in principle on the Decision to adopt a common procedure for setting up and maintaining an inventory of sources of information on the Community environment.⁴

Conference on Preventing Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea: The Council adopted a Decision on Community participation in the negotiations for a Convention on protection of the Mediterranean against marine pollution.⁵

Bathing water: The Council signified its agreement on the Directive concerning the pollution of sea water and fresh water for bathing.⁶

Sulphur in gas-oils: The Council signified its agreement on the Directive concerning the approximation of Member States' laws on the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels.⁷

365th Meeting — Agriculture (Luxembourg, 29-30 October)

2425. *President:* Mr Marcora, Italy's Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Lardinois, Member.

Stocktaking of the CAP: This meeting was entirely devoted to the stocktaking of the CAP. On the strength of the Commission's Communication and in the light of a questionnaire drawn up by the special *ad hoc* committee, the Council got down to a broad and constructive debate on all the issues involving the balance of markets, the problems of productivity and agricultural incomes, the single nature of the market, the cost of the agricultural policy and specific problems of the various farm products.⁸

Commission

Internal arrangements

2426. Following the circulatory trouble on his recent tour of Latin America, Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames, on the advice of his doctor,

¹ Point 2265.

² Point 2268.

³ Point 1302.

⁴ Point 1303.

⁵ Point 1307.

⁶ Point 1305.

⁷ Point 1304.

⁸ Point 2228.

has decided to break off all official activities for the next two months in order to take a complete rest.

At his suggestion, the Commission has asked Mr *Gundelach* to take over external relations for that period.

Activities

2427. During October the Commission held five meetings. Its attention and discussions focussed on the economic and social situation in the Community budgetary problems and agricultural policy.

Relations with Spain: After voicing in a communiqué on 27 September,¹ its alarm and censure regarding the execution of the five people condemned to death, the Commission concluded that, as matters stand, the negotiations initiated with the Spanish Government could not go on. It immediately advised the Council of its position so that the Community could decide to break off the negotiations now under way.

Common Agricultural Policy: Agricultural matters took up much of the Commission's activity. With a view to the overall appraisal of the CAP which the Council of Ministers of Agriculture began on 19 October the Commission studied various measures for grappling with current problems.

It took a hard look at the structural changes to be made in the operations of the *dairy* sector.²

Various long-term arrangements were adopted for improving *objective information* (statistics, cost assessments, evaluations of incomes etc.) on which it bases its annual Proposals for common agricultural prices.

Regarding the *wine market*, the Commission adopted the substance of possible terms for agreement on regearing the wine market. But the discussion at the Council meeting of Ministers of Agriculture did not make sufficient headway for an overall agreement to be explored as yet.³

The Commission decide to initiate the infringement procedure against the French Government for having brought in a tax on imported Italian wine.

Report on the economic situation: In Strasbourg on 15 October, the Commission adopted its Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community. The Report anticipates that economic activity will pick up early in 1976, but stresses that the recovery will be tenuous and that the dangers of inflation flaring up again are still with us. Against this background, the Commission is sending specific recommendations to each Member State on the economic policy guidelines it should follow.⁴

Action programme for the European aircraft industry: The Commission adopted an action programme for the European aircraft industry.⁵ The programme proposed by the Commission to the governments and the Council is a highly ambitious one. It would lay down a common European programme assembling the potential of European industry to build large civil aircraft.

In this connection the Community should set itself the objective of creating European air space organized on Community lines. This would mean handling intra-Community traffic as domestic traffic, thus making it more flexible and diversified. A package of immediate measures was presented as the first stage towards the ultimate objective.

Lastly, the Commission indicated to the Member States that because of the close link between the development of civil and military aircraft, a European Military Aircraft Procurement Agency should be set up to supplement a common policy for and joint undertakings in civil aviation.

Research and development: The Commission adopted a Communication on the Objectives,

¹ Bull. EC 9-1975, points 2326 and 2327.

² Point 2234.

³ Point 2233.

⁴ Point 2252.

⁵ Supplement 11/75 — Bull. EC.

Priorities and Resources for a Common Research and Development Policy, and also an Overall Concept for the Joint Research Centre's Next Multiannual Programme.¹

Common transport policy: The Commission adopted a package of Proposals to improve the organization of the overland freight transport market in the Community. This is a major advance in organizing a competitive transport market within the Community.²

The Commission's relations with both sides of industry

2428. Continuing its efforts to involve both sides of industry more closely in Community affairs, the Commission ran meetings in October with various trade union bodies and employers' associations.

A two-day meeting was held with the Confédération européenne de l'art et du spectacle (European Confederation of the Arts and Entertainment) with a view to further consultations. The talks bore on cultural affairs, social security, the free movement of workers and the harmonization and protection of copyright.

Mr Spinelli talked with the Union of European Community Industries (UNICE) and the European Centre for Public Enterprise (ECPE) on the problem of 'industrial change' while Vice-President Simonet discussed taxation evasion, the 'action programme' on and harmonization of taxation with the European Confederation of Trade Unions.

Court of Justice

Composition of the court

2429. At its meeting on 6 October 1975, the Court of Justice of the European Communities

elected Judge R. *Monaco* as President of the First Chamber and Judge H. *Kutscher* as President of the Second Chamber, for a period of one year commencing on 7 October 1975.

It elected Mr H. *Mayras*, as First Advocate-General for the period ending on 7 October 1976.

The composition of the court is as follows:

President of the Court: Mr Robert *Lecourt*

First Advocate-General: Mr Henri *Mayras*

First chamber

President: Mr Riccardo *Monaco*

Judges: Mr André *Donner*, Mr Josse *Mertens de Wilmars*, Mr Aindrias *O'Keefe*

Advocates-General: Mr Alberto *Trabucchi*, Mr Henri *Mayras*

Second Chamber

Judges: Mr Pierre *Pescatore*, Mr Max *Sørensen*, Lord Alexander John *Mackenzie Stuart*

Advocates-General: Mr Jean Pierre *Warner*, Mr Gerhard *Reischl*

Registrar: Mr Albert *Van Houtte*

New cases

Case 104/75 — Officier van Justitie in het Arrondissement Rotterdam v Mr A. de Peijper, Nieuwerkerk aan den IJssel

2430. In criminal proceedings brought against a manager of companies manufacturing pharmaceutical products, who is charged with having

¹ Points 1401 to 1406.

² Point 2266.

failed to comply with the formalities laid down in the Netherlands Decree laying down rules for pharmaceutical preparations with regard to the import of certain proprietary products from Great Britain, the Kantongerecht in Rotterdam asked the Court of Justice on 2 October 1975 for a preliminary ruling on whether these national rules are compatible with Article 36 of the EEC Treaty or whether they should be regarded as a disguised restriction on trade between Member States.

Case 105/75 — Council official v Council

2431. This is an action to annul an appointment.

Case 106/75 — Firma Merkur Außenhandel GmbH, Hamburg, v Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Jonas

2432. In dealing with an action concerning the grant of export refunds and of monetary compensatory amounts in respect of exports of cereals the Finanzgericht Hamburg asked the Court of Justice on 3 October 1975 for a number of preliminary rulings. They concern in particular the delimitation of tariff headings Nos 11.02 E I (a) 1 (rolled barley grains) and 11.02 E I (b) 1 (flaked barley grains) and whether the refunds and monetary compensatory amounts are due where the exported product differs from that shown on the export licence.

Case 107/75 — Commission official v Commission

2433. This is an action to annul the Commission's decision rejecting the plaintiff's claim for the grant of the expatriation allowance.¹

Case 108/75 — Mr G. Balsamo, Asti v Institut National d'Assurance Maladie-Invalidité, Woluwé-St.-Pierre

2434. The Brussels Labour Court asked the Court of Justice on 13 October 1975 for a preliminary ruling on the compatibility of Article 56 of the Belgian law of 9 August 1963² establishing and laying down detailed arrangements for a compulsory sickness and disability insurance scheme with the provisions of Community Regulations 3, 4, 1408/71 and 574/72³ (social security) concerning the rules for applying for a disability pension.

Cases 109/75 and 109/75 R — National Carbonising Company Ltd., Mansfield, v Commission

2435. In July 1975, the National Carbonising Company (NCC) submitted a complaint to the Commission accusing the National Coal Board (NCB) of distorting competition by selling NCC coking coal at a high price with a reduction on coal used for producing domestic coke sold in the United Kingdom (a practice prohibited by Article 60 (1) of the ECSC Treaty).

NCC also accuses NCB of abusing its dominant position by fixing the price of domestic coke sold by its subsidiary at such a low level (compelling NCC to sell at the same price) that the margin between this price and that of coking coal has become too narrow to produce at a profit. In addition, NCC accuses the British Government of seeking to stop NCB from increasing its price for domestic coke (infringement of Article 61 of the ECSC Treaty).

On 16 October 1975, NCC brought an action for default before the Court of Justice against the Commission's implied decision to refuse to take action on its complaint. This action is accompanied by a request for interim measures to avoid the closure of two factories belonging to NCC.

Case 110/75 — Official of the European Investment Bank v European Investment Bank

¹ This action follows on from Case 42/75, Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2432.

² *Moniteur belge*, 1.11.1963.

³ OJ 30 of 16.12.58, L 149 of 5.7.1971 and L 74 of 27.3.1972.

2436. This is an action to annul the decision to dismiss the plaintiff.

Case 111/75 — Impresa Costruzione Comm. Q. Mazzalai v Ferrovia del Renon S.p.A., Bolzano

2437. On 24 October 1975 the Court at Trento asked the Court of Justice for an interpretation of Article 6(4) of the second Directive on the harmonization of legislation of Member States concerning turnover taxes.¹ The Court is asked to give its opinion on when the chargeable event occurs where services are provided and, in particular, with regard to works contracts.

Judgments

Case 168/73 — Commission official v Commission

2438. As the plaintiff had withdrawn this action to annul selection board reports in internal competitions because his wishes had been met the Court struck this case from the record by Order of 29 October 1975.

Joint cases 81 to 88/74 — Commission official v Commission

2439. Eight Commission officials had brought actions before the Court of Justice to annul nine appointments of officials pursuant to Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations.

By its Judgment of 29 October 1975, the Court annulled six of the nine contested appointments, rejecting two actions as inadmissible in that they had been brought by officials who had resigned.

Case 90/74 — Commission official v Commission

2440. This action to annul an internal competition and the subsequent appointments was dismissed by the Court in its Judgment of 16 October 1975.

Case 9/75 — Mr M. Meyer-Burckhardt, Horben bei Freiburg i.Br., v Commission

2441. A former Commission official of German nationality, who had been receiving two pensions since 1967, one of which was paid by the Federal Republic of Germany and the other by the Commission, and who considered that he has wrongfully suffered loss as a result of the legislation against cumulation of pensions, introduced in Germany in 1968, — against which he had unsuccessfully tried, by lodging complaints with the Commission, to have the infringement procedure provided for under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty instituted, had brought an action against the Commission before the Court of Justice for damages in respect of the loss he claimed to have suffered because the Federal Republic of Germany had, under its legislation against cumulation, reduced the pension paid by it.

In its Judgment of 22 October 1975, the Court dismissed this action as inadmissible.

Case 22/75 — Official of European Parliament v European Parliament

2442. This action to annul an internal competition procedure was dismissed by the Court in its Judgment of 29 November 1975.

Case 23/75 — Ditta Rey-Soda, Boffalora sul Ticino, v Cassa Conguaglio Zuccheri, Rome

2443. The Pretura d'Abbiategrosso had asked the Court of Justice on 19 February 1975 for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 834/74 laying down requisite provisions to prevent the sugar market being disturbed as a result of the price increase in this sector for the 1974/75 sugar marketing year,² as supplemented and amended by Regula-

¹ OJ 71 of 14.4.1967.

² OJ L 99 of 9.4.1974.

tions (EEC) Nos 1495/74¹ and 2106/74,² on the validity of those provisions and their compatibility with Articles 40(3) and 7 of the EEC Treaty, and on whether national acts may be regarded as illegal on the ground that they are contrary to the principles of Community law.

In its Judgment of 31 October 1975, the Court ruled that Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) 834/74 was invalid.

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

2444. In a case on the calculation of a retirement pension for an Italian national who had worked in Belgium and in Italy, the Brussels Labour Court had asked the Court of Justice on 6 March 1975 for a preliminary ruling on the compatibility of Article 46(3) of Regulation (EEC) 1408/71³ 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 provision.

In its Judgment of 21 October 1975, the Court ruled that the abovementioned provision was incompatible with Article 51 of the EEC Treaty insofar as it imposed a limit on the aggregation of two pensions acquired in different Member States by reducing the amount of a pension acquired under national law alone.

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

2445. The Arrondissementsrechtbank of Arnhem had asked the Court of Justice on 7 March 1975 for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 3 of Regulation No 67/67 on the application of Article 85(3) of the EEC Treaty to certain categories of exclusive dealing agreements.⁴

In its Judgment of 1 October 1975, the Court

ruled that an exclusive sales agreement concluded between a manufacture established in a Member State and an agent established in another Member State came within the scope of Article 3 of Regulation No 67/67 (and could not therefore benefit from the exemption provided for in Article 85(3) of the Treaty) in that it required the manufacturer to prohibit intermediaries and users established in his Member State from exporting products to the territory covered by the agreement.

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

2446. In a case on completion of the waiting period for entitlement to disability pensions the Augsburg Sozialgericht (Social Court) had asked the Court of Justice on 24 March 1975 for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 15(3) of Regulation No 574/72 fixing the procedure for implementing Regulation 1408/71⁵ as regards the rules for calculating insurance periods. The Court had also asked how the competent social security authority should regard insurance periods completed in another Member State and affecting the waiting period in that State.

In its Judgment of 30 October 1975, the Court ruled that if it were necessary, under German law, to regard an insurance period of less than one month completed in the Federal Republic of Germany as a complete month, an insurance period completed under the law of another Member State which, after being converted into months so as to produce a total, led to fractions of a month, must also be rounded up to the next higher number of months, in order to avoid a situation where migration deprived workers of rights acquired in their country of origin.

¹ OJ L 158 of 15.6.1974.

² OJ L 218 of 9.8.1974.

³ OJ L 149, of 5.7.1971.

⁴ OJ 57 of 25.3.1967.

⁵ OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

Case 35/75 — Fa. Matisa-Maschinen-GmbH, Bielefeld, v Hauptzollamt Berlin-Packhof

2447. In a case concerning the tariff classification of a ballast tamping and levelling machine for permanent way, the Berlin Finanzgericht had asked the Court of Justice on 1 April 1975 for a preliminary ruling on (i) the tariff classification of this machine and (ii) the scope of the explanatory notes in the Brussels Nomenclature for the purpose of interpreting the common customs tariff.

In its Judgment of 23 October 1975, the Court ruled that in the absence of relevant Community provisions, the explanatory notes and the classification notices provided for in the Convention on nomenclature for the classification of goods in customs tariffs were authoritative as a valid means of interpreting the headings of the common customs tariff. The expression 'mechanically propelled railway and tramway coaches, vans and trucks' in heading No 86.04 of the common customs tariff should be interpreted as including self-propelled permanent way maintenance vehicles, fitted with one or more motors enabling rapid and completely independent movement of the vehicle on the permanent way.

Case 36/75 — Mr R. Rutili, Gennevilliers, v French Ministry of the Interior

2448. Because of the trade union activity of a migrant worker of Italian nationality the French authorities had banned him from residing in four French 'départements'. In the case between this worker and the French authorities, the Paris Administrative Court had asked the Court of Justice on 9 April 1975 for a preliminary ruling on whether the exception in respect of public policy contained in Article 48 of the EEC Treaty related only to rules adopted by Member States aimed at restricting the free movement and residence in their territory of nationals of other Member States, or whether it also covered individual decisions. The Court also wished to know

the precise meaning of the word 'justified' in the said Article.

In its Judgment of 28 October 1975 the Court ruled that the abovementioned exception related not only to laws and regulations but also to individual decisions taken pursuant to such provisions. The Court held that Community law limited discriminatory decision-making by the Member States and safeguarded the rights of the persons concerned. For them to be justified these measures had therefore to be based on the individual conduct of the person concerned and could not be used for purposes unconnected with the requirements of public policy, in particular to prevent the person concerned from exercising his rights in respect of trade union activities. The reasons should be communicated without delay to the person concerned, who must be guaranteed effective exercise of a right of appeal.

A person could not be banned from part of the territory of a Member State on grounds which discriminated against nationals of other Member States.

Case 109/75 R — National Carbonising Company Ltd., Mansfield, v Commission

2449. Following a request for interim measures which accompanied the bringing of an action for default against the Commission,¹ the Court ruled on 21 October 1975 that the Commission should take the precautionary measures that it considered strictly necessary to avoid the threatened closure of the two factories belonging to the plaintiff.

¹ Point 2435.

Economic and Social Committee

134th Plenary session

The 134th plenary session of the Economic and Social Committee was held in Brussels, on 29 and 30 October, with Mr *Canonge* in the Chair. The Committee adopted eleven Opinions.

Opinions

Annual Report on the Economic Situation of the Community

2450. Recalling that the Commission had in 1974 underestimated the depth and probable duration of the recession, the Committee again felt that the annual report had painted an over-optimistic picture of the world economic situation in general and the Community's position in particular. Coordination of Member States' economic policies should materialize, so that after the recovery measures any further divergence between the economic trends of Member States could be forestalled. The Committee also commended the idea put forward in the annual report that the two sides of industry should collaborate with the public authorities to restore confidence in the economic future.

This Opinion, prepared from the report by Mr Margot (Belgium-General Interests Group) was adopted by 57 votes to 24, with 15 abstentions. The entire Workers Group voted against the Opinion.

In a brief statement, Vice-President Haferkamp of the Commission emphasized that at the present time the basis of appraisal was uncertain. That was why the Commission did not present the report until November. With this in mind, he felt strongly that the discussion on the economic

situation should be resumed. The fact that the Commission's annual report stressed that a slump had been averted did not mean that we should minimize the seriousness of the economic situation, which was the worst we had experienced since the war. This was meant to bring home the fact that the economic and social system had proved its stability despite the problems. However uncertain the future might still be, the latest soundings were showing the first favourable short-term economic signs. The recovery of exports and production in certain industries indicated that the trough of the wave had passed and that we could now anticipate a modest resurgence. But it was still uncertain how long it would last and what proportions it would take.

That no uniform Community economic policy existed at present, was due to the current disparities between the economic situations of Member States, as a result mainly of the differences in terms of rates of inflation and balance-of-payments. After the oil crisis, the prime concern had been to avoid inconsistencies between Member States' economic policy objectives. This had been achieved to a great extent through the supporting economic policy of the Commission. To attain these objectives, the Commission had not leaned heavily on the formal decisions of the Council, but had considerably intensified contacts at Council level. Despite the gaps in their mutual provinces, the Community institutions had been able to score successes, in upholding the common market and reinstating the 'snake' as part of monetary policy. Parallel action for economic recovery in the Member States should take off from there. What counted more than anything right now was action to counter recessions and unemployment. At the same time we had to forestall any further advance of inflation. It required solidarity between social groups, between Member States and at international level, to attain these objectives. With all this in mind the Commission was pinning special hopes on the tripartite Conference.

Towards a new energy policy strategy for the Community

2451. Having approved in July 1974 the main lines of the new energy policy strategy for the Community,¹ the Committee had now made a thorough appraisal of the various Proposals which the Commission has since presented for different sectors. This additional Opinion centres on the following: the 1985 objectives, research and development, joint hydrocarbon projects, rational use of energy, policy in the hydrocarbon sector, action to cope with oil supply problems, guidelines for the electricity industry, nuclear fuels and medium-term guidelines for coal. This Opinion, prepared from the report by Mr Delourme (Belgium-Workers Group) was adopted by 64 votes against 19 with 17 abstentions.

*Biology-Health Protection Programme:
Research Programme 1976-1980*

2452. With this Opinion, prepared from the report by Mr Noordwal (Netherlands-Employers Group) and unanimously adopted, the Committee welcomed and backed the Commission Proposal on a fourth research programme for the EAEC under biology and health protection.

*Taxes other than turnover tax on the consumption
of manufactured tobaccos*

2453. With this Opinion, prepared from the report by Mr O'Ceallaigh (Ireland-Employers Group), and adopted unanimously, the Committee accepted the Commission Proposal extending for twelve months the first stage of harmonization for taxes on manufactured tobaccos.

Deferred payment of import and export charges

2454. This Opinion, prepared from the report by Mr De Grave (Belgium-Workers Group) was also adopted unanimously. It was noted that besides

harmonized facilities for deferred payment within a standardized time limit of 30 days, the States can grant additional facilities, whose time limit is left to their entire discretion and whose interest rate must be based on the rate used on the national financial and monetary market. It was felt that the conditions for collection should be completely harmonized by setting a single time limit and a single interest rate which might be periodically adjusted.

Action programme for migrant workers and their families

2455. This Opinion, prepared from the report by Mr Purpura (Italy-General Interests Group) was unanimously adopted with two abstentions. The gist of the Opinion approved the action programme presented by the Commission. It endorsed most of the specific measures presented by the Commission to improve the situation of migrant workers and their families. But the Committee felt that some of the measures should be intensified, others broadened in application and others again brought into effect more quickly. The Opinion therefore urged:

- (i) swift adoption of the necessary supporting measures to actualize the free movement of Community workers, especially from the angle of information on job vacancies and the qualifications required, and exercise of union rights;
- (ii) improvement of Community rules on social security and the gradual extension to migrant workers from non-member States of certain advantages enjoyed by Community migrant workers;
- (iii) strengthening of measures to ease admission to vocational training and guidance, and access to employment;
- (iv) rapid betterment of living conditions, especially as regards guidance for migrant workers and the inhabitants of the host country, social welfare and social services, housing, schooling for

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1974, point 2460.

migrant children, health problems and preparation for return to the country of origin;

- (v) gradual granting of civic and political rights;
- (vi) better knowledge of the phenomenon of migration, both qualitatively and quantitatively;
- (vii) firmer coordination in countering illegal immigration;
- (viii) more forceful coordination of migrant policies.

Extension of trade union rights for the benefit of workers who move within the Community

2456. In this Opinion, adopted unanimously, and prepared from the report by Mr van Rens (Netherlands-Workers Group), the Committee approved the Commission Proposal on participation by Community migrant workers in union management and administration. The Committee also asked the Commission to present appropriate measures, through amendments to the regulation concerned, allowing such participation, as union representatives of Community migrant workers, in the management of bodies under law and in the performance of public office.

Lastly, the Committee came out in favour of extending the rights recognized in this proposed Regulation to cover migrant workers from non-member countries.

European Investment Bank

Loans granted

Belgium

2457. The EIB has granted a loan for the equivalent of Bfrs 500 000 000 (10 800 000 u.a.) to help finance the construction of a high-pressure gasline

across Belgium, to route natural gas from the North Sea and Dutch fields to southern Belgium and northern France.

The loan, which is for a term of 10 years with an interest rate of 9½%, has been granted to Société Européenne du Gazoduc Est-Ouest (SEGEO), the shareholders of which are Distrigaz (Belgium) and Gaz de France.

Costing in total about Bfrs 2 800 million, the project involves laying 160 km of pipeline, 90 cm in diameter. The gas will come from the Drenthe field in northern Holland and from the North Sea (mainly Ekofisk).

In its efforts to diversify its energy sources and reduce its dependence on imported oil, the Community is laying increased emphasis on natural gas, and expects the latter to cover 18-23% of its total energy requirements in 1985, compared with 12.4% in 1973.

Denmark

2458. The EIB has granted the Danish Government a second global loan, this time the equivalent of Dkr. 20 000 000 (2 800 000 u.a.), to help finance small and medium-sized industrial ventures in the less-developed parts of the country. The terms are 10 years with an interest rate of 9½%.

As with the first such loan¹ (Dkr. 17 500 000, provided in April this year) the funds are to be placed at the disposition of the Regional Development Board—'Egnsudviklingsdirektoratet' which, with the EIB's agreement in each case, will select the projects to be financed.

Priority will be given supporting investments which promise to create new employment opportunities or which help to safeguard existing jobs in Special Development Areas in Jutland, the Southern Islands, and the islands of Samsø and Bornholm.

¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2446.

Italy

2459. Loans totalling the equivalent of Lit. 102 000 million (128 600 00 u.a.) have been granted in Italy by the EIB, the entire amount to be used to support investments in the Mezzogiorno.

Of this sum, Lit. 73 000 million has been provided to the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno to help finance a major anti-pollution scheme in the Bay of Naples and the improvement of water supplies in both Puglia and Basilicata. The works concerned form part of the programme of 'Special Projects' of inter-regional and intersectoral importance which are currently the key operations of the public authorities in the Mezzogiorno.

The loan, of an equivalent value of Lit. 24 000 million, designed to finance the special project to clean up the Bay of Naples, will help towards the construction of purification plants and sewers along the coast and on the island of Ischia. The projects, financed at an estimated cost of some Lit. 120 000 million, are part of a comprehensive plan of action to reduce to admissible levels the high degree of water pollution in the region. The works will also enable treated water to be recycled for industrial and agriculture uses.

The programme involves an area of some 2 800 km². The project will help to create a climate which favours a balanced development of this area, which is at present suffering from congestion, lack of adequate hygienic and sanitary conditions and deterioration in the environment.

The water schemes which the Bank is helping to finance form part of 'Special Project No 14', a major programme of works given high priority by the Italian authorities, which is designed to end the supply shortage that has long handicapped the economic development of Puglia and Basilicata.

By providing Lit. 25 000 million, the EIB will help to finance new works costing some Lit. 140 00 million on the Pertusillo aqueduct, the construction of which the Bank has already aided via a loan of Lit. 15 000 million granted in 1969.

The new loan will be used for an interconnecting link with the Pugliese aqueduct, and also for a network of feeder pipelines, covering some 650 km, which will supply Matera (chief town of Basilicata), Bari, Barletta, Trani and numerous towns and villages in southern Puglia, up to 250 km away from the Pertusillo dam and reservoir. When fully operational, the Pertusillo scheme will supply some 20 % of the drinking water requirements of Puglia and Basilicata.

The EIB has also provided Lit. 24 000 million for the first stage of works, which will also cost some Lit. 140 000 million, designed to exploit the resources of the Sinni River. A new dam and reservoir (storage capacity 450 million m³) will be constructed at Mont-Cotugno (Basilicata), from which a first pipeline will be laid 64 km to the Ginosa basin (Puglia), with a branch line to the S. Giuliano reservoir near Matera. Together with other works to be carried out, this will ensure adequate water supplies for several important irrigation schemes and for industry at Taranto and in the Basento valley, and will also provide drinking water for Brindisi.

A total of Lit. 22 800 million has been granted either directly to Istituto per lo Sviluppo Economico dell'Italia Meridionale—ISVEIMER, or to Cassa per il Mezzogiorno for on-lending to ISVEIMER, to contribute to finance this institution is providing for four chemical and steel industry projects:

— *Montedison S.p.A.* petrochemicals complex at Brindisi. The EIB has provided Lit. 12 000 million for new facilities to produce MDI (methanodiphenyldiisocyanate), the basic material used in the manufacture of rigid polyurethanes.

— *Montedison S.p.A.* industrial chemicals plant at Bussi (Abruzzi). A loan of Lit. 1 800 million has been made available by the EIB for an extension which will enable increased production of several products (chlorine, caustic soda, sodium orthosilicate, sodium metasilicate, chlorinated hydrocarbons), and diversification into others. In 1966, the Bank provided a loan of Lit. 1 250 million for this plant.

— *Dalmine S.p.A.* (part of the Finsider group) steel tube works at Torre Annunziata (Naples). The EIB is providing Lit. 7 200 million for new equipment, modernisation and a new production line.

— *Tubificio Dalmine Italsider S.p.A.* steel tube plant at Taranto. The Bank is providing Lit. 1 800 million for restructuring and enlargement.

Finally, two loans have been granted to Istituto Mobiliare Italiano—IMI to contribute to this institution's financing of two other industrial projects in the South:

— *Elettrografite Meridionale S.p.A.* (Union Carbide group) graphite electrodes factory at Caserta (Campania). By granting a loan of Lit. 4 000 million the EIB will contribute to the funds required for an extension, which will turn the factory into one of the largest production units of its type in Europe.

— *Osrsm Sud S.p.A.* fluorescent tubes and vapour lamps factory at Bari. Through IMI, the EIB has already provided finance for the construction of this plant, and then for an extension in 1971 and 1974. Now a further Lit. 2 200 million has been made available for another extension.

United Kingdom

2460. A loan equivalent to £75 000 000 (13 300 000 u.a.) has been provided by the EIB for the Kielder Water scheme, a major river regulation project in the North-East of England designed to meet the region's fresh water needs until the beginning of the next century.

The loan has been granted for 12 years at an interest rate of 9½% to the National Water Council, which will lend the funds to the Northumbrian Water Authority.

The project involves construction of a dam and reservoir with a 200 000 000 m³ storage capacity at Kielder on the river North Tyne, to be used to regulate the flow of the rivers Tyne, Wear and Tees.

Abstraction points along these three rivers are the

main sources of supply of some 2 700 000 people living in the area of the Authority. By regulating the flow of the rivers, a much greater volume of water can be made available not only to meet the needs of water supply but, incidentally, to improve the conditions of the rivers for all purposes.

The cost of the works is expected to be of the order of £100 000 000, but investments on this scale are urgently needed if the Northumbrian Water Authority is to meet the growing thirst for water, both for domestic and industrial use.

Greece

2461. The EIB announces two new loans in Greece totalling the equivalent of US \$ 31 400 000 (27 200 000 u.a.).

Of this sum, US \$ 30 033 000 will be used to help finance irrigation and flood-control works being carried out by the Greek Government in the plain of Serres in Eastern Macedonia, while US \$ 1 410 000 will go towards construction of a textile mill near Thessalonika.

With the first loan, the EIB is helping to develop Greek agricultural production, which accounts for 38% of employment and 40% of the country's exports (including processed agricultural products).

An accelerated public investment programme costing about Drs 37 000 000 million (approx. US \$ 1 100 000) is now under way and is expected to increase by about one third the country's irrigated areas, from 830 000 ha in 1974 to 1 100 000 ha in 1980.

The Serres project, which forms part of this programme, consists of the rehabilitation and expansion of an old flood regulation system on the River Strymon to protect the Serres plain (118 000 ha). The existing irrigation system will also be extended to cover 64 000 ha of the plain against a present 44 000 ha, and studies will be made on the feasibility of bringing a further 10 000 ha under irrigation.

When completed in 1978, these measures should result in a considerable increase in milk, meat, vegetable, fruit and cotton production, with the present low level of employment available to the 13 000 families in the area more than doubled.

The rising farm incomes, and better livelihood to be gained from agriculture, should in turn help to halt emigration which in the last decade has reduced the local population by 20 %.

The terms of the loan are 17 years with an interest rate of $9\frac{1}{2}$ %. However, a 3 % interest rebate, leaving the net rate at $6\frac{1}{2}$ %, has been granted by the six founder Member Countries of the EEC.

The second loan will help to create more than 150 jobs at a new cotton spinning and weaving plant of Tissages Helléniques S.A. Yannitsa, about 50 km west of Thessalonika, which will assist the economic Development of the area. The US \$ 1 400 000 has been granted for $9\frac{1}{2}$ years at $9\frac{1}{2}$ % to the Hellenic Industrial Development Bank (ETBA) to contribute to its own financing of the mill.

Both these loans are provided within the framework of the Financial Protocol annexed to the Association Agreement between Greece and the EEC, which came into force in 1962, and which specified a maximum of US \$ 125 000 000 in loans to be granted by the Bank to help develop Greek industry, agriculture and essential infrastructure.

Over US \$ 69 000 000 was provided between 1963 and 1967, when operations under this Protocol were suspended. New loans were only made possible again towards the end of 1974 when the EIB's Board of Governors authorized the Bank to resume lending activities in Greece, following the Council decision to reactivate the Association Agreement. Financing operations recommenced in June this year.¹

Financing Community activities

General budget 1976

Draft budget

2462. At the sitting of 15 October in the European Parliament, Mr *Rumor*, President-in-Office of the Council, presented the draft general budget of the Communities for 1976, which was adopted by the Council on 29 September.² This was followed by an initial debate in the House.³

Second letter of amendment to the preliminary draft

2463. At its meeting in Luxembourg on 6 and 7 October, the Council took a number of decisions concerning the aid which the Community intends to grant to Portugal. The decisions involve, in particular, a financial aspect, providing for loans by the European Investment Bank up to a total of 150 000 000 u.a. It was agreed that the loans, in their entirety, would be backed by the Community guarantee. It was also decided that the burden of the interest subsidies, carried by the loans, would be borne by the Community budget.⁴

To enable the EIB operations to start during the first half of 1976, the Commission on 13 October filed a letter of amendment proposing to modify the 1976 draft budget, established by the Council on 29 September.⁵ This comprises the entry of a 13 000 000 u.a. appropriation to ensure that the interest subsidies are paid back to the EIB for the loans made before 31 December 1976, and a budget entry to guarantee the EIB's loans to Portugal up to a total amount of 150 000 000 u.a.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2462.

² Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2464.

³ For the report of the debate, see point 2403.

⁴ Point 2331.

⁵ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2464.

ECSC budget*Amending ECSC operational budget for 1975*

2464. At its meeting of 29 October the Commission adopted the amending ECSC operational budget for the financial year 1975. The shortfall in funds of 13 400 000 u.a., mainly owing to the repercussions of the fall in steel production on the proceeds of levies, was partially offset by a 10 000 000 u.a. cut in the commitments stipulated for readaptation assistance. The difference of 3 400 000 u.a. was found by cutting the endowments provided to assist research (35 000 000 instead of 36 900 000 u.a.) and for interest subsidies (13 000 000 instead of 14 500 000 u.a.).

Fixing the ECSC levy rate and drawing up the ECSC operational budget for 1976

2465. At the same meeting on 29 October, the Commission adopted the draft of the ECSC operational budget for 1976, based on a levy rate of 0.29%. It approved a Communication to Parliament, which is to give its Opinion during the December part-session. The ECSC Consultative Committee was also briefed. After Parliament has given its Opinion, the Commission will definitively adopt the levy rate and the operational budget for 1976.

ECSC loans

2466. During October, the Commission made the following loan transactions:

(i) a private placement of SwF 100 000 000. This loan matures over eight years and bears interest at 8%.

(ii) a bond issue of US \$ 30 000 000. This loan, underwritten by an international syndicate of banks, matures over 5 years, bears interest at

9.25% and was offered to the public at the issue price of 100%.

(iii) a bond issue of SwF 80 000 000. This loan, underwritten by a syndicate of Swiss banks, was offered to the public at the issue price of 100%. It matures over 15 years and bears interest at 7.75%.

(iv) a private placement of US \$ 25 000 000. This loan matures over seven years and bears interest at 9.25%.

Following these transactions, the sum total of loans contracted by the ECSC, since the start of its activities, stood on 31 October at the equivalent value of 2 431 million u.a.

5. Institutional questions— European policy

Political cooperation

Political cooperation

Meetings of Ministers

2501. After an informal meeting in Lucca on 18 and 19 October, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs met for their 21st Conference, under political cooperation, in Rome on 30 October. The meeting was chaired by Mr Mariano Rumor, Italy's Foreign Minister. The Commission was represented by Vice-President, Sir Christopher Soames.

The main items on the agenda were the sequels to the Final Act of the CSCE, the conflict in Cyprus and the situation in the Middle East, especially in the Lebanon. Relations with Spain and Portugal and the situation in Angola were also discussed. Lastly, the Ministers dealt with certain questions arising from the work of the United Nations.

At the end of the meeting, the following statements were issued:

CSCE: As part of the concertation of their activities on the implications of implementing the Final Act of the CSCE, the Ministers got down to a debate on how the situation might develop in this respect.

Against this background, they reaffirmed the importance which they set on the most complete application possible by all the States involved.

As far as they are concerned, the Nine decided to comply with the principles reaffirmed and the action agreed by the CSCE, with due regard to the objectives they have been pursuing from the outset of the negotiations.

On this point, they agreed to pay special attention to the provisions of the Final Act relating to cooperation in the humanitarian fields.

Cyprus: Concerning the issue of Cyprus, the Chair made a summary statement on the diplomatic moves, which at the request of the Nine,

it has continued to make lately in the three capitals.

The factors making up the background of the Cyprus situation were carefully assessed by the nine Ministers also with the impending debate in the UN Assembly in mind. The Ministers agreed that they should continue their diplomatic action.

Meanwhile it was thought to be advisable for the Nine to pursue, in New York as well, the concerted action they have taken hitherto, both bilaterally and through representation from the Chair. It was regarded as vital that the above-mentioned discussion unfold in a calm and levelheaded atmosphere, if a positive contribution is to be made to discerning a fair and lasting solution for the various complex features of the Cyprus problem.

The Nine also considered the possibility of granting further aid to the refugees, while coordinating the aid of the Commission and that of the member countries.

Middle East: The Ministers took a hard look at the situation in the *Lebanon* where the crisis is a matter of grave concern. The dramatic developments in the Lebanon, which has countless historical and material links with Europe, impressed on the Ministers the need to investigate thoroughly every possibility of restoring peace.

The Ministers also considered the prospects for the forthcoming debate in the UN General Assembly on the Palestinian question. They intend to make a positive contribution there.

Angola: The Ministers discussed the situation in Angola, which is due to become independent on 11 November. They expressed regret and concern over the fact that with only a few days to go to the date set for independence, the country is still torn by conflict between the political forces formerly constituting the transitional coalition government.

The Ministers agreed to maintain close liaison with each other as regards further developments.

United Nations: The Ministers appraised the proceedings of the 30th session of the UN General Assembly which are halfway through.

They found that the thorough discussions, in preparation for the session under European political cooperation enabled the delegations of the nine EEC countries to carry out within the United Nations, the role falling to the Community by working in the direction indicated by the statement of the European Council of 17 July.¹

Of the questions which will come up during the second half of the session, the Ministers, with a view to the next vote in full assembly, examined the problem posed by the approval of a resolution against Zionism by the Third Committee (Social), in the context of the item on the Assembly's agenda concerning the decade of action against racism and racial discrimination. Here they categorically restated that they opposed any attempt to identify Zionism with racism, and agreed on the further action they would take.

Euro-Arab dialogue

2502. The Nine continued the technical work by meetings, at European level, of the seven Working Parties set up by the Euro-Arab meeting in Rome in July. The Commission representatives are taking an active part in the work of those groups and chairing two of them (trade and agriculture). Thus the European delegation is making ready for the third Euro-Arab meeting, already planned at the end of the second meeting in July and now confirmed on the Arab side. The Arab League will call the third meeting for the week of 22 to 27 November in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates).

The Arab League also asked for a date to be set for the meeting of the General Commission, the political organ of the Euro-Arab dialogue, which had not met hitherto. The Nine are getting together on this question.

Communication to Parliament

2503. During the sitting of 15 October in the European Parliament, and in accordance with the provisions of the reports on political cooperation,² Mr Mariano Rumor, Chairman-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers Conference on Political cooperation, presented the annual statement on the progress made in political cooperation.³

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 1204.

² Bull. EC 11-1970, Part 1, Chap. 1; Bull. EC 9-1973, Part I, Chap. 2.

³ The full text is reproduced in Part 3 of this number.



3RD PART

DOCUMENTATION

Annual report on political cooperation

Political cooperation

On 15 October in the European Parliament, Mr Mariano Rumor, Chairman of the Foreign Ministers' Conference, gave the following report on political cooperation:

'Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, I am glad the six-month Italian term of office of the Presidency has again given me the opportunity to speak to the European Parliament, this time in the guise of President of the Foreign Ministers' Conference on Political Cooperation of the nine Member States. I feel that these regular contacts between those who bear government responsibility and the Members of the European Parliament are essential for the very purpose of the construction of Europe, which is the common objective—granted the distinction between their respective roles—of the joint efforts of the governments and of the European political forces represented in Parliament.

Since the last report on 16 October 1974 by the then President-in-Office, Mr Sauvagnargues, I feel that political cooperation has progressed favourably and encourages us to continue intensifying our commitment. Not only has activity increased in this period of time, but the very forms of political cooperation have evolved and become stronger. This is due to the will to promote such cooperation in spite of a difficult economic situation—in fact, largely for the very purpose of facing up to and helping to overcome the latter.

Apart from the normal ministerial meetings—four in all—this period has seen a summit meeting of Heads of Government and their Foreign Ministers on 9 and 10 December 1974 in Paris, and two European Councils—the first in Dublin in March, under the Irish President-in-Office, and the second in Brussels on 16 and 17 July, under the Italian President-in-Office.

The Paris summit produced an important new move to promote the continuity and consistency of the activities of the Nine at the highest level—the setting up of 'European Councils',

which was decided upon at that meeting. The regular meetings of Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers, which will normally be held three times a year and will replace the former summit meetings, seem to us to be a positive step, particularly since this has established an element of relationship and a link between the activities for which the Community is responsible and those of political cooperation. Thus in the European Council, the responsible persons in the Member States now have a suitable forum in which to make a joint study of the economic and political problems which may arise at a given moment and lay down the broad outlines of a possible common stance by Member Countries on the subject.

The effectiveness of this procedure was shown last March, when the European Council managed to find a satisfactory solution to the 'British renegotiation', and again in July, four months later, when—apart from the major exchange of ideas on Community problems, with particular reference to energy and raw materials—it produced important decisions in the field of political cooperation. For instance: the review of relations between the Nine and Portugal, with a view to the Community's providing economic aid for that country; the joint declaration on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe; and another joint declaration on the United Nations Organization.

From the institutional point of view, this July 'European Council' reviewed and improved some major institutional decisions on Community activities taken by the Paris summit. Although these decisions do not, strictly speaking, belong in this report, I think it is as well to draw attention to them because of their political significance.

As you know, the first decision related to universal and direct elections to this Parliament, and included a request to the Council of the Communities to draw up a report on the subject to be submitted to the 'European Council' at the end

of this year. This decision reflects the explicit and consistent intention to strengthen the role of Parliament within the general framework of the construction of Europe.

The second decision taken at the European Council on 16 and 17 July concerns a start to work on setting up a 'passport union', while the third decision is aimed at a more detailed study of the subject of granting special rights to the citizens of the Nine, as members of the Community.

Within the general framework of the institutional obligations of the Nine a special place is taken by the mission entrusted by the Paris summit meeting to the Prime Minister of Belgium, Mr Tindemans. The report which he has undertaken to draw up will consist of a general draft describing the various aspects of the process which will lead us towards the achievement of European Union.

The governments of the Nine will be informed of Mr Tindemans' progress in the Community capitals—in a task which calls for equal portions of realism and imagination—at the European Council to be held on 1 and 2 December in Rome.

One hurdle in the way of European political cooperation was taken successfully when the complicated and difficult negotiations at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe came to a conclusion with the signing of the Final Act in Helsinki.

Not only did the close cooperation between the Nine in Geneva make it possible to arrive at and uphold joint attitudes during the negotiations—within the wider framework of Western solidarity—but it also gave the other nations represented there a reference point and an impetus to hold wider and more constructive talks which were substained by a constant ability on the part of the Nine to make proposals on all the subjects discussed. This close cooperation between the Member States was given formal expression in the signature which the President-in-Office of the Council of the European Com-

munities put to the Final Act of the Conference in Helsinki, in his double function—national and European.

Our assessment of the value of this document is given in the 'Declaration' of the European Council of 17 July, to which I referred before. In this declaration, the nine Heads of State or Government affirm jointly that the text of the Final Act represents a step towards detente, the real importance of which must be judged by the extent to which each contracting State effectively implements all the principles laid down and all the measures agreed upon.

Now that we have reached the stage of implementing the Final Act, we can repeat our firm belief that political cooperation between the Nine remains an essential factor in putting relations in Europe on a positive course—a course increasingly in line with those principles of genuine detente which must reach into the private lives of the citizens of all parts of Europe. We therefore intend to implement the principles and measures agreed upon by the Conference, with particular reference to those which we consider specially important, concerning contacts, education, information and the vast field of culture. In our view, such measures will open up the way for a peaceful development which will ensure that the spiritual links between all Europeans are genuinely strengthened.

If, as we fervently hope, all the other contracting States share our intention to implement these principles and measures, this will create in our continent an atmosphere of trust which should facilitate contacts at all levels and help the peoples to know each other better. At the United Nations as well, the Nine were able to display a strengthened 'European identity'.

In the atmosphere of tension and confrontation pervading the United Nations in 1974, and which threatened to jeopardize the very role of the world organization by progressively undermining the spirit of partnership, the Nine strove to inten-

sify their talks and work out joint moves to combat this situation. It was in view of this experience that they also decided to devote to the current problems of the United Nations a special study within the field of political cooperation. This important step led to the declaration of 17 July, to which I referred before.

In this declaration, the Nine solemnly reaffirmed their own confidence in the role of the United Nations Organization and their resolve to strengthen its operations and its effectiveness as an instrument of world dialogue and cooperation. At a practical level, the move enabled the Nine to exercise a moderating and constructive influence.

This understanding was immediately put into practice during the seventh special session of the General Assembly devoted to the problems of development and economic cooperation, in the course of which the Nine were able to work out a common attitude aimed at giving an impetus to the talks and at finding the solutions most likely to gain the assent of all parties.

At the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly, this joint stance by the Nine was expressed, with the approval of all, in my speech at the start of the actual session, in my capacity as President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities.

Furthermore, at the thirtieth ordinary session of the United Nations I was able to express for the first time—again in my speech—the views of the Nine on political matters.

Outside the top-level forums on international cooperation, the political agreement between the Nine has borne fruit in other contexts as well, i.e. in regions geographically near to us.

One important development in this field was the start of the European-Arab dialogue, which came about in the course of this year as a result of the Arab acceptance of the indications emerging from

the ministerial meeting in Dublin last February. At the first meeting on 10 to 14 June in Cairo and the subsequent meeting on 22 to 24 July in Rome, there was an initial thorough study of the opportunities for cooperation between the two sides of the Mediterranean. The importance of this work can be seen from the number of sectors selected for study: these included industrialization, basic infrastructures, agricultural and rural development, monetary cooperation, trade, scientific and technological cooperation, and cultural, social and labour questions. The progress already made in defining the areas of cooperation and the methods of operation is such that the two sides are planning a third meeting of experts to be held in an Arab city this November.

In the view of the Nine, the common political resolve which has brought together Europe and the Arab world to ensure the well-being and progress of their respective peoples should lead to the establishment of a network of relations of interdependence which will make it increasingly easier to implement a policy of development and cooperation in the Middle East.

It was, in fact, the justified concern about the tensions in the Middle East which gave rise to the continuing close consultations by the Nine on Middle East problems over the past year. The aim of these consultations was to start and promote efforts at negotiation. This was also the gist of my statement to the Press after the ministerial meeting on political cooperation held on 11 and 12 September in Venice. Europe, conscious of the limits of its own action, but also of its opportunities, has made a joint undertaking to find and emphasize, in talks with all parties in the crisis, the factors and elements likely to lead the negotiations towards a just and lasting settlement.

Another significant feature in this context is that, after the recent meeting in Venice, the Nine expressed their belief that the new partial agreement between Israel and Egypt signed on 4 September in Geneva—and which came about thanks to the joint and constructive efforts of

Egypt, Israel and the United States—represents an encouraging step towards the establishment of a more relaxed climate. This is why, in the view of the Nine, the agreement could be a major contribution towards the achievement of further progress in the present moves to find a peaceful settlement to be reached through negotiations in suitable forums—among them the Geneva Conference—starting with the efforts to make further progress between Israel and Syria as soon as possible.

The Nine's joint consultations on this subject have always taken account of the basic principles laid down in the United Nations Security Council's resolutions Nos 242 and 338, and hence of the Nine's joint resolution on the Middle East of 6 November 1973.

Still in the Middle East, but with reference to a different problem, I should like to mention the statement by the Nine of 23 September last on the situation in Lebanon. This document expressed Europe's concern at the unfortunate events in that country and the hope that order would soon be restored there. The integrity and independence of Lebanon are essential for the equilibrium of the Middle East and hence for a peaceful solution to its problems.

Another problem which has been the subject of constant and close attention and of moves by the Nine is that of Cyprus, of the full seriousness of which we are well aware, since not only does it involve Associate Members of the Community, but it also affects the balance in the Mediterranean—an area in which the Community has a great interest in ensuring the peaceful development of the peoples of the surrounding countries—as well as international equilibrium and peace.

As regards Cyprus, in Dublin last February the Nine showed their keen interest in a peaceful solution to the problem, their readiness to talk with the parties involved in order to help them to find a solution, and their firm belief that the

problem could be solved only through talks between the two communities—Greek and Turkish—on the island. They have thus consistently supported the activities of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with suitable joint approaches in the capitals of the countries involved. More recently, on the occasion of the final stage of the CSCE in Helsinki, the Community countries renewed their activity and instructed the Italian President-in-Office to take steps to try to induce the parties involved to give up unyielding attitudes and to realize that only simultaneous progress on all the questions at issue could solve the current deadlock.

On the basis of these instructions, which were reaffirmed by the ministerial meeting in Venice on 11 and 12 September and, immediately afterwards, in talks during the General Assembly of the United Nations, the President of the Council has made repeated approaches to the various parties involved, maintaining a link based on the existence of ties and association between the governments of Ankara, Athens and Nicosia and those of the nine countries of the European Community. In this spirit and on the basis of these attitudes, there were also several exchanges of views with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr Waldheim.

It is on these lines, and within the framework of practical support for the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, that the Nine will continue working to promote constructive talks between the various parties involved, including talks on a satisfactory solution to the problem of the refugees in Cyprus.

The Community's attitude towards Portugal is based on the hope and fervent wish of the Nine that economic progress in that country will finally revive in a political context of democratic stability. For this reason, the European Council of 17 July declared its readiness to grant the request for aid from the Portuguese government, but it has since reaffirmed the Community's fundamental political attitude—while adhering to the

principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries—based on the criterion that support is given only to countries governed by a system of pluralistic democracy.

In view of this and in the light of developments in the Portuguese situation, the Community, at the ministerial meeting of 6 and 7 October in Luxembourg, informed Foreign Minister Melo Antunes that it was making available to the Lisbon government a total of 180 million u.a., comprising loans and interest subsidies.

The question of Spain was the subject of a long debate in this House a short time ago. I shall therefore restrict myself to stating that the fundamental attitudes which I have just mentioned are also the basis of the relations with Spain, and hence of the statements by the nine foreign ministers who met in Luxembourg on 6 and 7 October: that the Nine hoped that Spain could soon occupy a place within the European forum which was politically commensurate with the aspirations underlying the Community links, bearing in mind the many ties binding the Spanish people and the peoples of the Community countries.

The political cooperation between the Nine has also tackled the problems of the African continent. I refer particularly to developments in the process of decolonizing the Portuguese territories and to the wider effects these have had in southern Africa.

Subsequent to the joint statement approved in August of last year on the independence of Guinea Bissau, the common view of the Nine on decolonization was reflected in the joint statements on the independence of Mozambique, the Cape Verde Islands and Sao Tome and Principe. In these statements we expressed our common resolve to strengthen cooperation with the new African States.

There was also a study of possible moves to speed up independence for Namibia in a way which ensured the self-determination and territorial integrity of that country.

In this same context, I should like to draw attention to the approaches made in other African countries to try to solve humanitarian problems and protect human rights. Like the other moves, these are aimed at strengthening relations between Africa and Europe by putting them on a basis of mutual understanding and by upholding the highest principles of non-discrimination and equality.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, two general considerations emerge from this statement of activities which I should like to highlight. The first is that the growing European political identity has proved, as was called for by Parliament on 10 July last in its resolution on 'European Union', to be a factor which will help in developing cooperation and security between States and contribute towards maintaining peace and freedom, counteracting any source of conflict and tension. This has been shown with respect to the other countries of Europe. In particular, the widening of political information to include Greece, the continuation of this information to Turkey and the moves on the Cyprus question show that the European Community represents a factor of agreement and rapprochement between Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, with a view to increasing stability and prosperity in this region.

It has been shown with respect to the great transatlantic nations of the West, the United States and Canada, with whom links of sincere friendship and—for those concerned—of loyal alliance have been cultivated, with the result that the West as a whole is better able to negotiate and work together with the other leading figures in current international affairs.

It has been shown with respect to the countries of Eastern Europe. The political agreement between the Nine during the Conference on Security and Cooperation demonstrated that, for the Nine, it is essential for an effective rapprochement between East and West which will give inter-European relations an impetus involving not only the governments but also all the citizens of Europe.

It has been shown, finally, with respect to the developing countries. New opportunities and procedures have emerged for dialogue and cooperation with these countries which will bring even greater rewards in future and which, even now, have helped to avoid risks of tension and to convey the image of a Europe which is not inward-looking but open to fruitful relations with the rest of the world.

The second consideration which I should like to stress is that our activity, such as it has been over the last year, must be—and in fact is—a starting point! We intend to continue our work and, with an eye on 'Union', to ensure that we gradually achieve a single, effective political will. We feel that this is essential if Europe is once again to play its proper historical role in the world, so that it can contribute, in its own specific way, to the progress of all peoples in a spirit of harmony and peace.'

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**Anvendte forkortelser
Abkürzungen
Conventional Symbols**

IRL

Irsk
In irischer Sprache
In Irish
Langue irlandaise
Lingua irlandese
Iers

DK

Dansk
In dänischer Sprache
In Danish
Langue danoise
Lingua danese
Deens

D

Tysk
In deutscher Sprache
In German
Langue allemande
Lingua tedesca
Duits

E

Engelsk
In englischer Sprache
In English
Langue anglaise
Lingua inglese
Engels

F

Fransk
In französischer Sprache
In French
Langue française
Lingua francese
Frans

I

Italiensk
In italienischer Sprache
In Italian
Langue italienne
Lingua italiana
Italiaans

NL

Nederlandsk
In niederländischer Sprache
In Dutch
Langue néerlandaise
Lingua olandese
Nederlands

S

Spansk
In spanischer Sprache
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Spaans

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6862 (1)

*Enogtyvende fællesmøde mellem medlemmer af Europa-
rådets parlamentariske forsamling og medlemmer af
Europa-Parlamentet. Fuldstændigt mødereferat. (Stras-
bourg, den 21. januar 1975).*
1975. 110 s. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Gratis

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*Einundzwanzigste Gemeinsame Tagung der Mitglieder der
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6862 (4)

*Vingt et unième réunion jointe des membres de l'Assemblée
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(Strasbourg, le 21 janvier 1975).
1975. 115 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Gratuit

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*Ventunesima seduta comune dei membri dell'Assemblea
parlamentare del Consiglio d'Europa e dei membri del
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1975. 112 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Gratuito

6862 (6)

*Eenentwintigste Gezamenlijke bijeenkomst van de leden van
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PE-i-1042 (4)

*Célébration à Strasbourg du 25ème anniversaire de la
déclaration de Robert Schuman. PE-Informations-Numéro
spécial.*
1975. 24 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Gratuit

JO/spec./2 (1)

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1975. 82 s. (DK.E) FB 75,-

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6816 (4)
*L'intégration européenne et l'avenir des parlements en
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 1974. Octobre 1975.
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6783/3 (1)

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6683 (6)

*Basisstatistieken van de Gemeenschap. Vergelijking met
enige Europese landen, Canada, de Verenigde Staten van
Amerika, Japan en de Unie der Socialistische Sovjet-
republieken.* 1973-1974. Dertiende uitgave.

(1975). 224 blz. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)

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Mensuelle du Commerce extérieur

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paesi 1973/1974.* Supplemento alla Statistica Mensile del
Commercio con l'estero

De EG-handel volgens goederenklassen en volgens voornaamste landen 1973/1974. Bijlage bij de Maandstatistiek van de Buitenlandse handel. N° 9/1975.
1975. 57 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL) Gratuit

8271 (2)

Erläuterungen zum Zolltarif der Europäischen Gemeinschaften. 6. Berichtigung (Stand 1. Oktober 1975).
1975. Austauschblätter (D.F.I.NL) FB 180,-

8313

Fortegnelse over kompetente toldsteder i forbindelse med fællesskabsforsendelser. Rettelse nr. 4
Verzeichnis der für gemeinschaftliche Versandverfahren zuständigen Zollstellen. 4. Ergänzung
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Liste des bureaux de douane compétents pour les opérations de transit communautaire. 4ème mise à jour
Elenco degli uffici doganali competenti per le operazioni di transito comunitario. 4° aggiornamento
Lijst van de douanekantoren welke bevoegd zijn voor het communautair douanevervoer. 4e bijwerking.
1.4.1975.
1975. pag. diff. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL) FB 85,-

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Griechenland und die Europäische Gemeinschaft.
Information. 1975. Nr. 105. Außenbeziehungen.
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Ter informatie. 1975. Nr. 105. Buitenlandse betrekkingen.
1975. 8 blz. (D.E.F.I.NL) Gratis

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Konkurrence og det Interne marked Wettbewerb und Binnenmarkt Competition and Internal Market Concurrence et marché intérieur Concorrenza e mercato interno Concurrentie en binnenlandse markt

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4001/S/75/4 (1)

Statut for Europæiske Aktieselskaber. Aendret forslag til forordning. (Forslag til Rådets forordning om statut for Europæiske Aktieselskaber. Aendret forslag forelagt Rådet af Kommissionen den 13. maj 1975 i henhold til artikel 149, stk. 2, i EØF-traktaten).
EF-Bull, Supplement 4/75.
1975. 206 s. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 225,-

4001/S/75/4 (3)

Statute for European Companies. Amended Proposal for a Regulation. (Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Statute for European Companies. Amended Proposal Presented by the Commission to the Council on 13 May 1975, Pursuant to the Second Paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty).
Bull. EC, Supplement 4/75.
1975. 223 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 225,-

4001/S/75/4 (5)

Statuto delle società per azioni europee. Proposta modificata di regolamento. (Proposta di regolamento del Consiglio relativo allo Statuto delle società per azioni europee. Proposta modificata presentata dalla Commissione al Consiglio il 13 maggio 1975, in virtù dell'articolo 149, secondo comma, del trattato CEE).
Boll. CE, Supplemento 4/75.
1975. 210 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 225,-

8693 (3)

A Study of the Evolution of Concentration in the Irish Food Industry 1968-1973. June 1975.
1975. 107 p. (E) FB 180,-

Grafieken met aantekeningen over de conjunctuur in de Gemeenschap.
(D/NL.) (monatlich/maandelijks)

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* *Rapport sur les résultats des enquêtes de conjoncture auprès des chefs d'entreprise de la Communauté (3 numéros par an)*

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BEI/Et/4/DK (1)
Den europæiske Investeringsbanks virksomhed i Tyrkiet (1965-1974).
(1975). 49 s. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL.Turc) Gratis

BEI/Et/4/D (2)
Die Tätigkeit der Europäischen Investitionsbank in der Türkei (1965-1974).
(1975). 50 S. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL.Turc) Gratis

BEI/Et/4/E (3)
Activities of the European Investment Bank in Turkey (1965-1974).
(1975). 50 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL.Turc) Gratis

BEI/Et/4/F (4)
L'activité de la Banque Européenne d'Investissement en Turquie (1965-1974).
(1975). 50 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL.Turc) Gratuit

BEI/Et/4/I (5)
L'attività della Banca Europea per gli Investimenti in Turchia (1965-1974).
(1975). 50 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL.Turc) Gratuito

BEI/Et/4/NL (6)
De werkzaamheden van de Europese Investeringsbank in Turkije (1965-1974).
(1975). 50 blz. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL.Turc) Gratis

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* *Mededelingen*

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8616 (1)
Arbejdskraftens frie bevægelighed inden for Fællesskabet.
Officielle tekster.
1975. 26 s. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 100,-

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Die Freizügigkeit der Arbeitnehmer innerhalb der Gemeinschaft.
Offizielle Fassungen.
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8616 (3)
Freedom of Movement for Workers within the Community.
Official Texts.
1975. 26 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 100,-

8616 (4)
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Textes officiels.
1975. 28 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 100,-

8616 (5)
La libera circolazione dei lavoratori all'interno della Comunità. Testi ufficiali.
1975. 28 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 100,-

8616 (6)
Het vrije verkeer van werknemers binnen de Gemeenschap. Officiële teksten.
1975. 28 blz. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 100,-

V/722/75 (2)
Schul- und Berufsausbildung der Kinder italienischer Arbeitnehmer im Saarland. Bearbeitet von: Dr. Rudi Peter, Heinz-Günther Laux. Dezember 1974.
(1975). 147 S. + Anhang (D.E.F) Gratis

V/722/75 (3)
School and Professional Education of the Children of Italian Workers in the Saar. Authors: Dr. Rudi Peter, Heinz-Günther Laux. December 1974.
(1975). 147 p. + Appendix (D.E.F) Gratis

V/722/75 (4)
Formation scolaire et professionnelle des enfants de travailleurs italiens en Sarre. Traité par: Rudi Peter, Heinz-Günther Laux. Décembre 1974.
(1975). 146 p. + annexes (D.E.F) Gratuit

V/723/75 (2)
Schul- und Berufsausbildung der Kinder italienischer und portugiesischer Arbeitnehmer im Departement Moselle. Dezember 1974.
(1975). 150 S. (D.E.F) Gratis

V/723/75 (3)
Schooling and Professional Training of Children of Italian and Portuguese Workers in the Moselle Region. December 1974.
(1975). 151 p. (D.E.F) Gratis

V/723/75 (4)
Scolarisation et formation professionnelle des enfants de travailleurs italiens et portugais en Moselle. Décembre 1974.
(1975). 150 p. (D.E.F) Gratuit

* *Erhvervsuddannelse - Informationsbulletin*
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6728 (8)
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unternehmen
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takings
Fontes et aciers. Prix de base et entreprises sidérurgiques
Ghise ed acciai. Prezzi base e imprese siderurgiche
Ruwijzer en staalprodukten. Basisprijzen en ijzer- en staal-
ondernemingen.
18^e Année. N° 8 (Additif n° 7). 1.10.1975.
1975. pag. diff. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 1 600,-

8696 (3)

A Study of the Evolution of Concentration in the Irish Food Industry 1968-1973. June 1975.

1975. 107 p. (E)

FB 180,-

* *Jern og stål.* To-månedlig statistik

Eisen und Stahl. Zweimonatliche Veröffentlichung

Iron and Steel. Bimonthly

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Siderurgia. Pubblicazione bimestrale

IJzer en staal. Tweemaandelijkse uitgave

(to-månedlig · zweimonatlich · bimonthly · bimestriel · bimestrale · tweemaandelijks) (DK,D.E.F.I.NL)

Abonnement annuel

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Industriestatistik. Vierteljährliche Ausgabe

Industrial Statistics. Quarterly

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* *Energistatistik.* Kvartalsbulletin

Energiestatistik. Vierteljährliches Bulletin

Energy Statistics. Quarterly Bulletin

Statistiques de l'énergie. Bulletin trimestriel

Statistiche dell'energia. Bollettino trimestrale

Energistatistik. Driemaandelijks bulletin

(kvartalsvis · vierteljährlich · quarterly · trimestriel · trimestrale · driemaandelijks) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

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* INF/109/75 (3)

Working Conditions in Waterway Transport.

Information. 1975. No 109. Transport Policy.

1975. 6 p. (D.E.F.I.NL)

Gratis

* INF/109/75 (4)

Conditions sociales dans la navigation intérieure.

Information. 1975. N° 109. Politique des transports.

1975. 6 p. (D.E.F.I.NL)

Gratuit

6803

Annual statistics transport and communications, tourism

Statistique annuelle transports et communications, tourisme. 1972-1973.

1975. 117 p. (E/F)

FB 100,-

Landbrugspolitik

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X/231/75 (5)

Come la politica agricola comune difende agricoltori e consumatori in un periodo d'instabilità economica. Notizie sulla politica agricola comune. N. 5. Giugno 1975.

1975. 26 p. (D.E.F.I.NL)

Gratuito

* *Landbrugsmarkeder.* Seriepriser: *Vegetabilske produkter*
Agrarmärkte. Serie Preise: *Pflanzliche Produkte*
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DOC.EUR/75/3 (2)
Eine neue Regionalpolitik für Europa.
Europäische Dokumentation. Nr. 75/3.
1975. 15 S. (D.E.F.I.NL) FB 20,-

DOC.EUR/75/3 (3)
A new regional policy for Europe.
European documentation. No 75/3.
1975. 14 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) FB 20,-

DOC.EUR/75/3 (4)
Une nouvelle politique régionale pour l'Europe.
Documentation européenne. N° 75/3.
1975. 15 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) FB 20,-

DOC.EUR/75/3 (5)
Una nuova politica regionale per l'Europa.
Documentazione europea. N. 75/3.
1975. 15 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) FB 20,-

DOC.EUR/75/3 (6)
Een nieuw regionaal beleid voor Europa.
Europese documentatie. Nr. 75/3.
1975. 15 blz. (D.E.F.I.NL) FB 20,-

* INF/101/75 (2)
Der Europäische Fonds für regionale Entwicklung.
Information. 1975. Nr. 101. Regionalpolitik.
1975. 5 S. (D.E.F.I.NL) Gratis

* INF/101/75 (3)
The European Regional Development Fund.
Information. 1975. No 101. Regional policy.
1975. 5 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) Gratis

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Il Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale.
Informazioni. 1975. N. 101. Politica regionale.
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* INF/101/75 (6)
Het Europees Fonds voor regionale ontwikkeling.
Ter informatie. 1975. Nr. 101. Regionale politiek.
1975. 5 blz. (D.E.F.I.NL) Gratis

Udvikling og samarbejde
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7137 (4)
Fonds Européen de développement. 1960-1975. Niger.
1975. 43 p. (E.F) Gratuit

* INF/99/75 (4)
Convention ACP-CEE de Lomé.
Information. 1975. N° 99. Développement et coopération.
1975. 23 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) Gratuit

* *Situation semestrielle des projets du 2^e FED* (Fonds européen de développement) *en exécution* (semestriel) (F) Gratuit

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Assoziation zwischen der Europäischen Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft und der Türkei
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Association between the European Economic Community and Turkey
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10. Annual Report of the Association Council to the Parliamentary Committee of the Association. 1.1.1974-31.12.1974. (1975). 97 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL.Turc) Restricted distribution

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10^e Rapport annuel d'activité du Conseil d'association à la Commission parlementaire d'association. 1.1.1974-31.12.1974. (1975). 97 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL.Turc) Diffusion restreinte

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10. Relazione annuale di attività del Consiglio di Associazione alla Commissione parlamentare di Associazione. 1.1.1974-31.12.1974. (1975). 97 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL.Turc) Distribuzione limitata

Associatie tussen de Europese Economische Gemeenschap en Turkije

Jaarverslagen

10. Jaarverslag over de werkzaamheden van de Associatierraad aan de parlementaire Commissie van de Associatie. 1.1.1974-31.12.1974.

(1975). 97 blz. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL.Turc)

Beperkte verspreiding

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* INF/103/75 (3)

Activities of the Community Bureau of References (CBR). Brief Summary of Achievements to Date. Information. 1975. No 103. Research. 1975. 4 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) Gratis

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Activités du Bureau Communautaire de Référence (BCR). Bref aperçu de l'état actuel des réalisations. Information. 1975. N° 103. Recherche. 1975. 5 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) Gratuit

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Attività dell'Ufficio di Riferimento della Comunità (URC). Breve rassegna delle realizzazioni compiute sino ad ora. Informazioni. 1975. N. 103. Ricerca. 1975. 5 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) Gratuito

- * INF/102/75 (4)
Europe plus 30.
Information. 1975. N° 102. Recherche.
 1975. 4 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) Gratuit
- * INF/102/75 (6)
Europa plus 30.
Ter informatie. 1975. Nr. 102. Onderzoek en wetenschappen.
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- EUR 5307 (3)
Pulsed Fusion Reactors. Erice-Trapani (Sicily), September
 9th-20th, 1974.
 (1975). 758 p. (E) £ 16.70
- 6598 (4)
La recherche industrielle alimentaire dans les pays de la
Communauté européenne. 1^{re} partie.
Annuaire des centres de recherche. Recherche et développe-
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 (1975). 436 p. (F) FB 300,-
- 6598 (4)
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- 6851
Neueste Erkenntnisse in der Beurteilung der gesundheit-
lichen Folgen der Umweltverschmutzung. Tagungsbericht -
 Internationales Symposium
Recent advances in the assessment of the health effects of
environmental pollution. Proceedings - International
 Symposium
Progrès récents dans l'évaluation des effets de la pollution
de l'environnement sur la santé. Actes - Symposium interna-
 tional
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mento dell'ambiente sulla salute. Atti - Simposio inter-
 nazionale
Recente vorderingen bij de vaststelling van de gevolgen van
milieuvontreiniging voor de gezondheid. Verslag - Inter-
 nationaal symposium.
 Paris, June 24-28, 1974. Organized jointly by Commission of
 the European Communities, United States Environmental
 Protection Agency and World Health Organization. Vol. 1.
 (1975). 473 + index (Mult.)
 Les 4 Vol. FB 2000,-
- 6665
Die Kontamination des Menschen und seines Lebensbereichs
durch beständige Pestizide und Organohalogenverbindungen
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environment by persistent pesticides and organo-halogenated
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milieu par les pesticides et les composés organohalogénés
persistants
Problemi posti dalla contaminazione dell'uomo e del suo
ambiente ad opera dei pesticidi e dei composti organo-
alogenati persistenti
Vraagstukken in verband met de besmetting van de mens en
zijn leefmilieu door persistente pesticiden en organische
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 European Colloquium, Luxembourg, 14-16 May 1974.
 EUR 5196.
 (1975). 647 p. (D/E/F/I/NL) FB 1200,-
- 6791 (3)
Second specialist meeting on sodium/fuel interaction in fast
reactors. Ispra, 21-23 November 1973. EUR 5309.
 (1975). 602 p. (E) FB 1500,-
- 6842 (3)
Organization and operation of radioactivity surveillance
and control in the vicinity of nuclear plants. A practical
guide. Radiological protection - 2. EUR 5176.
 1975. 35 p. (E) FB 50,-
- 6872 (3)
Proceedings - 2nd Ispra Nuclear Electronics Symposium.
 Stresa, Italy May 20-23, 1975. EUR 5370.
 1975. 459 p. (E)
 EUR 5370 + EUR 5371 FB 1500,-
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2nd Ispra Nuclear Electronics Symposium. Round Table
Discussions. Stresa, Italy May, 20-23, 1975. EUR 5371.
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- 6874 (3)
Suggestions for the interpretation of temperature noise
measurements in a heated linear bundle in a water loop.
 By D. Schwalm, some Parts in Collaboration with E.
 Ohlmer. EUR 5340.
 1975. 31 p. (E) FB 110,-
- 6733 (4)
Géochimie du mercure et pollution de l'environnement.
 Par L. van Wambeke.
Environnement et qualité de la vie. EUR 5241.
 1975. 35 p. (E) FB 210,-
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Les rejets métalliques d'origine industrielle en milieu marin.
Contribution à l'étude d'une technologie préventive en vue
d'enrayer le processus de détérioration du milieu marin en
limitant et contrôlant les rejets actuels et futurs.
Environnement et qualité de la vie. EUR 5331.
 1975. 230 p. (F) FB 600,-

- 6836 (3)
World resources of mercury. By J. W. Brink, L. van Wambeke.
Environment and quality of life. 1974. EUR 5306.
 (1975). 14 p. (E) FB 80.-
- 6838 (3)
An air quality management system for an industrialized region. By K. H. Müller.
Environment and quality of life. EUR 5290.
 1975. 21 p. (E) FB 100.-
- 6847 (3)
A method to solve the integral transport equation employing a spatial legendre expansion. By J. Hartman.
Nuclear science and technology. EUR 5339.
 1975. 33 p. (E) FB 125.-
- 6875 (3)
Simulation of transport equations with Monte Carlo. By W. Matthes.
Nuclear science and technology. EUR 5347.
 1975. 38 p. (E) FB 125.-
- 6876 (3)
Catalogue and classification of technical safety rules for light-water reactors and reprocessing plants. By M. Blosser, N. Fichtner, R. Neider.
Nuclear science and technology. EUR 5362.
 1975. pag. diff. (E) FB 800.-
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