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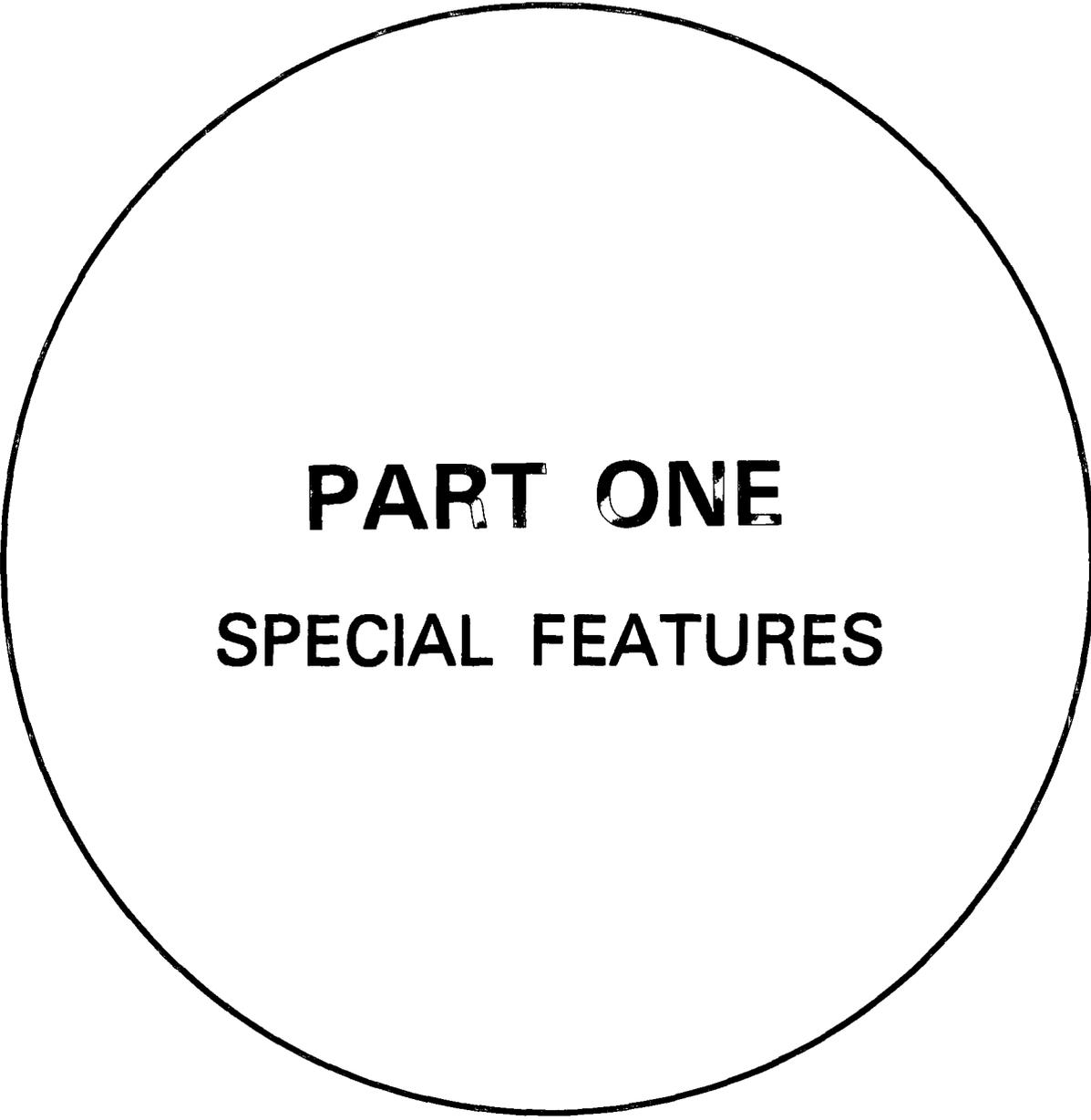
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PART ONE

SPECIAL FEATURES

1. The Community and dumping: achievements and prospects

1.1.1. The difficulties encountered in the crisis that has been afflicting certain industries for some time now are widely blamed on imports—particularly when goods are imported at low prices or in otherwise abnormal circumstances—even though in certain cases there are other reasons. In 1976 and at the beginning of this year, the Community took a number of measures to deal with the situation. In order to equip the Community with appropriate legal instruments in the ECSC field—where some sectors are particularly affected by imports from certain non-member countries—on 15 April¹ the Commission also adopted a recommendation on dumping and the granting of subsidies by countries not members of the ECSC.

Trade protection and anti-dumping policy

1.1.2. The Community has three weapons with which to defend itself against imports of this kind:

tariff policy;

quantitative restrictions;

anti-dumping or countervailing duties.

However, different rules and criteria govern the use of these three weapons. First of all the consolidation of the Common Customs Tariff, and the fact that any tariff changes will affect all imports, mean that *tariff policy* is not always suitable for the purpose. Secondly, the adoption of *quantitative restrictions* to deal with difficulties facing individual industries is awkward in view of the obligations imposed by Article XIX of GATT, and there is always the risk of retaliation and escalation.

Ultimately anti-dumping policy, which (unlike the other two weapons) can by definition be used only against imports at dumping prices or subsidized prices, is the best form of protection in international trade, even if it is in many ways tricky to handle. Moreover, there is little danger of misuse since there is a firmly established body

of international law which deals with the subject in very precise terms.

Dumping in international law

1.1.3. In industry the word 'dumping' is often loosely used to refer to any low-price imports. Yet the concept is a very specific and limited one, derived from a number of sources, and chiefly Article VI of GATT and the 'Anti-Dumping Code' drawn up to implement it.

Under these provisions of international law, no anti-dumping measure may be taken unless three conditions are satisfied:

(i) Dumping must actually take place, which is to say that products must be imported at prices below those in the exporter's domestic market ('dumping margin'). Thus a distinction is drawn between dumping as such and imports at low prices which result either from higher productivity or from the lower wages and social security contributions paid in the exporting country (a phenomenon known by the misnomer of 'social dumping').

(ii) There must be material injury to the relevant industry; this is assessed on the basis of all the factors having a bearing on the state of the industry in question, such as prices and price differentials, volume of imports and market shares.

(iii) There must be a causal link: the dumping must be the principal cause of the material injury.

Community rules concerning dumping

1.1.4. In 1968 the Council adopted a series of important regulations giving effect to a common commercial policy.

One of the main ones was the Council Regulation of 5 April 1968 on protection against dumping or the granting of bounties or subsidies.²

¹ OJ L 114 of 5.5.1977.

² OJ L 93 of 17.4.1968.

2. Mediterranean policy: the agricultural problems

Community and dumping

This faithfully transposes the GATT Anti-Dumping Code into Community law, and so the definitions given above apply in the Community. From the institutional point of view, it should be observed that since 1970 full responsibility for anti-dumping policy has lain with the Community. The only exception is that, during the transitional period provided for in the Act of Accession, the United Kingdom and Ireland are authorized to apply their existing legislation wherever their national interests alone are at stake. But this transitional arrangement runs out on 30 June this year.

The Commission has also addressed a recommendation to the Member States¹ regarding ECSC products, for they are not covered by the 1968 regulation; the recommendation follows the EEC regulation as closely as possible.

Implementation of the Community's anti-dumping policy since 1970

1.1.5. Proceedings have been initiated in thirty or so cases between 1970 and 1977. Half of those so far completed were settled when voluntary undertakings were entered into by the exporters, and in two others anti-dumping duties were imposed. In the remaining cases either the complaints were dismissed or the proceedings were closed in view of changes in the market situation. The chief industries concerned were chemicals, textiles and the metalworking and mechanical engineering industries. At present proceedings are pending in eight cases, seven of them having been initiated this year.² In 1977 the Commission will also be faced with extra work when it takes over the responsibilities hitherto exercised by Ireland and the United Kingdom under the Act of Accession.³

¹ Point 1.1.1 and 2.2.27.

² OJ C 89 of 14.4.1977.

³ Point 1.1.4.

A communication from the Commission to the Council

1.2.1. The problems of Mediterranean agriculture and the measures proposed in this sector are the subject of a communication presented by the Commission to the Council on 4 April.

In July 1976, the Council requested the Commission to prepare as soon as possible a stocktaking of Mediterranean policy and at the same time to present any proposals deemed necessary to deal with the problems of this area.

The purpose of the communication recently forwarded to the Council is to bring to its attention without delay the main factors revealed by the analysis which it asked the Commission to make and the initial action which should be taken.

For the time being the analysis and the action required mainly concern agriculture. The Commission stresses, however, that the problems facing the Mediterranean regions are not solely agricultural, and therefore that all available instruments both national and Community should be mobilized, including the possible creation of new instruments. Moreover, the action proposed is no more than a first set of agricultural measures and others should follow, depending on cases and requirements.

The facts of the case

1.2.2. Agriculture in the Mediterranean regions is on the whole in a more difficult situation and is less dynamic than in the rest of the Community. A number of these regions, where incomes are abnormally low, are beset by problems which are not only agricultural but are related to the general level of development of their economy.

The difficulties being experienced by the markets for Mediterranean products—which form and will continue to form for some time to come a major and often a preponderant proportion of agricultu-

ral production in the regions in question—the particularly unfavourable socio-structural situation in some regions, and the generally sluggish economic development all combine to account for the backwardness of these regions compared with other EEC regions, which moreover is tending to become more pronounced.

This tendency is accentuated by the delayed introduction of the Community regional policy and the fact that the three socio-structural directives, the adoption of which, by the Council in 1972, marked the initiation of a common policy for the improvement of agricultural structures, were implemented only a few months ago by the two Member States where these regions are located.

The prices and market policy has proved inadequate to cope with these problems, and in some cases has aggravated the disparity of development between regions, the organization of the markets for certain Mediterranean products (in particular wine and fresh and processed fruit and vegetables) comprising relatively little in the way of structures. Further, the weakness of marketing and processing structures has hampered the entry of Mediterranean products into other regions of the Community.

The external contractual commercial policy of the Community has shown up certain weaknesses or loopholes in the operation of the markets for certain Mediterranean products and there is a danger that it may exacerbate existing difficulties.

Outline of a policy

1.2.3. While stressing the scope of the action that the Community should take to deal with the problems of the EEC Mediterranean regions, the communication from the Commission is for the time being intended to inform the Council of the main factors that have emerged from a study of all the problems and to outline the initial steps, restricted for the moment to the agricultural sector, that it considers necessary. In the same com-

munication the Commission recalls the measures already adopted or proposed to the Council in connection with the agricultural policy and which constitute a contribution to the solution of the problems of the Mediterranean region.

As regards agricultural structures, the Commission considers it essential that action be taken to improve production, processing and marketing structures in the regions in question, and to intervene in efforts to steer production towards more advantageous crops (in particular protein and fodder crops) especially in areas where irrigation programmes are under way or planned.

As regards markets, the Commission considers it necessary, as already stated in other contexts, to amend certain market organizations, in particular those for olive oil, wine and protein products and that an organization of the market in sheepmeat be devised.

More particularly, with respect to fresh and processed fruit and vegetables which in its view constitute one of the major problems of these regions, the Commission recommends an improvement in the organization of the market that would ensure Community preference and price stability and facilitate the disposal of fresh products for processing and rationalize the processing industry.

3. State of the environment in the Community: first Report

1.3.1. Three years after the Council adopted the first Programme of Action of the European Communities on the Environment—and shortly before it approves the Second Programme for the period 1977-81—the Commission's First Report on the State of the Environment brings out the fact that a great deal has been done in this field at both national and Community level. This is the conclusion reached in the Report, as is also emphasized by Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission, in his Foreword to it.

Foreword to the Report by Mr Roy Jenkins

1.3.2. In his Foreword to the first of the regular reports on the state of the Community environment, published as called for in the Action Programme of November 1973,¹ the President of the Commission defines the scope and limits of the Report and discusses the future of environment policy. Mr Jenkins wrote:

'In its widest sense, of course, the term 'report on the state of the Community environment' must include not only policies adopted and actions undertaken at the Community level but also at the level of the individual Member States. In practice, in this first report, the Commission has found it more practicable to concentrate on the implementation of the EEC Action Programme on the Environment itself. By describing the evolution of work under this Programme over the last two and a half years since it was adopted, we believe that it is possible both to achieve an understanding of developments in a new and important field of Community policy and, at least to some extent, to present a synoptic view of the current "state of play" in the different Member States.

This report is, therefore, selective rather than exhaustive. It does not set out to give a detailed factual and statistical presentation of environmental questions in each Member State. Even if this had been our intention, it would have been difficult to achieve. Often the factual and statis-

tical material simply does not exist; if it does exist in one State, it is often not presented in a form which can readily be compared with material originating in another Member State. In these early days of environmental policy, there are many discrepancies both in the selection of priorities at Member State level and also in the way in which these subjects are treated.

This said, it is clear that developments in the Community cannot be divorced from developments in the Member States themselves. A Community initiative may often be taken in response to initiatives proposed by one or other Member State. Here the Information Agreement of 5 March 1973, which provides for the Commission to be informed of environmental measures proposed by the Member States, has been of particular importance. Or again, it may be necessary for the Community, in the interest of avoiding distortions of trade and competition, to seek to harmonize differing national legislations in the field of environment. Here too, the Community policy can be seen as a response to, or a reflection of, national policies. Finally, there are certain environmental policies and programmes (as will be described in this report) which are now being developed virtually *ab initio* at the Community level. Where this is the case, the description of the evolution and implementation of a Community policy or the particular topic in question will itself be a description of Member States' actions in this area. Member States may of course go beyond the provisions of the Community policy and evolve their own idiosyncratic approach to certain questions. And this is, of course, perfectly right. There is room for a diversity of approach in environmental policy, as for most other Community policies. Nevertheless, the essential structure of the policy will have been defined at Community level.

It may be possible, indeed we hope it will be possible, in subsequent reports to prepare detailed accounts of the different fields, e.g. air, water,

¹ OJ C 112 of 20.12.1973.

noise, waste, planning, conservation, etc. including material on a country-by-country basis. The information base to permit this is now being developed and statistical comparability is slowly being achieved.

This first report, however, is concerned with the overall view. It begins by presenting a brief summary of the Community's Action Programme on the Environment. It goes on to discuss the detailed implementation of that programme in each of the main areas, namely (a) pollution control, (b) actions to improve the environment and (c) international actions. The report does not seek to cover all aspects of the work done over the last two and a half years. There are many studies and working groups, for example, whose efforts are only now coming to fruition and from which conclusions have still to be drawn. Most of this work is not described. Instead the report concentrates primarily on activities which have already led, or are about to lead, to concrete proposals by the Commission to the Council, in the form of draft directives, decisions or recommendations.

This being so, the emphasis of this first report, at least in terms of the number of pages devoted to the subject, has inevitably been on the problems of pollution and nuisances. This emphasis will certainly change in subsequent reports as the numerous proposals which are now in preparation dealing with the wider aspects of the environment programme are adopted by the Commission and transmitted to the Council.

It is clear that the Community has not been able to achieve all that was hoped when the Council approved the Action Programme on the Environment in November 1973. In some cases, the Commission has failed to respect deadlines, in other cases the Council itself has been tardy in adopting those proposals. There are many documents which even now lie on the table of the Council, awaiting approval. There have been many problems, sometimes practical and technical, sometimes political, on both sides of Rue Charlemagne. Yet, taking this Report as a whole,

it is the Commission's view that something has indeed been achieved over these last two and a half years of the Environment Programme. The dimensions of the new policy are emerging more clearly. What matters now is to build on the successes of the programme, to complete it where it needs to be completed and to pursue this work over the next five years with ever-increasing determination.'

Main themes of the Report

1.3.3. The First Report on the State of the Environment is in two distinct parts, one reviewing the main points of the Action Programme adopted by the Council in November 1973, the other assessing progress over the past three years.

The 1973 Action Programme

1.3.4. As the Report states the Action Programme 'represented a new step for the Community of Nine and, indeed, a new step for Europe'. The Heads of State or Government, in Paris in October 1972, had made clear their determination to give the Community a 'human face'. They had sensed the general public's interest in pollution, the environment and the quality of life. Hence their decision to call for a detailed programme of action, set out in proposals put to the Council by the Commission in April 1973;¹ the Council reached its decision seven months later.

There were three main elements in the First Programme. Firstly, action to *reduce pollution and nuisances* by fixing criteria to determine when a pollutant becomes harmful to human health and the environment; fixing quality objectives for air, noise, ground water and lakes; fixing provisional standards for pollutants demanding especially urgent attention; organizing monitoring and pollution-control networks; harmonizing certain pro-

¹ Supplement 3/73 — Bull. EC.

duct specifications; and through action to reduce pollution due to particular industries (especially paper and pulp, iron and steel, and titanium-dioxide manufacture, which is responsible for 'red mud'); waste; marine pollution; and protecting the Rhine from pollution.

The second element of the Programme dealt with *action to improve the environment*. The Council recognized that it was an essential task of the Community to improve living and working conditions. This part of the Programme went beyond anti-pollution measures and impinged on several other aspects of Community policy, agricultural, social and regional policies, for example. The proposed specific action included: protection of the natural environment; an examination of problems caused by the depletion of natural resources (certain vital minerals and water); urban development and land-use planning; and the setting-up of a European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

Part Three of the Programme was devoted to *action* by the Community or Member States within *international organizations*. This was to give an added dimension to what was achieved by the Community. The Programme was to be carried out in close collaboration with international organizations such as the World Health Organization, the OECD, IMCO, and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Implementation of the Programme (1973-76)

1.3.5. Part Four of the Report discusses in detail how the programme has been implemented in each of the three main areas, the progress with exercises in hand, and moves and decisions made up to autumn 1976.

The Commission has presented a large number of proposals in the sectors concerned and ministers for the environment have met in Council five times and taken a number of important decisions.

Some 130 laws have been drawn up in the Member States, 50 of which are already in force. At Community level, the Council has already accepted about 20 measures and some 20 more are still being discussed.

In its conclusion the Report states: 'Apart from their political and legal value, the preparatory work carried out in collaboration with the national governments, the thinking and discussions to which they lead and the implementing measures which follow them mean that these texts form a basis for a Community-wide programme of promotion and education, the importance of which is only now being realized. The fact of becoming accustomed to working together, particularly within international organizations or conventions, also plays an important role in producing a consensus of opinion in favour of paying more attention to the environment when implementing economic development programmes. A "European awareness" of the environment is developing gradually in this way'. The adoption of the Action Programme for the period 1977-81 will enable what has been undertaken in the past three years to be continued and intensified.

4. Employment situation and Social Policy

The 1976 Social Report presented to the European Parliament

1.4.1. The development of the social situation in the Communities in 1976 and the policy which the Commission intends to pursue on the employment problem were the subject of much discussion in April. On 21 April, Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission with special responsibility for employment and social affairs, presented to Parliament the 1976 Social Report (published in conjunction with the Tenth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities), commenting briefly on the contents of this document, the general and political introduction to which constitutes both an analysis of the situation and a programme.

Statement by Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission

1.4.2. Describing social developments in the Community during the past year, Mr Vredeling stated:

'... In the second half of 1975 there was a small but short-lived upswing in the economy which lasted until the beginning of 1976. It was followed by another period of recession which led to sluggishness or even stagnation in the economic revival in most Member States. Partly for this reason, unemployment generally remained at a high level. After a drop in the summer months, the number of persons unemployed stood at 5 million, but towards the end of the year the recession led to a further increase, with the result that there were 5.5 million persons unemployed in March of this year.

In the last months of 1976, the employment situation for women was particularly unfavourable, since unemployment amongst *women* was, and still is, increasing more rapidly than among men.

Among *young people* there was an improvement, albeit a slight one. This is probably partly due to the fact that a considerable amount has been done by the governments of the various Member States with a view to improving employment prospects for young people, notably by granting special premiums and subsidies to undertakings. The problem of unemployment among young people was tackled by giving them jobs in municipal services and, in certain cases, by retiring older employees earlier. As you know, the European Council also devoted particular attention to this problem at the end of March and the Commission is currently preparing a Community approach.

Various measures to combat unemployment were taken in the individual Member States. Together with Mr Ortoli, I am currently drawing up a list of these measures with a view to classifying them and subsequently studying their effect at Community level.

Relations between employers' and employees' organizations and between both sides of industry and central government last year centred largely on the persistently high rate of unemployment, with the combating of inflation, or rather the unbridled inflationary trend, also playing a major role. In a number of Member States this led to tripartite conferences being held at national level, and towards the middle of last year conferences of this kind were held at Community level with a view to examining jointly the most suitable methods of dealing with the continuing unemployment and inflation.'

At both national tripartite conferences and other meetings, the question of how additional jobs could be created by influencing supply and demand on the labour market was examined. Considerable attention was frequently devoted to the question of work-sharing, i.e. a better distribution of the work available over more people, for example, by reducing working hours or the length of the working week, increasing annual leave or reducing overtime, or by extending the school

leaving age or period of training and lowering the age of retirement. Indeed, in some Member States measures of this kind had already been taken, with a view to creating new job opportunities, particularly for young people.

As in previous years, there was also an increasing tendency to attach more importance to the qualitative improvement of working conditions, i.e. the humanization of work and the working environment, notably by eliminating work which is monotonous, particularly tedious, dangerous or harmful to health. I must also mention in this connection that, as a result of the abnormally hot summer, a number of measures, such as flexible working hours, were introduced last year. It is possible that, on the basis of the experience gained these measures may be made permanent.

1.4.3. Other important developments in the social situation last year were in the field of social security. The persistent unemployment also hit sections of the population which had hitherto been inadequately protected against this risk with the result that the questions of *social insurance* were examined more closely in a number of countries. In two Member States, i.e. Denmark and Luxembourg, this even led to a system whereby the entire population, not excluding self-employed persons, are now covered against unemployment. In other Member States, the period for which unemployment benefit was paid was extended on account of the protracted unemployment. Finally, the *extremely high level of unemployment led to an appreciable drop* in revenue from social security contributions, which in turn led to an imbalance between revenue and expenditure on social security benefits. This phenomenon is becoming more and more marked and results from other factors in addition to the long period of high unemployment, e.g. the considerable increase in costs for more and better medical treatment and the extensive prescription of medicines by doctors.

Another factor is the increased expenditure on old-age, *widows' and orphans' pensions*, which

arises both from the general ageing of the population and from the attempts on the part of the governments to ensure for the growing number of persons drawing pensions a reasonable minimum income with guaranteed purchasing power.

The result of all this is that many Member States are currently studying possible ways of improving the financial situation and operation of the social security institutions, I have only mentioned a few of the most serious problems characterizing social developments last year.¹

Mr Vredeling also outlined, as the Commission had done in its 1976 Social Report:

'Progress has, of course, also been made in other areas of the social domain, where the governments and the two sides of industry have tried to encourage durable progress, for example, in the case of incomes and capital formation, the prevention of industrial accidents, health protection at work, subsidized housing etc.'

The Commission's intentions

1.4.4. In the introduction to the 'Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the Communities in 1976' the Commission lists the work done (tripartite conference, Council, Standing Committee on Employment), the decisions taken, the proposals forwarded to the Council, etc.,¹ but also looks to the future and specifies the areas in which action should be taken.

1.4.5. The Report states:

'*The new Commission* which began work in January 1977 intends to push on with the battle against inflation and complement this with an equal effort aimed at fighting unemployment. It considers that the re-establishment of equilibrium conditions depends on the *creation of additional*

¹ Apart from the Social Report, see Bull. EC 4-1976, points 2213 to 2215 and 12-1976, points 1301 to 1312.

jobs in industry as well as in public and private services, in order to satisfy the needs as a first priority of certain groups particularly affected by the present crisis. This action must be undertaken with special attention as the restructuring of industrial sectors in great difficulties could lead to a net loss of jobs.

Job creation should be accompanied by action with regard to the *labour market* (vocational training and guidance, job finding, etc.) and to *working conditions*. At the same time, efforts should be maintained to reduce remaining inequalities, with priority action for the social groups most discriminated against (low-wage earners, social security claimants, immigrants, and others). The success of these efforts implies a reinforcement in the participation of both sides of industry in Community decision-making in the social and economic spheres, as well as of workers at the level of the firms.

1.4.6. When new *job opportunities* are created, a particularly important fact to bear in mind is that *certain groups of people* are very much affected by the existing employment difficulties (the young, certain categories of women, the handicapped and—at least in certain countries—older people; these groups together represent two third of all unemployed). In this context, efforts should be made for the promotion of investment which creates new jobs.

The complementary *actions* undertaken with regard to the *labour market* must contribute to improving the knowledge and understanding of the labour market by developing the instruments available (in the form of statistics, forecasts, etc.) and achieving more effective coordination of measures taken by the national employment services. This dual approach should be strengthened by grouping the information at Community level and by appropriate action by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

1.4.7. In the recent past there has been a tendency to place greater emphasis on the qualita-

tive rather than the quantitative aspects of *working conditions*, for instance on questions such as the improvement of the working environment, more human organization of work by avoiding as far as possible monotonous, repetitive, dangerous, strenuous and dirty tasks, and the application of more flexible working hours.

In these spheres the Commission, with assistance from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, intends to make an even bigger contribution than in the past towards ensuring that experience acquired in the various countries is used for the benefit of all and that Governments and especially the two sides of industry in the Member States work together at Community level to coordinate their actions and develop newer, more humane types of working conditions.

It goes without saying that, when introducing new types of working conditions, requirements in other spheres of social policy must be taken into consideration, such as the creation of new jobs, redistribution of jobs within the firm, training, employees' participation in management, etc. This is particularly true as regards the various ways of reducing working time, whether by shortening the weekly working hours and reducing overtime, increasing paid annual leave or shortening the working life by increasing obligatory education and by lowering the retirement age.

1.4.8. At Community level even greater endeavours should be made to ensure that there is a reduction in the *disequilibria* in the social and incomes structure which have become increasingly manifest. For various reasons (great increase in the cost of medical care, greater life expectancy, long-term unemployment, budgetary constraints), the social security systems of the various Member States are facing a growing imbalance between expenditure and receipts, the effects of which could be harmful, especially for recipients of lower levels of social benefits. Similarly, limitation of wage increases so that there may be an

improvement in working conditions threatens in particular the purchasing power of workers at the lower end of the wage scale.

It is, therefore, important to ensure a minimum guaranteed income and the maintenance of purchasing power for those entitled to social benefits, for low-wage earners, as well as for other less well-off groups of persons (who may be living in poverty) and to continue efforts to reduce other major differences in income and asset distribution.

1.4.9. One of the premises for determining and implementing future measures in the sphere of social policy, as in the spheres of economic, industrial and other policies, is the achievement of 'social consensus', that is, coordination with both sides of industry on all important decisions which may have an effect on the well-being of our peoples.

With this in mind, the Commission intends to follow the same course as it has done in the last three years and to strive more than ever to achieve a dialogue between the Governments of the Member States, the Community institutions and representatives of the employers' and the workers' organizations.

The greatest emphasis should be placed, in this connection, on the holding of further tripartite conferences at Community level. These conferences provide the most appropriate occasion to examine developments in the situation and to take stock of the results achieved by the joint efforts of all parties. It should be stressed that the new Commission has decided that in future the Vice-President of the Commission with special responsibility for employment and social affairs will be in charge of organizing these conferences.

Furthermore, as regards the persisting problems on the labour market, the Standing Committee on Employment will play a major role in promoting the reconciliation of attitudes on the part of all the competent authorities, particularly con-

cerning the most effective way of combating unemployment.

And lastly, in order to achieve 'social consensus' at all levels, the Commission will continue along the line it has followed so far in its endeavours to increase the opportunities for employers' and workers' representatives from the various branches of industry to have common discussions at Community level and increase employee participation in the decisions of the firm.

The Commission is fully aware of the fact that the present and future major social problems can only be solved if all parties concerned are in agreement on the objectives which should be attained, on the courses of action which should be taken and on the means to be used, and should work together to implement these objectives'.

5. Report on Competition Policy

1.5.1. The Sixth Report on Competition Policy, approved by the Commission in March,¹ has now been published and transmitted to Parliament.

Published 'in conjunction with the Tenth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities', the Report for the main part surveys activities in 1976. But it also contains sections on developments in national policies, the relationship between Community law and national law and the development of industrial concentration in the Community.

When presenting the Report Mr Vouel, Member of the Commission with responsibility for competition, stressed the role played by competition policy and outlined the priority areas for future action.

The fundamental importance of competition policy and priorities for future action

Statement made by Mr Vouel when presenting the Sixth Competition Report

1.5.2. '... Today it is more vital than ever to operate a firm and consistent competition policy if we are actually to do something about overcoming the economic, monetary and social difficulties that face us', said Mr Vouel when he presented the Sixth Competition Report to the press on 22 April.

'The situation being what it is, there is sometimes the temptation to take what looks like the easy way out and seek to solve economic and social problems by stepping up national protectionism both against other Community countries and against the rest of the world. But ... this approach is a self-defeating one: protectionism and market fragmentation will not help us out of our difficulties and the temptation should be resisted', he went on.

'... The most important task ahead of us is the preservation of a single, open Community market. For one thing, the free movement of goods

and services which this single market allows is essential if the consumer is to be able to choose freely and to buy on the best terms available. Apart from contributing to the fight against inflation, this will also help to ensure that a fair share of the economic benefits of our Community is given to the consumer.

For another, it is the necessary precondition both for the future economic development of our Community and for employment and social progress for our workers. It is now generally agreed that if our economy is to expand, if the jobless are to be put back to work and if the threat of unemployment is to be removed for the future, far-reaching structural changes are essential. We dare not delay making a start on setting up these new structures, which must be competitive enough to face the full pressure of the world market. Only if we see to it that business is competitive can we be sure of future growth and at the same time secure full employment in conditions of human dignity and satisfaction.

If it can prevent markets from being split up, put an end to harmful restrictive practices and make price-fixing and other forms of collusion impossible, competition policy will help to achieve these objectives. But even so, the principle of undistorted competition is not and must not be a dogmatic principle. It must operate with due consideration for all the objectives of the Treaty and for the multiplicity of economic and social situations that can arise so as to help the whole Community to develop in a harmonious fashion.'

1.5.3. Mr Vouel then highlighted certain aspects and orientations of competition policy to which the Commission was giving priority status.

The first point—which should be emphasized since it is not only essential to the correct operation of the system of competition itself but also to making our economic structures in general better adapted to the needs of our future devel-

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.31.

opment—is the growing attention paid to the interests of small and medium-sized business. This will apply both in the scrutiny of state aids to small and medium-sized business and in the application of the Treaty articles on restrictive practices and dominant positions. The aim here is to promote cooperation between these firms so as to help them survive and play an active role on the European market. The problem of small and medium-sized business will not be forgotten this year in the review of the problems of subcontracting, the notice on minor agreements and the extension of the block-exemption regulation for certain specialization agreements.

Attention will also be paid to the preoccupation of small and medium-sized firms in the future block-exemption regulation for certain patent licensing agreements. The very fact that a block exemption is being issued is of particular importance to these firms. The regulation is bound to raise a number of difficulties, since it deals with a delicate area where contradictory principles and interests meet, but it is to be hoped that this regulation, now being discussed by the national experts, will be passed by the Commission in 1978, at about the same time as the Community Patent Convention comes into force.

1.5.4. A second point, and this more particularly concerns the consumer, is the need for the Commission to make its mind up fairly quickly on what to do about a manufacturer who, working through the trade, distributes his goods under guarantee throughout the common market. Such a manufacturer, even (or especially) if he is working through a selective distribution system, ought really to sell his goods on such terms that the guarantee will be honoured anywhere in the Community, regardless of where the product was bought. What is needed, is a sort of 'European Guarantee' applying to all guaranteed products.

1.5.5. Another important question concerns joint ventures. Close attention must be paid to developments here, since joint ventures, which is

to say subsidiaries formed by two or more other firms, are an increasingly popular form of cooperation. Although the formation of joint ventures is acceptable within certain limits, there can also be unacceptably far-reaching restrictions on competition.

1.5.6. Mr Vouel went on to emphasize the importance of the proposed merger-control regulation, which has been on the Council's table for a long time now. The Community must be in a position to preserve its system of undistorted competition by controlling mergers and takeovers which are likely to cause rapid, substantial and irreversible changes in competitive structures. The Council has now promised to have the regulation considered very shortly by the Permanent Representatives.

1.5.7. After expressing his conviction that these few highlights of our competition policy will be in the interest both of firms themselves and of consumers, Mr Vouel went on to state that he was also convinced that the Commission's policy on State intervention, particularly in a situation such as we are in now, will be just as crucial.

He returned to the point made by the Commission in the Sixth Competition Report, saying, among other things:

'The Commission's policy on State aids has been applied in a context where preoccupations as to employment, stimulating productive investment and fighting inflation have been the predominant ones and will continue to be so for some time to come.

... It is particularly difficult to prevent aids from pushing the common interest into second place and to prevent a given Member State, for whatever reasons and under whatever pressure, from taking national measures which are inadequately coordinated with those of the other Member States, in the illusory hope of immediately solving all its problems. There is no more dangerous illusion than this. What we have to do is to en-

sure that aids which simply preserve the status quo in industries or firms in difficulties and export subsidies in trade between Member States do not evolve into a general spirit of national protectionism; likewise, we also have to make sure that programmes to give a new boost to investment do not involve the Member States in outbidding each other to attract new investment into their own territory.

Above all, the cyclical aspects of the present crisis must not be allowed to blind us to the fact that the crisis can only be handled properly if Community industrial structures are thoroughly reformed, either through rationalization or through conversion; any measures achieving no more than to preserve the status quo but hitherto accepted for chiefly social reasons will now have to give way to measures designed to stimulate the necessary changes, for these will also help the fight against inflation'.

Activities in 1976

1.5.8. In its Report the Commission begins by recalling that 'in 1976 the European economy suffered, to differing degrees among the Member States, from persisting and in some cases worsening inflation, unemployment, monetary disturbances and balance-of-payments disequilibria ...

In their attempts to solve the most pressing problems, above all that of reconciling stability with full employment, the Community institutions, the Governments of the Member States, business and the trade unions must remember the need for Europe to keep its frontiers open when planning for the future. The emerging industrial structures and new technologies must therefore be competitive. The preservation of the unity of the common market is and remains the basis for all new activities in the field of competition', the Commission continues, emphasizing that 'competition policy is one of the fundamental means for preserving the unity of the market. Its aim is to ensure that business operates along

competitive lines, while protecting the consumer by making goods and services available on the most favourable terms possible. It therefore endeavours to cut monopoly profits, to ensure that the economy remains adaptable to circumstances and to stimulate innovation.

1.5.9. In Community terms competition policy has to play an *ancillary* role to other policies, essentially to preserve or restore conditions in which competition can flourish. The fourth medium-term economic policy programme, for example, calls for "an active competition policy" which can "improve the effectiveness of the instruments of overall demand management". Although competition cannot take the place of economic or social policy, it is nevertheless essential to the preservation of the flexibility which the economy must have if it is to remain adaptable. The principle of competition, so basic to the common market, is therefore by no means rigid or dogmatic. It should not be regarded as the negation of a structural planning policy, as long as such a policy takes the unity of the common market as a basis and aims not to protect industries ill-equipped to meet competition, but to develop competitive activities.

The Commission consequently pays special attention to ensuring that its policies in specific areas do not render competition inoperative. The unity of the market and the structural changes which are needed if competitive business is to be developed must not be jeopardized by agreements entered into between private undertakings, and tolerated or even encouraged by the authorities.

Nevertheless, developments in competition policy go hand in hand with developments in other policies. This means that, in a multiplicity of economic situations, competition policy can fulfil both its role of establishing a competitive environment and of supporting other measures.

In the field of transport, for instance, the Commission has continued its work on the preparation of regulations applying the rules of compe-

tion to shipping and aviation. In conjunction with industrial policy, competition policy has continued its endeavours to promote cross-frontier cooperation between Community firms, particularly small and medium-sized firms. They will thus be at less of a disadvantage against large enterprises, for which cooperation with other enterprises, in internal and external growth, and the development and management of new technology poses less serious problems.

1.5.10. In relation to *State aids* the role of competition policy has been not only to ensure that States take action only where there is a real need, but also to give added efficacy to the social and regional policies of the Community countries. The Commission's preference has been firmly in favour of aids which will solve long-term social problems, as against measures which do no more than preserve the *status quo* and put off decisions which will inevitably have to be taken.

Similarly, in dealing with regional aids, the Commission's attention has been directed primarily to the interests of the poorest regions, which are particularly vulnerable to overbidding for new investment between regions and Member States. The Commission has, therefore, given priority to the technical tasks necessary for the full application of the principles of coordination adopted in 1975, in order to submit all regional aids granted by Member States to Community discipline. At the same time it has continued the systematic examination of national schemes of regional aid, its overall approach facilitating a Community-oriented analysis.

1.5.11. The same desire for consistency has led the Commission to specify the rules to be complied with by Member States when they are involved in the direct or indirect confrontation between firms in competition through *public corporations* over which they exercise management or control. The Commission is in this respect pursuing a request made by the European Parlia-

ment for the equal application of the rules of competition to all firms with due respect for the neutral approach of the Treaty to public and private ownership of companies and for the constraints imposed by the special responsibilities frequently assigned to undertakings.

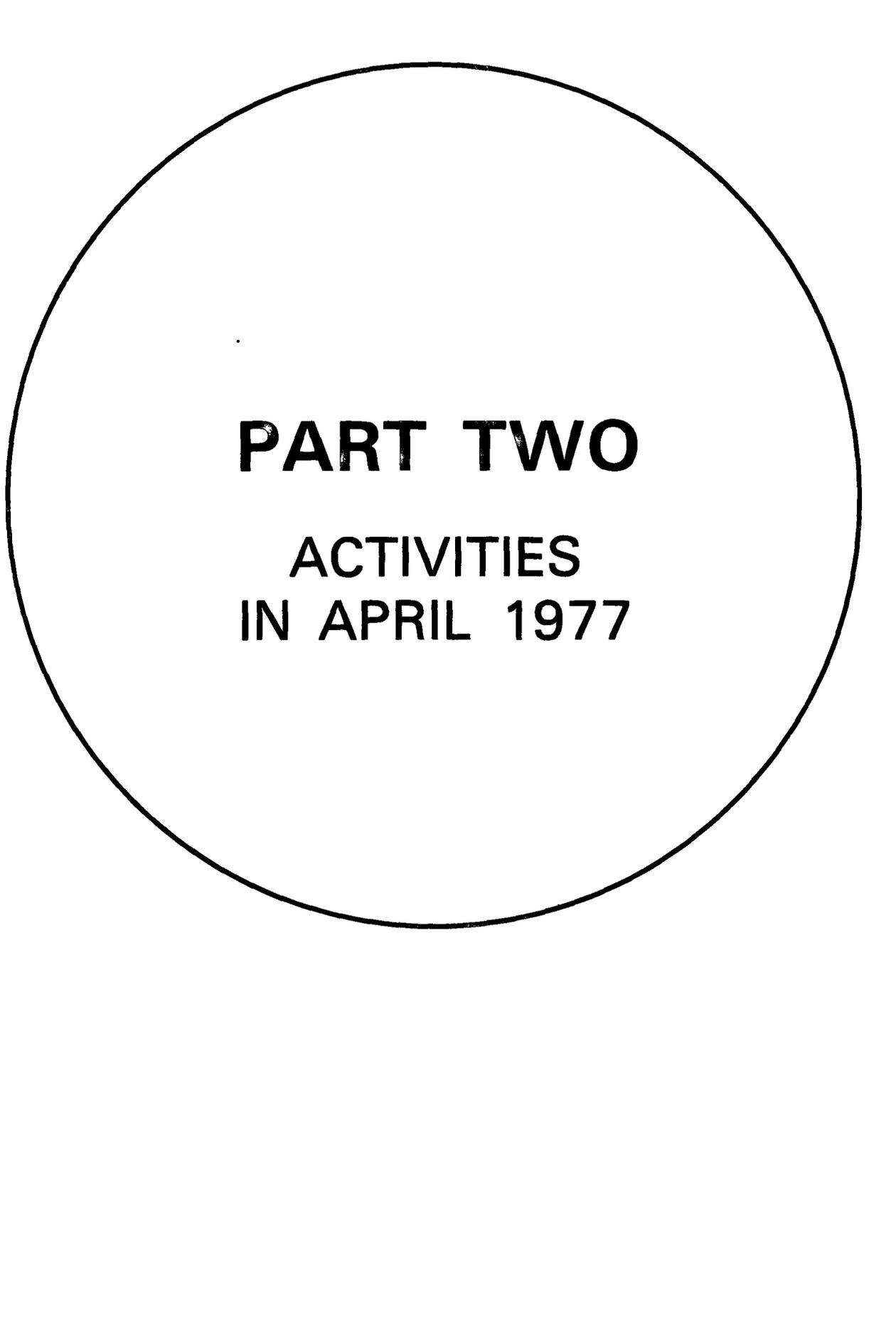
1.5.12. In the *direct application of the rules of competition to enterprises*, the Commission made nine formal decisions under Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty, and twenty-eight under Articles 65 and 66 of the ECSC Treaty. As the Commission's practice becomes more definitive and the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice in references for interpretation grows, it increasingly suffices to draw a firm's attention to actual or possible infringements of the rules of competition for the offending practice to be voluntarily terminated. In the past year some 380 cases were dealt with in this way... It is much to be regretted that the Commission still has to issue decisions imposing prohibitions and fines in respect of export bans, for the position on such practices is abundantly clear from a long line of decisions.

1.5.13. As regards *prices* charged by firms, the Commission has clarified its attitude to price information agreements. It has also begun considering the compatibility of spatial pricing systems with the rules of competition.

The fact that prices for a certain number of goods and services continue to vary sharply from one Member State to another is a continuing cause for concern. The differences may partly be explained by objective factors such as price control, prices imposed by the authorities, currency fluctuations and distribution characteristics. But in other cases they are the result of anticompetitive collusion or abuse of a dominant position. The Commission is of the opinion that it is abnormal in a market, supposedly a single entity, for major differences between prices for identical goods or services to persist over a lengthy period. The various national authorities should, therefore, be made aware of this phenomenon and its scale

gradually reduced. For its part, the Commission attaches great importance to analysing the causes of such differences and has extended its programme of studies on concentration, particularly to ascertain the relationship, if any, between the degree of concentration in a given industry and the level of prices charged.

1.5.14. In the *steel industry* the Commission has endeavoured to help firms to overcome the critical situation which has confronted them since 1975. But the Commission's action cannot be taken as a commitment to defend or protect the industry, either within the common market or as against the outside world, from the structural changes necessary for the future. The Community steel industry must remain competitive and will have to accept some degree of structural change. Consequently, the Commission has pursued its policy of promoting groupings of firms, and rationalization and specialization arrangements, which might help to achieve more competitive structures. It authorized a series of rationalization agreements combining a large number of German and Luxembourg steel firms. Several mergers were also authorized, some on a very large scale'.



PART TWO

**ACTIVITIES
IN APRIL 1977**

1. Building the Community

Economic and monetary policy

International monetary problems

2.1.1. The items on the agenda of the meeting of the International Monetary Fund's Interim Committee (held in Washington on 28 and 29 April), which had already been discussed in March by the Council (Economic and Financial Affairs) and by the Monetary Committee,¹ were again discussed in April by the Monetary Committee,² and by the *Group of Ten*³ at a meeting of alternates in Paris, on 15 and 16 April. At its meeting on 18 April, the Council, having heard a verbal report from the Chairman of the Monetary Committee, endorsed the conclusions reached by the Committee and the statement which the President of the Council, Mr Denis Healey, would make on behalf of the Community at the meeting of the IMF's Interim Committee.

Meeting of the IMF's Interim Committee

2.1.2. The Committee met in Washington on 28 and 29 April, with Mr De Clercq, the Belgian Finance Minister, in the chair; Mr Ortoli, Vice-President of the Commission, took part in the proceedings.

At this meeting, which followed a meeting of the Development Committee held the day before, agreement was reached in principle on a number of the agenda items.

It was agreed, for example, to set up a special credit mechanism designed to increase IMF liquidity, with a view to meeting the increasing financing requests which were connected with serious and persistent balance of payments disequilibria and which, it was felt, should not be met by the banking system to the same extent as hitherto. However, attempts to work out agreed relative contributions from the countries providing the necessary funds have not yet been suc-

cessful. Agreement has also to be reached on rules for the use of these loans and, more especially, on the economic policy conditions to which they would be subject.

It was also agreed in principle that there should be a suitable increase in IMF quotas under the Seventh General Review. Agreement had still to be reached, however, on the amount and breakdown of this increase. The Executive Board is to present a report on this subject at the Committee's next meeting in Washington on 24 September.

In addition, the IMF Managing Director's proposal concerning the allocation of new tranches of special drawing rights and the proposal from a number of countries on ways of improving this instrument were transmitted to the Executive Board for study; a report is to be presented at the Committee's first meeting in 1978.

Finally, Article IV of the amended IMF Articles of Agreement (now being ratified) requires the IMF to exercise firm surveillance over exchange rate fluctuations and to adopt specific principles in this respect. The Interim Committee's discussions on this topic enabled the Executive Board to agree on an outline code of good conduct as regards exchange rate policies, the principles of which are to be reviewed regularly in the light of experience.

Foreign exchange markets

Realignment of exchange rates of the Scandinavian currencies within the 'snake'

2.1.3. At a meeting held in Brussels on 1 April the Ministers of Finance and the Governors o

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, points 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.

² Point 2.1.8.

³ Belgium, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States; Switzerland entered into association with the Group after it was set up.

the Central Banks of the countries participating in the Community exchange rate system (the 'snake') agreed to devalue, on 4 April the Swedish krona by 6% and the Danish and Norwegian kroner by 3% in relation to the EMUA.¹

In a statement published immediately after these decisions became known, the Commission expressed regret that the Member States concerned² had not observed the procedure laid down in the Council Decision of 18 February 1974 and pointed out that, on 14 March 1977,³ the Council has undertaken to strengthen cooperation in the field of exchange rate policies. The statement emphasized that the Commission, for its part, was determined to observe this commitment to the letter.

2.1.4. The devaluation of the three Scandinavian currencies took place without undue pressures having built up on the exchanges. Nevertheless, in the twelve months preceding the devaluation, the effective exchange rates of these currencies had depreciated (to varying degrees) in relation to other 'snake' currencies; the decisions taken at the beginning of April had the effect of considerably reducing this depreciation.

As a result of the recent decisions and the readjustment of intervention rates within the 'snake' on 18 October 1976, the following changes have taken place since this date in the central rates for Scandinavian currencies vis-à-vis the EMUA and the German mark respectively: Danish and Swedish kroner, -7% and -9%; Norwegian krona, -4% and -6%.

In April, following the adjustment of the central conversion rates of the Scandinavian currencies, the Danish, Swedish and Dutch currencies in turn reached their upper limits in the 'snake'. By the end of the month, the positions were as follows: the guilder, still at the upper limit, had appreciated by 0.4% against the Danish and Swedish kroner and by 1% against the Norwegian krona; in the lower part of the 'snake', the Belgian franc had depreciated by about 1.5% against the

guilder, while the German mark had reached its lower intervention limit in Amsterdam.

Economic situation in Italy

Economic policy to be followed in 1977 and 1978

2.1.5. At a meeting held in Luxembourg on 18 April, at which Mr Denis Healey, the United Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer took the chair, the Council, acting on a Commission recommendation, approved the *economic policy conditions to be observed by Italy in 1977* in connection with the medium-term financial assistance⁴ and the Community loan⁵ granted to this country in 1974 and 1976 respectively. This was the annual adjustment (laid down by Community provisions) of the economic policy conditions fixed for the preceding year, i.e. for 1976. A number of conditions for 1978 (a maximum increase in total central government expenditure, a ceiling for the overall public sector deficit) were added at this juncture to the adjusted conditions for 1977, so that the economic policy to be applied in 1977 might have some points of reference with the following year. In this way, it was hoped to re-establish internal and external equilibrium in the Italian economy.

In 1976, the Italian economy performed a good deal better than had been expected: compared with 1975, gross domestic product at constant prices increased by 5.6% (as against the 1½% forecast in March 1976). But consumer prices increased at an average annual rate of 17.5% and

¹ European monetary unit of account of the European Monetary Cooperation Fund (EMCF); 1 EMUA = 0.88867088 grammes of fine gold.

² Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

³ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.3.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2205, 11-1974, point 2202, 12-1975, point 2201.

⁵ Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2201.

the trade balance (fob/fob) showed a deficit of Lit 3 350 000 million—results which went well beyond the original forecasts.

Consequently, the lira depreciated once again on the exchanges, by about 16% (trade weighted).

Faced with this situation, the Italian authorities—who, in February 1976, had already introduced a number of restrictive measures—adopted in September 1976 a *programme of austerity* comprising several stages and designed to reduce the purchasing power of households (approximately Lit 5 000 000 million) through increases in taxes, public service charges and controlled prices, to impose strict limits on the Treasury's net borrowing requirement, to curb rising labour costs, to slow down the rate of inflation and to improve the balance on current account in 1977. The Italian Government's efforts to enlist broad support for its programme were successful during the first months of 1977, when agreement was reached between the social partners on a number of points, notably on wage and salary indexation and the moderating of wage claims. Additional measures were taken by the authorities, including the charging to the budget of a proportion of the social security charges borne by employers and increases in some VAT rates.

In spite of these measures, the annual GDP growth rate for 1977 is unlikely to be higher than about 3%—not enough to ensure the full utilization of the factors of production or even to prevent unemployment rising further. Consumer prices are likely to increase at an annual rate of some 20%, while the balance on current account should still show a deficit (although a smaller one than in 1976).

For these reasons, the economic policy conditions approved by the Council on 18 April are designed, for 1977, to eliminate the current account deficit and to reduce the rate of increase of consumer prices to 16% by the end of the year (compared with the end of 1976). They also impose, in 1977, ceilings on total central government expenditure (Lit 55 350 000 million in cash),

on the overall public-sector deficit (Lit 16 450 000 million), on the financing by the monetary authorities of the deficit on Treasury transactions (Lit 4 000 000 million) and on credit expansion (Lit 30 600 000 million); intermediate objectives are to be fixed by the Commission in collaboration with the Italian authorities before the middle of 1977. It is also stipulated that public service charges and some controlled prices must be adjusted without the sliding wage scale being affected, in order that the ceiling fixed for the public sector deficit should not be broken.

As regards 1978, for which the objectives are a surplus on current account of some Lit 1 000 000 million and a rate of consumer price increases not exceeding 8% by the end of the year, only two economic policy conditions have so far been laid down by the Council: a maximum 7% increase over 1977 in total central government expenditure (in terms of commitments) and a limit of Lit 14 450 000 million on the overall public-sector deficit; other conditions will be fixed before the end of 1977 on a proposal from the Commission.

Community loan

2.1.6. At the same meeting, the Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations to float a loan of \$ 500 million, the funds raised to be on-lent to Italy. Although this authorization had already been given by the Council on 22 November 1976,¹ the aim had simply been for a variable-rate loan to be consolidated subsequently in one or more fixed-rate loans. The present situation on the market, however, suggested that it might be possible to float a fixed-rate loan from the outset. Both alternatives were therefore envisaged in the authorization given on 18 April.

The Community loan will be granted to Italy subject to the economic policy conditions for 1977 and 1978 fixed by the Council on 18 April.²

¹ Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2207.

² Point 2.1.5.

It represents the refinancing of the amount, repaid in autumn 1976 by Italy, of the United Kingdom's short-term contribution to the medium-term financial assistance granted to Italy.¹

IMF credit

2.1.7. Towards the end of February, the Italian authorities resumed negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with a view to defining the economic policy conditions to be met before they could use the credit tranches till available to Italy from the Fund. On 6 April, the Italian Government transmitted to the IMF the 'letter of intent' by which it requested a stand-by arrangement to allow it to purchase, in tranches, currencies of other member countries up to a maximum of SDR 450 million during the period ending on 31 December 1978. With a view to achieving a surplus on current account of some Lit 500 000 million in the twelve months ending on 31 March 1978 (and of Lit 1 000 000 million in 1978) and to reducing the annual rate of inflation to 13% in March 1978 and to 8% by the end of 1978, the Italian Government undertook in the letter to implement a programme of recovery setting out specific objectives for 1977 and 1978.

These objectives, which relate mainly to the public sector borrowing requirement, domestic credit expansion, and the quarterly increase in the special cost of living index used for the sliding wage scale, are entirely compatible with the economic policy conditions approved by the Council on 18 April. Despite this compatibility—the result of the identical views held by the Commission, the IMF and the Italian Government regarding the economic policy which Italy should follow in 1977 and 1978—the objectives set out in the 'letter of intent' differ from the Community recommendations, but only on points of detail (the former covering the period beginning on 1 April 1977 and the latter covering, in addition, the first quarter of this year).

The Italian Government also undertook to refrain, during the period covered by the arrangement, from introducing measures involving multiple exchange rates for international current transactions and from imposing further import restrictions designed to improve the balance of payments.

A detailed examination of the 'letter of intent' and of the economic situation in Italy was carried out in Paris in mid-April by the relevant working-party of the Economic Policy Committee of the OECD. The working party concluded that the economic recovery programme submitted by the Italian Government constituted a series of courageous and extremely important measures well-tailored to redressing the economic situation in Italy during the months ahead, both internally and externally. At a meeting of alternates in Paris on 15 and 16 April, the Group of Ten² decided to inform the IMF that it was prepared to place at its disposal, under the General Arrangements to Borrow (GAB) concluded in 1962, the necessary funds to allow it to grant to Italy the requested stand-by credit of SDR 450 million (\$530 million). This credit was formally granted to Italy by the IMF on 25 April.

Monetary Committee

2.1.8. The Monetary Committee held its 230th meeting in Paris on 15 April, with Mr Pöhl in the chair. It completed its preparatory work for the next meeting of the IMF's Interim Committee, instructing its Chairman to give the Council a verbal report on the outcome of its discussions on the international monetary problems included on the Interim Committee's agenda. Having been consulted by the Commission, the Committee

¹ Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2207.

² Belgium, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States; Switzerland entered into association with the Group after it was set up.

also approved the economic policy conditions to be observed in 1977 by Italy in connection with the medium-term financial assistance and the Community loan granted to this country in 1974 and 1976¹ respectively.

Economic Policy Committee

2.1.9. The Economic Policy Committee held its 45th meeting in Brussels on 29 April, with Mr Maldague in the chair. The meeting was entirely devoted to a thorough examination of the nature and implications of international payments problems and of trends in social security expenditure; the Committee intends to complete its planned programme of work at a later meeting and then to submit a report to the Council on each of the topics studied.

The Working Party on *Public Finance* met in Brussels on 21 April to continue its work on structural budget benchmarks.

The Group of Experts on *Economic Budgets* also met in Brussels on 20 April to examine the world economic outlook for 1977 and 1978. Generally speaking, the experts agreed with the Commission's staff that, parallel with some improvement in rates of growth, the expansion of world trade would gather momentum during the second half of 1977. Intra-Community trade would also be more buoyant during the second half of the year. In 1978, the rate of growth of production and world trade would be similar to that of 1977. Overall, inflationary pressures would tend to diminish, while some progress would be made in the process of adjusting balances of payments on current account at world level.

At its next meeting, arranged for early June, the Group will examine in more detail the economic outlook in member countries with the help of a summary document showing all the preliminary economic budgets for 1978.

Internal market and industrial affairs

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical barriers to trade

Metrology

2.1.10. On 5 April² the Council adopted a directive on the removal of technical barriers to trade in *measuring systems for liquids other than water* (viz. petrol pumps, road tankers, port installations for unloading oil tankers, etc.).

This is the twenty-third directive of this kind adopted in the metrology sector (measuring instruments, measurement units and the dimensions and filling of prepackages). The Commission's proposal, on which the Council has now acted, was prepared in December 1975.³ This new directive follows on from two others already adopted by the Council, namely that of 26 July 1971⁴ on meters for liquids other than water and that of 12 October 1971⁵ on ancillary equipment for meters for liquids other than water. The term 'measuring systems for liquids other than water' refers to the liquid meters proper, the ancillary measuring instruments (e.g. totalizing volume counters) and all the operating devices (e.g. pump, degassing device, safety systems, etc.).

This directive also includes detailed provisions in respect of fixed measuring systems for the roadside distribution of motor fuel (petrol pumps), equipment mounted on road tankers, port installations for unloading oil tankers, and also lorries for the collection and distribution of milk.

¹ Point 2.1.5.

² OJ L 105 of 28.4.1977.

³ OJ L 290 of 18.12.1975.

⁴ OJ L 202 of 6.9.1971.

⁵ OJ L 239 of 25.10.1971.

Food products

2.1.11. On 29 April the Commission decided to present to the Council a proposal amending the directive adopted by the Council on 18 December 1975¹ relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated *preserved milk* for human consumption. This proposal is designed to solve a number of problems that have arisen in some of the Member States regarding the designation of certain types of preserved milk.

2.1.12. On 19 April *Parliament* delivered its Opinion on eleven Commission proposals to the Council concerning the removal of technical barriers to trade in the motor-vehicle sector.

Pharmaceuticals

2.1.13. Two specialist working parties were formed on 19 April under the *Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products* set up by the Council Directive of 20 May 1975.² One is concerned with examining problems associated with the safety of medicines, the other with their efficacy.

Industrial structures and problems**Steel***Implementation of the guidelines for a Community steel policy*

2.1.14. In April the Commission approved a set of measures or guidelines under the steel policy strategy which it adopted on 16 March; at its meeting on 25 and 26 March in Rome the European Council requested that urgent attention be given to this matter.³

The ten plans of action, recommendations and guidelines include measures to deal with the structural situation and others to deal with cyc-

lical problems. The structural measures have been discussed, but they cannot be implemented immediately.

2.1.15. Five *structural* measures are envisaged:

Additional funds for structural reorganization and conversion — The Commission plans to increase Community financial assistance—in the form of interest rate subsidies—beyond the 15 million EUA initially entered in the ECSC operational budget for 1977 adopted on 20 December 1976.⁴

Criteria for interest relief — The Commission has studied the general proposals for the criteria which could be used in granting interest relief on loans provided under the structural reorganization and conversion policy. The Commission will adopt a decision at a later date.

Use of the Social Fund — The Commission will be shortly examining a communication on extending the Social Fund's scope to cover the steel industry.

Revision of the general objectives for steel — The Commission has also approved a communication on a revision of the general objectives for steel for 1980-85 and on their extension to 1990, to adjust to the new economic climate in which the European steel industry will have to operate. This communication was published in the Official Journal⁵ after the ECSC Consultative Committee had been notified on 19 April.

National aid — Still dealing with its structural reorganization programme the Commission defined guidelines for dealing with government aid to the steel industry and approved a draft letter to be sent to the Member States.

In the present circumstances, the Commission feels that aids which are for the sole purpose of

¹ OJ L 24 of 30.1.1976.

² Bull. EC 2-1975, point 1206 and 5-1975, point 2110 and OJ L 147 of 9.6.1975.

³ Bull. EC 3-1977, points 2.1.17 and 2.1.18.

⁴ OJ L 352 of 22.12.1976.

⁵ OJ C 103 of 27.4.1977.

preserving the present structures should be avoided. On the other hand, aids for the following purposes can, as a rule, be regarded as being of common interest:

- (i) aid which makes an effective contribution to the structural reorganization, modernization and rationalization of the industry, provided that this does not lead to an increase in the production capacity of sectors or subsectors where there is already obvious overcapacity;
- (ii) research aid, especially for applied research, aimed at increasing productivity in the steel industry; aid for research of common benefit to a number of steel producers should be particularly encouraged;
- (iii) aid as a means of saving steelmaking companies in order to allow planned adjustment to the new market situation, provided there is a strict time limit on such aid and that it takes account of the necessary structural changes.

The Commission will use these criteria in assessing any decisions to provide Community aid under Articles 54, 55 and 56 of the ECSC Treaty or from the various Community funds.

2.1.16. The *cyclical* measures also number five (two of which are internal and the other three, taking the form of recommendations to the Member States, are peripheral).

Minimum prices for concrete reinforcing bars — Following its meeting on 6 April, the Commission consulted the ECSC Consultative Committee on 19 April and the Council at the beginning of May on its proposal to introduce minimum prices for concrete reinforcing bars and to prohibit any alignment on cheaper quotations from non-Community countries for the same product. The Commission does not plan to introduce quantitative restrictions on imports to back up this measure. The Commission must, however, be in a position to modify the minimum prices in the light of developments on the market and to extend them beyond 1977 if necessary.

Guide prices — the Commission has approved a communication to undertakings publishing guide prices for a number of rolled products.

Automatic licences — The first of three recommendations to the Member States (the text of which they have since received) concerns the creation—under Article 74 of the ECSC Treaty—of a statistical system for monitoring imports of certain sensitive products.¹ This system will require Member States to make such imports from non-member countries subject to presentation of an import certificate which is issued for any quantity applied for, within five working days from filing of the application. In addition, the Member States are obliged to inform the Commission regularly of the quantities and values of the licences granted and of the subsequent actual imports. This system is purely and simply a means of providing statistical market information and forms an integral part of a complete package of measures.

The products under consideration are hematite pig iron, phosphoric pig iron, non-specific pig iron, iron or steel roller blanks, wire rod, solid bars, hot-rolled or hot-extended sections, hot-rolled strip, magnetic plate, other plate, hot-rolled plate at least 2 mm thick, 1-3 mm (exclusive) cold-rolled plate, cold-rolled plate no more than 1 mm thick, zinc- or lead-coated plate, wire rod (special or carbon steels), hot-rolled bars and sections and cold-rolled plate less than 3 mm thick. Products from all non-member countries are affected.

Anti-dumping measures — The Commission's second recommendation (of which the Member States have also been notified) concern the protection of ECSC iron and steel products against dumping or the granting of premiums or subsidies by countries which are not members of the ECSC.¹ Under these measures, an anti-dumping duty may be applied to any dumped product whose introduction into Community commerce causes, or threatens to cause, material injury to

¹ OJ L 114 of 5.5.1977.

an established Community industry or materially retards the setting up of an industry whose early establishment in the Community is envisaged.

Measures against imports — The last of the measures adopted by the Commission is an ECSC recommendation to the Member States introducing a procedure under which protective measures may be taken against imports which cause, or threaten to cause, serious damage to the Community iron and steel industry.¹ This information and consultation procedure will enable the Commission to take action under Article 74(3) of the ECSC Treaty or, failing that, to allow the Member States to take national measures subject to certain conditions. The Member States have also been notified of this recommendation.

2.1.17. The problems faced by the Community iron and steel industry and the solutions proposed by the Commission were studied by the *ECSC Consultative Committee* at its meeting in Luxembourg on 19 April² and by *Parliament*, which adopted a Resolution on the problems in the steel industry on 21 April.³ The measures implementing the steel policy guidelines were also outlined to the Consultative Committee and Parliament by Mr Etienne Davignon, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for the internal market and industrial affairs.

Shipbuilding

2.1.18. A meeting was held in Brussels by the Commission in April with senior officials from the Member States to discuss the initial findings of the study made of autonomous Community measures or national measures coordinated at Community level⁴ which might help Community shipyards to overcome their difficulties in the face of acute competition from Japanese shipyards and those in non-OECD countries.

Pending the outcome of the recent measures proposed by the Japanese,⁵ it was agreed that a tho-

rough examination should be made of possible measures and a study made to see how they fit in with plans for reorganizing the structure of shipbuilding.

Data processing

2.1.19. On 28 April the Commission approved the launching of three joint projects under the Community's data-processing policy, which were adopted by the Council on 22 July 1976,⁶ by authorizing their funding. These projects are: (a) a study on the creation of a data bank for matching organs and blood, (b) a study of the requirements in the Community in the field of legal document retrieval systems and (c) a development study in computer-aided design.

2.1.20. On 19 April *Parliament*⁷ adopted two Resolutions on industrial affairs. These concern the principles to be observed in the international economic activity of enterprises and governments and the Community's raw material supplies.

Customs union

Meeting of the Customs Questions Committee

2.1.21. The Customs Questions Committee⁸—on which sit the heads of the customs administrations of the nine Member States—met in Brussels on 28 April under the chairmanship of Mr Davignon, Member of the Commission with responsibility for the administration of the Cus-

¹ OJ L 114 of 5.5.1977.

² Point 2.3.60.

³ Point 2.3.15.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1977, point 2.1.11 and Bull. EC 2-1977, point 2.1.7.

⁵ Bull. EC 2-1977, point 2.1.7.

⁶ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2263 and OJ L 223 of 16.8.1976.

⁷ Point 2.3.17.

⁸ Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2101.

toms Union, the internal market and industrial affairs.

Since 1977 is to mark the end of the transitional period provided for in the Act of Accession, the Committee discussed a draft communication to the Community institutions on the state of the Customs Union which review what has already been achieved and describes the future objectives.

While recognizing that the removal of customs duties on intra-Community trade is an important step, the document—which will be submitted to the Council and Parliament—is a reminder of what still remains to be done before a true customs union is achieved.

Underlining the importance of the customs union for European integration, Mr Davignon stressed the need for substantial progress on a number of Commission proposals still under discussion in the Council, in particular one on the harmonization of procedures for allowing goods into free circulation and another concerning mutual assistance in ensuring the proper application of Community agricultural and customs regulations.

The Committee also discussed a draft communication from the Commission to the Council on improving the negotiating terms for international customs conventions, on negotiations within GATT regarding customs valuation and on the conditions governing customs checks on travellers at the Community's internal frontiers.

Common Customs Tariff

Tariff regime applicable on 1 January 1977 to goods imported from certain States

2.1.22. The Commission has published¹ tables updated to 1 January 1977 giving the customs duties or regimes applicable to products originating in certain countries with which the Community has agreements. This communication deals

with the following regimes, duties and countries or groups of countries:

- Tariff regime applicable to goods originating in Spain on importation into the Community as originally constituted;
- Tariff regime applicable to goods originating in Malta on importation into the Community as originally constituted;
- Tariff regime applicable to goods originating or in free circulation in Turkey on importation into the Community as originally constituted.

The following tariff regimes—published previously²—were updated to 1 January 1977:

- Customs duties applicable on imported goods from the new Member States (Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom);
- Customs duties applicable to goods originating in the EFTA States (Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland) and imported into the Community as originally constituted;
- Rates of duty applicable to goods originating in Israel on importation into the Community as originally constituted;
- Tariff regime applicable to goods originating in the ACP States and in the overseas countries and territories.

2.1.23. At its part-session from 18 to 22 April, *Parliament*³ adopted a Resolution on the introduction of a Community export declaration from and delivered its Opinion on the Commission proposals on the opening of tariff quotas regarding bovine animals of certain mountain breeds.

¹ OJ C 101 of 25.4.1977.

² OJ L 36 of 29.3.1974, C 130 of 24.10.1974, C 246 of 27.10.1975 and C 39 of 19.2.1976.

³ Point 2.3.11.

Competition

Sixth Report on Competition Policy

2.1.24. The Sixth Report on Competition Policy, approved by the Commission on 16 March,¹ was published in April and presented to the press by Mr Raymond Vouel, Member of the Commission with responsibility for competition.²

Restrictive practices, mergers and dominant positions: specific cases

Completion of safety glass divestiture plan by two groups

2.1.25. In response to Commission representations *BSN Gervais-Danone and St Gobain/Pont à Mousson*, the two largest glass manufacturers in continental Europe, have completed the divestiture of their joint interests in safety glass in France and Germany.

At the end of 1974 they worked out a divestiture plan, which was approved by the Commission.³ The plan provided for a number of successive stages to be carried out under regular Commission supervision according to a schedule ending on 31 December 1976, and has been fully complied with. As a result the two groups have divested themselves of all the joint interests which they still held at the beginning of 1975:

- *Sécuriglace*, formed as a joint subsidiary on 24 November 1958, was wound up on 31 December 1976 and its business was split up and taken over by two departments set up for the purpose by the parent companies;

- *Triplex*, a joint subsidiary also formed in 1958, has been fully taken over by St Gobain, which on 30 May 1975 renamed it 'St Gobain Feuilleté'; on 30 December 1975 it was absorbed by St Gobain Industrie. As provided in the divestiture

plan BSN Gervais-Danone has entered into a five-year supply contract with St Gobain, and this has been notified to the Commission;

- the distribution agreement Flachglas AG (German subsidiary of BSN Gervais-Danone) and Sekurit Glas Union (German subsidiary of St Gobain) has been terminated; henceforth Flachglas will sell its products direct.

By acting to remove the major restrictions of competition created by the existence of the joint subsidiaries, and by its regular scrutiny of the industry, the Commission has restored competition in Community safety glass production.⁴

The Commission condemns the anticompetitive behaviour of three subsidiaries of an oil company in the Netherlands

2.1.26. In a Decision dated 19 April,⁵ the Commission found that three BP subsidiaries in the Netherlands abused their dominant position during the critical period of the oil crisis between November 1973 and March 1974. This constitutes an infringement of the EEC treaty rules on competition (Article 86).

This Decision was taken after a complaint had been lodged by ABG (Aardolie Belangen Gemeenschap BV—central purchasing agency for the Avia associates in the Netherlands) and Avia Nederland CV (which manages the Avia trademark in the Netherlands).

Avia is one of the few internationally-known independent trademarks for oil products. It belongs to Avia International set up in Zurich by the national Avia organizations in Switzerland, the Fed-

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.31.

² Points 1.5.1 to 1.5.14.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2124.

⁴ The Commission has already had occasion to deal with these two groups when their German subsidiaries were required to terminate their flat glass aggregated rebate; Bull. EC 10-1974, point 2107.

⁵ OJ L 117 of 9.5.1977.

eral Republic of Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Italy.

BP (British Petroleum Company Ltd) is the parent company of the three Dutch subsidiaries referred to in the Decision, one being concerned with distribution, one with refining and the third coordinating the activities of the first two. BP is among the seven major international integrated oil companies.

The Commission considers that the severe shortage in the Netherlands during the 1973/74 crisis was caused by factors beyond the control of firms active in the market. Independently of the factors external to the Netherlands, a particular feature of the Dutch oil market was that the maximum prices set by the Government were below world prices. These prices made imports into the Netherlands economically impossible as they would have meant considerable losses for the importers. The integrated majors with their own refineries in the Netherlands therefore held a dominant position vis-à-vis their respective customers in the Netherlands during the most difficult phase of the crisis.

The Commission considers that an infringement was committed, in that the BP companies in the Netherlands abused their dominant position in the situation of shortage as it affected the case in point. They cut their supplies of petrol to ABG, a major and traditional customer, in a way which was discriminatory compared with their behaviour towards other customers in a similar situation. In this way they jeopardized the very existence of ABG.

The Decision does not carry a fine, since it makes allowance for the uncertainty which may have existed when the infringement was committed as regards the application of the EEC rules of competition to petroleum products in the light of the steps taken by the Netherlands authorities.

Authorization for joint buying of rolled steel products

2.1.27. On 5 April the Commission, acting under Article 65 of the ECSC Treaty, gave a further authorization, valid until 31 March 1982, for agreements between a number of German steel stockholding firms for the joint buying of rolled steel products.

These agreements were first authorized on 14 June 1967¹ by the ECSC High Authority; the authorization was extended by the Commission on 22 March 1972.²

The firms concerned are small and medium-sized steel stockholders who, by means of joint buying through *Stahlring GmbH* are seeking to achieve economies of scale in buying, carriage and storage and thereby to improve their competitive position, particularly as against the larger steel stockholders. There were thirty-nine firms involved on 1 January.

State aids

Regional aids

Denmark

2.1.28. On 29 April the Commission approved the scheme of regional aid currently operating in Denmark.

The scheme applies throughout Denmark and the Faroe Islands but not in Greenland. There are three types of aid to industrial or service undertakings: grants (chiefly investment grants), loans at concessionary rates and State guarantees. There are also two types of eligible area: standard areas and special development areas, of about

¹ OJ L 127 of 27.6.1967.

² OJ L 85 of 11.4.1972.

equal size and together covering roughly 50% of the country and 30% of the population.

The points considered by the Commission were the form and intensity of the aids, compliance with the ceilings set by the principles of coordination¹ and the social and economic grounds underlying classification as assisted areas.

The Commission's main reasons for its decisions were as follows. The assisted areas are in parts of Jutland and on certain islands where farming is still the main activity.

Structural difficulties persist and the intensity of the aids granted has been found to be in proportion to the difficulties. The Commission therefore considered that the current scheme qualified for exception, under Article 92(3)(c) of the EEC Treaty, from the general prohibition of aids.

However, since the standard development areas are benefiting from a reasonably favourable socio-economic development, the Commission has asked the Danish Government to grant aid there for two years only; before the two years are up it will review the social and economic situation and reconsider its decision in that light.

The Commission has also asked the Danish Government to report annually on the application of the scheme and to give it prior notice of the most important cases in which regional aids are given in areas at the edges of the development areas.

So far the Danish Government has made little use of this possibility.

Industry aids

Cotton, rayon and flax industry

Netherlands

2.1.29. On 5 April the Commission decided to terminate the procedure under Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty which it had opened on 18 No-

vember 1976 in respect of a new Dutch plan to aid the cotton, rayon and flax industry,² the plan having been altered in the meantime.

Firms were to qualify for interest-free loans repayable in equal instalments in 1980 and 1981, total appropriations for the purpose running to Fl 30 million; the possibility existed for the loans to be converted into grants of 20% of the cost of structural reform operations carried out by the recipient firms.

The Commission's decision to initiate the procedure of Article 93(2) was taken for a number of reasons:

- the loans could be granted as purely operating aids achieving no more than to preserve the status quo;
- although this was the second time that the industry was being aided the plans for structural reform called for by the first scheme had not yet reached the Commission, whereas they would have helped it to get a better picture of the combined effect of the two schemes;
- no information was supplied concerning the nature of the operations qualifying for subsidies.

When it was informed that proceedings were being taken the Dutch Government made two changes to its initial plan: for one thing, the loans were to bear interest at normal rates, and for another the structural reform plans which the firms were required to operate were not to involve any increase in the industry's production capacity; furthermore, the plan will be sent to the Commission to enable it to check whether they really do contribute to improving the state of the industry.

Having considered these changes the Commission decided to withdraw its opposition to the scheme; it is now expecting the structural reform plans very shortly.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2108.

² Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2124.

Employment and social policy

Employment

2.1.30. In April the Commission prepared the documents to be used as a basis for discussion at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Employment on 5 May and also began preparations for the Tripartite Conference on Employment planned for 28 June.

In accordance with the decisions taken at the meeting of the European Council in Rome on 25 and 26 March, the Commission intends to place special emphasis on three points:¹

- (i) specific labour market problems, especially improving opportunities for young people and women;
- (ii) action to encourage higher levels of investment;
- (iii) convergence of the economic policies of the Member States.

The Commission also drew up a working document, with a number of comparative tables, covering labour policy measures taken by the Member States to encourage employment.

The problem of employment was also a major theme in the speech which Mr Henk Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission with special responsibility for employment and social affairs, made to Parliament on 21 April when presenting the 1976 Social Report.²

Vocational training

2.1.31. Two working parties—on new guidelines for a common vocational training policy and on approximation of levels of training—met in Brussels in April to adopt their final reports on these subjects. These reports are to be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training when it meets in May.

European Social Fund

2.1.32. On 21 April *Parliament*³ adopted a Resolution on the fourth report on the activity of the European Social Fund for the 1975 financial year and the *Economic and Social Committee*,⁴ at its plenary session on 27 and 28 April delivered an opinion on the Commission communication to the Council on the review of rules governing the objectives and operations of the Fund.

Living and working conditions

Wage survey

2.1.33. At its meeting on 25 and 26 April, the Council decided to organize surveys in 1977, 1978 and 1979 on the earnings of permanent agricultural workers.

Housing

2.1.34. Under the first instalment of the *eight* programme of aid towards the financing of low cost housing for workers in the coal and steel industries, the Commission has approved the following loans: *Germany*, steel: 628 dwellings (DM 5 052 000), coal: 268 dwellings (DM 1 300 000); *France*, steel: 202 dwellings (FF 1 726 000), coal: 36 dwellings (FF 288 000); *Italy* (Friuli), steel: 145 dwellings (Lit 1 692 700 000); *Belgium*, steel: 20 dwellings (Bfrs 1 505 000), coal: 10 dwellings (Bfrs 2 069 400); *Netherlands*, steel: 41 dwellings (F 205 000).

It also decided to grant the following loans for building, buying or modernizing low-cost housing for workers in the coal and steel industry: *Ger*

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.1.

² Points 1.4.1 to 1.4.9.

³ Point 2.3.18.

⁴ Point 2.3.60.

many, coal (DM 500 000); France, steel (FF 1 661 670); Italy, steel (Lit 2 953 270 000).

2.1.35. On 21 April *Parliament*¹ adopted a Resolution on a Commission report to the Council on the possibilities and difficulties of ratification by the Member States of the first list of international agreements on social and labour legislation concluded within other organizations. This Resolution also concerns relations between the European Communities and the International Labour Organization.

Health and safety

2.1.36. An International Workshop on the Use of Biological Specimens for the Assessment of Human Exposure to Environmental Pollutants, organized by the Commission, the World Health Organization and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, was held in Luxembourg between 18 and 22 April. Its aims were to examine the present position and the technical possibilities for organizing programmes for the collection of data relating to priority areas and the most useful types of human tissue samples for each type of pollutant and also to study guidelines for future programmes and prepare recommendations on the research to be undertaken.

The conclusion reached was that with present scientific and technical knowledge such programmes and a number of pilot schemes intended to determine the choice of reference tissues for a number of pollutants could be applied immediately; a request was also made that research should be undertaken for other pollutants. Council Directive of 29 March 1977¹ on the biological screening of the population for lead was quoted as an example.

2.1.37. The Commission brought together a group of national experts to examine the situation in the nine Member States with regard to

swine flu, which had prompted a massive vaccination campaign in the United States. No case had been observed in the nine Member States where there had in general been no large-scale epidemic of flu due to other viruses. The provisions on the establishment of stocks of specific vaccines had been applied and the condition of these stocks would allow the priority groups of the population to be vaccinated should an epidemic break out. Special attention was also paid to medical contra-indications and complications arising from large-scale vaccination.

The epidemics of hemorrhagic fever which last autumn caused large numbers of deaths in Sudan and Zaire were also studied. Very few cases had so far reached Europe but this problem was a cause of concern to the experts who examined screening at frontiers, specific measures to be taken and ways in which treatment and preventive measures could be organized. A further meeting will be organized in November 1977 to assess, in the light of new information, the risk of contamination for Europe by tropical fevers.

2.1.38. The Advisory Committee on Health and Safety at Work met in Luxembourg on 19 and 20 April 1977 to examine its report on the past year. While it felt that the work done marked a satisfactory beginning, the Committee regretted the delay in implementing the Community action programme on health and safety at work, the main objectives and guidelines of which had been approved in 1976.² It called on the Council to adopt this action programme as a matter of urgency and stressed the need for adequate staff and funds to be made available from 1978 onwards. It also issued an opinion on the Commission proposal concerning vinyl chloride and set the work programmes for its three working parties for the current year.

2.1.39. At its plenary session on 27 and 28 April, the *Economic and Social Committee* ap-

¹ Point 2.3.19.

² Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2224.

proved a study drawn up by its staff proposing a Community Code for Nuclear Safety intended to ensure the safety of workers and the population.

Paul Finet Foundation

2.1.40. The Executive Committee of the Paul Finet Foundation met in Luxembourg on 19 April and approved 307 grants totalling FB 2 686 411 to the orphans of workers in ECSC industries who lost their lives as a result of an industrial accident or occupational disease.

Since it was established on 30 June 1965, 6 623 grants totalling Bfrs 54 689 948 have been awarded, enabling 1 762 recipients to complete their secondary or university education or vocational training.

Regional policy

Financing operations

European Regional Development Fund

Renewal of the ERDF

2.1.41. On 4 April, Mr Antonio Giolitti, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for regional policy and the coordination of Community financial instruments, completed his tour of the Member States' capitals, where he had talks on Community regional policy.¹ On the basis of the arrangements it has made, the Commission expects to present its proposals on the renewal of the European Regional Development Fund to the Council early in June.

Fund Committee

2.1.42. The Fund Committee met on 19 April, when it adopted its opinion on 92 draft decisions

for granting assistance relating to industrial and infrastructure investment and approved guidelines relating to on-site publicity for infrastructure projects which the ERDF has helped to finance.

Regional Policy Committee

2.1.43. From 27 March to 1 April the members of the Regional Policy Committee made a fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom.

On 14 April, the Committee met in Brussels to examine a draft report for the Council and the Commission on the lessons to be drawn from the work it has carried out so far.

2.1.44. On 21 April, *Parliament*² adopted a resolution on certain aspects of Community regional policy to be developed in the future.

Environment and consumer protection

Environment

First report on the state of the environment in the Community

2.1.45. The Commission has published the first of the reports on the state of the environment in the Community provided for in the 1973 action programme.³

Water supply and protection of resources

2.1.46. Faced with the growing scarcity of good-quality water resources and the seasonal and geographical fluctuations in the quantities

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.53.

² Point 2.3.20.

³ Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.5.

available (particularly as regards surface waters), the Commission decided on 28 April to implement a number of studies and measures to ensure adequate water supplies for the Community.

The main points are as follows:

- (i) measures to reduce or eliminate pollution of surface and ground water will be stepped up;
- (ii) a study is to be carried out on the possibility of drawing up a 'European Water Plan' to provide direct assistance for certain plans for managing water of interest to several Member States;
- (iii) national experts, particularly those who had to cope with the problems created by the 1976 drought, will be brought together to form a Working Party on Water Resources;
- (iv) financial participation by the EAGGF and European Regional Development Fund in hydraulic engineering and forestry development will be increased;
- (v) projects will be promoted to reduce water consumption of industry, agriculture and the general public;
- (vi) new research and development measures involving water resources will be examined.

Dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment

2.1.47. A meeting of senior officials arranged by the Commission on 25 April discussed the implementation of the directive on pollution caused by certain substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community, which the Council approved on 4 May 1976.¹ All the delegations to this meeting, the first of its kind, expressed their satisfaction with measures taken and the working methods applied by the Commission. The participants examined the possibility of coordinating the Community's measures with those taken by the Member States and non-member countries directly concerned. They also mentioned the measures which could be taken at Community level to combat accidents of the type

that recently occurred in the North Sea (Norwegian Ekofisk oilfield).

Pollution of the sea by oil

2.1.48. At the end of April the Commission discussed the blowout which occurred in the North Sea and made the following statement to the Council on the lessons to be learned from the Ekofisk accident:

'The Commission is attentively and anxiously following developments in connection with the accident to the Bravo platform in the Ekofisk field.

It notes that the accident occurred in the exploitation by a private company of a field in the North Sea area coming for purposes of the working of undersea resources under Norwegian authority.

The Commission is disquieted by the scale of the accident, whose implications can as yet hardly be calculated.

It considers the Community should have the powers and facilities to act effectively in such situation, so that expression can be given to the Member States' solidarity with one another and with third countries affected by disasters of this kind. In its view the safeguarding of the sea is a duty of all the countries of the international community, for the sake of future generations.

The Commission considers that the Ekofisk accident underscores the need to pursue a more effective policy, which it has not ceased to urge and implement, against marine pollution. The sea moreover is menaced not only by hydrocarbons, but also by a variety of discharges from the land and fallout from the air on an ever-increasing scale. Community anti-pollution action should include, in addition to the legislation in preparation, a number of practical arrangements. Thus in

¹ OJ L 129 of 18.5.76 and Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2232.

the particular case of hydrocarbon discharges at sea the Commission considers that, observing the lessons to be learned from the present accident, no time should be lost in taking certain steps which it will be proposing to the Council session of Environment Ministers on 15 June.⁷

Oslo Convention on marine pollution by dumping

2.1.49. The signatory States of the 1974 Paris Convention on the prevention of marine pollution from land-based sources have authorized the Community to participate as an observer in the work of the Committee responsible for organizing the secretariat duties of the 1972 Oslo Convention. The Community is not a party to this convention which relates to the prevention of marine pollution by dumping in the North-East Atlantic.

International workshop on pollutants

2.1.50. An international scientific workshop on biological specimen collection for pollutants of the environment was organized in Luxembourg in April by the Commission, the World Health Organization and the US Environmental Protection Agency and was attended by some sixty international experts.¹

2.1.51. At its April sitting, *Parliament*² adopted a Resolution on the results of the fourth parliamentary conference on the environment (held in 1976) and delivered Opinions on two Commission proposals to the Council—one on the reduction of sulphur emissions from fuel oil and the other on materials and items containing vinyl chloride monomer and likely to come into contact with foodstuffs.

Consumer protection

Consumers' Consultative Committee

2.1.52. The Consumers' Consultative Committee met on 20 April with Mr Dary in the chair. The Commission representatives stressed the Commission's intention of changing from a consumer protection policy to a policy of 'promoting consumer interests'.

The Committee also discussed the views expressed by its Steering Committee in March on the Commission proposals on farm prices for 1977/78. It then made an initial examination of its work programme for the next few years.

Agriculture and fisheries

Agricultural prices for 1977/78

2.1.53. Following its discussions on the Commission proposals³ concerning agricultural prices and certain related measures for the 1977/78 marketing year, the Council reached agreement on 25 and 26 April on a set of points, a number of which have been formally adopted⁴ and already implemented by the Commission.

Mr Gundelach, the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for agriculture and fisheries, said that he was very satisfied with the agreement reached, which largely endorsed the Commission's original proposals and in practice takes up the main items of the milk action programme.

Agri-monetary questions

2.1.54. The monetary compensatory amounts are reduced by 1.8 points for Germany, 7 points

¹ Point 2.1.36.

² Point 2.3.23.

³ Bull. EC 2-1977, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.7.

⁴ OJ L 106 of 24.4.1977, L 108 of 30.4.1977 and L 109 of 30.4.1977.

for Ireland, 3 points for France, 8 points for Italy and 4 points for the United Kingdom. They remain unchanged for the Benelux countries. These new representative rates will apply from the beginning of each marketing year, except in the milk, beef and veal and pigmeat sectors.¹ However, in the United Kingdom the new representative rate for the pound will apply from 1 May in respect of pigmeat while in the case of milk and milk products half of the adjustment will be made on 16 September 1977 and the other half on 1 April 1978.

Prices

2.1.55. The common prices decided on by the Council are given in Table 1. The average increase in common prices, expressed in units of account, is about 3.9% compared with average about 3% proposed by the Commission. The effect on the overall cost of living will be an increase of about 0.4% for the Community.

Related measures

2.1.56. The related measures adopted by the Council concern a number of crop and livestock products:

Crop products

Cereals: Since 1977/78 is the first marketing year in which the new rules on the organization of the market in cereals will be fully effective, the Commission undertakes to take all necessary steps to support the market in common wheat of bread-making quality at the level of the reference price for the whole of the marketing year. Aid for durum wheat will be confined to southern Italy, including the Marches, Latium, Tuscany and all the mountain area covered by the Directive of 28 April 1975.² A 3 u.a./tonne abatement of the import levy on maize will apply in Italy during the 1977/78 marketing year.

Sugar and isoglucose: The Council agreed that if present prospects are confirmed there will be a reduction in the maximum production quota for sugar with effect from the 1978/79 sugar year. The national aid authorized in Italy will be kept within limits. In addition, the production of isoglucose will be subject, for two years, to common provisions similar to those on the market in sugar: maximum production levy of 5 u.a./100 kg of dry matter and introduction of appropriate trade arrangements with non-member countries.

Fruit and vegetables: The marketing premium for lemons is increased and retained for the whole of a marketing year. The measures providing for the sale to the processing industry of blood oranges withdrawn from the market and the system of processing aid for lemons are for three years only. For oranges, the marketing period is extended until May 1978 at the April price.

Other crop products: The Council took note of the Commission's intention to continue its aid for colza seed with a low erucic acid content, to examine the development of soya production and to study the advisability of developing castor bean production. It agreed not to extend beyond the 1977/78 marketing year the minimum guaranteed aid for flax seed (105 u.a./ha). In the wine sector the conversion premiums introduced in May 1976³ are maintained for the 1977/78 and 1978/79 marketing years at the levels applicable for 1976/77, i.e. with 1 500 u.a./hl as the basic premium.

Livestock products

Beef and veal: Pending the proposals for amendments to the system of intervention prices and premiums which will not apply until the beginning of the 1978/79 marketing year, after the examination of a Commission report, the Council gave its agreements in principle to maintaining in force for the 1977/78 marketing year the existing system of premiums for the slaughter of certain

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.68.

² OJ L 128 of 19.5.1975.

³ Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2237.

beef cattle and the system of calving premiums (35 u.a. per calf).

Milk and milk products: The Council approved, subject to certain reservations, the Commission's proposals regarding the action programme in the milk sector.¹ The co-responsibility levy is fixed at 1.5% with effect from 16 September 1977. In place of the tax on oils and fats, the Council adopted the additional measures intended to increase butter consumption. These consist of a general subsidy—except in the United Kingdom—on butter consumption, with the Community contributing 25% of subsidies up to 20 u.a./100 kg and 50% of subsidies between 20 and 56 u.a./100 kg. For the United Kingdom the subsidy is fixed at 33 u.a./100 kg from 1 May 1977 to 31 March 1978 with 100% Community financing, but solely in respect of Community butter. This subsidy will be progressively reduced from 1 April 1978 and will disappear on 31 December 1978.

The EAGGF contribution to the financing of the non-marketing and conversion premiums will be 100% (60% from the Guarantee Section and 40% from the Guidance Section). The non-marketing premium is fixed at 95% of the target price up to 30 000 kg, at 90% from 30 to 50 000 kg and at 75% from 50 to 120 000 kg. The conversion premium is fixed at 90% of the target price up to 120 000 kg. The Council will examine subsequently the problems connected with the premium for the cessation of dairy farming and the amendments to the regulations concerning the marketing of liquid skimmed milk, and will endeavour to reach an agreement on the general rules relating to the marketing of milk products before 1 July 1977.

In addition, the Council agreed to grant additional aid for liquid skimmed milk used by pig breeders and for skimmed milk powder used in the manufacture of compound feedingstuffs for pigs and poultry, and to fix a maximum water content for skimmed milk powder in respect of which aid is granted. To ensure a harmonious transition to

the new system of aid the Council agreed to extend until 31 May 1977 the period of application of the Regulation of 20 July 1976² on the granting of special aid for liquid skimmed milk for use as feedingstuffs for certain animals in regions affected by drought.

Lastly, the Council approved the Commission proposals on the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leucosis in cattle, on school milk and on the temporary suspension of aid for the purchase of dairy cows. The Council took note of the Commission's intention

- (i) to pursue a policy of refunds for butteroil to make exports competitive;
- (ii) to make of the power conferred on it by Article 93 of the Treaty in respect of State aid while taking account of certain special circumstances;
- (iii) to grant aid for investment projects to facilitate the resale of liquid skimmed milk by dairies to farms, and in particular collective investment projects involving reception facilities at pig farms.

Financial aspects

2.1.57. Subject to the usual uncertainty caused by changes in the agricultural and monetary situation, the compromise adopted is likely to entail additional expenditure for the 1977 budget year of the order of 210 to 220 million u.a.

2.1.58. The prices and amounts fixed by the Council can be found in Table 1 following on page 41.

Problems of Mediterranean agriculture

2.1.59. On 4 April the Commission presented a communication to the Council on the problems of Mediterranean agriculture, as the Council had requested it to do in 1976.³

¹ Bull. EC 2-1977, point 1.3.5.

² OJ L 202 of 28.7.1976 and L 82 of 31.3.1977.

³ Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.3.

Table 1 — Prices and amounts

Product	Type of price or amount	Amounts for 1976/77 u.a./tonne	1977-1978		
			u.a./tonne	Change (%) 1977/78 on 1976/77	Period of application
1	2	3	4	5	6
Durum wheat	Target price	218.80	224.27	2.5	1.8.77 - 31.7.78
	Single intervention price	202.00	203.01	0.5	
	Aid (confined to certain regions)	0-21-50 UC/ha	60 UC/ha	—	
Common wheat	Target price	152.00	158.08	4.0	1.8.77 - 31.7.78
	Common single intervention price	—	120.06 ¹	—	
	Single intervention price for bread wheat	131.00	—	—	
	Reference price for bread wheat	—	135.59 ¹	—	
Barley	Target price	137.80	144.97	5.2	1.8.77 - 31.7.78
	Single intervention price	116.00	—	—	
	Common single intervention price	—	120.06 ¹	3.5	
Rye	Target price	149.15	155.12	4.0	1.8.77 - 31.7.78
	Single intervention price	124.00	128.96 ²	4.0	
Maize	Target price	137.80	144.97	5.2	1.8.77 - 31.7.78
	Single intervention price	112.20	118.03	5.2	
Rice	Target price for husked rice	284.52	295.38	3.8	1.9.77 - 31.8.78
	Intervention price for paddy rice	164.16	—	—	
	Single intervention price for paddy rice	—	171.55	4.5	
Sugar	Minimum price - sugarbeet	24.57	25.43	3.5	1.7.77 - 30.6.78
	Target price - white sugar	348.70	345.60 ³	—	
	Intervention price - white sugar	331.40	328.30 ³	—	
Olive oil	Producer target price	1 850.00	1 877.80	1.5	1.11.77 - 31.10.78
	Market target price	1 448.90	1 419.10 ⁴	—	
	Intervention price	1 376.40	1 346.20 ⁴	—	
Oilseeds	Guide price for soya beans	285.00	306.40	7.5	1.11.77 - 31.10.78
	Target price				
	• Colza and rape seed	275.70	285.30	3.5	
	• Sunflower seed	286.30	307.80	7.5	
	Basic intervention price				
	• Colza and rape seed	267.70	277.10	3.5	
	• Sunflower seed	278.00	298.90	7.5	
Guide price for flax seed	290.00	311.80	7.5		

Agriculture and fisheries

Agriculture and fisheries

Table 1 (continued)

Product	Type of price or amount	Amounts for 1976/77 u.a./tonne	1977-1978		
			u.a./tonne	Change (%) 1977/78 on 1976/77	Period of application
1	2	3	4	5	6
Dehydrated fodder	Fixed rate aid	9.00	9.55	—	1.4.77 - 31.3.78 dehydrated potatoes 1.7.77 - 30.6.78
Cotton seeds	Fixed rate aid (per ha)	103.20	104.52	—	1.8.77 - 31.7.78
Flax and hemp	Fixed rate aid (per ha) • Fibre flax • Hemp	188.15 174.04	194.76 ¹ 176.88	— —	1.8.77 - 31.7.78
Seeds	Aid (per 100 kg) • Monoecious hemp • Fibre flax • Seed flax • Grasses • Legumes	8.00 13.00 — 10 to 31 4 to 25	9.00 13.00 10.00 10 to 33 4 to 25	— — — — —	1.7.77 - 30.6.78
Table wine:					
Type R I	Guide price	1.96	2.03	3.5	
Type R II	(per degree/hl or per hl according to type)	1.96	2.03	3.5	
Type R III		30.58	31.65	3.5	16.12.77 - 15.12.78
Type A I		1.84	1.90	3.3	
Type A II		40.75	42.18	3.5	
Type A III		46.53	48.16	3.5	
Raw tobacco	Norm price Intervention price	5	5	0.5 to 4.5	1.1.77 - 31.12.77
Fruit and vegetables	Basic price Buying-in price	6	6	2.5 to 4.5	1977 - 1978 ⁶
Milk ⁷	Target price for milk Intervention price • butter • skimmed milk powder	162.90 167.60 2 180.00 2 238.00 901.60 913.70	173.50 2 309.50 ¹ 940.90	3.5 3.2 3.0	1.5.77 - 31.3.78

Table 1 (continued)

Product	Type of price or amount	Amounts for 1976/77 u.a./tonne	1977-1978		
			u.a./tonne	Change (%) 1977/78 on 1976/77	Period of application
1	2	3	4	5	6
Milk (cont.)	• cheese				
	– Grana padano 30-60 days	2 089.10 2 137.90	2 237.20	4.6	
	– Grana padano 6 months	2 506.90 2 558.40	2 693.40	5.3	1.5.77 - 31.3.78
	– Parmigiano-Reggiano 6 months	2 718.10 2 769.60	2 925.70	5.6	
Beef and veal	Guide prices for adult bovines (live weight)	1 187.40	1 229.0 ¹	3.5	
	Guide price for calves (live weight)	1 390.40	—	—	1.5.77 - 2.4.78
Pigmeat	Basic price (slaughter weight)	1 144.80	1 202.00	5.0	1.11.77 - 31.10.78
Silkworms	Aid per box of silk seed	40.00	40.20	—	1.4.77 - 31.3.78
	Aid to recognized producer groups (per box)	15.00	14.07	—	

¹ Prices differentiated for new Member States until the end of the transitional period (31 December 1977):

Product	Type of price or amount	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark	Unit
Common wheat	Common single intervention price	111.25	118.63	118.10	u.a./t
	Reference price for bread wheat	125.44	132.07	133.58	u.a./t
Barley	Common single intervention price	111.01	116.88	118.21	u.a./t
Fibre flax	Fixed rate aid	163.72	common level	common level	u.a./t
Butter	Intervention price	2.054.50	2.269.60	common level	u.a./t
Adult bovines	Guide price	1.182.70	1.182.70	common level	u.a./t (live weight)

² In 1977/78, a special increase of 3.11 u.a./t is granted for bread rye with an amylogram index 200 or more

³ Not including the levy for storage costs.

⁴ On the basis of the new representative rates, increase in national currency of approximately 4.5% for Italy and approximately 0.5% for France.

⁵ Nineteen varieties of tobacco, the prices for which apply to the calendar year crop.

⁶ Products in Annex II to the Council Regulation of 18 May 1972 and periods varying according to the product

Cauliflowers : 1.5.1977 to 30.4.1978	Lemons : 1.6.1977 to 31.5.1978	Apples : 1.8.1977 to 31.5.1978
Tomatoes : 1.6.1977 to 30.11.1977	Pears : 1.7.1977 to 30.4.1978	Mandarins : 16.11.1977 to 28.2.1978
Peaches : 1.6.1977 to 30.9.1977	Table grapes : 1.8.1977 to 31.10.1977	Sweet oranges : 1.12.1977 to 31.5.1978

There are increase of 3.5% for oranges, mandarins and clementines and 4.5% for lemons in the financial compensation designed to promote the marketing of Community citrus on Community import markets.

⁷ In this sector, two periods of application in 1976/77, from 15.3.1976 and from 16.9.1976. Increases are calculated in relation to the second period of the previous marketing year. NB. Aid for the 1975 hop harvest ranged from 200 to 650 u.a./ha according to variety. With regard to fisheries, different prices for each product covered by the Council Regulation of 20 October 1970. In December 1976 fixing of (guide) prices for products in Annex I A and C to that Regulation, (guide) prices for products in Annex II to that Regulation, intervention prices and Community producer prices for the 1977 marketing year. Intervention prices for sardines and anchovies are automatically calculated at the rate of 4.5% of guide prices

Measures connected with the monetary situation

2.1.60. Following the devaluation of the Danish krone on 1 April the Council on 5 April¹ fixed a new representative rate for that currency to apply in agriculture. With effect from 6 April the 'green' krone is equal to 0.122877 u.a. This adjustment makes it possible to avoid introducing monetary compensatory amounts for Denmark.

2.1.61. On 20 April² the Commission adopted a regulation extending the list of non-Annex II products subject to monetary compensatory amounts. This long-term measure takes account of the considerable impact of differences in the price of basic products on the conditions of competition for processed products. This price difference stems from the application of monetary compensatory amounts to basic products.

Common organization of markets

2.1.62. Various problems concerning the markets in sugar, wine, hops and fishery products were on the agenda for the Council meeting on 25 and 26 April. The Council endorsed the broad outlines of an amendment to the Regulation on the common organization of the market in hops to take account of the considerable changes which have occurred in recent years.

2.1.63. In April the Commission took a number of measures³ concerning invitations to tender for products in intervention. In view of the seasonal trend in market prices for *boned beef*, monthly sales by tender needed to be suspended temporarily (in June, July and August). However, 143 000 tonnes of *sugar* may be sold for export and 400 000 tonnes of *skimmed milk powder* may be disposed of in one year for feeding pigs and poultry as a result of the fixing of advantageous prices and the upward trend of prices for soya

cake, the competing product. Stocks of skimmed milk powder at present total 880 000 tonnes.

2.1.64. On the other hand, since the prices of *pig* carcasses fell sharply in April, private storage aid was introduced in this sector with effect from 21 April⁴. These measures supplement those adopted in respect of the Netherlands in March⁵ because of the outbreak of swine fever in that country.

2.1.65. As regards butter, stocks of which at present amount to 160 000 tonnes, refunds were suspended for three days and all exports will in future be subject to the presentation of an export licence.⁶ Consequently, while retaining the export monitoring system with the tighter checks introduced on 2 March,⁷ the Commission feels that normal operations can now be resumed.

Fisheries policy

2.1.66. The Council decided⁸ to extend until 31 May 1977 its Regulation of 18 February 1977⁹ banning herring fishing in the North Sea, pending a general examination in May of the problem of conserving herring stocks in the various fishing zones.

Structural policy

2.1.67. On 26 April the Council amended its Decision of 6 April 1976⁹ on the level of the in-

¹ OJ L 88 of 6.4.1977.

² OJ L 97 of 21.4.1977.

³ OJ L 52 of 24.2.1977, L 58 of 3.3.1977, L 86 of 2.4.1977 and L 104 of 28.4.1977.

⁴ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.74.

⁵ OJ L 84 of 1.4.1977, L 86 of 2.4.1977 and Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.72.

⁶ OJ L 58 of 3.3.1977 and Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.72.

⁷ OJ L 106 of 29.4.1977.

⁸ Bull. EC 2-1977, point 1.2.9.

⁹ Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2254.

interest rate subsidy, as provided for in the Directive of 17 April 1972 on the modernization of farms, to be applied in Italy. This was increased from 11 to 12% in the mountain regions.

2.1.68. In addition, the Commission adopted three Decisions on the implementation of the reform of agricultural structures in the Netherlands, Denmark and Italy.¹ It delivered seven Opinions on provisions communicated by Italy, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands in accordance with the Council Directives of 17 April 1972 and 28 April 1975.²

Conditions of competition

2.1.69. On 20 and 26 April the Commission decided to initiate the procedure laid down in Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty in respect of two Italian aid schemes: one in the region of Apulia concerning the purchase of selected seed of durum wheat and fodder seed, and the other in the region of Umbria on aid for the recovery and development of stockfarming, health improvements and sheep farming.

The Commission considers that the first measure, which simply reduces production costs without having a lasting effect on the structural development of the sectors concerned, is incompatible with the common market. As regards the second measure, the Commission has already delivered unfavourable Opinions to the Member States concerning this type of aid.

2.1.70. By contrast, the Commission decided to terminate the procedure under Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty which it had initiated in respect of a German aid scheme concerning a rearing premium for male calves obtained by selective crossing. This measure, which is restricted to 1978, may be regarded as development aid and thus compatible with the common market.

Harmonization of legislation

2.1.71. Following its Decisions of 22 and 30 March 1977³ authorizing the Member States to prevent the introduction on to their territory of pigs and fresh pigmeat from the Netherlands because of the outbreak of classical swine fever in that country, the Commission in April adopted a series of decisions⁴ intended to abolish progressively the measures it had enacted in March.

The general ban on exports remains temporarily in force as regards pigs for breeding or production, whereas fresh meat and pigs for slaughter may be exported except from certain zones which remain subject to restrictions. The decision-making procedure of the Standing Veterinary Committee has made it possible to find a flexible solution, consisting in providing support from the effective campaign conducted by the Dutch veterinary authorities and at the same time coordinating the restrictive measures adopted by the other Member States.

The same procedure enabled Denmark and the Netherlands to request, with effect from 1 January 1978 and 1 May 1977 respectively, special health guarantees on the import of cattle for breeding and production so as to prevent the spread of bovine enzootic leucosis. A similar decision to that adopted by the Commission on 22 April⁵ in respect of these two countries has already been adopted at the request of Germany.

At its meeting on 25 and 26 April the Council approved⁶ a Commission proposal for a financial contribution to the eradication of certain contagious diseases of cattle: brucellosis, tuberculosis and leucosis.

*

¹ OJ L 103 of 27.4.1977.

² OJ L 96 of 23.4.1972 and L 128 of 19.5.1975.

³ OJ L 78 of 26.3.1977, L 87 of 5.4.1977 and Bull. EC 3-1977 point 2.1.85.

⁴ OJ L 93 of 15.4.1977 and L 98 of 22.4.1977.

⁵ OJ L 116 of 7.5.1977.

⁶ Point 2.1.56.

2.1.72. At the part-session from 18 to 22 April 1977, *Parliament*¹ adopted various Resolutions concerning imports into the Community of agricultural products originating in Turkey, a report by the Audit Board on the aid granted to Italy by the EAGGF and Commission proposals in the beef and veal, dairy and sugar sectors.

Transport policy

Organization of the market

2.1.73. On 6 April, the Commission decided to amend its proposals on the fixing of rates for international goods transport by rail, and on reference tariffs for international carriage (of goods) by road and by inland waterway between Member States.

These amendments, affecting several recitals and articles of the original proposals, take account of various amendments proposed by Parliament. These were accepted where they improved the general scope of the proposals. On the other hand, the Commission would not introduce new articles providing for the fixing of compulsory tariffs in the event of serious market disruptions, because it is planning to prepare a general 'troubleshooting' proposal whose provisions will encompass more than tariffs alone.

2.1.74. The Commission has sent the Council and the governments of the Member States the seventh report by the Committee of Experts of International Road Tariffs set up by the Council Regulation of July 1968 on the introduction of a system of bracket tariffs. The report compares statistical information on the patterns of the international carriage of goods by road in 1974 and 1975. The Committee's sixth report was sent to the bodies concerned in November 1976.²

2.1.75. Another meeting between the railway experts and Commission representatives was held

on 21 April to continue discussions on the possibility of revising the Agreement of 21 March 1955³ on the establishment of through international railway tariffs for coal and steel.

Harmonization of structures

2.1.76. A first meeting was held on 21 April between Commission representatives and government experts in connection with the Council Directive of 20 January 1976 on reciprocal recognition of navigability licences.⁴ The meeting examined a list prepared by the Member States of waterways where maritime conditions prevail together with the laws, regulations and administrative provisions adopted by the Member States to implement the Directive. Finally, an initial discussion was held on common technical specifications to be applied to inland waterway vessels.

2.1.77. On 1 April,⁵ the Commission decided to send the United Kingdom Government an Opinion on the draft Roads and Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order. In this Opinion the Commission states that the word 'records' in the schedule to the draft must also be taken to refer to the tachograph records which replace the individual control book under Article 14 of the Council Regulation of 1969.⁶ The Commission also reminds the United Kingdom Government that, as regards the training of drivers of heavy goods vehicles, it must formally consult the Commission under the Council Directive of 16 December 1976⁷ on the minimum level of training for some road transport drivers.

2.1.78. On 20 April⁸ *Parliament* adopted a resolution on shipping problems in the Community.

¹ Points 2.3.12, 2.3.13 and 2.3.10.

² Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2279.

³ OJ 9 of 19.4.1955.

⁴ OJ L 21 of 29.1.1976 and Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2249.

⁵ OJ L 93 of 15.4.1977.

⁶ OJ L 77 of 29.3.1969.

⁷ OJ L 357 of 29.12.1976.

⁸ Point 2.3.31.

Energy policy

Sectoral problems

Coal

Coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry

2.1.79. On 12 April¹ the Commission amended its Decision of 25 July 1973 concerning coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry.² The Decision cancels the phased reductions originally planned for 1977 and, instead, retains the rates applicable in 1976. The rates apply both to sales aid which may be granted to undertakings and to the contributions to Community financing.

Financial aid granted by the Member States to the coal industry

2.1.80. On 18 April the Commission sent to the Council a Memorandum on the financial aid granted by the Member States to the coal industry in 1976. The document summarizes and compares the annual communications from the Member States which keep the Commission informed of the steps they have taken to implement the Decision of 25 February 1976 regarding the Community system of measures by the Member States to assist the coal-mining industry.³

The Memorandum shows that the financial situation in the coal industry deteriorated in 1976. As a result of wage increases and the rise in prices of mining equipment, production costs rose faster than receipts. Nevertheless, the German and British coalfields almost managed to cover current production costs. There were operating losses in the French and Belgian coalfields, and they were granted aid to cover such losses.

Industrial loans

2.1.81. Acting under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty the Commission has granted the *National Coal Board* an £18 million loan for the purchase of movable underground plant and equipment for use in NCB mines.

Research and development, science and education

Science, research and development

Symposium on 'Strategies for Europe — suggestions for scientific and technological policies'

2.1.82. From 14 to 16 April the Commission, in collaboration with the Science Policy Foundation of London, held in Brussels a symposium attended by some 75 participants from Europe and the United States representing government bodies, international organizations and industrial and research circles.

At the symposium, entitled 'Strategies for Europe — suggestions for scientific and technological policies', the participants had an opportunity to discuss the principal problems encountered in this area, with special reference to fundamental research, the social sciences, industrial innovation, interaction between science and the public, and relations with the development countries.

A number of conclusions emerged from the symposium, the most important of which concern:

(i) the promotion of better collaboration in the field of fundamental research, in particular in the

¹ OJ L 91 of 13.4.1977.

² OJ L 259 of 15.9.1973.

³ OJ L 63 of 11.3.1976.

genetic engineering sector (where safety measures need to be harmonized) and with regard to the use of synchrotron radiation;

(ii) the creation of a European scheme of science scholarships in order to help solve the problem of unemployment among the new generation of young university graduates;

(iii) the intensification of social research studies on subjects of European concern, such as problems of adjustment among the families of migrant workers, European society on the road to political and economic integration, the social repercussions of modern technology, leisure-oriented land utilization, etc.;

(iv) the promotion of a process of industrial innovation adapted to the specific conditions obtaining in Europe;

(v) the highlighting of technological transfers to the developing countries so as to enable those countries to select, acquire and adapt the appropriate technologies on fair and equitable terms.

The conclusions reached at this symposium will provide the Commission with useful information for its task of formulating a Community science and development policy.

Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST)

2.1.83. On 28 and 29 April the CREST Working Party on problems of *scientific and technical cooperation with the developing countries* resumed its examination, begun at its meeting on 1 March,¹ of the first list of collaborative projects embarked on by the Member States in aid of the developing countries.

In this way the Working Party was able to pinpoint a number of sectors which could possibly form the subject of a Community project to supplement the efforts of the Member States. The results of this work will be communicated to CREST as soon as they have been finalized.

Problems associated with the decommissioning of nuclear installations

2.1.84. On 19 and 20 April, in connection with the research proposals that it expects to forward to the Council before the end of the year, the Commission convened in Brussels the first meeting of a group of experts from the Member States for the purpose of jointly reviewing the results achieved and the experience acquired in the decommissioning of nuclear installations in the Community. This subject comes within the context of the programme of action on the environment approved by the Council on 9 December 1976.² The Commission and the experts meeting in Brussels will conduct the necessary exchange of information for the launching of a Community programme in this area.

2.1.85. The *Economic and Social Committee*,³ meeting on 27 and 28 April, delivered its opinion on two Commission proposals to the Council concerning electronic traffic aids on major roads and the processing and use of sewage sludge.

Education

2.1.86. During April, work in connection with the programme of action on education covered the following four main aspects:

(i) making a start, in collaboration with a group of experts and the liaison officers in the Member States, on the preparation and planning of the three-year programme of pilot projects designed to improve the preparation of young people for work and their transition from education to working life,⁴

(ii) launching of the programme of study visits for vocational training and guidance specialists.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.112.

² Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2272.

³ Points 2.3.63 and 2.3.61.

⁴ OJ C 308 of 30.12.1976.

2. External relations

Research, development, science, education

This programme is intended for persons responsible, at various stages in the education system, for helping young people to prepare for work;¹

(iii) launching of the Community project providing for the organization of study visits for teaching and administrative staff and for research workers, under the programme of cooperation in the field of higher education;

(iv) implementation of the second facet of the aid programme for the promotion of joint programmes of study among higher education institutions in the Member States.

Enlargement

Accession negotiations: Greece

2.2.1. The *second session at ministerial level* of the negotiations for the accession of Greece was held in Luxembourg on 5 April. Negotiations were formally opened in July 1976,¹ and the first session at ministerial level took place on 19 October.²

Mr Panayotis Papaligouras, the Minister of Coordination in the Greek Government, made a statement concerning the progress of the work of the Conference at Deputy level since the last ministerial meeting in October 1976. For the Community a similar statement was made by Dr David Owen, President of the Council. For the Commission, Vice-President Natali gave an account of the progress made in the examination of the secondary legislation.

2.2.2. The Commission and the Greek Delegation continued the examination of *Community secondary legislation*. A start was made in the sector of harmonization of legislation, covering the fields of electrical appliances, motor vehicles and foodstuffs.

Political cooperation

Ministerial meeting of Ministers

2.2.3. The Foreign Ministers of the Nine met in London on 18 April. The meeting was chaired by Dr David Owen, the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. The Commission was represented by Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp.

¹ OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, points 1201 and 1205.

² Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2328.

The proceedings bore mainly on the situation in southern Africa and Zaire. Other matters discussed were the preparations for the Belgrade meeting (CSCE), the Middle East, the situation in Cyprus (the talks in Vienna between the two island communities) and the Treaty of Osimo. Under this Treaty, which was concluded in 1975 and has recently been ratified, Italy and Yugoslavia finally settled the differences which have existed since the end of the Second World War concerning the border between the two countries in the region of Trieste. At the end of the meeting two statements were issued.

Statement on Africa

2.2.4. The Foreign Ministers of the nine countries of the European Community studied the situation in Africa, in particular in Namibia, Rhodesia and Zaire. They expressed their deep concern at the escalation of violence and the signs of instability and serious economic difficulties.

The Ministers reaffirmed that the Nine were prepared to cooperate with any African States which so desired and were opposed to any action by any State which aimed to establish a sphere of influence in Africa.

The Foreign Ministers will continue to support the efforts of the OAU to promote cooperation in Africa and will support the right of the peoples of Namibia and Rhodesia to self-determination and independence. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their condemnation of the policy of apartheid in South Africa. They will continue to oppose any form of racial discrimination wherever it exists.

They stated that they supported the right of all peoples to live in peace and enjoy the fundamental rights defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed that they would do everything possible to promote democ-

atic majority rule and non-racialist government in southern Africa.

They expressed their support for the principles of territorial integrity and non-intervention in internal affairs, which have always been championed by the United Nations and the OAU and which should be respected in the case of Zaire, where they will encourage mediation by the Government of Nigeria.

Individually and jointly, the Nine will consider what further efforts they can make to improve the economic situation in Africa.

Statement on the Treaty of Osimo

2.2.5. The Ministers expressed their profound satisfaction following the completion, on 3 April, of the ratification procedure relating to the Treaty of Osimo between Italy and Yugoslavia; they emphasized that the Treaty was a major contribution by both parties to strengthening peace and cooperation in Europe, in accordance with the principles set out in the Final Act of the CSCE.

Quarterly discussion with Parliament's Political Affairs Committee

2.2.6. Meeting in London on 25 and 26 April, the Political Affairs Committee of the European Parliament held its quarterly discussion on political cooperation. The Foreign Ministers were represented by Mr Frank Judd, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who deputized for Dr David Owen, the current chairman and United Kingdom Foreign Secretary. The main points discussed were Africa, particularly developments in Zaire, the Middle East and the Belgrade meeting (CSCE).

Multilateral approaches

Conference on International Economic Cooperation

2.2.7. Several formal and informal meetings were held in April, in Luxembourg or Strasbourg (Council meetings) and in Paris, to prepare for the resumption of the North-South Dialogue at ministerial level.

Defining the Community's position

2.2.8. Two Council meetings were needed to define the Community's position on the basis of the statement issued on 25 and 26 March in Rome.¹

The press release put out at the end of the 5 April meeting stated that the Council had 'continued its deliberations with an eye to the resumption of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation. It evolved guidelines which would permit the Community to make a positive contribution to the forthcoming meetings of the Group of 8 and to the Conference when it resumes. It agreed to continue its discussions on the definition of the Community position for the final stage of the Conference' at the beginning of May.

Following subsequent discussions the Council (at its meeting in Brussels on 3 May 'defined the position to be adopted by the Community for the final phase of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation, the final ministerial meeting of which will be held on 29 and 30 May and 1 June. Further to the directives adopted on 5 April, the Council adopted additional directives concerning in particular special action and the field of raw materials').

The directives adopted at the two meetings deal with the following points: the setting up of a Common Fund; the stabilization of the develop-

ing countries' export earnings from commodities; special action for the poorest developing countries (which, according to most of the Member States of the Community, could involve a total amount of \$ 1 000 000, to be borne by all the industrialized countries) and measures relating to energy.

The discussions of the high-level group (senior Council and Commission officials) made a sizeable contribution to preparing the Community's position.

Informal meetings in Paris

2.2.9. Since the beginning of April, a number of informal meetings have been held in Paris, to prepare for the resumption of the CIEC. The contact groups between the developing and industrialized countries resumed their work—suspended in November 1976²—in order to define the points of agreement as regards the holding of a Ministerial Conference from 30 May to 1 June 1977.

The Group of Eight industrialized countries met twice, on 24 and 25 April, to consider matters of substance and tactical questions. The ten co-chairmen (the two co-chairmen of the Conference and those of its four Commissions) and the senior officials of the CIEC met from 26 to 28 April. During this first official resumption of talks, it was decided to hold the Ministerial Conference in late May and early June, as agreed in March on the suggestion of Mr MacEachen and Mr Perez-Guerrero, co-chairmen of the Conference.³

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.2.6.

² Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2315.

³ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.2.4.

Implementation of the UNCTAD IV Programme

Preparatory meetings under the integrated programme for commodities

Jute and jute products

2.2.10. In accordance with the programme drawn up by the ad hoc intergovernmental committee there was a further preparatory meeting of experts on jute and jute products, in the context of the integrated programme for commodities, in Geneva from 4 to 7 April. Discussions centered on the stabilization of the market in jute and jute products and consideration of the possibilities for cooperation in research, production development, promotion of finished products and reduction of production costs.

Multilateral trade negotiations

Trade Negotiations Committee

Non-tariff measures

2.2.11. The Non-Tariff Measures Group met on 20 April to discuss the proposal from the developing countries that a new sub-group on anti-dumping questions be set up.

The United States opposed this, stating that this subgroup's duties would overlap with GATT's existing Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices, which administers the anti-dumping code. Other delegates, including those of the Community and Canada, doubted whether such a subgroup was either necessary or useful. Yet others, however, supported the developing countries' proposal. It was agreed to resume this discussion at a subsequent meeting.

2.2.12. The Economic and Social Committee,¹ which met on 27 and 28 April, delivered an opinion on the GATT multilateral trade negotiations.

Law of the sea

Preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

2.2.13. On 22 April the Commission presented a communication to the Council on the preparations for the sixth session of the Conference on the Law of the Sea, to be held in New York from 23 May to about mid-July 1977. The communication proposes guidelines for common attitudes by the Nine to points still outstanding. The proposed guidelines are to supplement or clarify those already presented in preparation for the fifth session of the Conference, held from 2 August to 17 September 1976.²

Development

Development cooperation policy

Relations with non-governmental organizations

2.2.14. At the end of April, of the fifty projects submitted since the beginning of the year by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) specializing in development aid, twenty-seven—representing a total of 920 000 units of account—had been approved under the cofinancing programme.

Trade cooperation with the developing countries

2.2.15. Trade missions from five countries (Indonesia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and

¹ Point 2.3.62.

² Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2332.

Pakistan) visited a number of Member States in April under the Community's policy for promoting trade with developing countries.

2.2.16. In cooperation with the banks belonging to EBIC (European Banks' International) the Commission sponsored a conference in Brussels from 4 to 6 April¹ which was attended by representatives of the five ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore) and by Western European representatives.

Generalized preferences

2.2.17. At the invitation of the Indian Government, the Commission held a seminar on generalized tariff preferences in New Delhi on 18 and 19 April. The meeting was organized by the Engineering Export Promotion Council and enabled two hundred representatives of Indian firms using the generalized preferences scheme to meet Commission representatives and experts from the European private sector. Views and information were exchanged on economic sectors in which no particular difficulties are at present being encountered in the Community in the use of the preferences. The Commission delegation also had talks with the Indian authorities on the development of the Community's GSP scheme as regards agricultural products, textiles and craft products.

Food aid and emergency

2.2.18. On 5 April² the Council agreed to supply India with emergency food aid in the form of 3 000 tonnes of butteroil.

2.2.19. On 13 April the Commission decided to grant emergency food aid for drought victims in Chad via the League of Red Cross Societies. This aid will involve 100 tonnes of skimmed milk powder worth approximately 51 000 u.a.

2.2.20. On 15 April the Commission decided to grant the Comoros emergency food aid in the form of 5 000 tonnes of cereals worth approximately 750 000 u.a.

2.2.21. Meeting from 18 to 22 April, Parliament delivered its Opinion on two Commission proposals to the Council, one on the setting up of a European agency for trade cooperation with the developing countries, the other concerning financial and technical aid for non-associated developing countries.

Commodities and world agreements

Sugar

2.2.22. The conference to *negotiate a new International Sugar Agreement*,³ held under the auspices of the United Nations, opened in Geneva on 18 April and was attended by representatives from a hundred or so countries. On 5 April, the Council had formally decided that the Community should participate in these negotiations and had given the Commission a negotiating brief for the conclusion of an agreement to stabilize the world market by means of a storage policy closely linked with price arrangements.

The conference—which is scheduled to continue until 27 May—was opened by Mr Gamani Corea, Secretary General of UNCTAD who particularly stressed the need for stabilizing commodity markets in developing countries.

In his statement at the opening session of the conference, the Community spokesman said that the Commission was convinced that national stocks policies coordinated at international level

¹ Point 2.2.80.

² OJ L 90 of 8.4.1977.

³ Bull. EC 2-1977 and 3-1977, points 2.2.17.

would prove effective; such a system would require consultations between the partners and the introduction of suitable measures for increasing and reducing stocks on the basis of provisions adopted jointly and in the light of the price levels actually prevailing on the world market.

Rice

2.2.23. The *FAO Intergovernmental Group on Rice* met in Rome from 28 March to 1 April and examined the situation and outlook on the world rice market in 1976 and 1977, national and regional rice policies, and directives regarding national and international measures.

The discussions on the world situation and outlook showed that in 1976 supply on the world rice market was fairly plentiful and that the quantities available for export in 1977 should be sufficient to cover the forecast import requirements. As to world food security, the situation for rice has improved compared with the 1973-75 period.

For the examination of national and regional rice policies, the Secretariat had updated some of its earlier studies (United States and EEC) and drawn up a new study on rice policy in Pakistan.

In the discussions on directives regarding national and international measures, the Secretariat noted that a number of exporting countries—including the EEC—had resorted to export subsidies to make foreign sales easier. The Community representative explained the system of refunds used in the Community and showed that Community prices for rice were never lower than world market prices.

Olive oil

2.2.24. The *International Olive Oil Council* held its 36th session in Madrid on 20 and 21 April. The Community was present as an observer at

the meeting, at which one of the items on the agenda was the question of the extension or renewal of the International Olive Oil Agreement.

Since the present Agreement (1963 Agreement extended by the 1967 Protocol and amended by the 1969 and 1973 Protocols) expires on 31 December 1978, it is for the International Olive Oil Council to send its members recommendations on the extension or renewal of this Agreement. Preparatory meetings are also planned within the context of the UNCTAD resolution on an integrated programme for commodities.¹

At the Madrid meeting, the IOOC agreed to carry out a study, in conjunction with UNCTAD, on the technical and analytical aspects of the various options and to defer any discussions on the form and content of the new agreement until the renegotiating conference on olive oil—which is scheduled to be held within UNCTAD from 28 March to 14 April 1978.

2.2.25. On 19 April, *Parliament* adopted a Resolution on the Community's raw material supplies.²

Tungsten

2.2.26. During the session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board held in Geneva from 25 to 29 April,³ the question of convening a negotiating conference on tungsten was raised by the producer countries. It was finally agreed that by July 1977 a small intergovernmental group of experts would be set up to study the various existing proposals. On the basis of the group's conclusions, the Trade and Development Board would then decide whether to call a conference; if held, the conference would take place before July 1978.

¹ Bull. EC 5-1976, point 1204.

² Point 2.3.17.

³ Point 2.2.46.

Commercial policy

Formulation and implementation of the common commercial policy

Import arrangements

Instruments of the commercial policy

2.2.27. In April the Commission communicated to the Governments of the Member States two recommendations for adding further instruments which were missing in the arsenal available to the Community for the implementation of its commercial policy. The steel crisis had made it clear that the Commission could not rely on the existing basic anti-dumping regulations¹ or the common rules for imports.² The two recommendations—which deal with ECSC products—are based on Article 74 of the Treaty of Paris.

Consultation-coordination procedure: One of the recommendations introduces a Community consultation-coordination procedure in the event of plans being made for measures to provide protection against imports which are causing or threatening to cause serious damage to Community producers.³ It is recommended that the Member States notify the Commission of any danger resulting from the development of imports which could make it necessary to have recourse to safeguard measures. The Commission will inform the other Member States immediately and will organize consultations within eight working days of the receipt of that information. The consultations will cover:

- (i) the terms of imports and their development, and the various aspects of the economic and commercial situation for the product in question;
- (ii) any measures that might need to be taken.

The Member States will be informed within ten days following the consultations whether the

Commission considers that it should have recourse to the provisions of Article 74(3) of the Treaty. If by that time the Commission has not specified that it was invoking Article 74(3) of the Treaty, the Member State or States concerned could adopt national measures after further consultations with the Commission and the other Member States. The recommendation will enter into force for each Member State on the day it is published in the Official Journal.

Protection against dumping or the granting of bounties or subsidies by countries which are not members of the ECSC: Since 1968 the Commission has had a suitable legal instrument for the products covered by the EEC Treaty in the form of the Council Regulation of 5 April 1968.¹

For ECSC products on the other hand, Article 74(1) of the Treaty of Paris contains only general provisions giving the Commission a power of recommendation in this field. Being so general, the article is mute on a number of points, in particular the definition of dumping practices or subsidies, the lodging of complaints, the procedure to be followed, the conduct of inquiries, etc. These shortcomings needed to be remedied in order to improve both the clarity and effectiveness.

The Commission recommendation, which was formally adopted on 15 April,³ therefore contains precise definitions of dumping and subsidies, the determination of the damage suffered by the Community industry, the formulation of complaints by that industry and their content. The recommendation sets out the arrangements for cooperation with the Member States and explains the procedure for enabling the various parties concerned (Community producers, exporters) to make their viewpoint known. It also lays down the conditions under which the Commission rec-

¹ OJ L 93 of 17.4.1968.

² OJ L 159 of 15.6.1974.

³ OJ L 114 of 5.5.1977.

ommends the introduction of anti-dumping duties.

The arrangements are closely modelled on the rules established and used in the EEC field, which themselves are in accordance with those agreed in GATT and applied by most of the Community's trading partners.¹ They do, however, allow for the features peculiar to the ECSC Treaty, particularly regarding the special arrangements (power of recommendation) for the exercise of the Commission's powers.

Relaxation of restrictive measures

2.2.28. Under the Council Decision of 27 March 1975 on unilateral import arrangements in respect of State-trading countries,² the Commission adopted the following decisions relaxing import restrictions:

France-Poland: exceptional opening of a quota for the importation of two vessels for the transport of mineral products;³

Community-Romania: suspension of quantitative restrictions on imports of a number of textile products covered by the Arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles (MFA);⁴

Federal Republic of Germany, Benelux, France, and Italy-Romania: exceptional opening of a number of quotas for the importation of various agricultural and industrial products;³

Italy-USSR: exceptional opening of an import quota for aluminium scrap, alloyed, in bars;⁵

Germany-Czechoslovakia: exceptional opening of a quota for plywood panels;³

Italy-German Democratic Republic: exceptional opening of an import quota for seamless tubes of iron or steel.³

Safeguard measures

2.2.29. During April, the Commission adopted a number of anti-dumping measures. Other safe-

guard measures were concerned with the textile sector in particular.⁶

2.2.30. On 6 April the Commission proposed that the Council renew for three months the *provisional anti-dumping duty* on Japanese *ball-bearings* imposed in February. Since the duty was introduced, Commission staff have been actively studying the circumstances of the case, but, since the matter is of some complexity, the Japanese exporters have asked for a three-month extension to give time for a full analysis of the facts. So that the case can be scrutinized as fully and as equitably as possible, therefore, the Commission agreed to this request and forwarded a proposal to the Council.⁷

2.2.31. On 3 February the Commission had opened an anti-dumping procedure concerning concrete *reinforcing bars* from *South Africa*. In the course of that procedure, the South African manufacturers offered adequate assurances, and protective measures became unnecessary. The procedure has accordingly been terminated.⁸

2.2.32. In the case concerning *steel bolts* from *Taiwan*, the Commission decided on 6 April to institute import surveillance.⁹ The Taiwanese exporters had entered into certain commitments as regards prices, and the Commission, finding these commitments satisfactory, accepted them. However, to make sure that the commitments are actually honoured it was felt that import surveillance should be introduced and that the anti-dumping procedures should not be terminated for the moment.

¹ Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.5.

² OJ L 99 of 21.4.1975.

³ OJ C 100 of 23.4.1977.

⁴ OJ C 98 of 21.4.1977.

⁵ OJ C 97 of 20.4.1977.

⁶ Points 2.2.37 to 2.2.41.

⁷ A regulation extending this duty for three months was adopted by the Council.

⁸ OJ C 89 of 14.4.1977.

⁹ OJ L 93 of 15.4.1977.

2.2.33. The Commission also opened a series of anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigations¹ into: *soya cakes originating in Brazil*, agricultural twine of *sisal originating in Brazil and Mexico*, *tyres and inner tubes for cycles and power-assisted cycles originating in South Korea and Taiwan*.

The Commission has received information and evidence concerning dumping and subsidization of imports of the above products, suggesting that serious harm may be done to Community industry. It has therefore begun working with the Member States on an investigation into the facts.

2.2.34. On 6 April,² the Commission introduced a quota of 2 500 tonnes for imports into France of *domestic enamelled iron or steel articles originating in Spain*. This measure was made necessary by the disruption of the French market caused by the very rapid increase in imports at low prices (655 tonnes in 1973, 3 674 tonnes in 1976). Spanish exporters were cornering an increasing share of the French market—more than 30% in 1976—and so the Commission decided to make the imports in question subject to quantitative restrictions.

Trade agreements: extension or tacit renewal

2.2.35. On 25 April³ the Council decided to authorize the extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and non-member countries (second instalment for 1977). These are agreements with an expiry date or deadline for denunciation between 1 May and 31 July.

Specific measures of commercial policy

Textiles

Thailand

2.2.36. The negotiations with Thailand for the *conclusion of an agreement on trade in textile pro-*

ducts, which had continued from 25 to 29 April, resulted in the establishment of a draft agreement which was initialled on 2 May and will cover all of 1977.

As with the other agreements negotiated by the Community under the Multifibre Arrangement, the Agreement with Thailand involves voluntary restraint at agreed levels for Thai exports of certain fabrics to the Community and of specific knitted and crocheted products to certain Member States. There is also a special consultation clause.

2.2.37. On 21 April⁴ the Commission adopted a Regulation making imports into Italy of *certain woven fabrics of cotton and synthetic textile fibres originating in Thailand* subject to authorization. This Regulation was adopted as a matter of urgency in view of the situation of market disruption caused in Italy by the sharp increase in Thai exports of the products in question. Its adoption had no bearing on the outcome of the negotiations then in progress between the Community and Thailand for the conclusion of a bilateral agreement on trade in textile products. A draft agreement⁵ was in fact initialled at the beginning of May.

2.2.38. On 25 April⁶ the Council decided to maintain in force until 31 March 1978 the *arrangements for imports* into France and the United Kingdom of *certain knitted or crocheted undergarments originating in Thailand and the Philippines*. The Council thus confirmed the measures previously adopted by the Commission.⁷

¹ OJ C 89 of 14.4.1977.

² OJ L 91 of 13.4.1977.

³ OJ L 120 of 13.5.1977.

⁴ OJ L 98 of 22.4.1977.

⁵ Point 2.2.36.

⁶ OJ L 104 of 28.4.1977.

⁷ OJ L 71 of 18.3.1977.

India

2.2.39. On 25 April¹ the Commission adopted two Regulations, one establishing interim protective measures with regard to *imports into the United Kingdom of cotton yarn*, not put up for retail sale, originating in India, the other making imports into the *United Kingdom of certain knitted or crocheted undergarments* originating in the same country *subject to authorization*.

2.2.40. On 25 and 26 April the Council adopted two Regulations, one² concerning *import arrangements for certain jute products* originating in India, the other² maintaining in force until 31 December the *arrangements for imports* into the Community of *shirts and blouses* originating in India.

Spain

2.2.41. On 25 April¹ the Commission extended until 31 December the period of validity of the interim *protective measures* with regard to imports into the United Kingdom of *cotton yarn* originating in *Spain* which it had fixed previously³ and subsequently extended.⁴

Brazil

2.2.42. On 13 April⁵ the Commission adopted a Regulation on the administration of the *quantitative limits* on *imports* of certain textile products originating in *Brazil*. This Regulation allocates among the Member States, on the basis of criteria decided by the Council, the voluntary restraint ceilings laid down in the Agreement between the Community and Brazil on trade in textile products.

Iron and steel products

2.2.43. In April the Commission approved a recommendation to the Member States on the in-

roduction—under Article 74 of the ECSC Treaty—of automatic licences for some iron and steel products.

International organizations**United Nations****Economic Commission for Europe**

2.2.44. Much was achieved on the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The annual session of the ECE, held in Geneva from 19 to 29 April, adopted a new programme of work (1977-81) and took a number of important decisions on matters of direct relevance to Community activities.

The 400 or so projects of the five-year programme, which reflect the economic changes which have occurred in this region, have already been examined in detail in the ECE's various committees and working parties. Priority will be given to questions of energy, the environment and trade. On this latter point, the Commission representative raised a number of new points, the aim being an improved understanding of the increasingly keen competitive relations between certain imports of finished or semi-finished products from the countries of Eastern Europe and from other continents, particularly from the developing countries.

The proposal from the Executive Secretary, Mr Stanovnik, to organize high-level meetings on environmental protection within the ECE was favourably received. The annual session requested

¹ OJ L 103 of 27.4.1977.

² OJ L 104 of 28.4.1977.

³ OJ L 329 of 23.12.1975.

⁴ OJ L 357 of 29.12.1976.

⁵ OJ L 92 of 14.4.1977.

⁶ Point 2.1.16.

Mr Stanovnik to undertake detailed studies of possible items for the agenda and ways of organizing such a conference. At its next annual session the ECE will then be able to consider whether it is really appropriate to hold a conference on the protection of the environment.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

2.2.45. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)—one of the UN regional commissions—held its annual session in Bangkok from 20 to 30 April with representatives of 31 of its member countries and a number of international organizations taking part. The Commission attended as an observer.

The main items for discussion were the development policies, programmes and prospects for the ESCAP region, an examination of the regional aspects of the international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, technical cooperation between developing countries, the integrated programme for rural development and the work programme of ESCAP for 1978/79.

The ESCAP noted the resumption of activity by the Mekong Committee, the task of which is to improve the utilization of the waters of that river. At the conclusion of its discussions, the ESCAP adopted nine resolutions on the special measures to be taken to help the poorest, land-locked or island developing countries and on technical cooperation between developing countries.

UNCTAD

2.2.46. The Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD held a special session, its eight, in Geneva from 25 to 29 April. On its agenda were the review of UNCTAD's contribution to progress in the international strategy for the Second

United Nations Development Decade and its role in the appraisal and implementation of the programme of action for the establishment of a new international economic order.

The session was dominated by a series of declarations from groups or countries speaking for themselves. The Community spokesman was able to make a statement on the Community's contribution to the second decade. He recalled that the Community had concluded commercial or global cooperation agreements with many developing countries, including the 52 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries which are signatories to the Lomé Convention and six Maghreb and Mashreq countries. He also referred to developments in several areas of the Community's development cooperation policy proper.

International Monetary Fund

2.2.47. The Interim Committee of the IMF met in Washington on 28 and 29 April.¹ Mr Ortoli, Vice-President of the Commission, took part.

FAO

2.2.48. The Community participated in the meeting of the Committee on World Food Security held in Rome from 13 to 19 April. The Committee noted that there had been an appreciable improvement in the situation thanks to a sizeable increase in production and in world cereal stocks in 1976-77.

The Committee agreed on the need, firstly, to increase the inflow of resources from outside to promote agricultural development in the developing countries, secondly, in the field of food aid, to move towards the minimum target of 10 million tonnes of cereals set by the World Food

¹ Point 2.1.2.

Conference in Rome in November 1974,¹ and thirdly, to speed up the negotiation of an international cereals agreement (at the same time as a new food aid convention).

2.2.49. The FAO Intergovernmental Group on Rice met in Rome from 28 March to 1 April and examined in particular the prospects for the world market and national or regional rice policies.²

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

2.2.50. Mr Emile van Lennep, Secretary-General of the OECD, visited the Commission on Friday 1 April. He was received by Mr Jenkins, President, Mr Ortoli and Mr Haferkamp, Vice-Presidents, and Mr Brunner and Mr Davignon.

Mr Van Lennep had talks with the Members of the Commission on the major problems relating to trade, economic and monetary policy, the North-South Dialogue and cooperation between the OECD and the Commission.

Council of Europe

Consultative Assembly

2.2.51. The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe held the first part of its 29th ordinary session in Strasbourg from 25 to 29 April. The Commission was present as an observer

This session, at the opening of which Mr Czernetz (Socialist-Austria) was re-elected President of the Assembly—was dominated by questions relating to the Final of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), although other problems, such as Portugal's application for accession and development questions, were also discussed.

Addressing the Assembly Mr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, described as encouraging and positive his contacts with the Nine on the subject of his country's application for membership of the European Communities. He stated his opposition to the 'globalization' of enlargement, that is the simultaneous processing on the same basis of all applications for accession already made or anticipated for the near future.

Speaking in the debate on development cooperation, Mr Gamani Corea, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, considered that the failure of the negotiations on the Common Fund envisaged in the integrated programme for commodities would be a very serious matter.

Lastly, the implementation of the Final Act of the CSCE provided the opportunity for a very wide-ranging debate, and this was the most original aspect of the session.

The discussion was initiated on the basis of some ten reports, two of which, presented by Swiss Members of the Consultative Assembly, were of particular interest—one by Mr Aubert (Social Democrat) who was General Rapporteur and later Political Rapporteur, and the other by Mr Broger (Christian Democrat) concentrating on the implementation of the Helsinki Act in the economic field.

The main conclusions drawn by the speakers were as follows: the forthcoming Belgrade Conference on Security and Cooperation—the follow-up to the Helsinki Conference³—should not be transformed into a confrontation between East and West or become a sort of tribunal. It should follow a middle line and plead for freedom while preserving détente. Moreover, the Helsinki Final Act was to be seen as a composite whole, and its various principles were of equal importance. Lastly, it was undeniable that East-West trade had developed considerably and it was in this field

¹ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 1403.

² Point 2.2.23.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, points 1201 to 1204.

and in that of industrial and technological co-operation that the most visible progress had been made.

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2.2.52. At its April part-session, *Parliament*¹ adopted a Resolution on the results of the Fourth International Parliamentary Conference on the Environment held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 12 to 14 April 1976, and a Resolution dealing in particular with the European Communities' relations with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Mediterranean countries

Problems of Mediterranean agriculture

2.2.53. On 4 April, the Commission sent a Communication to the Council on the problems of Mediterranean agriculture as requested by the Council in July 1976. It emphasized that the problems facing these regions are not only agricultural, but are also bound up with the degree of general development of their economy.²

Greece

2.2.54. The EEC-Greece Association Council met at ambassador level on 27 April. The Greek Delegation put forward proposals for the harmonization of agricultural policies in the wine sector which will be studied by the Community. Greece would like to reach agreement on this matter for 15 September 1977.

The Association Council also discussed the arrangements which the Community will apply to imports of Greek wine as from 29 April 1977, when the present arrangements (Protocol No 14) expire.

Malta

2.2.55. Negotiations for an additional Protocol opened on 25 and 29 April, the Council having given the Commission a negotiating brief on 5 April for extending the first stage of the EEC-Malta Association Agreement beyond 1 July 1977.

Spain

2.2.56. On 5 April, the Council gave the Commission a negotiating brief for the conclusion of an additional Protocol to the EEC-Spain Agreement, in order to adapt this Agreement to the situation resulting from the Community's enlargement. It is planned that the two sides will begin negotiations in autumn in order to restore a proper balance to the Agreement and widen its scope. The new arrangements should enter into force on 1 January 1978.

Portugal

2.2.57. On 5 April, the Council took note of Portugal's³ application for accession and agreed to implement the appropriate Treaty procedures.

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2.2.58. Meeting on 27 and 28 April, the *Economic and Social Committee*⁴ approved a study made by its departments on relations between the Community and Portugal.

Yugoslavia

2.2.59. A delegation from the Yugoslav Federal Assembly visited the European Parliament in

¹ Point 2.3.23.

² Point 1.2.1 to 1.2.3.

³ Bull. EC 3-1977, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.7.

⁴ Point 2.3.64.

Strasbourg from 20 to 22 April. During a joint working meeting, the delegations discussed relations between the European Parliament and the Yugoslav Assembly, between the European Community and Yugoslavia and various international economic and political questions.

Euro-Arab Dialogue

The Community's financial contribution

2.2.60. On 5 April, the Council decided to make available \$ 3.5 million for 1977 as the Community's financial contribution towards the initial practical operations in the context of the Euro-Arab Dialogue.

These appropriations are intended solely for financing project pre-feasibility studies and the other activities connected with the Dialogue, with the exception of the implementation of the projects themselves.

The Arab side is providing a preliminary contribution of \$ 15 million towards this.¹

ACP States and the OCT

Lomé Convention

Activities of the institutions

ACP-EEC Council of Ministers

2.2.61. The ACP-EEC Council of Ministers held its second meeting² in Suva (Fiji) on 13 and 14 April under the chairmanship of Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, President of the ACP Council of Ministers. The Community Delegation was led by Mr Edmund Dell, the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Trade, President of the Council of the European Communities. The Commission

was represented by Mr Claude Cheysson, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for development. The following items were on the agenda.

Trade cooperation — Both sides emphasized the importance of making the trade arrangements work correctly. Special attention was paid to rum, bananas, aflatoxin and the generalized preferences, about which the ACP States had expressed particular concern. Trade promotion measures will also cover external trade structures in the future. The ACP request for the Community to supply surplus agricultural products will be examined in detail by the Committee of Ambassadors.

Customs cooperation — The report drawn up by the Customs Cooperation Committee was adopted.

Stabilization of export earnings — The Council noted the Commission's report on the implementation of Stabex. With regard to the reference period, the Community is prepared to examine each case individually with the ACP State affected by difficulties that arise in a year which the international community acknowledges as being exceptionally serious. In so doing the Community will interpret the existing provisions as generously as possible.

The list of products included in Stabex was extended to cover cloves, gum arabic, wool, mohair, pyrethrum, vanilla and ylang-ylang.

The Council also adopted a resolution declaring that the Community and the ACP States will endeavour to cooperate in international negotiations to help find a solution to the problems arising in connection with certain products not covered by Stabex, in particular rubber, copper and phosphates.

Lastly, the Council decided to extend the Stabex guarantee to cover exports—regardless of destination—from six other ACP States (in addition to

¹ Bull. EC 2-1977, points 2.2.40 and 2.2.41.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2347.

the five to which this provision already applies): Cape Verde, the Comoros, Lesotho, Western Samoa, Seychelles and Tonga.

Sugar — On the question of the guaranteed price for the 1977/78 marketing year, the Council noted that since the internal Community price had not yet been fixed, the ACP-EEC negotiations on this point had not yet opened.¹

Financial and technical cooperation — The Council examined the report on the administration of financial and technical cooperation² drawn up by the Commission in cooperation with the European Investment Bank. The Council adopted an important resolution reviewing the various Community aid procedures and embodying a number of recommendations in that connection.

Agreement was reached on the ACP requested for the establishment of a new subcommittee with special responsibility for studying matters concerning the least developed, landlocked or island States. At the same time four new countries (the Comoros, Seychelles, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe) were added to the list of the least developed ACP States.

Industrial cooperation — The Council noted with satisfaction that the Centre for Industrial Development was now functioning. The ACP States would be given increased representation on the Committee on Industrial Cooperation and in the Centre's Consultative Council.

Annual report — The Council approved the annual report (provided for by the Lomé Convention) which will be transmitted to the Consultative Assembly. The President of the ACP Council of Ministers and the President of the Council of the European Communities will be present at the next meeting of the Consultative Assembly in Luxembourg in June 1977.

The next meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers will be held in Brussels on 13 and 14 March 1978.

Export earnings

Stabex

2.2.62. On 4 April the Commission approved an initial batch of transfers in respect of the 1976 marketing year,³ under the export earnings stabilization system (Stabex) set up by the Lomé Convention. This first batch comprised eleven transfers involving nine ACP States and eight products, for a total of 24 140 823 EUA. Five applications are still being appraised.

To qualify for transfers, exports of the products concerned must have declined as a result of the economic situation or because of local conditions; the respective shares of the two groups of products are exactly the opposite of what they were last year.

The products affected by the economic situation are sawn wood and sisal, accounting for 2% and 29% respectively—that is 31% in all—of the transfer total.

Export earnings from other products, which will account for 69% of the transfer total, were affected by a wide variety of local conditions such as the disease which hit groundnut production in Niger, with repercussions on exports of oil and oilcake, the shutdown of the iron mine in Sierra Leone and, in the case of copra, as a result of the cyclones which struck Fiji and of the fall in production, the prices compared with the exceptional levels of 1974 provided no incentive for producers to maintain production at the same level.

The Stabex system is therefore continuing to play its dual role of providing protection against both cyclical economic movements and a decline in earnings caused by a fall in production.

¹ The ACP-EEC negotiations on the guaranteed price for sugar opened in Brussels on 28 April — Points 2.2.63.

² Point 2.2.64.

³ Implementation of the Stabex system began in July 1976 with the signing of the first twenty-four transfer agreements.

The distribution between transfers for the least developed ACP States and transfers for the other ACP States is also substantially different from last year: the proportion going to the least developed States has risen from 57% to 70%, with 30% going to the ACP States which have undertaken to help reconstitute the system's resources.

Full details of the transfers are given in Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2 — *Transfers for 1976*

Recipient ACP State	Product	Amount of transfer in EUA	%
Benin	Raw cotton	2 750 347	11.39
	Palm oil	765 576	3.17
Central African Empire	Sawn wood	549 807	2.28
	Copra oil	1 499 834	6.21
Madagascar	Sisal	1 762 943	7.30
Niger	Groundnut oil	6 755 991	27.99
	Groundnut oilcake	153 269	0.63
Sierra Leone	Iron ore	3 977 274	16.48
Western Samoa	Copra	643 066 ¹	2.66
Tanzania	Sisal	5 165 208	21.40
Tonga	Copra	117 508 ¹	0.49
		24 140 823	100.00

¹ Figures subject to revision on the basis of decisions of the ACP-EEC Council meeting in Fiji.

Sugar

2.2.63. The annual negotiations under the Lomé Convention to fix the guaranteed sugar price for ACP producers opened in Brussels on 28 and 29 April. The discussions are to continue in May.

Table 3 — *Breakdown by product of Stabex transfers for 1976*

Product	Amount in EUA	%
Groundnut oil	6 755 991	27.99
Groundnut oilcake	153 269	0.63
Raw cotton	2 750 347	11.39
Copra	760 574	3.15
Copra oil	1 499 834	6.21
Palm oil	765 576	3.17
Sawn wood	549 807	2.28
Sisal	6 928 151	28.70
Iron ore	3 977 274	16.48
	24 140 823	100.00

Financial and technical cooperation

2.2.64. At its meeting in Fiji on 13 and 14 April, the ACP-EEC Council examined the Commission's first report on the administration of financial and technical cooperation in 1976 *under the Lomé Convention*.¹

The Commission found that the various instruments of cooperation and the procedures essential for the rapid and correct mobilization of the resources available under the Convention for financial and technical cooperation, had been established reasonably quickly (adoption of the various implementing texts, preparation of indicative programmes, establishment of the Commission Delegations). Appraisal of programmes and projects had therefore begun promptly and at 31 December 1976, of the 3 390 million EUA specified in Article 42 of the Convention, nearly 450 million EUA had been committed. It should also be emphasized that at 31 March 1977, that is after one year's operations, the total amount of Community aid committed was over 612 million EUA.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.2.52.

Other countries

Fishery questions

Negotiations in progress

2.2.65. The negotiations between the *USSR* and the Community continued¹ in Brussels from 19 to 21 April.

2.2.66. On 26 and 27 April the Commission held consultations with a delegation from the *Faeroe Islands* concerning the implementation of the framework fisheries agreement signed on 15 March.² The Community was particularly concerned to point out the impact on Community fishing activity of certain conservation measures taken by the Faroese authorities from 1 April.

2.2.67. On 31 March and 1 and 2 April a Norwegian delegation and a Community delegation continued negotiations for the conclusion of a long-term framework agreement on fisheries. The two parties reached agreement on the principles that will govern their future relations in the fisheries sector.

Further requests for negotiations

2.2.68. *Japan*, *Surinam* and *South Korea* have requested negotiations with the Community on fishing in the 200-mile zone off the coast of French Guiana. The *United States* has also expressed interest in negotiations on access to these waters but it is to be noted that US fishing activity is protected in these waters during 1977.

2.2.69. The Community has requested the opening of exploratory talks with *Brazil* for the conclusion of a fisheries agreement.

Interim arrangements

2.2.70. On 5 April³ the Council extended certain interim arrangements for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to ships flying the flags of the *USSR*, *Poland* and the *German Democratic Republic* (for a further period of two months), and of *Spain*, *Finland*, *Sweden* and *Portugal* (for a further period of three months).

Fisheries Commission

2.2.71. A special conference on the future of the *North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission* (NEAFC) was held in London from 29 March to 2 April. The participants examined the problems relating to the future of that organization following the creation of 200-mile fishery zones by a number of States. The Commission representative underlined the need for the Community to be a party to any new convention.

Industrialized countries

United States

Official visit of the President of the Commission to the United States

2.2.72. At the invitation of President Carter, Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the Commission, paid an official visit to *Washington* on 18 and 19 April. Apart from President Carter, Mr Jenkins met the Secretary of State, Mr Vance, the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr Blumenthal, the Special Trade Representative, Mr Strauss, and the special assistant for the preparation of the London Summit, Mr Owen.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.2.57.

² Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.2.55.

³ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.2.60.

The discussions dealt mainly with the problems of energy and the London Economic Summit. Mr Jenkins welcomed the recent initiatives taken by President Carter in the field of energy policy, particularly with regard to energy conservation. Mr Jenkins stressed the interdependence of the two partners' energy policies and the Community's vital need for uranium supplies. On the subject of the London Economic Summit, Mr Jenkins hoped that global solutions would be found to stimulate the world economy.

High-level six-monthly consultations

2.2.73. The *fourteenth*¹ of the high-level six-monthly consultation meetings between the Commission and the US Government was held in Brussels on 20 and 21 April. The Commission delegation was led by Mr Haferkamp and the United States delegation by Mr Richard Cooper, Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs. The main items discussed were the current economic and monetary situation, the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (North-South Dialogue), energy, the multilateral trade negotiations and bilateral trade relations.

On the North-South Dialogue, there was broad agreement on the objectives to be attained, particularly the stabilization of raw materials prices, the role of the Common Fund and additional financial aid for the poorest developing countries.

The United States recognized that the Community was largely dependent on them for its enriched uranium supplies. The two delegations agreed on close cooperation in the field of research and development work on energy sources. The two delegations also undertook to push forward the work of the multilateral trade negotiations and agreed on the renewal of the OECD Trade Pledge.

Of the bilateral problems discussed at this meeting, the most important was steel. The two delegations discussed in particular the case brought

before the US Customs Court concerning VAT exemption on Community exports, the quotas imposed on Community exports of special steels and the certification procedures planned by the United States following the decision to place an embargo on imports of chrome from Rhodesia.

Community — United States talks in Brussels

2.2.74. Mr Robert Strauss, the new United States Special Trade Representative had talks at the Commission on 22 April with Mr Haferkamp, Mr Gundelach and Mr Davignon. The talks dealt mainly with the multilateral trade negotiations. Agreement was reached on the need to conclude the negotiations as soon as possible on the basis of an 'overall compromise' embracing all the areas of the negotiations.

The previous day, Mr Wolff, the assistant to the Special Trade Representative, had discussions with senior Commission officials on the problems relating to steel. This exchange of views covered the VAT case, special steels, the Commission's recent proposals with regard to Community steel policy and the US plan for launching a study of the world market in steel within the framework of the OECD. It was proposed that regular six-monthly consultations be held with the United States on steel matters, as is already the case with Japan.

Japan

2.2.75. A new round of *informal consultations*² was held in Tokyo between Commission representatives and the Japanese authorities on the problems posed by Japanese exports of special steels to the United Kingdom. The export forecasts for the second half of 1977 were discussed. The two parties will study all the possibilities of arriving at a mutually satisfactory solutions as soon as possible.

¹ Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2344.

² Bull. EC 9-1976, point 2335.

New Zealand

2.2.76. On 19 April a *parliamentary delegation* from New Zealand visited the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

During a joint working meeting, the delegations held an exchange of views on relations between the New Zealand Parliament and the European Parliament, on the New Zealand economy's high degree of dependence on the Community and on Europe's influence in the South Pacific.

Developing countries

Asia

Iran

2.2.77. A second round of *negotiations*¹ for the conclusion of a special economic and trade cooperation agreement between the Community and Iran took place in Brussels on 19 April. The Iranian delegation was led by His Excellency Mr Javad Vafa, Deputy Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs. The two delegations made an initial examination of a draft of a future agreement. The thoroughgoing discussion to which this examination gave rise enabled the two sides' positions to be clarified, and it was agreed to resume this work as soon as possible.

Pakistan

2.2.78. The *first session of the Joint Commission* provided for in the Commercial Cooperation Agreement signed on 1 June 1976² between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was held in Brussels on 28 April.

The Joint Commission examined recent economic developments and the trend of bilateral trade, which in recent years has shown a growing surplus in favour of the Community. The Joint

Commission also reviewed the operation of the Agreement between the Community and Pakistan on trade in cotton products, and decided to examine the difficulties encountered by Pakistani exporters in this field. It also decided that a programme should be drawn up to make Basmati rice, another of Pakistan's major exports, better known to consumers in the Community. The Community will also give technical assistance to improve the yield and quality of the Virginia tobacco grown in Pakistan.

Lastly, the Joint Commission considered ways of establishing cooperation between economic operators in Pakistan and the Community. This will be pursued in a sub-commission, which will also implement the trade promotion and technical assistance proposals.

The second session of the Joint Commission is scheduled to be held in Islamabad early next year.

Bangladesh

2.2.79. The *Joint Commission* provided for in the Commercial Cooperation Agreement signed on 19 October 1976 between the Community and Bangladesh³ was inaugurated in Brussels on 18 April by Mr Davignon, Member of the Commission, and Mr Saifur Rahman, Member of the Council of Advisers to the President of Bangladesh with responsibility for trade.

The main items on the agenda were an examination of the problems arising in trade between the two parties, particularly in the jute sector, and a survey of the projects that might be adopted under the Community trade promotion scheme for products originating in developing countries. The delegations also considered the means of establishing mutually profitable cooper-

¹ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2352.

² OJ L 168 of 28.6.1976 and Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2347.

³ OJ L 329 of 27.11.1976 and Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2350.

ation between economic operators in the Community and Bangladesh.

These matters will be pursued by two sub-commissions which will report on their work to the Joint Commission at its next meeting to be held early next year in Dacca.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Mr Saifur Rahman drew the Commission's attention to the deterioration in his country's food situation following the recent natural disasters. Mr Davignon said that the Community hoped to be able to deliver rapidly the food aid already allocated to Bangladesh and hoped to give favourable consideration to the definitive allocation of additional supplies provisionally earmarked for Bangladesh.

Association of South-East Asian Nations

2.2.80. Under the aegis of the Commission and in cooperation with the European Banks' International group an industrial conference was held in Brussels from 4 to 6 April which enabled the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore) to present for the first time in Europe a group image of economic life in that region. Some 120 ASEAN high officials, central bank governors and industrialists took part in this event, the various delegations being led by Mr S. Rajaratnam, the Singapore Foreign Minister, Mr M. Sadli, the Indonesian Mining Minister, the Datuk Hamzah Abu Sama, the Malaysian Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr V.T. Paterno, Secretary for Industry of the Philippines and Mr Suthee Natvaratat, Minister of Trade of Thailand.

The Conference, which opened with an address from Mr Jenkins, was intended to promote industrial and trade cooperation between European and Asian companies.

State-trading countries

Community — CMEA

2.2.81. On 18 April the Executive Committee of the CMEA sent a reply to the Community's letter of 17 November last year in which the establishment of working relations had been suggested. The Council issued the following press release after its meeting on 3 May:

The Council took note of the letter which the CMEA Executive Committee recently sent to the President of the Council of Ministers. The Community will be delivered, when this process of examination has been completed.

Diplomatic relations

2.2.82. The President of the Council and the President of the Commission received Their Excellencies Mr Khalifa Sultan Al-Asiry (Qatar) and Mr Bora Jeftic (Yugoslavia) who presented their letters of credence in their capacity as heads of their countries' missions to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC) with effect from 5 April.¹

The new Ambassador for Yugoslavia replaces Mr Peter Miljevic, who had to resign for health reasons. The Ambassador for Qatar is the first head of his country's mission accredited to the European Communities. This appointment now brings the number of diplomatic missions of non-member countries to the European Communities to 105.

¹ OJ C 90 of 15.4.1977.

3. Institutional and political matters

Institutional developments — European policy

Fundamental rights

Signature of the joint declaration

2.3.1. At a ceremony which took place on 5 April at the Kirchberg European Centre in Luxembourg in the presence of a representative of the Court of Justice and of the other members of the Council, Mr Emilio Colombo, President of the European Parliament, Dr David Owen, President of the Council and United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission, signed the joint declaration by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission¹ concerning the respect of fundamental rights.

2.3.2. The initiative which led to the declaration came from Parliament. In a Resolution passed on 4 April 1973,² Parliament asked the Commission to examine how the fundamental rights of Member States' citizens might be safeguarded when Community law was being drafted, and insisted that the citizens of the Member States should have wider access to the right of direct individual appeal to the Court of Justice against any act adopted by an institution which violated those rights. Parliament sent the Resolution to the Council as well, since, vested with the power of decision, it too is responsible, for ensuring that fundamental rights are respected.

In the report on the protection of fundamental rights,³ which the Commission sent to Parliament and the Council on 4 February 1976, it was suggested that the political institutions of the Community make a joint solemn declaration confirming their attachment to the respect for fundamental rights. As the Commission's report on European Union⁴ has already pointed out, the incorporation of a list of fundamental rights in a

future European Constitution is certainly an objective to be achieved. While judgments of the Court of Justice do offer every guarantee that fundamental rights will be fully respected,⁵ it is none the less true that a solemn declaration by the three political institutions—emphasizing not only the importance of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms but also that these rights must be safeguarded by all the Community institutions—publicizes the fact that, when drafting and applying Community law, the other Community institutions as well as the Court of Justice are unconditionally bound to respect fundamental rights.

When the joint declaration on fundamental rights was signed, the following speeches were made by the Presidents of the three Community institutions:

Mr Colombo, President of the European Parliament

2.3.3. 'In signing this joint declaration, we are publicly affirming that our Community is centred on people and proclaiming that we are irrevocably pledged to fundamental human rights and committed to ensure that every citizen of our States is afforded the highest possible degree of protection vis-à-vis the acts of our three institutions.

It makes me very happy today when I see that the Council, the Commission and Parliament have together confirmed the supreme importance which lies in the respect of fundamental rights in the European Community, the principle of which we have politically recognized here today.

My heartiest congratulations go to those determined and singleminded members of our Parlia-

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, Preliminary chapter, OJ C 103 of 27.4.1977.

² Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2405, OJ C 26 of 30.4.1973.

³ Supplement 5/76 — Bull. EC, point 38.

⁴ Supplement 5/75 — Bull. EC, points 82 to 85.

⁵ Supplement 5/76 — Bull. EC, points 9 to 12.

ment to whom we owe this declaration. President Spénale, whose diligence and efficacy enabled everything to be done in order to make it a reality; Mr Lautenschlager, the author of the draft resolution from which it sprang; Mr Jozeau-Margigné and Mr Rivierez for their outstanding reports; these gentlemen and all the members of our Legal Affairs Committee have striven again and again to give example to the value which the Community sets on human rights and have thus helped the peoples of our Member States to discover a facet of the Community which transcends its purely technical or technocratic girth and gives it deep and solid human roots.

Yet our joint declaration today, this joint undertaking, can never be an end in itself; looking forward to European Union, we must regard it as the preface of a code or charter for the protection of human rights in the Community, which will have to be formulated with due regard for the whole caucus of civic, political, economic and social rights of the citizens of our Member States. I therefore express the hope today of seeing the political and philosophical as well as the legal foundation of our institutions broadened and deepened, and in this I know I can count on your wholehearted support.'

Dr Owen, President of the Council

2.3.4. 'We are meeting here to sign a joint declaration of fundamental rights which is being signed on behalf of the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the Commission; at a time when the whole world is taking an increasing interest in fundamental rights and human rights, it seems particularly appropriate that the Community, which is the bastion of democracy with a long tradition, historic tradition of safeguarding human rights and fundamental rights, should be signing here an agreement whereby we will use our best endeavours to respect, to protect and to enlarge fundamental rights and that this will influence us in the exercise of our power and

in pursuing the aims and objectives of the European Community. This declaration stemmed from the European Parliament and it seems particularly appropriate that the initiative for this declaration, which affects the lives of all the citizens of Europe, should have come from the Parliament and that it should have been endorsed by the Council and by the Commission. So I think that this morning we are making an important declaration and I hope that all of us working for European unity and within the framework of the Community will ensure that this declaration is upheld in all our actions.'

Mr Jenkins, President of the Commission

2.3.5. 'I am very glad to be able to join with the President in office of the Council and with the President of the Parliament in signing this joint declaration on fundamental rights. Both in my inaugural address to the Parliament and in the Programme Speech that followed it, I emphasized on behalf of the Commission the political priority of making clear to the citizens of Europe, as individuals, the concern of our institutions with what matters to them. It is therefore highly satisfactory that the three institutions of the Community, in the presence of representatives of the Court of Justice, have agreed and are now about to sign this declaration on the protection of fundamental rights. Its aim goes to the heart of the basis on which the Community is founded. Although primarily concerned with cooperation by economic means, the Communities and the Treaties on which they are based, have as their origin a determination to secure and enhance individual freedom and liberty under the law.

It is right to reaffirm this basic principle both in the 20th anniversary year of the Treaty of Rome and in the light of the applications for membership of the Community from those countries whose movement to democracy we have a duty to sustain.

This is an important declaration and today is an important occasion for the rights of man.'

Court of Auditors

2.3.6. On 5 April, the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States adopted the Decision on the provisional location of the Court of Auditors.

Pursuant to this Decision, the Court of Auditors will be installed in Luxembourg, which will be its provisional place of work within the meaning of the Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 8 April 1965 on the provisional location of certain institutions and departments of the Communities.

This decision will take effect when the Treaty of 22 July 1975 amending certain financial provisions of the Treaties comes into force.

Institutions and organs of the Communities

Parliament

Part-session in Strasbourg from 18 to 22 April

2.3.7. At its April sittings,¹ Parliament was primarily concerned with the economic, agricultural and social situations in the Community: the Council and Commission reported on the latest meetings of the Heads of State or Government, the recent meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture and the social situation in the Community.

The House also debated the alarming situation in the iron and steel industry. Problems concerning nuclear energy supply were also much to the fore. The plan to introduce a code of conduct for multinational companies was the subject of a lively debate. Questions relating to Community shipping and raw material supplies were also carefully considered. On its own initiative, the

House elucidated aspects of a common regional policy.

On the external front, Parliament dealt with relations between the Community and Yugoslavia and expressed its opinion in a Resolution on the process of democratization in Spain. Other items on the agenda related to the environment, health and consumer protection, budget finance and the customs union.

On 19 April, President Colombo paid tribute to the memory and work of the former leader of the Conservative Group, Sir Peter Kirk, who died suddenly; Sir Peter had been a member of the European Parliament since the accession of the United Kingdom to the European Community.

European Council (20 April)

2.3.8. Reporting on the meeting of the European Council of Heads of State or Government in Rome on 25 and 26 March, the President of the Council, Dr Owen spoke first of the talks at the beginning of the Council meeting with representatives of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

The Council had agreed that another Tripartite Conference between governments, employers and trade unions should be held before the end of June. The Commission had been instructed to draw up an action programme for improving the

¹ This report was prepared from 'Information' published by Parliament's Secretariat.

The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 118 of 16.5.1977 and the report of proceedings is contained in OJ Annex No 216.

The political group and nationality of members are indicated in brackets by the following abbreviations: C-D = Christian Democrats, S = Socialists, L = Liberals and Democrats, C = European Conservatives, EPD = European Progressive Democrats, COM = Communists and Allies; B = Belgium, DK = Denmark, D = Federal Republic of Germany, F = France, IRL = Ireland, I = Italy, L = Luxembourg, NL = Netherlands, UK = United Kingdom.

labour market situation, especially in the steel and shipbuilding industries.

On the North-South Dialogue, Dr Owen was gratified by the high degree of fundamental agreement among the Nine. The Community would endeavour to contribute consistently and constructively to the reform of the world economic system. Dr Owen pointed to the fine example which the Community had set in the shape of the Lomé Convention with fifty-two ACP countries and the Stabex scheme.

Agricultural policy

Farm prices: the United Kingdom under fire
(20 April)

2.3.9. The unsuccessful Council negotiations on the farm prices gave rise to a sometimes stormy debate. The Council President, Mr Tomlinson, who reported on the Council meeting held from 25 to 29 March, did not want the difficulties between the Member States to be overstated. After all, it was not the first time that the farm price review had run on into April. He was personally convinced that progress would be made at the next meeting, since all those concerned were determined to find a solution.

For the Commission, Vice-President Gundelach endorsed the cautious optimism of the Council President. At the last Council meeting, eight of the nine participants had managed to agree, and if the problem of butter prices in the United Kingdom was now solved, there was nothing to prevent final agreement. The Commission had put forward the following compromise proposal: an additional increase in farm prices of an average of 0.5% (plus 1% pigmeat and certain varieties of cereals); reduction of the coresponsibility levy from 2.5% to 1.5%; introduction of butter subsidies for the United Kingdom financed entirely by the EAGGF.¹

Mr Gundelach declared that if the Council failed to agree, this would be tantamount to a death sentence for the Community.

With the exception of the Socialist Group which had left the chamber before the debate started in protest against a procedural decision by the President, all the group spokesmen endorsed Mr Gundelach's view. All speakers found a contradiction in that the differences at the last Council meeting had apparently not been unduly great and consequently a positive solution could be expected and yet no agreement had materialized at that meeting.

Mr de Koning (C-D/NL) therefore asked very pointedly whether the vital interests of the United Kingdom, which could justify a veto, had really been at stake. Mr Kofoed (L/DK) called the butter subsidies 'a short-sighted solution'. True, they would avoid short-term butter price increases in the United Kingdom. But how were British butter prices to be aligned later on the Community price?

Mr Hunault (EDP/F) and Mr Howell (C/UK) were both disappointed that the Council had failed to agree. Mr Howell blamed the British Government for dragging out the farm price argument with what he called an attempt at blackmail.

Mr Laban (S/NL) (who had remained in the chamber) held that certain parts of the Commission's compromise proposal were, if anything, harmful, but the Community certainly had no choice but to accept them. If no agreement was reached, the common agricultural policy, the Community's proud achievement, would inevitably be blocked.

In his reply, the Council President, Mr Tomlinson, sometimes interrupted by loud interjections from the benches, said that he had never suggested that agreement had been baulked by a few minor differences. What he *had* said was that the differences should not be exaggerated.

¹ Point 2.3.10.

A little time for thought had been required and he therefore looked to the next meeting with some optimism.

Measures for beef and veal, sugar and butter
(21 April)

2.3.10. Parliament approved three proposals for Regulations. They concern the granting of a birth premium for calves, the introduction of a production levy on isoglucose and consumer subsidies for butter. These measures are connected with the hitherto unsuccessful negotiations on the farm prices for 1977/78 and should facilitate agreement within the Council.

Parliament deplores lack of harmonized provisions in the veterinary sector
(22 April)

2.3.11. In its Opinion on two proposals for Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas for certain thoroughbred bulls, cows and heifers, the House complained that no harmonization had so far been achieved in respect of veterinary provisions and that this was still impeding free trade between the Member States.

Import regulations and the agricultural market
(22 April)

2.3.12. Parliament took the view that when agricultural concessions were made, given the basic mechanisms of the Community agricultural market, should be respected, so as to avoid disruptions and any prejudice to agriculture. With this comment, Parliament approved a Commission proposal concerning imports of certain agricultural products originating in Turkey.

EAGGF flat-rate aid for Italy
(22 April)

2.3.13. After considering the report of the Audit Board concerning flat-rate aid granted to Italy to improve the structures in raw tobacco, olive and fruit and vegetable sectors, Parliament urged the Commission to present more detailed basic proposals in future. The rapporteur, Mr Hansen (S/L) stressed that certain minimum requirements had to be satisfied before funds could be disbursed; these included precise descriptions of projects, prior analysis of needs, detailed records and monitoring down to the final recipient.

Multinational
(19 April)

2.3.14. Parliament approved the establishment by the OECD of international principles for the conduct of governments and undertakings based on the principle of voluntary application. Nevertheless, the House called for a legally binding basis in the form of one or more international agreements to be introduced by stages. The agreements should be negotiated by the governments, international bodies and undertakings concerned. The declarations made by the Member States' governments in June 1976 within the OECD should serve as the basis for negotiation. Further material for negotiation would be provided by the draft of a Code of Principles prepared by a delegation of the European Parliament and the United States Congress.

A lively debate developed around the question whether this attempt to canalize the behaviour of multinational companies should work on the basis of mandatory or voluntary application. The rapporteur, Mr Lange (S/D) and Lord Bruce (S/UK) wanted legally binding arrangements.

Mr Müller-Hermann (C-D/D), Mr Hougardy (L/B), Mr Cousté (EPD/F) and Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (C/UK) were less emphatic. The mo-

tion was fully endorsed by the Communist spokesman, Mr Leonardi (I).

After several amendments, tabled in particular by the Christian Democrats, had been incorporated, the Resolution was adopted with one abstention.

Iron and steel (21 April)

2.3.15. For several Community countries, the present situation of the iron and steel industry was a serious threat to employment. Public opinion was alarmed at the danger of mass redundancies. Parliament expressed its deep concern over the latest turn for the worse.

In the Resolution, moved jointly by the Socialists, Christian Democrats and Liberals, Parliament supported the Commission's approach for overcoming the crisis. The House warned against measures which could harm the Community's external relations and stressed that the Community's internal measures would yield more positive results in the context of worldwide agreements; the planned OECD Tripartite Conference was mentioned as a praiseworthy initiative.

In practical terms, the House called for a reorganization of the iron and steel industry, which should be promoted by all the means at the Commission's disposal. At the same time, a package of social and employment policy measures must provide social security for the workers concerned.

Nuclear energy (19 April)

2.3.16. Parliament will hold an extensive debate on nuclear energy in May. As the Chairman of the Committee on Research, Mrs Walz (C-D/D), pointed out, the answers by the Members of the Commission, Mr Natali and Mr Brunner, to three questions on nuclear energy, had revealed such

important new aspects that the debate, with the agreement of all the groups, would have to be postponed for a month. The three questions concerned the environment, safety and supply aspects of the nuclear energy problem.

Mr Jahn (C-D/D) presented the question of the Environment Committee. While nuclear power stations were by no means an ideal solution, for want of better alternatives, nuclear power had to provide a bigger proportion of our energy supply. This led him to ask whether nuclear power stations were really a bigger threat to the environment than other energy sources.

In the same vein Mr Fellermaier (D) and other members of the Socialist Group asked about the consequences for the Community's energy supply of the halt in construction at Wyl ordered by the Freiburg Administrative Court. On behalf of the Energy Committee, Mr Dalyell (S/UK) asked about the consequences for the Community of the break in supplies of uranium from Canada and the United States.

Mr Natali and Mr Brunner defended the Community's nuclear energy programme. Mr Natali pointed out that it was not possible to make an overall assessment of the dangers for the environment deriving from specific sources of energy. A more detailed analysis was required. The Commission's efforts were aimed at achieving a common environment policy and it had already presented twelve proposals for Regulations to the Council. The crux of the nuclear energy argument was still the effects on economic growth and the safety of workers.

Mr Brunner went on to say that all the nuclear reactors in the Community had so far worked safely. Not a single person in Europe had as yet died as a result of a nuclear accident. Mr Brunner warned against the unforeseeable consequences of abandoning nuclear power as a source of energy supply. A decline in energy output was already to be seen as a result of the recent hold-ups in power station construction.

Energy saving was no more a valid alternative than reverting to coal and oil. Neither European coal production nor oil imports (on account of the devastating effects on the balance of payments) could be increased at will. Concerning the halt in American and Canadian uranium supplies, Mr Brunner explained that it was not a question of whether agreements had been breached. Appropriate solutions must be sought in a spirit of mutual trust. Since the Community depended heavily on imported uranium, the halt was most unfortunate. It was hoped that in the forthcoming negotiations both countries could be prompted to change their minds.

Raw materials policy (19 April)

2.3.17. By a large majority, Parliament approved the interim report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs presented by Mr Schwörer (C-D/D) concerning the Community's raw materials supplies. The rapporteur pointed out that the Community's immense vulnerability, due to its heavy dependence on imports of raw materials, demanded prompt development of a long-term strategy as an overall Community internal and external policy on raw materials.

Only closer cooperation with the developing countries and a radical improvement in the world economic system would stabilize raw material prices, and hence export earnings, and enable the developing countries to participate in world trade on more equitable conditions. But this also entailed guarantees for the investments made by the developing countries.

Referring to the argument of the group spokesmen, who, except for the Communist speaker, had endorsed the objectives in the report, Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, stated that in future crises in raw material supplies, which would inevitably arise, could to some extent be mitigated by using substitute goods, but that energy consideration should now be giv-

en to laying in buffer stocks. He then mentioned the positive contribution of the last world trade conference in Nairobi and the North-South Dialogue in Paris and recommended that a Community Fund be set up for the stabilization of raw material prices.

Social policy (21 April)

Social Report 1975

2.3.18. The Commission's report on the activities of the Social Fund in 1975, on which the House expressed its opinion, indicated that in 1975 the neediest Member States had for the first time been given priority in the distribution of assistance from the Fund. The rapporteur, Mr Caro (C-D/F) considered, however, that the 50% financial contribution on the part of the recipients was too heavy a burden for those Member States which are most dependent on the aid. He urgently appealed for measures to remedy the persistent crisis on the labour market, namely further improvements in the working methods of the Fund, a synthesis of national and Community priorities and appreciably more financial resources, to be allocated in coordination with assistance from the other Funds.

The statement on the social situation in the Community by Mr Vredeling, Member of the Commission responsible for social affairs, centred on the continuing high numbers of unemployed. Mr Vredeling also answered a series of questions on specific aspects of unemployment. His comments also referred to the use of Social Fund resources to help the hardest-hit categories of workers, such as women and young people or specific sectors like the textiles or footwear industry. Mr Vredeling hoped that the Tripartite Conference between the governments and both sides of industry scheduled for the early summer would provide the picture desired.

The Community and the ILO

2.3.19. The Community should become a member of the International Labour Organization. This was one of Parliament's recommendations with a view to the achievement of European Union, in a Resolution on a progress on the ratification by the Member States on the first list of ILO conventions. The Commission had compiled its third report on the subject. The House, at the same time, reviewed relations between the Community and the ILO.

The Resolution noted that the objectives of both organizations largely coincided, which meant that cooperation between the two should be as close as possible. Until the Community finally becomes a Member, this cooperation could consist of greater coordination of positions to be adopted at ILO annual Conferences, appointment of a single spokesman and regular consultation at European regional level by calling in a delegation from the European Parliament to represent the Community. The House called for more forceful cooperation and urged the representatives of the Commission, the ECSC Consultative Committee and the Economic and Social Committee to take a more active part in the ILO's activities.

Regional policy (21 April)

2.3.20. After a searching debate, Parliament approved the report on certain aspects of the Community's regional policy to be developed in the future, as presented in the report by Mr Delmotte (S/B) on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport. The main themes of Mr Delmotte's report were that since the establishment of the Community, regional disparities have tended to grow rather than shrink, and thus constitute a threat to the Community's internal cohesion. A common regional policy must reorganize human activity in the different regions and change the existing structures.

The outlying farming regions deserved special attention and strenuous efforts for development would have to be made there. Regions with declining industries needed a conversion of economic activity; growth in the overpopulated conurbations had to be kept within bounds. It was therefore imperative that the resources of the Regional Fund be increased and allocated according to the needs of the most underprivileged regions.

For the Socialist Group, Mr Hoffman (D) endorsed the view that, by its very nature, the Regional Fund should constitute only one of the Community's regional policy instruments. Like other group spokesman, he felt that the past practice of allocating money from the Regional Fund according to fixed scales was not the right way.

Mr Brugger (I) explained that, before the Christian Democrats could approve the report, the rapporteur would first have to satisfy their doubts concerning the economic concept underlying his proposed solutions. Mr Cifarelli (L/I) supported the Delmotte report on behalf of his group.

As Mr Herbert (EPD/IRL) and Mrs Kellet-Bowman (C/UK) indicated the Regional Fund was of little use if all it did was substitute the Community for national governments as the provider of assistance. Mr Mascagni (COM/I) spoke to the amendments desired by the Committee on Budgets, which it had not been possible to include in the resolution motion and which the House approved as a whole.

In his reply, Mr Giolitti, Member of the Commission, said regional policy was a vital Community issue. It was to all intents and purposes development and structural policy and went far beyond the straightforward subsidizing of specific projects. He went on to tell the House that on 18 May the Commission would be working on the guidelines for the Fund, which would then be communicated to the Council and Parliament.

Parliament confirms its budgetary rights

2.3.21. Parliament confirmed its budgetary rights in respect of the Regional Fund appropriations. It stressed that these appropriations were 'non-compulsory' expenditure, on which, under the budget procedure, Parliament had the last word. The House also pointed out that these multiannual appropriations must be established via the Council's political obligation under the conciliation procedure with Parliament.

Financing

Own resources (20 April)

2.3.22. Parliament unanimously endorsed the agreement reached in the Council on the basis of assessment for VAT (the Sixth Directive). The House decided not to ask for a conciliation procedure on the substance of the Directive so as not to delay implementation of the system of own resources which, with the standardization of the basis of assessment for VAT, could be put into full operation on 1 January 1978. The rate of VAT to be paid over (not more than 1% of the basis of assessment) has still to be determined.

Environment

Community law and the Fourth International Parliamentary Conference on the Environment (18 April)

2.3.23. A report by Mr Jahn (C-D/D) discussed the results of the Fourth International Parliamentary Conference on the Environment, held in Kingston (Jamaica) from 12 to 14 April. Mr Jahn called on the Commission to endeavour to get the code of conduct for States, advocated in Kingston, incorporated into Community law and find a solution to the problem of transfrontier pollution. Rules and regulations were an essential

condition, but by no means a guarantee for the protection of the environment. Every effort therefore had to be made to ensure that statutory provisions were actually complied with in practice.

While the report was supported by all the groups, opinions differed concerning the setting up, welcomed by the report, of an international authority for the marine environment, but when the votes were counted those in favour prevailed.

Red mud and competition (18 April)

2.3.24. Mr Ripamonti (C/D/I) again brought up the matter of red mud in the Mediterranean. This concerns the discharge of waste products from the manufacture of titanium dioxide into the open sea, especially off the French and Italian coasts. In a question to the Commission, Mr Ripamonti attacked the stubborn and unjustified resistance of some Member States which was blocking the titanium dioxide Directive in the Council. The questioner highlighted the distortions in competition because some Community countries imposed no conditions to protect the environment. In this context, he suggested that a Community compensation fund should be set up.

Vice-President Natali of the Commission was optimistic. He was counting on a Council decision in June. Failing this, the Commission would pursue the matter further.

Sulphurous emissions — the fuel oil Directive inadequate (21 April)

2.3.25. In connection with the Commission's proposed measures to reduce sulphurous emissions in the use of fuel oils, Parliament reiterated its belief in the 'polluter pays' principle. It felt that more information was needed about the

costs involved for producers and consumers. The House considered that owing to the large number of exemptions for which it provides, the Directive would not ensure adequate protection of the environment and public health. An extensive monitoring network and standardization of working method was also required.

The Commission's proposal was that fuel oils with a low sulphur content should be used in areas where the atmosphere is heavily contaminated by sulphur dioxide and suspended particulate matter.

More protection for workers and consumers exposed to vinyl chloride monomer
(22 April)

2.3.26. In two Opinions, Parliament called for more stringent safety measures in handling modern plastics. This concerned, in particular, the materials containing VCM which were used for packaging foodstuffs. Vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) is a gaseous substance which occurs in the chemical industry during the manufacture of today's most frequently used plastic, polyvinylchloride (PVC). Its toxic effects range from symptoms of narcosis to tumours of the liver.

More preventive health protection was to be secured by reducing the maximum permissible concentration of the gas to 1 ppm (the Commission is proposing 5 ppm) in any new VCM/PVC plants due to be built. Community-wide maximum limits the VCM content of materials and articles which come into contact with food are intended to give the consumer greater protection.

Industrial dereliction
(21 April)

2.3.27. In an Oral Question, the European Conservative Group called for a Commission programme and a Community fund to remove the

ugly scars on the Community landscape caused by industrial dereliction.

Internal market

Motor vehicles: further elimination of barriers to trade
(19 April)

2.3.28. Parliament approved eight proposals for Directives on the approximation of the law of the Member States relating to rear fog lamps, reversing lamps, parking lamps, weights and dimensions, tyres, heating systems, wheel guards and type-approval for motor vehicles. Three further proposals concern windscreen wipers, defrosting and demisting systems and technical interior fittings.

The rapporteur, Mr Nyborg (*EPD/DK*), described these measures as a big step towards the complete removal of barriers to trade in motor vehicles. Twenty-eight directives have so far been adopted approximating laws governing motor vehicles.

When this new package of eleven Directives has been definitively approved, it will be possible, on the basis of the applicable Community type-approval procedure, for a vehicle, which under the Community procedure is admitted into one Member State, to be placed on the market in all the other Member States.

Simplification of customs formalities
(19 April)

2.3.29. The formalities which companies and individuals must go through when sending goods or small consignments did not disappear when the common market was established as a customs union. Parliament therefore called for the customs administration in the Community to be simplified rapidly and Community customs legislation to be introduced, a procedure which, it felt,

was taking too long. The House endorsed the latest simplification proposal by the Commission which would introduce a Community export declaration form.

Problems at the German-Italian frontier (19 April)

2.3.30. Because of undue delays at the Italian frontier, German exporters claim to be incurring losses amounting to hundreds of thousands of marks. Early in the year, there were reports in newspaper of animals dying on the Brenner pass as a result of unduly long waits. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs asked whether the regulations for road freight traffic between the Federal Republic and Italy were compatible with the principles of the EEC Treaty. Because of complicated administrative procedures, the issue of entry permits was allegedly a very slow business and depended, *inter alia*, on traffic police arrangements.

The Committee's question was answered by Mr Burke, Member of the Commission, who referred to the German-Italian agreement of 1957. He said that only 15% of freight operations were effected under the Community transit procedure, the remainder being carried out under bilateral agreements. The Commission was now working with the responsible German and Italian authorities to find a solution.

Transport policy

The Council should exploit the possibilities offered by the Treaty in respect of shipping
(20 April)

2.3.31. The situation of European shipping is marked by declining profits for lines, diminishing capacity and impaired performance in foreign trade, to a degree which is now damaging the

Community's interests. Parliament therefore urged that the Commission be given a comprehensive mandate to prepare concrete proposals for a common shipping policy.

As Mr Seefeld (S/D) had stressed in his interim report on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport, it was now high time for the Council to make all possible use of the possibilities offered by Article 84(2) of the EEC Treaty, which states that the Council may, acting unanimously, decide whether, to what extent and by what procedure, appropriate provisions may be laid down for sea transport. The House held that any such programme must cover joint Community representation at shipping conferences, action against flag discrimination, a solution to the problem of flags of convenience and the inclusion of shipping questions in all other negotiations with non-member countries.

Piracy in Community ports: the way to resolve labour disputes?
(20 April)

2.3.32. A peculiar attempt to solve a labour dispute prompted a question from Mr Hamilton (S/UK). The scene was the Globtik Venus a ship under the Greek flag laying in Le Havre. The crew, on strike over a wage claim and bad working conditions, had been forcibly thrown off by newly hired seamen in a surprise night attack. Mr Hamilton stressed the need for a common transport policy and a code of conduct for shipping and urged the Commission to initiate appropriate discussions with the international seamen's union. Mr Burke, Member of the Commission deplored the incident and assured the House that the Commission would make the necessary approaches.

Greater road safety
(18 April)

2.3.33. Production faults in motor vehicles and the inherent risks for the consumer were the sub-

ject of a question from the Socialist Group. Mr Seefeld (S/D), who together with the Chairman, Mr Fellermaier (D), tabled the question, called for more effective measures to protect vehicle drivers, who were getting alarmed at the increasing number of defects in high-speed tyres, steering gear and safety belts. Both member contended that instead of the usual kind of tersely phrased company announcement, the most sensible way of informing the public about faults discovered was by means of posters on factory floors and in showrooms and garages. A central record kept by manufacturers or dealers would make it possible to trace all users of models called in. The speaker's felt that the Commission's role in all this should be to prepare the ground with the responsible authorities in the Member States. In the brief debate, only the basic demand for greater road safety met with general approval. Members differed on how this was to be achieved. The spokesmen for the Christian Democrats, Mr Müller-Hermann (D), and for the Liberals, Mr Meintz (L), together with Mr Burke for the Commission, warned against setting up a super-bureaucracy in the shape of card-indexes. Nor could Mr Burke endorse the demand for more publicity about production faults; he found that the motor manufacturers were already doing enough in this respect. He then announced that a Community Regulation would shortly be presented on the manufacture and fitting of safety belts, which went further than anything which had preceded it. The planned Community regulations concerning headrests and laminated glass, especially where safety screens were concerned, were encountering more resistance among the Member States.

The political situation in Spain (22 April)

2.3.34. Parliament welcomed the Spanish Government's decision to hold free and democratic parliamentary elections on 15 June. In the words of the Resolution, moved on the joint initiative

of all the groups, this decision 'represented the essential prerequisite for the final democratization of Spain'. The House also recalled its wish expressed in May 1976 to see Spain join the Community when she had evolved towards a genuinely democratic regime. Parliament also acknowledged that the present Spanish Government had adhered to its timetable for the democratization of the country.

Developing the Community's relations with Yugoslavia (21 April)

2.3.35. The Commission and the Council recently confirmed their agreement in principle to set up the present relations between the Community and Yugoslavia. Answering a question from Mr Bettiza (L/I), Mr Giolitti, Member of the Commission, spoke of the ways of achieving intensified long-term cooperation. The new Agreement to be negotiated would be modelled on the Agreements concluded with other non-member countries, such as Canada, Mexico and India. At all events, the desires of the partner State and the interests of the Community must be most carefully balanced.

Parliament condemns maltreatment of Danish Member (21 April)

2.3.36. In a Resolution, Parliament deplored the fact that the French authorities had not taken the necessary steps to have the accusation of maltreatment of a Member of Parliament and three officials by the French police investigated by an impartial authority. The incident had occurred in Strasbourg during a part-session. In protest against the behaviour of the French authorities, the Member concerned, Mr Knud Nielsen (S/DK) had declared that he would attend no more Parliamentary meetings on French soil.

Council

2.3.37. In April the Council held five meetings on foreign affairs, economic and financial affairs, preparations for the meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and agriculture.

**447th meeting — Foreign affairs —
Economic and financial affairs**
(Luxembourg, 5 April)

2.3.38. *President:* Dr David Owen, United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

From the Commission: Mr Jenkins, President, Mr Ortoli, Mr Haferkamp, Mr Gundelach, Mr Natali, Vice-Presidents, Mr Cheysson, Mr Burke, Mr Davignon, Mr Tugendhat, Members.

Overall assessment of budgetary problems: The Council carried out an overall assessment of Community budgetary problems on the basis of a communication from the Commission. During the discussions the Member States expressed their views on priorities and on certain institutional aspects. In conclusion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the institutional aspects and to report back around the middle of May.¹

Danish krone: The Council fixed a new representative rate for the green krone.²

448th meeting — Foreign affairs
(Luxembourg, 5 April)

2.3.39. *President:* Dr David Owen, United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

From the Commission: Mr Jenkins, President, Mr Ortoli, Mr Haferkamp, Mr Gundelach, Mr Natali, Vice-Presidents, Mr Cheysson, Mr Burke, Mr Davignon, Mr Tugendhat, Members.

Greece: The Council decided on the Community position for the second ministerial meeting in the accession negotiations with Greece.³

Portugal: The Council agreed to acknowledge Portugal's application for membership of the Communities and to implement the appropriate Treaty procedures.⁴

ACP: The Council prepared for the second meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers.⁵

Fisheries:

(a) *External aspects:* The Council adopted three Regulations unilaterally defining arrangements for fishing by certain non-member countries.

(b) *Internal aspects:* The Irish Delegation made a statement on the national conservation measures to be applied by the Government from 12 April.

Yugoslavia: The Commission reported on the outcome of the EEC-Yugoslavia Joint Committee meeting.⁶

Euro-Arab Dialogue: The Council decided on the Community's financial contribution towards the initial practical operations in the context of the Euro-Arab Dialogue.⁷

Spain: The Commission was given a brief for the negotiation of an additional protocol to the 1970 Agreement with Spain.⁸

Malta: Since the first stage of the EEC-Malta Association Agreement ends on 30 June, the Council gave the Commission a brief for the negotiation of trade arrangements between the two parties from that date.⁹

¹ Point 2.3.79.

² Point 2.1.60.

³ Point 2.2.1.

⁴ Point 2.2.57.

⁵ Point 2.2.61.

⁶ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.2.48.

⁷ Point 2.2.60.

⁸ Point 2.2.56.

⁹ Point 2.2.65.

CIEC — Common fund: The Council continued its discussions with a view to the resumption of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation.¹

Negotiation of a new International Sugar Agreement: The Council agreed that the Community take part in the United Nations Conference for the negotiation of a new International Sugar Agreement and adopted a negotiating brief for this purpose.²

Multifibre Arrangement: The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the outstanding questions to enable a decision to be taken as soon as possible.

Organization of the proceedings of the European Council: The Council discussed arrangements in connection with the future organization of European Council meetings; it confirmed the guidelines worked out at its previous meeting in Rome, with particular reference to preparations for the next meeting in London on 29 and 30 June.

449th meeting — ACP (Suva-Fiji, 12 April)

2.3.40. President: Mr Dell, United Kingdom Secretary of State for Trade.

From the Commission: Mr Cheysson, Member.

This meeting was devoted to preparations for the second meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers.³

450th meeting — Economic and financial affairs (Luxembourg, 18 April)

2.3.41. President: Mr Healey, United Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer.

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, Mr Vredeling, Vice-Presidents.

International Monetary Fund: The Council agreed on the statement to be made by the President on behalf the Community at the forthcoming meeting of the IMF Interim Committee.⁴

Follow-up to the meeting of the European Council in Rome — Tripartite Conference: The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to make the necessary contacts with a view to setting a date for a Tripartite Conference in the second half of June.⁵

Community loans for Italy: The Council approved the economic policy conditions which the Italian Government intends to observe in 1977 and confirmed authorization for the Commission to raise a \$ 500 million loan for Italy.⁶ The Council also took note of a progress report from the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee on the CIEC and the common fund and discussed the economic and financial issues likely to be raised at the Downing Street Summit.

451st meeting — Agriculture (Luxembourg, 25 and 26 April)

2.3.42. President: Mr Silkin, United Kingdom Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

From the Commission: Mr Gundelach, Vice-President, Mr Tugendhat, Member.

1977/78 Farm prices: After discussing the Commission proposals the Council reached agreement on farm prices and related measures for 1977/78.⁷ It took note of a Commission statement on the implications of this decision for the Community Budget.

ACP sugar: The Council adopted the Commission's brief for negotiating the annual guaranteed

¹ Point 2.2.8.

² Point 2.2.22.

³ Point 2.2.61.

⁴ Point 2.1.1.

⁵ Point 2.1.30.

⁶ Point 2.1.6.

⁷ Points 2.1.53 to 2.1.57.

price for sugar deliveries from the ACP countries during 1977/78.¹

Wine: The Council heard statements from the Italian Delegation on problems concerning sales of Italian wine to France and from the French Delegation on the general situation of the wine market. It noted the information provided by the Commission concerning measures which it intends to take itself or to propose to the Council in its Communication on Mediterranean agriculture. The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine the Commission proposals without delay with a view to the preparation of Council Decisions to apply from the beginning of the coming marketing year.

Hops: The Council approved the basic principles of an amendment to the Regulation on the common organization of the market in hops.²

Fisheries: The Council decided to extend until 31 May the Regulation banning herring fishing in the North Sea.³

Commission

Visit to the Commission by the King of the Belgians

2.3.43. His Majesty King Baudouin I of the Belgians paid an official visit to the Commission on 29 April. He attended a working meeting of the Commission; the main items on the agenda were the North-South Dialogue and the steel policy.

The Commission then gave a luncheon in his honour.

Activities

2.3.44. The Commission held three meetings in April; attention was focused on the problems affecting the steel industry and the fixing of farm prices.

Farm prices: The Commission met in special session on 25 April as a prelude to the meeting of Agriculture Ministers in the Council that afternoon in Luxembourg. It discussed the positions to be adopted at the Council meeting to smooth the way for agreement on next year's farm prices and related measures, notably those to rationalize the milk market.⁴

Steel policy: The Commission approved various features of its steel policy in line with the guidelines adopted in March.⁵ In view of the new developments on the economic front it decided that the General Objectives for Steel for 1980-85, published in 1976, would be revised within the next six months and extended to 1990.

Pollution in the North Sea: The Commission decided to report to the Council on the lessons to be learned by the Community from the blow-out in the Norwegian Ekofisk oilfield.⁶

Protection of consumers' interests: The Commission held a wide-ranging discussion on measures for defending and promoting consumers' interests. The Commission is determined to keep consumer interests in mind, not only when adopting specific consumer protection measures but also when it comes to major decisions likely to affect the individual citizen.

The Commission noted that since the beginning of its term in office the effects on consumers had been considered in connection with a number of measures, and quoted the farm price proposals, the consolidation of the European Social Fund and the crisis plan for steel.

The Commission approved a number of guidelines for further action in this field and particularly welcomed the idea of a high-level conference.

¹ Point 2.2.61.

² Point 2.1.62.

³ Point 2.1.66.

⁴ Points 2.1.53 to 2.1.57.

⁵ Points 2.1.14-2.1.16.

⁶ Point 2.1.48.

Regional policy: The Commission adopted a number of internal arrangements in connection with the reform of the ERDF¹ and agreed, in particular, to hold a full-scale debate in the near future on the Community's regional policy, embracing renewal of the ERDF and coordination of the Community's other financial instruments.

This discussion will be based on a draft communication to the Council and Parliament.

Tripartite Conference: The Commission's attention was drawn to the concern felt about the date set by the Council for the forthcoming Tripartite Conference.² The trade unions in particular have expressed reservations on the grounds that the necessarily hasty preparations cannot possibly give rise to meaningful discussions. The Commission agreed to raise the matter at a forthcoming meeting.

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2.3.45. During the April round of prior consultations with the trade unions the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) discussed the question of multinationals' annual accounts, while the Trade Union Committees on Food and the Chemicals Industry dealt with the cereals situation and the protection of safety and hygiene at work respectively. Finally, the workers' representatives on the Consumers' Consultative Committee drew up a series of guidelines for consumer protection action.

The ETUC energy group was received by Mr Brunner, Member of the Commission, during consultations on matters concerning energy.

Court of Justice*

New Cases

Case 38/77 — Enka Glanzstoff BV, Arnhem³ v Inspecteur der Invoerrechten en Accijnzen, Arnhem

2.3.46. An action concerning the calculation of the value for customs purposes of products imported and warehoused on behalf of the manufacturer was brought before the Tariefcommissie in Amsterdam, which referred to the Court of Justice on 4 April a preliminary question on whether Article 10(2)(d) of directive 69/74/EEC on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to customs warehousing procedure⁴ was directly applicable and on whether this provision should be interpreted as meaning that warehousing charges must be deducted from the price which is taken into consideration for the purpose of calculating the value for customs purposes.

Case 39/77 — Firma Aktien-Zuckerfabrik Muzel-Holtensen, Barsinghausen v Commission⁵

2.3.47. A German firm specializing in manufacturing and trading in sugar brought an action against the Commission on 5 April for the annulment of Regulation (EEC) No 101/77⁵ in so far as it introduces monetary compensatory amounts for quota C sugar in respect of which no intervention measures have been laid down under the common organization of the market, and to recover damages and interest as compensation for the losses which the firm claims to have suffered as a result of the application of this regulation.

* For details, see text published by the Court of Justice in the Official Journal and in the European Court Reports.

¹ Point 2.1.41.

² Point 2.1.30.

³ OJ C 113 of 11.5.1977.

⁴ OJ L 58 of 8.3.1969.

⁵ OJ L 17 of 20.1.1977.

Case 40/77 — J. Seidl, Regenstauf v (1) Council (2) Commission¹

2.3.48. The validity of Regulation (EEC) 563/76 (compulsory purchase of skimmed milk powder)² has again been called into question in an action brought on 6 April by a German poultry breeder to recover damages and interest as compensation for loss which he claims to have suffered as a result of the application of the said regulation, which he alleges led to an increase for him in the cost of feedingstuffs.

Case 41/777 — Regina v National Insurance Commissioner ex parte C.M. Warry¹

2.3.49. In a dispute concerning the award by the United Kingdom Department of Social Security of an invalidity pension to a British migrant worker who had completed insurance periods in the United Kingdom and in Germany but had failed to fulfil the requirement laid down in United Kingdom law that to be eligible for the pension the person concerned must have been entitled to receive sickness benefit in the United Kingdom for 168 days in the period immediately preceding the occurrence of the risk, the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, requested the Court of Justice to give a ruling on whether this provision of United Kingdom law was compatible with Article 51 of the EEC Treaty, and on whether the aggregation rules laid down in Article 45 and 46 of Regulation (EEC) 1408/71³ apply in such a case.

Case 42/77 — (1) Agrico Aktiengesellschaft für Markenware aus Agrarerzeugnissen, Hamburg (2) Josef Hoche Butterschmelzwerk, Speikern (3) A. Saumweber GmbH, München (4) Tetzlaff & Wenzel Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG, Bremen v Commission¹

2.3.50. Four German firms specializing in butter processing brought an action before the Court of Justice on 15 April for the annulment of Regulation (EEC) 303/77 laying down general rules

for the supply of skimmed milk powder and buteroil as food aid⁴ to the extent that Article 10(1)(b) of this regulation provides that butter shall not be handed over unless security for processing and delivery is lodged. In this connection, the applicants refer to the disproportionate character of this measure and to the distortions of competition which it can create between the undertakings of the various Member States.

Case 43/77 — Industrial Diamond Supplies, Antwerp v L. Riva, Turin¹

2.3.51. Under the Protocol concerning the interpretation by the Court of Justice of the Convention on jurisdiction and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters,⁵ the Rechtbank van Eerste Aanleg te Antwerpen requested the Court of Justice on 18 April to give a ruling on interpretation of Articles 30 and 38 of this Convention with regard to the meaning of the term 'ordinary appeal'.

Case 44 to 51/77 — Groupement d'Intérêt Economique 'Union-Malt', Aurec-sur-Loire, and others v Commission¹

2.3.52. On 18 April, French malt producers brought before the Court of Justice a number of actions for damages and interest as compensation for losses which they claim to have suffered as a result of the amendment made by Regulation (EEC) 413/76⁶ to the provisions in force governing the system of warehousing for processed goods and pre-financing arrangements in respect of cereals (in this case, malt and barley) falling within Common Customs Tariff headings Nos 11.07 and 10.03.

¹ OJ C 113 of 11.5.1977.

² OJ L 67 of 15.3.1976.

³ OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

⁴ OJ L 43 of 15.2.1977.

⁵ OJ L 204 of 2.8.1975.

⁶ OJ L 50 of 26.2.1976.

*Case 52/77 — L. Cayrol v Snc Rivoira G. & Figli*¹

2.3.53. An Italian firm exported to France Spanish table grapes which had been put into free circulation in Italy, described as being of Italian origin and as such not subject to import quotas imposed by France on Spanish grapes. The French importer of these grapes was sentenced to pay a fine for having made a false declaration, and, in order to recover all or part of this sum, initiated proceedings before the Tribunale di Saluzzo to levy distraint on goods belonging to the Italian exporter.

In connection with this dispute, the Tribunale di Saluzzo referred to the Court of Justice on 19 April a number of preliminary questions on, *inter alia*, the applicability of Article 115 of the EEC Treaty to products originating in a third country which are subject to a Community system of imports under a trading agreement between that country and the Community; whether a Member State is still entitled to impose quantitative restrictions on imports of products originating in that third country after the entry into force of the agreement; whether the provisions of Regulation (EEC) 58² laying down common quality standards for fruit and vegetables and more particularly the reference to the area of production, are in the nature of customs rules; finally, whether the fact that a Member State applies, in the event of failure to observe this regulation, heavier penalties when imported products are concerned than in the case of national products, constitutes a measure having equivalent effect to quantitative restrictions contrary to Article 30 of the EEC Treaty.

Case 53/77 — United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland v Commission

2.3.54. After the Commission had brought an action before the Court of Justice to establish that the United Kingdom had failed to comply with the Commission Decision of 17 February 1977 concerning an aid in the pigmeat sector in

the United Kingdom,³ that Member State initiated concurrent proceedings before the Court on 25 April to annul the said decision on the grounds that the United Kingdom disputed its validity.

Case 54/77 — Commission official v Commission

2.3.55. An official of the Commission brought an action before the Court of Justice on 26 April for annulment of an express decision by the Commission disallowing his claim that he should continue to be awarded an expatriation allowance.

Case 55/77 — Mrs Reboulet, née Maris, Colonges Mont d'Or v Rijksdienst voor Werknemerspensioenen, Brussels

2.3.56. The Arbeidsrechtbank Antwerpen referred to the Court of Justice on 28 April a preliminary question concerning the precedence of Community law over national law, namely, whether Article 84(4) of Regulation (EEC) 1408/71⁴ (Social Security) overrides the Belgian Law on the use of languages in legal proceedings.

Judgments

Case 71/76 — J. Thieffry, Paris v Conseil de l'Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Paris

2.3.57. A Belgian national who holds a degree of Doctor of Laws awarded by a Belgian University, having been denied the right to practise as a lawyer in France on the grounds that he does not hold the French degree of Bachelor or Doctor of Laws brought an action before the Paris Court d'Appel which referred to the Court of Justice on 19 July 1976 a preliminary question on whether the imposition of a requirement that a national of

¹ OJ C 116 of 13.5.1977.

² OJ 56 of 7.7.1962.

³ Case 31/77, Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.3.49.

⁴ OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

a Member State must hold the degree of the country of establishment, even though the degree which he obtained in his country of origin has been recognized as equivalent by the university authorities of the country of establishment and has enabled him to pass in the latter country the examination of competence as a lawyer, constitutes, in the absence of the directives referred to in Article 57(1) and (2) of the EEC Treaty, an obstacle in excess of what is necessary to achieve the objective of the Community provisions in question.¹

In its judgment of 28 April, the Court held that a requirement of this kind constitutes a restriction which is incompatible with the freedom of establishment guaranteed under Article 52 of the EEC Treaty.

Case 79/76 — C. Fossi, Florence v Bundesknappschaft, Bochum

2.3.58. The Bundessozialgericht referred to the Court of Justice on 6 August 1976 a preliminary question on whether an Italian national, resident in Italy, who has never resided or worked in the Federal Republic of Germany or in West Berlin, but who worked as a miner during the second world war in the Sudeten region, is to be treated, by virtue of the Community provisions on social security, as a German national for the purpose of applying Article 108(c) of the Reichsknappschaftsgesetz; this law leaves the payment of a pension to the discretion of the competent German body, when the entitlement to it has accrued outside Germany to German nationals residing outside national territory.²

The Court of Justice, in its judgment of 31 March, held that Article 8 of Regulation 3 and Article 3(1) of Regulation EEC 1408/71³ do not apply to benefits such as those specified in para 108(c) of the Reichsknappschaftsgesetz payable in respect in insurance periods completed before

1945 outside the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin.

Opinion 1/76 of the Court of Justice on the compatibility of a draft agreement relating to a European laying-up fund for inland waterway vessels with the provisions of the EEC Treaty.

2.3.59. On 21 July 1976, the Commission approved, for transmission to the Council, a draft agreement establishing a European laying-up fund for inland waterway vessels and a proposal for an EEC Regulation for the formal conclusion of the agreement by the Community and containing provisions for implementing the agreement in the Community.⁴ The draft agreement in question marked the successful outcome of negotiations conducted by the Commission in accordance with the directives issued by the Council in this connection.

However, taking into account that the operation of the system introduced by the draft agreement would be a novelty for the Community, the Commission decided to seek at the same time the opinion of the Court of Justice pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 228(1) of the EEC Treaty on whether this agreement was compatible with the provisions of the Treaty.

In its opinion, delivered on 26 April, the Court of Justice stated that the draft agreement in question was not compatible with the EEC Treaty.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2457.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2465.

³ OJ 30 of 16.12.1958, OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2283.

Economic and Social Committee

148th plenary session

Brussels, 27 and 28 April

Opinions

Reform of the European Social Fund

2.3.60. In this Opinion concerning the review of the rules governing the tasks and operations of the European Social Fund, adopted unanimously, the Committee commends the Commission for submitting proposals which it thinks will improve the Social Fund's working procedures and efficiency. The Committee doubts, however, whether these proposals can adequately deal with the social repercussions of the economic situation, which has deteriorated considerably since the Fund was first reformed in 1971.

In this respect, the Committee thinks it would have been conceivable to propose sweeping changes to the Fund's tasks here and now, and points out that it has repeatedly requested that the Fund be assigned a more important role in employment policy and that its activities should become more a part of the Community's structural policies.

In its general comments, the Committee deals more specifically with the Fund's inadequate resources at the moment, the need to coordinate the activities of the various EEC financial instruments and, in particular, the activities of the Regional Fund and the Social Fund, though care should be taken to ensure that the Social Fund is not stripped of its specific role and is not made to play second fiddle to instruments of a more political and economic nature, the respective roles of the various bodies with powers in the employment sector, the priority areas of intervention of the Fund's activities in the area of vocational training and retraining and the need to back up

these activities by creating adequate jobs simultaneously.

In its specific comments, the Committee, while approving most of the Commission's proposed changes, especially the one concerning larger percentage contributions to help the least developed regions, states that:

- (a) the Commission's indefinite postponement of new types of aid in areas other than vocational training and labour mobility is regrettable;
- (b) its endorsement of the proposed deletion of paragraph 2(2) of Article 9 (predetermined allocation of appropriations between Articles 4 and 5) is conditional on the non-reduction of the Fund's regional impact and structural role and checks to this effect at the annual report stage;
- (c) grouping applications for aid and submitting these applications in advance—a method which the Committee approves in principle—is fraught with risks, since it might increase the influence of national authorities and thus make for adoption of a quota system;
- (d) care should be taken to ensure that annual guidelines for the order of priority schemes eligible for assistance from the Fund do not stop the Fund reacting more quickly than in the past to changes on the labour market;
- (e) the two sides of industry must be involved more closely in the various stages in the granting and implementation of aid from the Fund.

Sewage sludge

2.3.61. In this Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee approved the Commission's proposal and felt that Community coordination of national research work would be of much value. The Committee felt that more emphasis should be placed on sludge as a potential resource rather than as a waste product.

GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations

2.3.62. In this Opinion, adopted by a large majority with one abstention, the Committee ap-

pealed for the Community to adopt a pragmatic attitude towards the negotiations, bearing in mind the real world economic situation and the aftermath of the energy crisis.

The situation is marked by:

- (i) a deficit in the Community's balance of trade, especially with the United States and Japan, reflecting a certain deterioration in the EEC's competitive position; and
- (ii) the need to give increased priority to jobs.

The Committee feels that the principle of free trade should be supplemented by some form of machinery to organize international trade.

First of all the Community must aim at getting measures taken to avoid exchange rates being changed too often or too sharply and thus jeopardizing the economic and social equilibrium of the different signatories to the GATT. This means not only laying down a number of monetary rules for world trade but also beefing up the GATT's role as a conciliator and arbiter on trade matters, so as to ensure that these rules are applied and that actual situations are taken into account.

While the Committee recognizes the need to open up the Community market to developing countries' goods, it rejects the idea of developing countries being allowed general and permanent exemptions from the rules applying to the other contracting parties to the GATT.

On the tariff side, the Committee calls for a standardization followed by a reduction of customs duties, with a floor of 5% or so for duties on manufactured goods. As regards farming, the Committee considers that the common agricultural policy is not a matter for negotiation like the other sectors.

As far as non-tariff barriers are concerned, the Committee insists that alongside tariff reductions a way should be found to standardize definitions of dutiable value and certain customs procedures, and that the subsidies issue should be resolved.

Subsidies should only be met with countervailing duties if they have a prejudicial effect on trade.

Finally, the Committee considers that the safeguard clause provided for in GATT Article XIX should be used selectively and that the Community should follow United States practice and have a procedure for vetting the results of negotiations before putting them into effect. Such a procedure would include consulting the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

Electronic traffic aids

2.3.63. In this Opinion, unanimously adopted, the Committee broadly approved the moves to mount a European project for electronic traffic aids on major roads, with the ultimate objective of creating a standardized European system.

Relations between the Community and Portugal

2.3.64. In this Study, approved unanimously with three abstentions, the Committee did not take a position on Portugal's application for membership, but hoped to make a contribution to the preparations for Portugal's accession.

The Study starts by noting that political and economic stability in Portugal has improved to such a point that the EEC can now contemplate a campaign to alert Community business circles to investment openings and conditions in Portugal.

The Study also suggests consultations between interested parties in the Community and the Portuguese authorities on the subject of Portugal's foreign investment code (now under review).

With regard to Portuguese exports to the EEC, the Community should first attempt to help the Portuguese to adapt their production to foreign demand.

The Study proposes the setting up of a *standing liaison committee*—made up of Portuguese and delegates from the EEC Member States and Institutions—to promote cooperation between business, labour and professional interests in the various sectors of the Portuguese and EEC economies. This committee is needed as an essential back-up to effective cooperation between all economic sectors. Its terms of reference should be left very wide.

In the same context the Study mentions the *Business Cooperation Centre* (expressing the hope that Portuguese firms would be able to make use of this Centre's services).

The Committee was informed of the severe shortage of *executive staff* and skilled workers throughout the Portuguese economy. The EEC could provide constructive help here by allowing Portuguese nationals, wherever possible, to take part in national and Community vocational training schemes at the Community's expense.

In the social security sector, the EEC could help by supplying comprehensive information to the Portuguese authorities, trade unions and employers' organizations about social security schemes in the Community and the individual Member States. The help of the EEC trade union and trade organizations would also be most useful here.

In the field of *agriculture*, adjustment of Portugal's production to the EEC market requires a thorough knowledge of the rules of the CAP and of the surplus situation with regard to some products, etc. The Community authorities and farming organizations in both the EEC and Portugal have everything to gain from launching an information campaign to encourage a trend towards natural complementarity between Portuguese and EEC agricultural production, and compatibility between their policies.

In addition, the EEC Commission should consider the possibility of giving special priority to financial aid for projects which could help to bring

about a quick reduction in Portugal's food imports.

Nuclear Safety Code

2.3.65. In this Study, approved unanimously with one abstention, the Committee proposed a Nuclear Safety Code consisting of binding and codified minimum rules with which all the Member States would have to comply. These rules, which give top priority to the safety of nuclear workers and the general public, would cover all activities in the nuclear sector:

- (i) uranium mining and fuel preparation;
- (ii) present and future reactor types;
- (iii) nuclear research installations;
- (iv) storage and transport of irradiated fuel and waste;
- (v) reprocessing of irradiated fuel;
- (vi) radioactive waste disposal;
- (vii) decommissioning of nuclear plants.

The code should deal with questions such as the criteria for site selection, licensing procedures, reactor safety, physical protection of nuclear installations, rules limiting the discharge of radioactive effluents, safeguards against thermal pollution and standards for the safety and protection of workers. A central body for nuclear safety should be established in each Member State.

Many of the decisions concerning the risks associated with nuclear energy are more often of a social and moral nature than a technical one. The Committee therefore stresses the need to involve the general public. There must be ready access to reliable and comprehensive information. Major decisions such as those on the siting of nuclear power stations must be submitted to elected bodies and to the general public for their views.

The code would seek to coordinate effectively the nuclear safety measures taken by the Member States. While the Commission has already

achieved sound progress on nuclear safety using its existing powers, the Committee recommended that these powers should now be extended substantially. The basic objective of the code should be to allow the optimum development of the nuclear industry from the point of view of safety, thus promoting the use of nuclear energy for the benefit of society as a whole.

ECSC Consultative Committee

183rd meeting

2.3.66. The Consultative Committee met in Luxembourg on 19 April, with Mr Joe Gormley in the chair; Mr Davignon, Member of the Commission, was also present.

There was only one item on the agenda for this meeting: the steel industry crisis and the measures proposed by the Commission to put this key sector of the economy on a sounder footing. Mr Davignon pointed out that the objective of the crisis plan, which was, by means of voluntary restraint on deliveries, to create a healthy economic situation in which the industry could be reorganized and at the same time regions converted so that steel would no longer be the sole focus of activity, had not been attained and that the measures applied under the plan had not yielded the anticipated results. The Commission thus felt duty-bound to invoke Article 61 of the Treaty and fix minimum prices for concrete reinforcing bars. This did not mean that the Commission would let itself be dragged into a policy consisting of minimum prices for one product today and for another tomorrow.

For products other than the concrete reinforcing bars mentioned in the crisis plan, the Commission asked the producers to adhere to the guide prices.

The Commission also stipulated that it might revise and extend the list of products for which a guide price had been proposed.

In the ensuing debate, Mr Ferry, on behalf of the producers, thanked Mr Davignon for his clear, accurate and objective appraisal. The steel producers were in agreement with the guide prices.

Mr Ferry felt that the level of the intended prices was realistic, but considered that these arrangements were no more than the initial step towards the return of steel prices to normal levels with due consideration for the conditions under which companies were operating and for the basic objectives of the ECSC Treaty. Mr Ferry also approved of the planned automatic licences for imports, which would provide the necessary confirmation that the imports were in order. The producers were not of one mind concerning the application of Article 61 for concrete reinforcing bars. The German producers came out against a system of minimum prices for only one product. The workers felt that the measures announced by the Commission were generally in line with the Resolution adopted by the Committee on 17 March.¹ The users had the most misgivings. They could see little point in minimum prices for concrete reinforcing bars. The guide price system would have to amount to a *de facto* application of Article 61, otherwise it was unlikely to achieve results.

In his concluding remarks, Mr Davignon once again stressed the crucial importance of the employment problem and the solutions which must be found. He was glad that the producers had recognized that they had to show a spirit of solidarity and said he had noted the comments made on the guide prices and the list of products involved. Lastly, he suggested to the users that the technicalities be gone into in greater detail to determine and appraise the market repercussions of the proposed measures.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.3.82.

European Investment Bank

Loans raised

2.3.67. The European Investment Bank has signed a contract in London for a 10 000 million Japanese yen bond issue on the international capital market, the first such issue outside Japan.

With a maximum life of seven years and bearing interest at a nominal rate of 7.25%, payable annually, the bonds were offered to the public at an issue price of 100%.

The loan was underwritten by an international syndicate of banks. The bonds are redeemable at par at term. However, the contract includes a 'Purchase Fund' clause enabling the buying back of bonds to a nominal value of 700 million yen per year at prices not exceeding par. The European Investment Bank will also have the option of redeeming in advance, at progressively reducing premiums, from 1982 onwards, all bonds then in circulation.

Application has been made to list the issue on the Luxembourg stock exchange.

Loans granted

Denmark

2.3.68. The European Investment Bank has granted a further global loan to the Danish Government for the equivalent of Dkr 20 million (3 million EUA). It will go towards financing small and medium-scale industrial ventures in the less developed regions of Denmark. The term is 10 years and the interest rate 8 7/8%.

The funds are to be made available to the Directorate for Regional Development (Direktoratet for Egnsudvikling) which, with the EIB's agreement

in each case, will select the projects to be financed.

The Bank has already granted five global loans to the Danish Government and Finansieringsinstituttet for Industri og Handværk totalling Dkr 81.5 million. To date Dkr 78.3 million of these funds have been drawn down in support of 24 projects which should lead to the direct creation of 655 jobs and safeguard 850 others.

France

2.3.69. A loan for the equivalent of FF 150 million (26.7 million EUA) has been granted by the Bank to Société du Canal de Provence (SCP) for improving irrigation and water supplies in the departments of Bouches-du-Rhône and Var.

The funds, which have been made available for 15 years at an interest rate of 9 1/8%, will contribute towards financing total investments of more than FF 400 million covering distribution networks, reservoirs and pumping stations and the acquisition of mobile sprinkler irrigation equipment.

The project is of major agricultural interest since 8 800 hectares, mainly in the Trevaresse and Toulon areas, will be equipped with irrigation facilities. This will permit more intensive use of the land, allow a wider range of crops to be cultivated and lead to a marked improvement in agricultural income. The works will also help to meet the increasing water requirements of industry in Toulon and of tourism, a key factor in the region's economy.

The project forms part of a major water scheme covering the period 1964-85 and exploiting the resources of the River Verdon to promote economic development in Provence, particularly the hinterland, by facilitating the cultivation of irrigated crops.

Italy

2.3.70. Six new loans totalling the equivalent of Lit 62 400 million (63,1 million EUA) have been granted in Italy by the EIB.

The bulk of the funds goes towards industrial projects in the Mezzogiorno, but finance is also being provided to assist the recovery of the Friuli region, hit by earthquakes last year, by repairing damage caused to the Udine-Carnia motorway.

2.3.71. There are two global loans, each for Lit 20 000 million, which have been granted to the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro-Sezione Speciale per il Credito Industriale and to the Istituto Mobiliare Italiano-IMI; the proceeds will be used to finance various small and medium-sized industrial ventures in the South.

2.3.72. A loan of Lit 10 000 million has been granted to IMI for 8 years at an interest rate of 8 1/4% to contribute to finance which this institution is providing for construction of a factory at Foggia (Apulia) which will produce highspeed diesel engines. This project, for which a Lit 14 000 million loan was granted in July last year,¹ should provide 2 000 new jobs.

2.3.73. Again to IMI, a further two loans totalling Lit 3 400 million have been granted for 8 years at an interest rate of 8 1/4% to contribute towards finance made available for the construction of two factories, at Termoli in Molise and Ceprano in Latium, which will produce pre-cast concrete panelling for PREFIM SpA (owned by the IMPRESIT group). The total cost of the two factories is set at Lit 8 700 million and the number of jobs to be created at about 525.

2.3.74. Finally, a loan of Lit 9 000 million, for 20 years at an interest rate of 9 1/8% has been granted to AUTOSTRADE-Concessioni e Costruzioni Autostrade SpA (part of the IRI group).

It will be used to repair damage caused by the earthquakes in Friuli in May and September last

year to many structures which were then being built for the Udine-Carnia motorway. This is the third loan to Friuli to repair earthquake damage.²

United Kingdom

2.3.75. A loan totalling the equivalent of £ 7.5 million (11.5 million EUA) has been granted to the National Water Council (NWC) by the European Investment Bank.

The funds—provided for 15 years at an interest rate of 9 1/8%—will be passed on to the Northumbrian Water Authority to finance a water supply project and a sewerage scheme in Teesside.

Costing in the region of £ 38 million, the works include two new intakes on the River Tees to provide additional quantities of raw water to industrial users plus a series of sewers on both sides of the river and a treatment works at Portrack.

The improvement of water supplies and construction of an adequate sewerage infrastructure are key factors in the future industrial development of Teesside, where the amount of employment provided by industries which are traditional to the region—coal, steel and shipbuilding—has declined in recent years.

Efforts have been made to attract new industrial activities and many of these, such as chemical and petrochemical industries, require large quantities of water. Further industrial development also demands major improvements to the sewerage and sewage disposal system to limit pollution.

Portugal

2.3.76. A loan equivalent to 16 million EUA³ has been granted by the EIB to contribute to-

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2486.

² Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2482 and 1-1977, point 2.3.44.

³ Exchange rate applied by the EIB in the second quarter of 1977: 1 unit of account = Escudos 43.21.

wards the cost of expanding the Port of Leixoes near Oporto, Portugal.

This brings to 118 million EUA the total amount so far provided by the Bank within the framework of the 'exceptional emergency aid' of 150 million u.a. which, in October 1975, was offered to Portugal by the Community in the form of long-term loans from the EIB.¹

The loan has been made to the Douro and Leixoes Port Authority for 12 years; the interest rate is 6 3/8% after deduction of a 3% interest rebate (paid directly from the Community budget) as provided for under the terms of the aid offer.

The project which the Bank is helping to finance consists of the construction of a container terminal with 360 m of quays, allowing simultaneous dispatching of up to three container ships; a new dock, with more than 1 000 m of quays, for general and bulk cargo; and restructuring of the connections between the docks and the national railway network. The loan will also help to pay for studies on the optimal operation of the enlarged facilities. The total cost of these works and studies is estimated at around 44 million EUA.

The expansion of the Port of Leixoes will permit an increase in sea transport services for the industrial area of Oporto. This will have a positive impact on economic development and employment in the north of Portugal, whence most of the emigration from the country has originated in the past.

Malawi

2.3.77. Under the terms of the Lomé Convention, the Bank has agreed to provide finance totalling about 7.48 million units of account to contribute towards the cost of developing a sugar plantation and the construction of a sugar mill in the area of the Dwangwa river delta in Malawi.

The major part of this sum will be in the form of a loan of 6.5 million EUA granted to Dwang-

wa Sugar Corporation for 12 years at an interest rate of 5 7/8% after allowing for a rebate of 3% drawn from the resources of the European Development Fund as provided for by the Lomé Convention; it will be guaranteed by the Government of the Republic of Malawi and the Commercial Bank of Malawi Ltd. In addition, the Bank, acting as agent for the European Economic Community, has agreed to contribute Kwacha 1.0 million (equivalent to about 980 000 units of account) to the ordinary share capital of the Corporation using risk capital resources set aside for this purpose under the Lomé Convention.

The Dwangwa Sugar Corporation was set up in April 1976 as a private company to carry out the project which consists of the cultivation of some 6 000 hectares of sugar cane and the construction of a new sugar mill with an initial capacity at full production of 150 tonnes per hour. The total cost of the project is estimated at about 60 million units of account. Long term finance is also being provided by Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation and Press Holdings Limited (both registered in Malawi), the Lonrho Sugar Corporation Limited, Société financière internationale, Deutsche Entwicklungsgesellschaft and the Investment and Development Bank of Malawi Limited.

Malawi's balance of payments will benefit substantially from this scheme as part of the sugar production is initially scheduled for export; in the longer term it will help to cover rising domestic demand and so avoid dependence upon imports. Additional benefits include the generation of about 3 000 new employment opportunities and economic growth in the northern Central Province of Malawi which is one of the Malawi Government's priority areas for development. It is also envisaged that a smallholder scheme would eventually be associated with the project.

¹ Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2333.

Financing Community activities

General Budget

Declaration of the maximum rate of increase in 'non-compulsory' expenditure for 1978

2.3.78. The Treaties¹ provide that for all expenditure under the General Budget of the European Communities other than that necessarily resulting from the Treaty or from acts adopted in accordance therewith, the Commission shall, after consulting the Economic Policy Committee, declare what the maximum rate of increase is in relation to expenditure of the same type for the current financial year.

After consulting the Economic Policy Committee, on 27 April the Commission declared that the maximum rate for 1978 will be 13.6%, being the arithmetic mean of the increase in 1976 of:

- (i) the gross domestic product of the Community in terms of value (13.9%) and
- (ii) the budgets of the Member States (13.3%).

Overall assessment of the Community's budgetary problems

2.3.79. The second joint meeting² of the Council of Foreign and Finance Ministers on 5 April in Luxembourg did not reach agreement on its main objective in the present circumstances: to establish that all the conditions were fulfilled for the own-resources system to be introduced in full and the European unit of account (EUA) to be used in the Budget from 1 January 1978.

With little time available, and some Member States having reserved their positions on these problems, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to try to solve all the outstanding problems within a month of the end

of the Easter holiday period. Failing an agreement, a special Council meeting would be convened by agreement in late May or early June. With this timetable it should be possible for everything about the system coming into force on 1 January 1978 to be cleared up before the budgetary procedure begins.

On the overall assessment proper of budgetary expenditure, a degree of consensus emerged in the Council on the priority actions proposed by the Commission,³ particularly those already adopted by the European Council in Rome on 25 and 26 March 1977⁴ (measures to create jobs, especially for the young; extra efforts to end the divergence in the Member States' economic performance; better use of Community funds).

On 19 April Mr Barnett, President of the Council, and Mr Tugendhat, Member of the Commission, informed Parliament's Committee on Budgets of the results of the joint meeting.

On 28 April the Committee on Budgets adopted a motion for a Resolution on the Parliament's guidelines for the budgetary and financial policy of the European Communities for 1978. It sets out the reactions and comments of the Committee on Budgets to the Communication from the Commission on the overall assessment of the Community's budgetary problems; it has still to be put to the vote by Parliament.

Own resources

Financial Regulation on VAT

2.3.80. On 20 April, the Commission approved and sent to the Council a proposal for a Regulation concerning the establishment and making

¹ Art. 203(8) of the EEC Treaty; Art. 78(8) of the ECSC Treaty; and Art. 177(8) of the EAEC Treaty.

² Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2447.

³ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.3.94.

⁴ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.1.

available to the Community of own resources accruing from VAT.¹

Since Member States would need to adjust their administrative provisions to suit the Regulation, the following timetable was proposed: the Council should take a decision before the end of July and consequently Parliament should have delivered its Opinion before the end of its June part-session.

ECSC financial operations

Loans raised

2.3.81. The Commission raised the following loans in April:

— A \$ 75 million bond issue.

This issue was underwritten by a syndicate of American banks.

The bonds bear interest at a nominal 9 1/8% payable twice yearly and have a term of 20 years; they were offered to the public at par.

Application has been made for a listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

— A Lfrs 500 million bond issue. This was underwritten by a syndicate of Luxembourg banks. These bonds bear interest at a nominal 8 1/2% payable annually and have a term of ten years. The issue was offered to the public at par. Application has been made for a quotation on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

Loans granted

Loans paid

2.3.82. Pursuant to Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission made loans totalling 31.3 million EUA in April, broken down as follows between two categories:

Industrial loans

Industrial loans during the month amounted to 28.7 million EUA and went to three firms to finance the following programmes:

Coal industry

Rationalization and modernization of collieries
Eschweiler Bergwerks-Verein, Herzogenrath-Kohlscheid (Westfalen Colliery at Ahlen, Westphalia; Anna Colliery at Alsdorf, Aachen)

Increase in coking capacity

Eschweiler Bergwerks-Verein, Herzogenrath-Kohlscheid (Erin Coking Plant at Castrop-Rauxel)

Vocational training centre

Preussag Aktiengesellschaft, Hanover (Ibbenbüren Training Centre)

Overseas project

Iron-ore mines

British Steel Corporation, London (Fire Lake Mine, Province of Quebec, Canada)

Loans for the construction of low-cost housing

Loans totalling 2.6 million EUA were granted in April for the construction of low-cost housing.

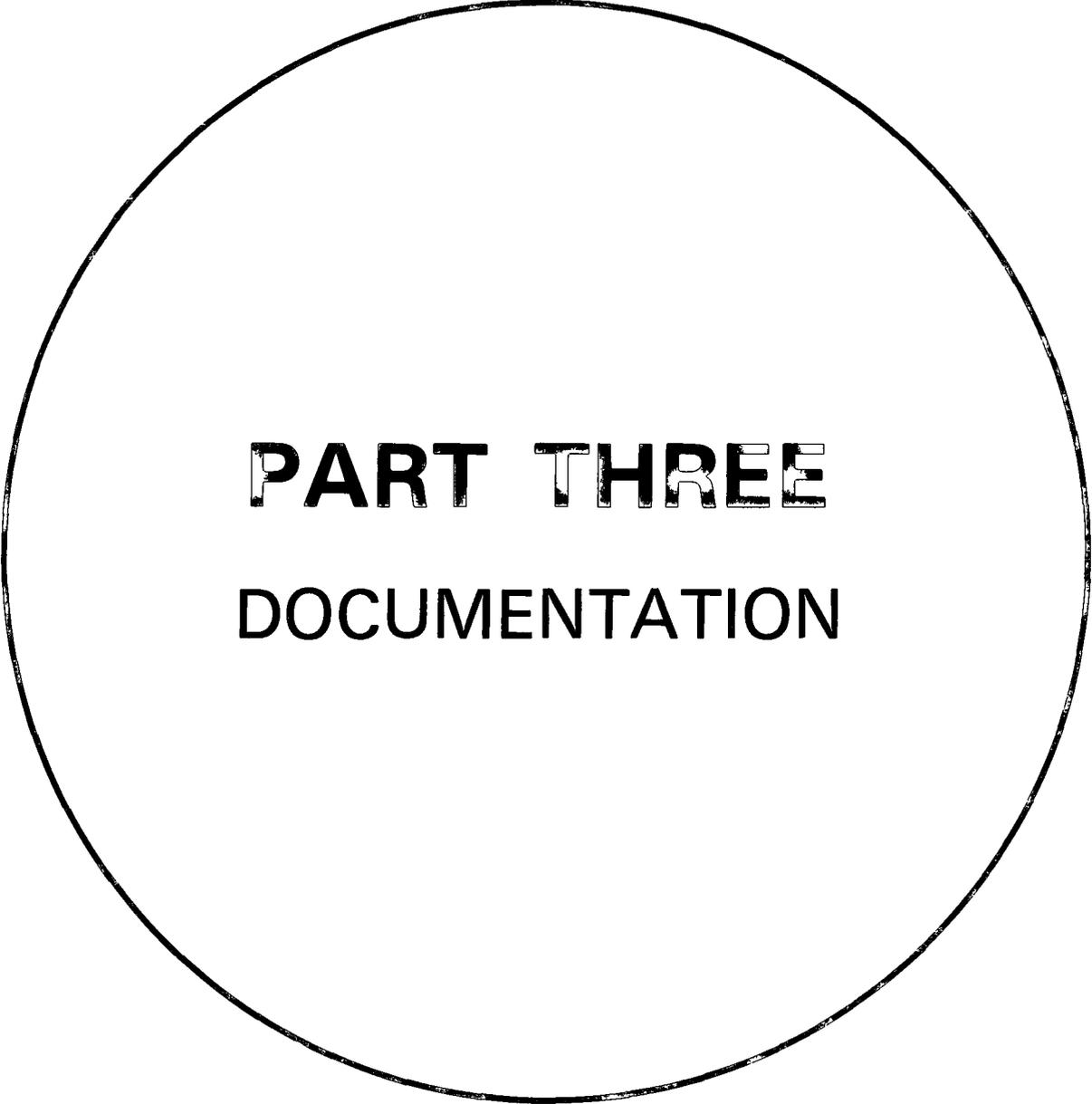
Loan decisions

2.3.83. In April the Commission also decided to grant an industrial loan to:

Coal industry

Rationalization and modernization of collieries
National Coal Board, London (all UK mines)

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.3.96.



PART THREE
DOCUMENTATION

1. Additional references in the Official Journal

Additional references in Official Journal

3.1.1. This section lists the titles of legal instruments and notices of Community institutions or organs published in the Official Journal during the month under review but relating to items appearing in earlier issues of the Bulletin; the references were not available when the Bulletin went to press.

The number of the Bulletin and the point to which this additional information refers is followed by the title shown on the cover of the Official Journal, the number of the issue and the date of publication.

Bulletin EC 12-1976

Point 2313

Information concerning the entry into force of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Korea on trade in textiles 16.

OJ L 86, 2.4.1977.

Bulletin EC 1-1977

Point 2.1.34

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* *Δελτίον πληροφοριών (περιοδική έκδοσις)* Δωρεάν
(DK.D.E.F.I.NL.έλληνικά)

* *ef-information-euroforum.*
Δ København (to gange om måneden) (DK) Gratis

* *ef-synspunkt.*
Δ København (uregelmæssig) (DK) Gratis

* *Europa.*
Δ København (månedlig) (DK) 5,- DKr.

* *EG Magazin.*
Δ Bonn (monatlich) (D) Jahresabonnement: 12,- DM

* *Berichte und Informationen.*
Δ Bonn (wöchentlich) (D) Gratis

* *Die Europäischen Regionen.*
Δ Bonn (monatlich) (D) Gratis

* *Europa-Informationen für die Jugendpresse.*
Δ Bonn (monatlich) (D) Gratis

* *European Community.*
Δ London (monthly) (E) Gratis

* *Background Note.*
Δ London (irregular) (E) Gratis

* *Community Report.*

Δ Dublin (monthly) (E) Gratis

* *30 jours d'Europe.*

Δ Paris (mensuel) (F) Abonnement annuel: 42,- FF

* *Communauté européenne. Informations.*

Δ Paris (mensuel) (F) Abonnement annuel: 70,- FF

* *Comunità europee.*

Δ Roma (mensile) (I) Gratuito

* *EUR info.*

Δ Bruxelles (mensuel) (F.NL) Gratuit

* *EUROPA-bericht.*

Δ Brussel (maandelijks) (F.NL) Gratis

* *Europese Gemeenschap.*

Δ Den Haag — Brussel (maandelijks) - Gratis

* *Europa van morgen.*

Δ Den Haag (wekelijks) (NL) Gratis

* *European Community.*

Δ Washington (monthly) Gratis

* *Background Information.*

Δ Washington (irregular) (E) Gratis

* *Comunidad europea* (mensual) (S) Gratuit

* *Documentos de la Comunidad europea* (irregular) (S)

* *Ευρωπαϊκή Κοινότητα (μηνιαία έκδοσις) (έλληνικά)* Δωρεάν

* *Avrupa Toplulugu* (bimestriel) (turc) Gratuit

* *Pressebulletin* — „Euroforum“ (wöchentlich)

* *Press bulletin* — 'Euroforum' (weekly)

* *Bulletin de presse* — « Euroforum » (hebdomadaire)

* *Bollettino stampa* — « Euroforum » (settimanale)

* *Persbericht* — „Euroforum“ (wekelijks) (D.E.F.I.NL)

DET ØKONOMISKE OG SOCIALE UDVALG · WIRTSCHAFTS-
UND SOZIALAUSSCHUSS · ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COM-
MITTEE · COMITÉ ÉCONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL · COMITATO
ECONOMICO E SOCIALE · ECONOMISCH EN SOCIAAL
COMITÉ

* *Bulletin* (månedlig) Gratis

* *Bulletin* (monatlich) Gratis

* *Bulletin* (monthly) Gratis

* *Bulletin* (mensuel) Gratuit

* *Bollettino* (mensile) Gratuito

* *Bulletin* (maandelijks) Gratis

(DK.D.E.F.I.NL)

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- * *Information* (kvartalsvis) Gratis
 - * *Informationen* (vierteljährlich) Gratis
 - * *Information* (quarterly) Gratis
 - * *Informations* (trimestriel) Gratuit
 - * *Informazioni* (trimestrale) Gratuito
 - * *Mededelingen* (driemaandelijks) Gratis
- (4 hæfter pr. år. 4 Hefte jährlich. 4 issues yearly. 4 numéros par an. 4 fascicoli all'anno. 4 nummers per jaar).

**Fællesskabsret
Gemeinschaftsrecht
Community Law
Droit communautaire
Diritto comunitario
Communautair recht**

RÅDET · RAT · COUNCIL · CONSEIL · CONSIGLIO · RAAD

- * *Fortegnelse over de bestemmelser, der fastsættes administrativt eller ved lov i Fællesskabernes medlemsstater til gennemførelse af Fællesskabernes retsakter*

Verzeichnis der in den Mitgliedstaaten der Gemeinschaften in Durchführung der Rechtsakte der Gemeinschaften erlassenen Rechtsvorschriften

List of Laws and Regulations Adopted in the Member States of the Communities in Application of Acts Adopted by the Communities

Répertoire des dispositions législatives et réglementaires arrêtées dans les États membres des Communautés en application des actes arrêtés par les Communautés

Repertorio delle disposizioni legislative e regolamentari adottate negli Stati membri delle Comunità europee in applicazione degli atti adottati dalle Comunità

Overzicht van de in de Lid-Staten der Europese Gemeenschappen, in uitvoering van de besluiten der Gemeenschappen, vastgestelde wettelijke en bestuursrechtelijke bepalingen.

(mensuel) (Mult.) Diffusion restreinte

- * *Répertoire de dispositions adoptées par le gouvernement hellénique* (trimestriel) (F) Diffusion restreinte

- * *Répertoire de dispositions adoptées par le gouvernement turc* (trimestriel) (F) Diffusion restreinte

- * *Répertoire de dispositions adoptées par le gouvernement du royaume du Maroc* (trimestriel) (F) Diffusion restreinte

- * *Répertoire de dispositions adoptées par le gouvernement de la République tunisienne* (trimestriel) (F) Diffusion restreinte

KOMMISSIONEN · KOMMISSION · COMMISSION · COMMISSION · COMMISSIONE · COMMISSIE

- * *Nationale afgørelser vedrørende fællesskabsretten*
Ufuldstændig fortegnelse over offentliggjorte afgørelser
Einzelstaatliche Entscheidungen über Gemeinschaftsrecht
Unvollständiges Fundstellenverzeichnis veröffentlichter Entscheidungen

National Decisions concerning Community Law Selective List of References to published Cases

Décisions nationales relatives au droit communautaire Liste sélective de références aux décisions publiées

Decisioni nazionali riguardanti il diritto comunitario. Elenco indicativo di riferimenti alle decisioni pubblicate

Nationale beslissingen ten aanzien van Gemeenschapsrecht Niet volledige lijst van referenties betreffende gepubliceerde beslissingen

(uregelmæssig . unregelmäßig . irregular . irrégulier . irregolare . onregelmätig) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

Diffusion restreinte

DOMSTOLEN · GERICHTSHOF · COURT OF JUSTICE · COUR DE JUSTICE · CORTE DI GIUSTIZIA · HOF VAN JUSTITIE

6434 (3)
Reports of Cases before the Court. 1971. Part I. (1977). 485 p. (E) FB 850,-

6434 (3)
Reports of Cases before the Court. 1971. Part II. (1977). p. 487-1164. (E) FB 850,-

7133/7 (1)
Samling af Domstolens Afgørelser. 1976-7. (1977). p. 1359-1610 (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Årsabonnement FB 1 500,-

7133/7 (2)
Sammlung der Rechtsprechung des Gerichtshofes. 1976-7. (1977). p. 1359-1610 (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Jahresabonnement FB 1 500,-

7133/7 (4)
Recueil de la Jurisprudence de la Cour. 1976-7.
(1977). p. 1359-1610 (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 1 500,-

7133/7 (5)
Raccolta della Giurisprudenza della Corte. 1976-7.
(1977) p. 1359-1610. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)
Abbonamento annuale FB 1 500,-

* *Information om De europæiske Fællesskabers Domstol*
(kvartalsvis) Gratis

* *Mitteilungen über den Gerichtshof der Europäischen*
Gemeinschaften
(vierteljährlich) Gratis

* *Information on the Court of Justice of the European*
Communities
(quarterly) Gratis

* *Informations sur la Cour de justice des Communautés*
européennes
(trimestriel) Gratuit

* *Informazioni sulla Corte di giustizia delle Comunità*
europee
(trimestrale) Gratuito

* *Informatie betreffende het Hof van Justitie van de*
Europese Gemeenschappen
(driemaandelijks) (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Gratis

Forbindelser med tredjelande — Uden- rigshandel

Auswärtige Beziehungen — Außenhandel

External Relations — Foreign Trade

Relations extérieures — Commerce extérieur

Relazioni esterne — Commercio estero

Buitenlandse betrekkingen — Buitenlandse handel

KOMMISSIONEN · KOMMISSION · COMMISSION ·
COMMISSION · COMMISSIONE · COMMISSIE

* *Månedlig bulletin over udenrigshandelen*
Monatsbulletin der Außenhandelsstatistik
Monthly external trade bulletin
Bulletin mensuel du commerce extérieur
Bollettino mensile del commercio estero
Maandbulletin van de buitenlandse handel
(månedlig · monatlich · monthly · mensuel · mensile ·
maandelijks) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 1 500,-

Konkurrence og det interne marked

Wettbewerb und Binnenmarkt

Competition and Internal Market

Concurrence et marché intérieur

Concorrenza e mercato interno

Concurrentie en binnenlandse markt

KOMMISSIONEN · KOMMISSION · COMMISSION ·
COMMISSION · COMMISSIONE · COMMISSIE

1078 (1)
Sjette Beretning om Konkurrencepolitikken.
(Beretning udgivet i tilslutning til »Tiende Almindelige
Beretning om De europæiske Fællesskabers Virksomhed «).
1977. 208 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 200,-

1078 (2)
Sechster Bericht über die Wettbewerbspolitik.
(Im Zusammenhang mit dem „Zehnten Gesamtbericht über
die Tätigkeit der Europäischen Gemeinschaften“ ver-
öffentlichter Bericht).
1977. 222 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 200,-

1078 (3)
Sixth Report on Competition Policy.
(Published in conjunction with the 'Tenth General Report
on the activities of the Communities').
1977. 208 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 200,-

1078 (4)
Sixième Rapport sur la politique de concurrence.
(Rapport publié en relation avec le «Dixième Rapport
général sur l'activité des Communautés européennes »).
1977. 224 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 200,-

1078 (5)
Sesta Relazione sulla politica di concorrenza.
(Relazione pubblicata in connessione con la «Decima
Relazione generale sull'attività delle Comunità europee »).
1977. 214 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 200,-

1078 (6)
Zesde verslag over het mededingingsbeleid.
(Gepubliceerd in samenhang met het „Tiende Algemeen
Verslag over de werkzaamheden van de Europese Gemeen-
schappen“).
1977. 228 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 200,-

8754 (5)
Studio sull'evoluzione della concentrazione nel settore della
costruzione di macchine per ufficio in Italia.
Agosto 1976.
(1977). 149 p. (I) FB 180,-

8761 (3)
A study of the evolution of concentration in the Danish food processing industry. December 1976.
(1977). 252 p. (E) FB 275,-

8767 (2)
Untersuchung zur Konzentrationsentwicklung in der Nahrungsmitteldistribution in Deutschland. Von Erich Greipl und Dieter Würfl. November 1976.
(1977). 307 p. (D) FB 275,-

8769 (2)
Untersuchung zur Konzentrationsentwicklung in ausgewählten Branchen und Produktgruppen der Ernährungsindustrie in Deutschland. Von Michael Breitenacher. November 1976.
(1977). 331 p. (D) FB 275,-

Økonomiske, monetære og finansielle spørgsmål
Wirtschaft, Währung und Finanzen
Economic, Monetary and Financial Affairs
Économie, monnaie et finances
Economia, moneta e finanze
Economie, geldwezen en financiën

KOMMISSIONEN · KOMMISSION · COMMISSION ·
COMMISSION · COMMISSIONE · COMMISSIE

7334
Skattestatistik.
Steuerstatistik.
Tax statistics.
Statistiques fiscales.
Statistiche fiscali.
Belastingstatistiek.
1970-1975.
(1977) 121 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL) FB 400,-

8713 (2)
Die Entwicklung der öffentlichen Finanzen in den Mitgliedstaaten der EWG von 1966 bis 1970. Studien - Nr. 11. 1976.
Reihe : Wirtschaft und Finanzen.
(1977). 235 p. (D.E.F) FB 225,-

8824 (4)
Inventaire des impôts perçus dans les États membres des Communautés européennes au profit de l'État et des collectivités locales.

(Länder, départements, régions, districts, provinces, communes).
Situation : 1.7.1976.
(1977). 705 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) FB 1 000,-

* *Den økonomiske situation i Fællesskabet* (kvartalsvis)
* *Die Wirtschaftslage der Gemeinschaft* (vierteljährlich)
* *The Economic Situation in the Community* (quarterly)
* *La situation économique de la Communauté* (trimestrielle)
* *La situazione economica della Comunità* (trimestrale)
* *De economische toestand van de Gemeenschap* (driemaandelijks) (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 800,-

* *Schaubilder und Kurzkommentare zur Konjunktur in der Gemeinschaft.*
Grafieken met aantekeningen over de conjunctuur in de Gemeenschap.
(D/NL) (monatlich/maandelijks) FB 90,-

* *Diagrammer og kommentarer til den økonomiske situation i Fællesskabet*
Graphs and Notes on the Economic Situation in the Community.
(DK/E) (månedlig/monthly) FB 90,-

* *Graphiques et notes rapides sur la conjoncture dans la Communauté*
Grafici e note rapide sulla congiuntura nella Comunità.
(F/I) (mensuel/mensile) FB 90,-

* *Resultaterne af konjunkturundersøgelsen hos virksomhedsledere i Fællesskabet.* FB 300,-

* *Ergebnisse der Konjunkturbefragung bei den Unternehmern in der Gemeinschaft.* FB 300,-

* *Results of the business survey carried out among managements in the Community.* FB 300,-

* *Résultats de l'enquête de conjoncture auprès des chefs d'entreprise de la Communauté.* FB 300,-

* *Risultati dell'inchiesta congiunturale effettuata presso gli imprenditori della Comunità.* FB 300,-

* *Resultaten van de conjunctuurenquête bij het bedrijfsleven in de Gemeenschap.* FB 300,-

(månedlig . monatlich . monthly . mensuel . mensile . maandelijks) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 2500,-

Sociale spørgsmål
Soziale Angelegenheiten
Social Affairs
Affaires sociales
Affari sociali
Sociale zaken

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7289/2
Sociale statistikker. Lønstruktur i industrien. Detaljerede resultater.

Sozialstatistik. Gehalts- und Lohnstruktur in der Industrie. Ausführliche Ergebnisse.

Social Statistics. Structure of earnings in industry. Detailed results.

Statistiques sociales. Structure des salaires dans l'industrie. Résultats détaillés.

Statistiche sociali. Struttura delle retribuzioni nell'industria. Risultati dettagliati.

Sociale statistiek. Loonstructuur in de industrie. Gedetailleerde uitkomsten.
 1972 — Italia.

7.B Specialserie . Sonderreihe . Special series . Série spéciale . Serie speciale . Speciale serie.
 (1977). 929 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL) FB 500,-

7476 (3)
Guidance notes for safe diving. Compiled by the European Diving Technology Committee.
 Industrial health and safety. EUR 5695.
 1977. 58 p. (E) FB 240,-

* *Timelønninger. Arbejdstid*
Stundenverdienste. Arbeitszeit
Hourly earnings. Hours of work
Gains horaires. Durée du travail
Retribuzioni orarie. Durata del lavoro
Uurverdiensten. Arbeidsduur
 (halvårlig . halbjährlich . six-monthly . semestriel . semestrals . halfjaarlijks) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
 Abonnement annuel FB 450,-

* *Erhvervsuddannelse - Informationsbulletin*
Berufsbildung - Informationsbulletin
Vocational Training - Information Bulletin
Formation professionnelle - Bulletin d'information
Formazione professionale - Bollettino d'informazione
Beroepsopleiding - Informatiebulletin
 (kvartalsvis . vierteljährlich . quarterly . trimestriel . trimestrale . driemaandelijks)
 (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)
 Abonnement annuel FB 240,-

* *Fagforeningsinformation*
 (to gange om måneder) Gratis

* *Gewerkschaftsinformationen*
 (zweimal im Monat) Gratis

* *Trade Union Information*
 (Fortnightly) Gratis

* *Informations syndicales*
 (bimensuel) Gratuit

* *Informazione sindacale*
 (bimensile) Gratuito

* *Vakbondsvoorlichting*
 (halfmaandelijks)
 (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Gratis

Industri
Industrie
Industry
Industrie
Industria
Industrie

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* *Råjern og stål. Basispriser og jern- og stålproducenter. Roheisen und Stahlerzeugnisse. Grundpreise und Stahlunternehmen*

Pig Iron and Steel. Basis Prices and Iron and Steel Undertakings

Fontes et aciers. Prix de base et entreprises sidérurgiques.

Ghise ed acciai. Prezzi base e imprese siderurgiche
Ruwijzer en staalprodukten. Basisprijzen en ijzer- en staalondernemingen

(månedlig . monatlich . monthly . mensuel . mensile . maandelijks) (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)
 Abonnement annuel FB 5 200,-

* *Kvartalsbulletin for industriproduktionen*
Vierteljährliches Bulletin der industriellen Produktion
Quarterly bulletin of industrial production
Bulletin trimestriel de la production industrielle
Bollettino trimestrale della produzione industriale
Kwartaalbulletin van de industriële produktie
 (kvartalsvis . vierteljährlich . quarterly . trimestriel . trimestrale . driemaandelijks) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
 Abonnement annuel FB 600,-

* *Statistisk kvartalsbulletin for jern og stål*
Vierteljährliches Bulletin über Eisen- und Stahlstatistik
Quarterly bulletin of iron and steel statistics
Bulletin trimestriel de statistiques sidérurgiques
Bollettino trimestrale di statistiche siderurgiche
Driemaandelijks statistisch bulletin ijzer en staal
 (kvartalsvis . vierteljährlich . quarterly . trimestriel . trimestrale . driemaandelijks) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
 Abonnement annuel FB 1 500,-

**Energi
Energie
Energy
Énergie
Energia
Energie**

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COMMISSION · COMMISSIONE · COMMISSIE

7370
*Energistatistisk årbog.
Jahrbuch Energiestatistik.
Energy statistics yearbook.
Annuaire de statistiques de l'énergie.
Annuario di statistiche dell'energia.
Jaarboek energiestatistiek.*
1970-1975.
(1977). 294 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL) FB 600,-

7377 (3)
*The role of the demand — duration curve in the evaluation
of power station installation policies.*
Remarks on its effects on stations' utilization, generating
capacity, load factor history and consumptions.
Energy. 1976. EUR 5599.
(1977). 38 p. (E) FB 275,-

7378 (3)
*Effects of fast breeders' characteristics on consumptions and
expenditures related to electric power generation.*
Energy. 1976. EUR 5598.
(1977). 36 p. (E) FB 275,-

7540 (4)
*Total energiopgørelse.
Zusammengefaßte Energiebilanzen.
Overall energy balance-sheets.
Bilans globaux de l'énergie.
Bilanci globali dell'energia.
Globale energiebalansen.*
1963-1975.
Mise à jour : décembre 1976.
(1977). 66 p. (F) FB 200,-

* *Kvartalsbulletin energistatistik
Vierteljährliches Bulletin der Energiestatistik
Quarterly bulletin of energy statistics
Bulletin trimestriel des statistiques de l'énergie
Bollettino trimestrale di statistiche dell'energia
Driemaandelijks bulletin van de energiestatistiek*
(kvartalsvis · vierteljährlich · quarterly · trimestriel
trimestrale · driemaandelijks). (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 900,-

**Transport
Verkehr
Transport
Transports
Trasporti
Vervoer**

KOMMISSIONEN · KOMMISSION · COMMISSION ·
COMMISSION · COMMISSIONE · COMMISSIE

* *Månedsoversigt over transport
Monatsübersichten des Verkehrs
Monthly tables of transport
Tableaux mensuels des transports
Tabelle mensili dei trasporti
Maandgegevens van het vervoer*
(månedlig · monatlich · monthly · mensuel ·
mensili · maandelijks) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 700,-

**Landbrugspolitik
Landwirtschaft
Agriculture
Politique agricole
Agricoltura
Landbouw**

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COMMISSION · COMMISSIONE · COMMISSIE

X/18/1977 (1)
*Det europæiske Fællesskabs generelle præferencesystem
for landbrugsprodukter.*
Meddelelser om den fælles landbrugspolitik. Nr. 1.
Januar 1977.
1977. 7 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Gratis

X/18/77 (2)
*Das System der Allgemeinen Präferenzen der Europäischen
Gemeinschaft in bezug auf Agrarerzeugnisse.*
Mitteilungen zur Gemeinsamen Agrarpolitik. Nr. 1.
Januar 1977.
1977. 7 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Gratis

X/102/77 (1)
Den nye Kommissions syn på den fælles landbrugspolitik.
Meddelelser om den fælles landbrugspolitik. Nr. 2.
Februar 1977.
1977. 9 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Gratis

X/102/77 (3)

The new Commission's views on the common agricultural policy.

Newsletter on the common agricultural policy. No 2. February 1977.

1977. 9 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

Gratis

X/102/77 (5)

Europa verde : gli orientamenti della nuova Commissione.

Notizie sulla politica agricola comune. n. 2. Febbraio 1977. 1977. 9 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

Gratis

X/102/77 (6)

Hoe ziet de nieuwe Commissie het gemeenschappelijk landbouwbeleid.

Landbouwbuletin. nr. 2. Februari 1977.

1977. 9 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

Gratis

7322

Statistik over den animalske produktion.

Kvægbestanden. Besætningsstruktur. Kødproduktion. Kalenderårsbalancer.

Statistik der Tiererzeugung.

Viehbestände. Struktur der Aufzucht. Fleischerzeugung. Kalenderjahresbilanzen.

Statistics of animal production.

Livestock. Breeding herd size. Meat production.

Civil year balance sheets.

Statistique de la production animale.

Effectifs du bétail. Structure des élevages.

Production de viande. Bilan par année civile.

Statistica della produzione animale.

Consistenza del bestiame. Struttura degli allevamenti.

Produzione di carne. Bilanci annui.

Statistiek van de dierlijke produktie.

Veestapels. Stuctuur van de kwekerijen.

Vleesproduktie. Balansen van het kalenderjaar.

1965-1975.

(1977). 82 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

FB 400,-

7365

Landbrugssektorregnskaber.

Landbrugs- og skovbrugssektorregnskaber. Enhedsværdier.

Landwirtschaftliche Gesamtrechnung.

Land- und Forstwirtschaftliche Gesamtrechnung.

Durchschnittserlöse.

Agricultural accounts.

Agricultural and forestry accounts. Unit values.

Comptes de l'agriculture.

Comptes de l'agriculture et de la sylviculture.

Valeurs unitaires.

Conti dell'agricoltura.

Conti dell'agricoltura e silvicoltura. Valori unitari.

Landbouwrekeningen.

Land- en bosbouwrekeningen. Eenheidswaarden.

1976.

(1977). 110 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

FB 500,-

* *Vegetabilske produkter*

Pflanzliche Produkte

Crop production

Produits végétaux

Prodotti vegetali

Plantaardige produkten

(uregelmæssig . unregelmäßig . irregular . irrégulier .

irregolare . onregelmatig) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

Abonnement annuel

FB 1 750,-

* *Månedlig statistik for kød*

Monatliche Statistiken über Fleischerzeugung

Monthly statistics on the production of meat

Statistiques mensuelles de la production de viande

Statistiche mensili della produzione di carne

Maandelijkse statistieken van vlees

(månedlig . monatlich . monthly . mensuel . mensile .

maandelijks) (D/E/F/I)

Abonnement annuel

FB 2 300,-

* *Månedlig statistik for mælk*

Monatliche Statistik von Milch

Monthly statistics of milk

Statistiques mensuelles du lait

Statistiche mensili del latte

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(månedlig . monatlich . monthly . mensuel . mensile .

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Statistiques mensuelles des œufs

Statistiche mensili delle uova

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Troisième congrès européen sur les systèmes et réseaux documentaires. Volume 1-EUR 5731.
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München : Verlag Dokumentation. 1977.
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Sociale statistiek. Loonstructuur in de industrie. Gedetailleerde uitkomsten.
 1972 — Italie.
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