

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Commission

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



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

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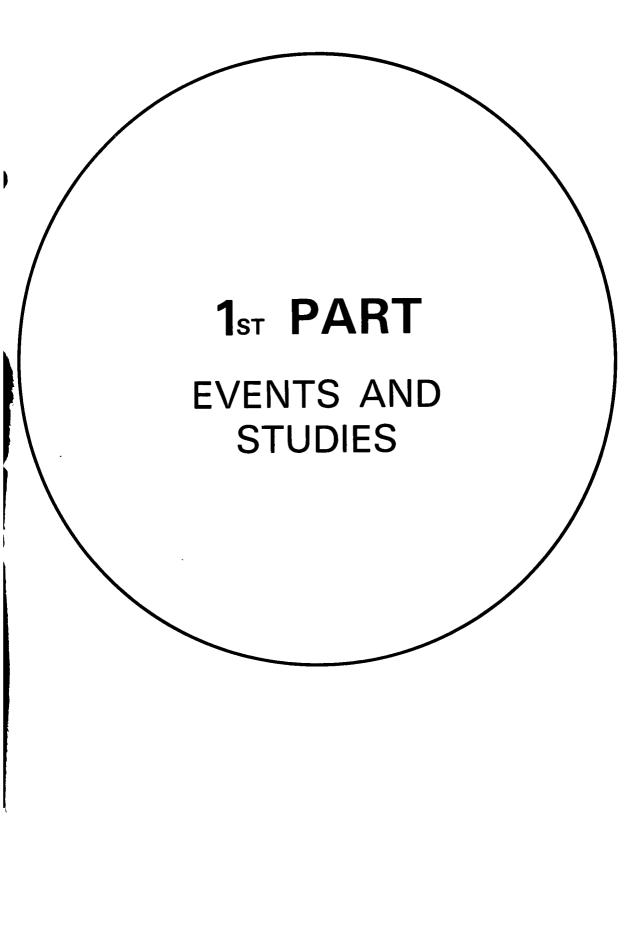
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1. Agriculture: Alterations to the system of monetary compensatory amounts

Compensatory amounts

Proposals from the Commission

1101. In order to obviate the danger for the common agricultural policy caused by exchange rate fluctuations and the machinery set up to compensate for the resulting differences in agricultural prices in national currencies, the Commission forwarded to the Council on 21 October a proposal for major changes in the system currently in force.

With the aim of removing as many as possible of the drawbacks of the system, the Commission proposes that monetary compensatory amounts be subject to regular readjustment and to an upper limit, without losing sight of the need to avoid unduly abrupt changes.

The purpose of the Commission's proposals is to reduce to a minimum the distortions in competition generated by the system of compensatory amounts in agriculture, to reduce the cost to the budget and to take account of the stabilization policies being applied in the Community.

Origin and development of the system of compensatory amounts

1102. Compensatory amounts are the direct result of the monetary fluctuations which have occurred since 1969 and have jeopardized the basic machinery of the common agricultural market.

Common agricultural prices are fixed in units of account (u.a.) and originally this unit of account was converted into national currencies on the basis of parities fixed by the Bretton Woods Agreement. The common agricultural market — born for the 1967/68 marketing year, with its system of common prices combined with common external protection — was still in its infancy when it had to withstand the shocks of the devaluation of the French franc in August 1969, followed by the revaluation of the German mark two months later and the 1971 dollar crisis which led to a general float of Community currencies.

So that these monetary fluctuations would not disrupt agricultural trade, compensatory amounts were introduced in 1969. Devaluations and revaluations were threatening the system of common prices—and thereby the common agricultural policy itself—since, until new parities had been determined within the IMF, national prices remained above or below the common level fixed. To compensate for these differences in prices, monetary compensatory amounts were introduced corresponding to the percentages of devaluations or revaluations. By means of this sluicegate system at frontiers, agricultural trade could carry on freely and the level of common price was restored by means of a system of levies or subsidies at the frontiers of countries whose currencies had fluctuated.

The drawbacks of the system

1103. Monetary compensatory amounts have helped to cushion the short-term effects of changes in exchange rates. However, in their structural impact they have proved to be incompatible with the basic principles of the common agricultural market.

As a result of the introduction of monetary compensatory amounts, price levels within the Community again came to differ markedly. This distortion between farm prices and other prices is a boon for farmers and imposes a burden on consumers in the countries with appreciating currencies, while the converse applies in the countries whose currencies are floating downwards. This drawback, which generates distortions in competition in agriculture in the Community, is sharply accentuated by the fact that, since 1969, a number of currencies such as the lira and sterling have depreciated against the mark far more than is justified by the differences in inflation rates; by contrast, the exchange rates of the currencies of the Community countries participating in the snake (Benelux and Denmark) have remained more closely linked to the mark.

In Germany, the system has tended to boost the trade surplus and inhibit the optimum allocation of resources in agriculture, and as between agriculture and the other sectors of the economy. In the countries with downward floating currencies, the system has the opposite effect but only on the balance of payments.

In addition to the economic effects, the system of compensatory amounts has had a number of budgetary implications, the most important being EAGGF expenditure to cover the amounts. Although in 1973, this expenditure was relatively low (140 million u.a.), it rose rapidly to 150 million u.a. in 1974, to over 400 million in 1975 and about 600 million in 1976. Given the current monetary situation, and the present arrangements for paying compensatory amounts, estimated net expenditure under this head will be about 1 000 million u.a. in 1977. These figures do not include other expenditure stemming from currency fluctuations, which could amount to about 500 million u.a. in 1977. As a result, expenditure necessitated by the absence of a monetary union will acount for around 25% of the total EAGGF budget (1 500 million out of about 6 000 million) in 1977.

The Commission has consistently drawn attention to the seriousness of this problem, in particular in its Memorandum of November 1973 on Improvement of the Common Agricultural Policy, in its Communication of February 1975—Stocktaking of the Common Agricultural Policy2—and in the common farm price proposals for recent marketing years. The Council decided on several adjustments but they were never comprehensive and at times proved inadequate on account of the political difficulties encountered in negotiations on specific proposals in this area.

Commission proposals

1104. In its Communication to the Council of 21 October, the Commission proposed two key changes in the present system of compensatory

amounts: regular readjustment and a fixed ceiling.

Regular readjustment

1105. The Commission's proposal is that the rates used for agricultural policy purposes would be adapted to take account of the average market rate over the previous eighteen months. Calculations would be made every six months and the average rate would become the new green rate for the following six months. The Commission proposes that for depreciated currencies the first adjustment should be made on 1 January 1977 on the basis of the reference period 1 January 1975 to 1 July 1976. In the case of appreciated currencies, the green rates would be adjusted at the time of the annual price fixing.

In connection with this proposal, the Commission stressed that the system of compensatory amounts had been instituted as a transitional measure and in order to cope with relatively infrequent exchange rate fluctuations. Experience has shown, however, that it is becoming more and more difficult—in view of present monetary instability—to adjust the green rates applicable in agriculture to the facts of the situation in other sectors of the economy.

Ceiling for compensatory amounts and cut-off point

1106. To take account of the general interest of the Community and the stabilization efforts being made in the different Member States, the Commission proposes the introduction of a ceiling for compensatory amounts and a cut-off point to prevent unduly abrupt adjustments. In the Commission's view, the ceiling, which has yet to be determined, is justified by the fact that monetary compensatory amounts generate more

Supplement 17/73 — Bull. EC.

Supplement 2/75 — Bull. EC.

distortions in competition the higher they are and the longer they are applied. Whenever the difference between the market rate and the green rate of a currency oversteps the ceiling, the green rate will be adjusted. For the new Member States, a higher ceiling will be applied until 1 July 1978 in view of the repercussions of prices alignment measures to be implemented.

1107. To ensure that application of the new system of regular readjustment and a fixed ceiling does not have a negative impact on the stabilization policies applied by Community countries, the Commission proposes to keep adjustments of green rates within certain margins as yet to be determined.

ture, the Monetary Committee and the Budget Committee on the basis of communications from the Commission on the subject and any constructive contributions made by delegations.'

Initial discussion in the Council

1107. The Agriculture and Finance Ministers meeting in the Council on 26 October discussed in general the problems arising from developments in the monetary situation and affecting the long-term functioning of the system of monetary compensatory amounts. In the course of the discussion it emerged that seven Member States expressed a fairly favourable opinion regarding the Commission proposals, while two others expressed serious reservations regarding a system of regular readjustment of compensatory amounts.

The communiqué issued at the end of discussion on this item read as follows:

'At the close of the discussion, in the course of which the Ministers voiced their concern with regard not only to the agricultural but also the financial and budgetary aspects of the matter, the Council agreed to re-examine these problems at a meeting with the same composition to be convened if possible in December. This examination will be carried out in the light of the opinions put forward by the Special Committee on Agricul-

A four-year programme for European data processing

Data Processing Programme

1201. In October, the Commission took a new step which constituted a milestone in the Community's data processing policy when it approved proposals for the adoption by the Council of a four-year programme of development in this sector.

This programme is the third stage in the implementation of the Resolution on a Community data processing policy adopted by the Council on 15 July 1974, namely, the preparation of an overall medium-term programme to promote the computer industry and computer applications.

The Commission's two earlier measures were in February² and September³ 1975. The first related to joint projects in the field of applications. Three of the five proposed projects were adopted by the Council on 22 July:4 they are concerned with studies on the establishment of a data base for matching organs and blood, legal documentation requirements and computer-aided design. The other two projects are still under consideration by the Council, but a decision can be expected at a fairly early data.

The second batch of Commission proposals—presented in September 1975—embraced a wider field: standardization, software portability, support for the use of data processing and new data processing applications. There is a fair chance that the Council will reach a decision by the end of the year.

These first two stages, modest as they are in their objectives, were not enough to achieve the aims set out in the Council Resolution, and the Commission therefore decided tu put forward a four-year development programme for data processing, together with a report on Community and world trends in this sector and a communication on a Community policy for the electronic components sector.

The situation in the Community's data processing sector

The world computer industry is still dominated by American companies. Of the computers in operation around the globe at the end of 1974, about 78 % (in terms of value) were of American origin, whereas European manufacturers accounted for only 5.8 % and the Japanese companies for 4.7%. IBM alone had supplied 58% of the world total, Honeywell and Univac taking joint second place with 6.5%.

The three main European companies manufacturing central processors are Siemens (Germany), ICL (United Kingdom) and CII-HB (France), the lastnamed being the fruit of the French takeover of Honeywell-Bull and its merger with CII. Under agreements concluded between Philips, Siemens and CII in 1973, a new partnership known as Unidata was founded with the aim of developing and marketing a joint computer spectrum. As a result of the CII-Honeywell Bull agreement, however, the partnership broke up, and Philips has now ceded its activities in the computer mainframe sector to Siemens.

Nevertheless, despite the break-up of Unidata, the relative weakness of the European companies in the world market and the fact that they are partly dependent on government aid, it need not be thought that the last hour has come for the European computer industry. The sector is rapidly expanding, and the advent of distributed data processing opens up a new range of opportunities for the industry and computer users in Europe.

According to the report on the trends in this sector — which the Commission has forwarded to the Council in support of the proposed programme—the Community data processing market is valued at 13 000 million u.a. (1974 statis-

OJ C 86 of 20.7.1974.

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

Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2236. OJ L 223 of 16.8.1976 and Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2263.

tics), and is expected to double within five years. The average annual growth rate is put at 13%, the bulk of this being accounted for by software and 'peri-informatic' equipment (peripherals, minicomputers, terminals, etc.). In the peri-informatic sector, the European companies supplied only 44% of Community requirements in 1975, but in some other sectors (e.g. office computers) the European industry is better placed, and there is plenty of scope for the various companies breaking new ground in this area.

Despite all this, the challenge from outside the Community remains a crucial factor. With a 56% share of the world computer market and a turnover of \$12700 million in 1974, IBM is still the giant of the computer industry, and launching out on a series of drives to capture the new markets for distributed data processing (witness the minicomputer 32, IBM's leadership in advanced components, its new PBX telephone exchange and its network architecture systems). In Japan, the Government is not merely subsidizing the computer industry (grants and loans worth 238 million u.a. in 1975), but is evolving an ambitious scheme for advanced electronic components.

Nonetheless, by adopting a certain line of approach and taking certain measures at national and Community level, Europe can show that it has the human and technological resources to meet this challenge and take advantage of the new opportunities for job creation and the satisfaction of social needs. This approach consists in recognizing the close link between data processing and two other key industries: telecommunications and the advanced electronic components industry. These three sectors make up one independent complex, and their growth rate indicates that together they will account for over 6% of the European gross national product by 1980; their technologies wil be vital to productivity in most industrial sectors, and will have a major impact on society.

It was for this reason that the Commission supplemented its four-year programme for data processing with a Communication on electronic components; it is planning to add a Communication on telecommunications at a later date.

Objectives and content of the four-year programme

- 1203. The four-year development programme for data processing presented by the Commission comprises two main sections:
- (i) projects relating to the environment of the sector: i.e. standardization, software portability, coordination of public purchasing policies and various general projects aimed at obtaining a better knowledge of the sector and its environment. The efforts to work out network standards will be vital to the evolution of the data processing sector.
- (ii) Community support projects: primarily for the promotion of computer applications of interest to the Community and to assist the hardware and systems manufacturers in two particularly critical areas: the 'peri-informatic' sector (minicomputers, terminals, etc.) and electronic components for use in computer systems, notably integrated circuits.

Owing to the fact that the situation of central processors is in a state of flux, the Commission did not think it expedient to draw up any proposals for the large-scale computer industry at the present time. The disappearance of Unidata has made it unlikely in the short term that there will be any basic link-up between the European processor manufacturers. On the other hand, distributed data processing is in the ascendant, and priority has therefore been given by the Commission to helping the rapid-growth areas, in particular the 'peri-informatic' sector.

The Commission will be assisted in the implementation of its programme by a committee for the management and coordination of data processing programmes. Aid to the sectors in question will be granted by way of Community pre-

miums for data processing, a system which is by way of a complement to similar arrangements already existing in some of the Member States. Its main purpose will be to provide financial backing for design or development projects, on the initiative of either European user associations or supranational consortiums of European-based companies.

In the case of certain projects which are in the public interest, the Commission itself might take an active role in launching them. Under this arrangement, financial aid could normally be granted to cover up to 50% of the total cost of the applications or industrial developments, subject to repayment in the event of commercial success.

Funds required

1204. The overall budget proposed by the Commission is 103 million u.a. for the four-year period, with a two-phase breakdown:

- (i) an initial two-year start-up phase, funded with 35 million u.a.;
- (ii) a second phase, to be financed with 68 million u.a., subject to a revision of the programme during 1979 prior to the commencement of phase

The expenditure will be mainly in the areas of standardization, software portability and data processing applications at Community level (32 millions u.a.), the 'peri-informatic' sector (32 million u.a.) and certain advanced electronic components used in data processing, notably integrated circuits and microprocessors (12 million u.a.).

The amount of 100 million u.a. looks modest in comparison with the aids granted by the Member States, which may be greater by a factor of 10 for the same period. But if the outlay in the 'peri-informatic' sector, for instance, is concentrated on a number of sub-areas and linked with an effort to coordinate the national grants, it might have a significant catalytic effect.

The problem of electronic components

1205. The Commission's Communication on a Community policy for the electronic components industry underlines the importance of this industry—in particular the integrated circuits branch—to the entire European economy. It discusses the competition which is developing both in the United States and in Japan, where the Government has just launched a 200 million u.a. programme for the development of a range of computers based on VLSI (Very Large-Scale Integration) technology.

Apart from a proposal limited to the mediumterm component requirements of the data processing sector, which forms part of the programme reviewed above, the Commission is not at present preparing any proposals for a Council decision. Nevertheless, it is in close contact with the Member States and various interested circles with a view to determining whether a European programme would be desirable, particularly in the field of VSLI technology.

The chief purpose of the Communication is to alert the Council and public opinion to the importance of a political decision—including the grant of financial aid—if the Community is to set up a coherent programme to meet the competitive challenge looming at world level.

3. Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund

IMF Meeting

1301. The 31st Annual Meeting of the Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) was held on 4 to 8 October in Manila. The meeting opened with an address by its Chairman, Mr Mohammed Imady, Minister for Economic Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Observers from the Commission attended the Meeting, at which Mr Duisenberg, Netherlands Minister for Finance and President of the Council of the Communities, made a statement on behalf of the Community at the beginning of his speech.¹

In preparation for the Meeting, the Council (Economic and Financial Affairs), which met on 20 September, had agreed joint Community positions to be adopted on the major issues that were raised, namely the trend in overall liquidity, the working, and surveillance by the Fund, of the system of currency exchange arrangements, the Fund's financial activities and resources, its liquidity and the forthcoming review of quotas.

The matters discussed at the Meeting had also been prepared by a number of gatherings which had taken place at the beginning of October, also in Manila, notably the meeting of the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the Fund and that of the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Fund and the Bank on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries (Development Committee). The communiqués released at the close of these meetings appear in the Annex.²

1302. The following points emerged from the various meetings held in Manila, particularly those of the Interim Committee, the Development Committee and the Group of 24:3

(a) Search for a consensus. It would now seem to be accepted that the system of floating currencies will continue indefinitely, and consequently the reform arrangement outlined in the Second Amendment to the Articles of Agreement of the

IMF should probably not need substantial alteration in the foreseeable future.

Recent experience has made for a better understanding of the conditions that must be met if general currency floating is to work smoothly. For instance, the view is generally held that allowing currencies to float downwards will not by itself prompt the adjustments which need to be made in a deficit situation. In this connection, many participants felt that deficit countries must endeavour to curb domestic demand so as to permit a transfer of resources to the export sector while surplus countries must sustain the growth in domestic demand within the limits imposed by their counter-inflation policies.

The Fund itself is required to exercise the surveillance provided for in its new Articles of Agreement in order to ensure that exchange rate policies and domestic policies play the roles ascribed to them. The IMF will also ensure that the adjustments that need to be made by both the surplus and the deficit countries will be as symmetrical as possible.

The role assigned to the IMF is particularly difficult, firstly because the symmetrical nature of the adjustments will remain an essentially political issue until objective criteria have been agreed and secondly because international liquidity control has so far been well outside the scope of the action of the Fund, although the Fund is in fact well-placed to exercise effective surveillance.

(b) Guidelines for action. In spite of the latest indicators suggesting that activity is losing a little momentum in the Federal Republic of Germany and in the United States, growth is generally expected to continue.

Mr Witteveen, Managing Director of the IMF, and the representatives of the major industrial countries expressed particular concern at the persistence of high unemployment but felt that at

Point 1303.

Points 1304 and 1305.

Point 1306.

present the fight against inflation needed to be the main aim of the adjustment policies. As regards use of the Fund's resources, it was agreed that the deficit countries should make more conditional drawings on the Fund rather than borrow on private capital markets. In this connection, the Fund should, pending the Sixth General Review of Quotas, be able to draw on its normal sources of finance, and in particular the currencies of a number of surplus countries the use of which by the Fund has not yet been decided.

(c) Problem of development. The industrialized countries and the developing countries have adopted differing positions within the Development Committee during its second year. While the developing countries have urged that the resources devoted to international development be increased, most industrialized countries view with satisfaction the mechanisms introduced last year by the IMF and the World Bank to provide developing countries with short-, medium-, and long-term aid, and they thus find it difficult to agree to an extension of these mechanisms. The sole exception would seem to concern the negotiations on the Fifth Replenishment of the IDA. This being the case, the Development Committee was unable to take a decision on the different proposals discussed by the Annual Meeting, such as a general increase in the capital of the World Bank. For the time being, the Committee would continue its study on the question of access to capital markets; a working party will also be set up to examine the United States' proposal for an International Resources Bank.

Documentary Annex

Statement by Mr Duisenberg

1303. The first part of the speech delivered by Mr Duisenberg, Netherlands Finance Minister and President of the Council of the Communities, before the Annual Meeting of the IMF and the IBRD in Manila, consisted of a statement

made on behalf of the Community. The following is the text of the statement:

'Although all Annual Meetings of the Bretton Woods family are important events in the financial world, it is no secret that we always look forward with special pleasure to the meetings away from Washington, and I want to thank our hosts, the President, the Minister of Finance, the Central Bank Governor, and the people of the Philippines, who have made it possible that we continue our habit of meeting elsewhere every three years and who have given us such a wonderful welcome in Manila.

Before speaking on behalf of the Netherlands Government, I take the privilege to address this meeting on behalf of the European Economic Community. This privilege falls to me since the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers is at present held by the Netherlands. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Government of the Philippines for their gracious hospitality in this beautiful and friendly city of Manila. Already this meeting has served to dedicate a special place in our hearts to this hospitable country.

A recovery of the business cycle is clearly under way in the countries of the Community. We expect this recovery to continue in 1977. The level of unemployment, however, is still considerable and in some member countries even growing. In order to reduce unemployment and to ensure that the recovery will be sustained, the Community will direct its policies toward stimulating productive investment and reducing inflation.

Special attention will be given to reducing national budget deficits and liquidity creation. These medium-term aims of the Community have the support of the social partners. In order to promote the achievement of a parallel economic development in all member countries, several ideas are being discussed at this moment to strengthen the internal economic and monetary cooperation in the Community. An important objective of these proposals is a Community contribution to

a successful recovery of world economic activities.

With regard to international monetary questions, the Community is of the opinion that the January meeting of the Interim Committee in Jamaica has contributed to an improvement of international monetary relations. We believe that it has made a substantial contribution to solving the financing problems of developing countries, and that, together with the upturn in the business cycle, this will help these countries to maintain economic progress. More generally, the Community will continue to seek further improvements in its economic relations with developing countries, both in the framework of the Conference of International Economic Cooperation which is now taking place, and elsewhere.

We agree with the view of the Managing Director of the Fund that a better control of international liquidity is necessary. The member countries of the Community will continue to cooperate with the IMF to foster internal stability, to improve the international adjustment process, and to reach a system of more stable exchange rate relations. In particular, we believe that the IMF should be given wider and more effective power of surveillance on the operations of the international monetary system in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the new Article IV of its Articles of Agreement and its stated aim of assuring orderly exchange arrangements and promoting a stable system of exchange rates.

In this connection the Fund should become instrumental in promoting the adoption by member countries of economic policies that would improve domestic economic stability and, in consequence, contribute to the desired orderly development of exchange markets. Concerning the question of Fund liquidity and Fund resources for use by member countries, we are of the opinion that the decision about quota increases reached in Jamaica, and currently in the process of being ratified by member countries, should provide all that is needed in the near future to cope with the

normal demands of the Fund, certainly if all member countries and in particular those with balance of payments surpluses make their quota subscriptions in national currencies freely usable.

However, if large drawings are to take place in the near future the Fund should be able to increase its liquidity rapidly and adequately by activating the procedures and mechanisms provided for such cases that have already been successfully applied in the past.'

Interim Committee

1304. At the close of its sixth meeting, held on 2 October in Manila, the Interim Committee released the following communiqué:

- The interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund held its sixth meeting in Manila, the Philippines, on October 2, 1976 under the chairmanship of Mr. Willy De Clercq, Minister of Finance of Belgium. Mr. H. Johannes Witteveen, Managing Director of the Fund, participated in the meeting. The following observers attended during the Committee's discussions: G.D. Arsenis, Director, New York Office, UNCTAD; Henri Konan Bédié, Chairman, Development Committee; Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice President in charge of Economic and Financial Affairs, CEC: René Larre, General Manager, BIS; E. van Lennep, Secretary General, OECD; P. Leutwiler, President, National Bank of Switzerland, Olivier Long, Director General, GATT; and Robert S. McNamara, President, IBRD.
- 2. The Committee discussed the world economic outlook and the functioning of the international adjustment process. The Committee welcomed the economic recovery that has been under way for the last year. It expressed continued concern, however, about persistently high levels of unemployment and high rates of inflation in many countries. The Committee believes that in pres-

ent circumstances the restoration of a reasonable degree of price stability will be necessary to establish the basis for sustained economic growth and the reduction of unemployment. Accordingly, the Committee is of the view that policies in the industrial countries at the present time should give priority to the reduction of price and cost inflation. This would require fiscal and monetary policies in these countries that would provide effective control over the expansion of aggregate demand in a manner compatible with this objective, even where price and incomes policies are in effect.

The Committee further agreed that, given the constraint under which demand management policies in the industrial countries must operate, special efforts, including the reduction in the barriers to trade in the negotiations now under way, to improve market access to the exports of developing countries, and to increase the flow of development assistance would be indicated.

With respect to the international adjustment process, the Committee reached the following conclusions:

- (a) As a result of the recovery in the world economy, exports are rising in many countries and the international environment has become much more favorable for the adjustment of external payments positions. The Committee believes that such adjustment, which should be symmetrical as between deficit and surplus countries, is now both urgent and opportune.
- (b) To this end, deficit countries should arrange their domestic policies so as to restrain domestic demand and to permit the shift of resources to the external sector, to the extent necessary to bring the deficit on current account in line with a sustainable flow of capital imports and aid.
- (c) Industrial countries in strong payments positions should ensure continued adequate expansion in domestic demand, within the limits set by effective anti-inflationary policies.

- (d) Exchange rates should be allowed to play their proper role in the adjustment process.
- (e) In the context of the use of the Fund's resources, adjustment by deficit countries can be promoted by a larger use of the credit tranches and the extended Fund facility.
- 3. The Committee noted that, in accordance with the agreement incorporated in the provisions of the Proposed Second Amendment, the Fund will have the obligation to exercise firm surveillance over the exchange rate policies of members. The Executive Directors should consider how this function is to be exercised and should report to the Committee on this subject.
- 4. The Committee noted the section of the Annual Report of the Executive Directors dealing with developments in international liquidity. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee requested the Executive Directors to keep all aspects of international liquidity under review and to report to it at a later meeting.
- 5. The Committee reviewed, on the basis of a report by the Executive Directors, the financial activities of the Fund, including developments in the Fund's policies on the use of its resources and in the liquidity of the Fund. The Committee noted the unprecedented expansion in the use of the Fund's resources by members in order to finance their balance of payments deficits and agreed that, even if all reasonable efforts toward adjustment were made, there might still be a need for a large use of the Fund's resources in the near future. The Committee shared the view of the Executive Directors that greater emphasis should be placed on the adjustment by members of imbalances in their payments positions and that the use of the Fund's resources should present the Fund with the opportunity to promote the use by members of the kind of adjustment measures that are most conducive to the interest of all. The Committee noted the actions taken by the Executive Directors with regard to the Trust

Fund and welcomed their intention to keep the compensatory financing and buffer stock facilities under review.

- The Committee endorsed the conclusions of the Executive Directors on the state of the Fund's liquidity. The Committee urged that, pursuant to the resolution on quota increases adopted by the Board of Governors last March, all members that have not yet done so should make the necessary arrangements for the use of their currencies in the operations and transactions of the Fund in accordance with its policies. It was agreed that the Fund's liquidity should be kept under close review. The Committee stressed the fact that prompt adoption of the Proposed Second Amendment of the Articles and the subsequent completion of the steps necessary for quota increases under the Sixth General Review would provide the most effective way of improving the liquidity of the Fund.
- 7. The Committee noted that the Executive Directors will initiate in the near future the Seventh General Review of Quotas so that it can be concluded, as planned, in February 1978.
- 8. The Committee noted the report of the Executive Directors regarding the progress made by members, in connection with their acceptance of the Proposed Second Amendment of the Fund's Articles. In view of the importance that the entry into force of the amended Articles will have for the functioning of the international monetary system, the Committee urged all members that had not yet notified the Fund of their acceptance of the second amendment to complete as soon as possible the arrangements that would permit them to take this action.
- 9. The Committee agreed to hold its eighth meeting in Washington, D. C. on April 28 and 29, 1977.

Development Committee

1305. The following communiqué was released by the Development Committee after its sixth meeting, held on 3 October in Manila:

- '1. The Development Committee (the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Fund and the Bank on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries) held its sixth meeting in Manila on October 3, 1976, under the chairmanship of Mr. Henri Konan Bédié, Minister of Economy and Finance for the Ivory Coast, Mr. Robert S. McNamara, President of the World Bank, Mr. H. Johannes Witteveen, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, and Mr. M.M. Ahmad, Acting Executive Secretary, took part in the meeting, which was also attended by representatives from a number of international and regional organizations and Switzerland as observers.
- 2. The Committee approved for presentation to the Boards of Governors of the Fund and the World Bank its second annual report covering the period July 1975 to June 1976.
- The Committee considered the program of its future work in the light of the situation and prospects of developing countries. The analyses presented to it by the staffs on the IMF and the World Bank showed that the current account deficit of non-oil developing countries had declined somewhat but was still expected to be running at a high annual rate of about US \$32-33 billion in 1976 and the first half of 1977. These estimates did not suggest that a significant relief from current difficulties would be forthcoming in the early part of 1977. Many developing countries, especially the middle-income countries, borrowed heavily to maintain the flow of imports and to avoid undue interruption of their development programs, leading to an increase in their external debt and debt service payments. The low-income countries have had little or no growth in per capita income since 1970, and their level of imports fell by some 20 per cent below

those of the late 1960s. Official aid to them has been inadequate. To assist the developing countries in their adjustment process and to help them achieve a higher rate of growth, the low-income countries would require additional concessional assistance and the middle-income countries would need increased flows from both official and private sources. To be effective, these in turn would require a greater emphasis upon domestic policies attuned toward the necessary internal adjustment processes and toward employment creation.

- The Committee reaffirmed its strong support for the timely and satisfactory completion of the Fifth Replenishment of IDA so as to permit a substantial increase in IDA resources which, in the opinion of many members, should be in real terms, and to maintain continuity of its operations beyond June 1977. The Committee also agreed that it was important that the lending programs of the international lending institutions remain adequate to help meet the capital requirements of the developing countries. They asked the Boards of these institutions to review the adequacy of their capital resources for this purpose and, where such capital is inadequate to review the issues prerequisite to consideration of augmenting such capital.
- The Committee, with due regard to the functions of the Boards of the IMF, the World Bank, and other international institutions, desired to focus attention on the resources situation of the international development finance institutions, on the volume, terms, and distribution of official flows, and on the role of adjustment in the development process. The Committee agreed to establish a Working Group which would, initially, consider the study of the International Resources Bank requested of the World Bank. In addition, the group could be assigned other specific matters, including the volume, terms, and distribution of official flows. The Working Group will present its conclusions and recommendations for the consideration of the Committee.

- 6. The Committee received a further interim report from the Working Group on Access to Capital Markets. It was agreed that capital market countries would endeavor, as far as their balance of payments situation permitted, to move progressively toward greater liberalization of capital movements, in particular capital outflows. In the meanwhile, when regulations governing capital outflows are maintained for unavoidable reasons,
- governments of capital market countries would afford favorable treatment, as among foreign borrowers, to developing country borrowers with regard to permissions to make an issue or placement in the issue calendar;
- those capital market countries which currently maintain quantitative limits on the amount of foreign issues in their markets would endeavor to keep developing country borrowers outside these limits, at least up to specified amounts;
- since the Eurobond market presents potential opportunities for developing countries to raise finance, countries whose currencies are in strong demand, and which maintain restrictions on international issues denominated in their currencies, would endeavor to give favorable treatment, as among foreign borrowers, to developing country borrowers.

The Committee noted a number of recommendations in the report that consideration be given to the removal of legal and administrative barriers so far as is consistent with investors' protection and urged capital market countries to give them earnest consideration.

7. The Committee recognized the need to reinforce and expand technical assistance activities in the field of access to capital markets, noted the bilateral programs already in the field, recognized the need to coordinate the implementation of present and future available services, and recommended that attention be given by the Board of IFC to the possibility of IFC's expanding its activities.

- 8. The Committee stressed the importance of co-financing by international and regional development banks as a means of augmenting private capital flows to some developing countries, noted the progress being made in this regard, and urged that these arrangements be further expanded.
- 9. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Working Group had considered the subject of multilateral guarantees and the proposal for an international investment trust and asked that it continue its studies on these subjects. The Committee also agreed that the Working Group should present to the Committee at its next meeting concrete recommendations for improving the various reporting systems on international financial stocks and flows.
- 10. The Committee agreed to meet again on October 6 in Manila and also tentatively to meet on April 30, 1977, in Washington, D.C., the time of the next meeting of the Interim Committee.
- 11. The Committee expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for its warm hospitality and for the excellent facilities provided to the Committee for the conduct of its meetings.'

Group of 24 on international monetary affairs

- 1306. The Ministers of the Group of 24 on international monetary affairs released the following communiqué following their thirteenth meeting, held on 1 and 2 October in Manila:
- '1. The Ministers of the Group of 24 on international monetary affairs held their 13th meeting in Manila, Philippines, on October 1 and 2, 1976. Mr Luis Barua Castañeda, Minister of Economy and Finance of Peru, was in the Chair, with Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner, Commissioner for Economic Planning of Ghana, and Mr. Osman Ali, Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, as Vice-Chairmen. The meeting was attended by Mr. G.D.

Arsenis, UNCTAD, Mr. Henri Konan Bédié, Chairman of the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources, Mr. Robert McNamara, President of the World Bank, and Mr. H.J. Witteveen, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

- 2. The meeting was preceded by the 21st meeting of the Deputies of the Group of 24 with Mr. Winston Temple-Seminario, Peru, in the Chair, and Mr. S.K. Botchway, Ghana, as First Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Z. Ahmad, Pakistan, as Second Vice-Chairman.
- 3. Ministers reviewed international economic developments and expressed concern at the huge current account balance of payments deficits of the non-oil developing countries which rose from \$10 billion in 1973 to \$37 billion in 1975 and are projected to be around \$32 billion in 1976. The financing of this huge deficit has increased the external debt of developing countries and aggravated the debt problems of some of them. Ministers expressed strong disappointment that official development assistance continues to lag behind the need for concessionary assistance and urged those industrialized countries which have so far not done so to intensify their efforts to reach the 0.7 per cent target set for the Second UN Development Decade.
- 4. Ministers noted the significance of full employment as the most urgent objective of economic policy in the industrialized countries necessary for their full recovery, and urged a continued flow of funds to the developing countries from the international private banking community.
- 5. Ministers noted that the ratio of international reserves to world imports has gone down since 1970, and that the increase in international liquidity in this period was highly unevenly distributed, with non-oil developing countries being

the worst off. The role of the SDR as a reserve asset has continued declining since 1972, while that of reserve currencies has continued to strengthen. This tendency has been aggravated by the lack of new allocations of SDRs and the weak international surveillance over the process of liquidity creation. They favored a new allocation of SDRs which they thought was warranted, inter alia, by the need to enhance the role of the SDR in the international monetary system, which is in the interest of the entire international financial community.

- 6. The Ministers also took note of the fact that very few of the developing countries had made use of Fund resources beyond the first credit tranche, that only two countries had availed themselves of the extended Fund facility, and that this had been because of the limited size of these facilities and the severity of their conditionality. They also called for a review of the Fund policies to enable the developing countries to secure more adequate balance of payments support from the Fund on reasonable terms. In view of the inadequacy of Fund liquidity, consideration also needs to be given to devising appropriate recycling mechanisms to tap additional resources.
- 7. To augment the resources of the Fund the Ministers stressed the need for a further substantial increase in the Fund quotas through the Seventh General Review.
- 8. Ministers welcomed the establishment of the Trust Fund on May 6, 1976. However, they expressed concern that the amount realized so far from the three gold auctions indicated that its target of SDR 3.7 billion would not be realized. Ministers therefore urged member countries in a position to do so to supplement the resources of the Trust Fund through voluntary donations. Ministers felt that gold sales should proceed in a manner that shall meet the interests of developing countries.

- 9. Ministers expressed regret that some countries which were expected to contribute to the Fund's Interest Subsidy Account, associated with the oil facility, have not yet done so, and urged them to donate their shares as soon as possible.
- 10. Ministers believed that the reform of the international monetary system will be resumed and that special consideration should be given to the interest of the developing countries, particularly as regards the need to introduce a link between the allocation of SDRs and the flow of financial resources to developing countries.
- 11. Ministers urged that donor countries would complete their promised contributions to the Fourth Replenishment of IDA, as early as possible. They also discussed the Fifth Replenishment of IDA and emphasized the need to replenish at a much higher level. In this connection they agreed that a replenishment level of \$9 billion would be appropriate, although even this would allow for only a small increase in real terms. Ministers noted that negotiations for replenishment had already started and urged that every effort must be made to complete the negotiations by March 1977. Since the necessary legislative approval may not be forthcoming before June 1977, they were of the view that at least advances of contributions should be pledged by April 1977 to prevent a hiatus in the operations of IDA.
- 12. Ministers reaffirmed their full support for the recommendation of the Executive Directors for a selective increase in the authorized capital of the World Bank from the present level of \$27 billion to \$34 billion (1944 dollars). They urged the expeditious implementation of this recommendation, and they called upon member countries to subscribe fully to the additional shares allocated to them. At the same time they called for an early agreement on a general capital increase for the Bank and at the latest by the end of fiscal year 1977 in order to prevent both a reduction in the lending program of the Bank in real terms in fiscal year 1978 and after, and a further harden-

ing in its terms of lending. Ministers expressed grave concern about the modifications in the nature and level of operations of the Bank as regards lending terms and the new method of amortization of loans. They were of the view that these features of the Bank assistance to developing countries should be reviewed promptly.

- 13. Ministers stated that Third Window lending had been of benefit to countries which qualified for loans under the scheme. Ministers wished the Third Window operations to continue in order to provide additional resources over and above those normally available under the lending program of the World Bank. Ministers also emphasized the need to reach the original target of \$1 000 million in additional loans under the Third Window. They urged that the Interest Subsidy Account for the Third Window be kept open to receive contributions.
- 14. Ministers discussed the problem of external debt and stressed the importance of accepting the general principle, namely, that to those countries not presently having access to capital markets net transfers of official development assistance from industrialized countries should be maintained at a level compatible with a reasonable rate of growth in such countries.
- 15. Ministers called on industrialized countries to adopt measures that would result in reduced fluctuations in commodity prices and substantial improvement in the export earnings of developing countries, especially their increased access to markets in industrial countries. They also urged the implementation of the Common Fund under the Integrated Program for Commodity Exports.
- 16. Ministers called on developed countries to give the necessary political support to the Development Committee so that it would be effective in the transfer of real resources to developing countries. Ministers also took note of the report of the Working Group on Access to Capital Markets and fully supported the recommendations

that capital market countries should declare that they would move progressively toward greater liberalization of capital exports and that authorities in capital market countries should give favorable treatment to developing countries and exercise flexibility by permitting developing countries to sell bonds denominated in currencies which are in strong demand both in local markets and in the Eurobond market.

- 17. Ministers recommended the establishment of working groups of the Development Committee in the year ahead to study and help a coordinated view being taken of the following problems:
- (i) Concessional flows as they relate to IDA operations, debt problems, and balance of payments support through the quick disbursement of aid;
- (ii) capital flows through multilateral institutions relating to the volume and terms of lending programs, increases in capital, etc.;
- (iii) promotion and expansion of private capital flows as a follow-up to the work of the Working Group on Access to Capital Markets.'

4. Trade cooperation with the developing countries

Trade Cooperation Agency

The Commission proposes the creation of a European Agency

1401. The Commission has just taken a new step with a view to improving and strengthening trade cooperation between the Community and the developing countries. In a proposal presented to the Council on 12 October, the Commission calls for the creation of a European Agency for Trade Cooperation with the Developing Countries.

The proposed Agency's task would be to help ensure that better use is made of the generalized system of preferences and to undertake trade promotion campaigns in favour of the developing countries. It has proved necessary to set up an Agency of this kind not only because Community action in the above two fields is expanding but also in view of the nature of the new tasks to be carried out.

The Agency, which would have legal personality and financial autonomy under Commission supervision, would work in close contact with the private sector, using the appropriate administrative procedures. It would undertake technical and executive duties in the context of policies and action programmes designed and decided upon by the Community institutions.

On the political level, this proposal reflects above all the Community's desire to intensify its cooperation with all the developing countries following the conclusion and entry into force of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé.

Background to the proposal

1402. The creation of this Agency is to be seen in the context of the Community's overall policy of cooperation with the developing countries, and stems in particular from the Resolutions adopted by the Council on 30 April 1974² on the improvement of the generalized system of preferences and the promotion of exports from the developing countries.

On the question of generalized preferences, the Council adopted another Resolution on 3 March 19753 in which it confirmed its desire to make a sustained and progressive effort to improve the generalized preferences, in particular by encouraging the beneficiary developing countries to make better use of the system, by providing them with more information on it. The idea of setting up a specialized agency received immediate support from Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee, the national authorities of the Nine and, of course, the beneficiary countries.

As regards trade promotion, one of the Council Resolutions of 30 April 19744 advocated the financing by the Community of specific technical assistance schemes to promote the exports of non-associated developing countries. The Lomé Convention also provides for trade promotion schemes to benefit the ACP States.

Generalized system of preferences

1403. The Agency should constitute the key factor in the back-up measures referred to in the Council Resolution of 30 April 1974⁴ to support the generalized preferences. The Agency's objective would be to promote better utilization of the generalized system of preferences (GSP):

- (i) to make its use easier for the beneficiary developing countries, who frequently complain about the complexity of the Community scheme;
- (ii) to spread its use more evently over the whole Community and increase utilization while

OJ C 256 of 29.10.1976.

Bull. EC 4-1974, point 2309 and 11-1973, point 2316. Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2318.

Bull. EC 4-1974, point 2309 and 11-1973, point 2316.

adapting it better to the structural and cyclical trends of the various sectors of the Community economy; the bulk of imports under the GSP are of sensitive and semi-sensitive product, whereas there are considerable opportunities for non-sensitive products of which no advantage is being taken:

- (iii) to spread its use more evenly among the various beneficiary countries; up to now, five countries alone account for half the imports of sensitive and semi-sensitive products under the generalized system of preferences;
- (iv) to make its use more profitable for developing country exporters, some of whom, because of lack of information, do not benefit from the financial advantages resulting from the duty-free arrangements.

To achieve these objectives, the European Agency for Trade Cooperation with the Developing Countries would have three kinds of task—providing documentation, information and advice.

In the documentation field, the Agency would be responsible for the development and use of index systems of Community importers and of exporters in the developing countries concerned by the GSP, and with the statistical analysis of the impact of the system on export and import trade. The agency would also have to supply information on the operation of the system via the annual publication—in the official languages of the Community plus Spanish and, if possible, Arabic—of a practical guide to the operation of the generalized system of preference to make it easier for the users to understand, and via the communication to importers and exporters of information on the unused portion of each quota (sensitive products) and of each ceiling subject to surveillance and each maximum country amount linked to that ceiling (semi-sensitive products). This is in response to a unanimous request from the GSP's users, who have complained about uncertainty as to the rate at which quotas and ceilings were being used, and hence as to the quantities that could still be imported on preferential terms before customs duties were reintroduced.

Lastly, the Agency would give advice to users, for example on trade contracts and market surveys.

Trade promotion

1404. The Agency would also be responsible for implementing action programmes to promote the ACP States' trade and increasingly that of the other developing countries, particularly under the Community programme for the promotion of the developing countries' exports. The implementation of these action programmes involves a considerable extra amount of work and requires very quick action on the part of the Commission departments.

Because of the need for swift action and because of their operational and commercial nature— in direct and constant liaison with the private sector—the additional and new tasks that have to be carried out are increasingly difficult to reconcile with the Community's administrative and financial procedures. It is for this reason that the Commission has proposed that the tasks be given to a body with an appropriate structure, following the example of the Member States, which, for the same reasons at national level, have set up similar agencies to carry out promotional activities in foreign markets.

In this field too, the task of the European Agency for Trade Cooperation would be threefold: assistance for the developing countries' participation in trade events, the organization of trade missions and certain training and technical assistance operations.

As regards the organization of trade events—fairs or trade weeks in Europe or in the developing countries—the Agency would be responsible for assisting the developing countries to enable them to participate in such events. The organization of trade missions would involve both sending

Trade Cooperation Agency

5. Community fisheries policy:Substantial progress

missions of European buyers to the developing countries and organizing producers' missions to Europe from the developing countries (including holding seminars in the Member States on sales techniques or on other more specific subjects). Lastly, the training and technical assistance activities would include training courses, expert help for the public authorities to promote the development of exports to the Community or to match lines of production to market requirements, the execution of market surveys and the dissemination of trade information, technical notes or specialist brochures.

Nature and operation of the Agency

1405. The Agency, whose activities will be run on commercial lines, will be set up in form of a European Agency with legal personality under Commission supervision.

The Agency will employ a small number of specialized management staff and will be financed by an annual subsidy from the Community Budget. It will work in close contact with the bodies promoting the developing countries' exports in the Member States and in the developing countries themselves and with the private sector.

1501. On 30 October the nine Member States of the Community broke new ground in the construction of Europe when they reached agreement on the policy governing relations with other countries in the fishing sector.

The content of the agreement

1502. Agreement was finally reached at a meeting of Foreign Ministers in the Hague, and the Council gave formal approval on 3 November. It provides a Community solution to the problems confronting the Community as a result of the change in the international circumstances under which fishing will be required to develop in future. This concerns, in particular, the decisions taken, or about to be taken, by certain non-Community countries with major fishing grounds in the North Atlantic and the North Sea to extend the fishing limits.

1503. The most important and significant text adopted by the Council is a Resolution which bears on two crucial points. The first is the decision by the Member States, acting jointly, to extend their fishing limits to 200 miles as from 1 January 1977 (North Sea and North Atlantic). The second, closely tied up with the first, provides for the negotiation of agreements with non-Community countries to allow their boats to fish in Community zones and vice-versa.

In the words of the Resolution, 'With reference to its Declaration of 27 July 1976¹ on the creation of a 200-mile fishing zone in the Community, the Council considers that the present circumstances, and particularly the unilateral steps taken or about to be taken by certain third countries, warrant immediate action by the Community to protect its legitimate interests in the maritime regions most threatened by the consequences of these steps to extend fishing zones, and that the

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, points 2434 and 2440.

measures to be adopted to this end should be based on the guidelines which are emerging within the IIIrd United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

It agrees that, as from 1 January 1977, Member States shall, by means of concerted action, extend the limits of their fishing zones to 200 miles off their North Sea and North Atlantic coasts, without prejudice to similar action being taken for the other fishing zones within their juridiction such as the Mediterranean.

It also agrees that, as from the same date, the exploitation of fishery resources in these zones by fishing vessels of third countries shall be governed by agreements between the Community and the third countries concerned.

It agrees, furthermore, on the need to ensure, by means of any appropriate Community agreements, that Community fishermen obtain fishing rights in the waters of third countries and that the existing rights are retained.

To this end, irrespective of the common action to be taken in the appropriate international bodies it instructs the Commission to start negotiations forthwith with the third countries concerned in accordance with the Council's directive. These negotiations will be conducted with a view to concluding, in an initial phase, outline agreements regarding the general conditions to be applied in future for access to resources, both those situated in the fishing zones of these third countries and those in the fishing zones of the Member States of the Community.'

1504. The Council also adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate fishing agreements with non-Community countries and a Resolution on certain aspects of internal fishing arrangements.

This concerns, in particular, development of the Irish fishing industry and due consideration for the vital needs of local communities which depend heavily for their living on fishing in certain regions including, Greenland, the northern areas of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

With regard to relations with non-member countries, the President of the Council was instructed to inform the countries concerned (Norway, Iceland, the United States, Canada, Finland, Sweden, Soviet Union, German Democratic Republic, Poland and Spain) of the Resolution to establish 200-mile fishing zones. He is to inform them that the Community is ready to open immediate negotiations for the outline agreements referred to in the Resolution. The Commission has already contacted several countries, particularly those with prior claims (Norway, Iceland, United States, Canada) to set the dates for the negotiations it will conduct on behalf of the Community, the first of which actually began early in November.

How the agreement was adopted

1505. The Commission had presented a number of proposals or communications concerned with finalizing a Community fishing policy. The most recent was laid before the Council on 23 September. On 18 and 19 October, the Council had examined the problems arising from the Community's future policy (external policy and internal arrangements) in relation to the new 200-mile fishing zones. But the Council had run into difficulties as a result of the positions adopted by certain Member States.

In anticipation of the informal meeting of the nine Foreign Ministers—set for 29 and 30 October in the Hague—Mr Gundelach, Member of the Commission, had endeavoured, in preliminary talks, particularly during a visit to Dublin on 28 October, to lay the foundations for a possible arrangement by working out a compromise proposal.

Bull. EC 9-1976, points 1201 to 1210.

Community fisheries policy

In the end, it was this proposal which enabled agreement to be reached.

After the meeting, Mr Gundelach was able to say that for the first time, a Commission compromise proposal was not only approved but applauded. The Foreign Ministers of the Nine moreover thanked Mr Gundelach for the way in which he handled the proceedings on behalf of the Commission and congratulated him personnally.

Meeting on 3 November, the Commission was very gratified to learn of the results achieved in the Hague and to record that its action, especially the steps taken on its behalf by Mr Gundelach, had succeeded in overcoming the difficulties blocking any agreement at earlier discussions within the Council. The Commission found that the agreement now achieved was an all-important stride towards a Community fishing policy, so that the success of the Ministers' meeting went much farther.

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1. Functioning of the common market

Customs union

Customs union

Tariff measures

Suspensions

2101. On a proposal from the Commission the Council adopted, on 25 October 1976, a Regulation on the total or partial suspension of CCT duties for a number of products for use in the construction of aeroplanes of an unladen weight exceeding 15 000 kg, or for use in the maintenance or repair of aeroplanes of an unladen weight exceeding 15 000 kg or of aeroplanes or helicopters of an unladen weight exceeding 2 000 kg but not exceeding 15 000 kg. This Regulation will enter into force on 1 January 1977 and will be applicable until 31 December 1977.

2102. On 25 October¹ the Council also adopted a Regulation totally suspending CCT duties applicable in the Community as originally constituted to some products imported from the new Member States for use in the construction, maintenance or repair of certain aeroplanes of an unladen weight exceeding 15 000 kg. The purpose of this Regulation is to safeguard Community preferences where the above Regulation² partially suspends duties in respect of non-member countries; it will apply from 1 January to 30 June 1977.

Tariff quotas

2103. On 21 October³ the Council approved a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of duty-free tariff quotas for certain paper and paperboard, falling within subheadings ex 48.01 C II and 48.01 E of the CCT, originating in Portugal. These tariff quotas, amounting respectively to 7000 and 250 tonnes, opened in the Community as originally constituted and Ireland, apply for November and December 1976.

2104. Also in October, the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, adopted several Regulations increasing the volume of certain Community tariff quotas granted for 1976 and opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for 1977.

2105. For 1976 this mainly involves additional Community tariff quotas for:

(i) certain wines originating in Portugal; the conditions of the Regulations of 5 November 1975⁴ are improved as regards the volumes and the CCT duty reductions, in particular:

for Port wines imported in receptacles containing two litres or less⁵, the quota volume is increased from 20 000 hectolitres to 22 500 hectolitres, 2250 hectolitres of the additional volume being allocated to the Member States and the remainder (250 hl) being added to the reserve;

for Madeira wines⁵ the quota volume is increased from 15 000 hectolitres to 15 167 hectolitres and the tariff reduction raised from 30 % to 50 % of CCT duties; the additional volume is allocated to the reserve;

for Setubal muscatel wines⁵ the reduction of customs duties is increased from 30% to 50%.

(ii) For certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II⁶ the quota volume currently provided for in the Regulation of 29 October 1975⁷ is increased from 5700 to 7200 tonnes. A quantity of 160 tonnes of the additional amount is allocated to the Community reserve set up initially.

2106. For 1977, this involves opening, allocating and providing for the administration of contrac-

¹ OJ L 313 of 15.11.1976.

Point 2101.

OJ L 295 of 26.10.1976.

⁴ OJ L 294 of 13.11.1976.

⁵ OJ L 300 of 30.10.1976.

⁶ OJ L 300 of 30.10.1976

OJ L 292 of 12.11.1975.

tual or autonomous Community tariff quotas for the products in Table 1 below.

Community import surveillance

2107. On 19 October the Council increased the indicative ceilings established for 1976 by the Regulation of 20 January², for imports of certain products originating in *Portugal*. These increases apply from 1 November.

Customs arrangements for the free movement of goods

Transit

2108. The negotiations on extending the field of application of Community transit rules led on 21 October in Berne to the conclusion of a trilateral EEC-Austria-Switzerland Agreement.

Table 1

Description of product	Quota volume	Initial allocation	Reserve
Description of product	(tonnes) 1	(tonnes) 1	
By agreement			
Ferro-silicon ²	20 000	20 000	_
Ferro-silico-manganese 2	50 000	48 000	2 000
Ferro-chromium containing not more than 0.10% by weight of carbon and more than 30% but not more than 90% by weight of chromium (superrefined ferro-chromium) ² Certain plywoods of coniferous ³	3 000 700 000 m ^{3 4}	3 000 670 000 m ³	
Autonomous			
Certain hand-woven fabrics, pile and chenille ³ silk or waste silk cotton	2 200 000 u.a. 2 000 000 u.a.	1 200 000 u.a. 1 784 000 u.a.	1 000 000 u.a. 216 000 u.a.
Certain hand-made articles 3	10 000 000 u.a.	7 500 000 u.a.	2 500 000 u.a.
Certain eels (first half of 1977) ²	3 100	2 650	450
Dried grapes in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less ²	8 373	8 373	_
Rosin (including 'brais résineux') ³	14 66 5	14 665	
Unwrought lead other than bullion lead ²	13 000	12 300	700
Unwrought zinc ²	5 000	4 500	500

OJ L 291 of 22.10.1976.

² OJ L 16 of 24.1.1976.

⁽¹) Unless otherwise stated. (²) OJ L 313 of 15.11.1976 (³) OJ L 305 of 6.11.1976.

^(*) Including an autonomous volume of 300 000 m³.

In 1972 the EEC concluded bilateral agreements with Switzerland and Austria which made it possible to apply these regulations in relations between the EEC and each of those States individually. The agreements did not, therefore, cover relations with Austria and Switzerland together. The purpose of the negotiations in question was to fill that gap. They have resulted in a new agreement which has just been initialled.

It should be remembered that under the Community transit procedure goods can be transported from a customs office of departure in the Community to any other customs office of destination in the Community under cover of a single customs document and a single guarantee.

This transit procedure has now been extended in full to Austria and Switzerland, which simplifies the formalities to be completed for cross-frontier goods traffic passing through Community territory and through the territory of Switzerland and Austria, for example goods transported from Munich (in the EEC) via Feldkirch (in Austria) to Lausanne (in Switzerland).

In view of the time needed by the administrations concerned to make the necessary arrangements, the agreement will enter into force as soon as possible and not later than 1 July 1977.

2109. At its part-sessions from 11 to 15 and 25 to 27 October, *Parliament* approved a number of Commission proposals suspending CCT duties or opening tariff quotas for certain products. At its meeting on 27 and 28 October, the *Economic and Social Committee*¹ gave its Opinion on a proposal for a Directive presented by the Commission to the Council on the harmonization of the provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action concerning customs debt.

Competition policy

Restrictive practices, mergers and dominant positions: specific cases

Export and reimport bans dropped

2110. In response to Commission representations a number of publishing houses have lifted their export and reimport bans.

Commission inquiries carried out in 1974 revealed that several members of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Uitgevers Bond (Royal Dutch Publishers' Association) were requiring their Dutch customers to accept contractual clauses banning exports of their books to Belgium and reimports from Belgium back to the Netherlands. The result was an artificial barrier to trade between the Dutch and Belgian markets. In particular, economically significant parallel supplies to Belgium were made impossible and this gave absolute territorial protection to the Dutch publishers' subsidiaries and sole distributors in Belgium.

In 1975 most of the publishers in question voluntarily deleted the offending clause from their terms of sale. Only Elsevier Nederland, Agon Elsevier and Deltos Elsevier—all members of the Elsevier Group—stood by their terms of business, which they notified to the Commission.

When the Commission informed them that its preliminary inquiries had led it to conclude that Article 85 of the EEC Treaty was infringed by the bans and that exemption could not be given, they too dropped the restrictive clauses.

This action by the Commission will promote cross-frontier trade in books between the Netherlands and Belgium, and also broaden the range of choice available to Dutch and Belgian book

Point 2469.

Competition policy Competition policy

buyers. There is considerable practical significance in this, since the Netherlands and Northern Belgium share the same language.

Removal of restrictions on competition

2111. Following Commission representations, the Vereeniging van Transportassuradeuren in Nederland, an association comprising the major transport insurers in the Netherlands, has abandoned certain restrictions on competition which came to light as a result of own-initiative Commission investigations.

The association had adopted two rulings, one which prohibited its members from entering into reinsurance contracts with Dutch competitors not belonging to the association, notably mutual insurance companies, and the other which restricted competition in respect of the transfer of marine insurance business from one member to another. In both cases, the restrictions on members directly or indirectly affected insurance contracts covering risks located in other Member States.

The Commission feels that, in the insurance industry, any restriction of competition by firms which serves to intensify the continuing isolation of national markets under current national legislation needs to be closely scrutinized in the light of the competition rules of the EEC Treaty. Community-level efforts are being made to harmonize the laws in question.

Commission reopens a case of market sharing

2112. The Commission recently reopened a case which led to one of the first decisions it took under Article 85 of the EEC Treaty. The original Decision, of July 1964, gave approval (by way of negative clearance) to a 1962 agreement between a French company, Nicholas Frères S.A., and a British company, Vitapro (UK) Ltd.

This agreement created a market sharing arrangement in Vitapointe hairdressing products supported by the assignment of British and Irish trade marks and patents from the French company to the British company. The Commission gave its approval since the French company retained as its market all the original six EEC countries so that at the date of the Commission's Decision (30 July 1964) the agreement did not split up the then common market into different markets.

The entry of Ireland and the United Kingdom into the Community fundamentally altered this situation since the 1962 agreement thereby became capable of partitioning the enlarged common market. The Commission therefore reopened the case, as it is entitled to do since all negative clearance decisions are based on the facts then available. Even so, it has been found unnecessary to take any further action under Article 85 of the EEC Treaty, since in the meantime the interests of both parties in Vitapointe products have been brought together in the hands of one British company, Fisons Ltd, so that the potential barriers to trade between Member States created by the 1962 agreement have been eliminated.

Apart from this, just as the Community has in general grown more outward looking over the last decade, so in particular has the Commission's attitude changed towards agreements of this type which have the effect of isolating the common market from third country imports. A recent example is its attack on the former world market sharing arrangements for Columbia gramophone records which came to light in the case of EMI Records Ltd v CBS United Kingdom Ltd et al.² At the Commission's invitation, the European Court of Justice recognized in its judgment in that case that 'a restrictive agreement between

OJ 136 of 26.8.1964 and Bull. EEC 9/10-1964, point 42.
 Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2439 (Joined Cases 51, 86 and 96/75).

Competition policy Competition policy

traders within the common market and competitors in third countries that would bring about an isolation of the common market as a whole which, in the territory of the Community, would reduce the supply of products originating in third countries and similar to those protected by a mark within the Community, might be of such a nature as to affect adversely the conditions of competition within the common market'.

Mergers in the steel industry

2113. Acting under Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty the Commission has authorized the French holding company *Marine-Wendel* to acquire another French firm, *Ressorts du Nord*, which uses spring steel, *Marine-Wendel* already controls a spring steel-using firm, Société Générale de Ressorts (SGR).

For technical and business reasons, however, the two firms will be taking in less than half of the spring steel produced by the Marine-Wendel group.

Examination of the effects of this merger on the steel industry revealed that the tests for authorization in Article 66(2) of the ECSC Treaty were satisfied.

The merger will also affect the springs industry, which is covered by the EEC Treaty. But as there are other spring producers in France as well as a fairly sizeable import market, Marine-Wendel's position on the French springs market will not be strengthened so substantially that the resulting dominance might act as a substantial barrier to competition, in other words leave on the market only such firms as depend on the conduct of the dominant firm. Hence, on the facts available to it, there are no grounds for Commission objections to the merger under Article 86 of the EEC Treaty.

2114. In another decision under Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty the Commission has authorized

Denain Nord-Est Longwy (DNEL), a holding company in Paris, to acquire 85.1% of the shares in Ferembal, Clichy, which manufactures metal containers. As a result of the takeover DNEL will control Ferembal, which processes tinplate; Ferembal's consumption accounts for 57% of the DNEL Group's tinplate production and less than 1% of its total steel output. Examination of the effects of the merger on the steel industry showed that the test for authorization laid down in Article 66(2) were satisfied.

But the takeover also affects the market for metal containers, and therefore has to be considered also in the light of Article 86 of the EEC Treaty. Ferembal, the company being taken over, came into being with the reorganization of the former Ferembal company which, with Marine-Firminy, came under Marine-Wendel control in 1975.

Absorption of Ferembal into the Marine-Wendel group brought into existence an excessively large metal container firm, so Marine-Wendel decided to break the firm up into two, one of them, under the name of COFEM, remaining under its own control and the other, retaining the name of Ferembal, being transferred to DNEL. Ferembal, which currently has three manufacturing plants, holds 10 % of the French metal container market and is the second largest French producer.

In view of the structure of the French and Community metal container markets, this takeover, as a result of which a major industrial group will be entering the market, will have a favourable impact on competition and, as far as the Commission is concerned, there are no objections to it under the rules on competition in the EEC Treaty.

2115. On 7 October BASF AG appealed to the Court of Justice of the European Communities against the Decision taken by the Commission in July in the Reuter/BASF case.

¹ OJ C 254 of 27.10.1976.

Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2125.

Industry aids

United Kingdom

Steel industry

On 27 October the Commission decided not to oppose the measures taken by the United Kingdom Government to finance the stockpiling of steel by the British Steel Corporation (BSC). For this purpose the State gave BSC £70 million, part in the form of loans and part in the form of a capital grant.

The Commission considered that these measures were not caught by the prohibition against aids laid down in Article 4(c) of the ECSC Treaty and that there was no ground for Commission action under Article 67.

Environment aids

Italy

2117. On 15 October the Commission decided to close the procedure under Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty which it had opened in July 1975 against an Italian draft law laving down new standards for the protection of water against pollution.1

The procedure had been opened when the Commission found that the standards were not in line with certain of the requirements of its Memorandum to the Member States of 6 November 1974 on a Community approach to aids in environmental matters.2 Now that the Italian Government has informed the Commission that the draft law has been passed by Parliament in the form of Law No 319, whose provisions are entirely consistent with the Community approach, the Commission has decided that the procedure may be closed.

Taxation policy and financial institutions

Taxation

Indirect taxes

2118. At a meeting devoted to taxation matters held on 21 October the Council examined the proposal for a Sixth Directive on the harmonization of laws relating to turnover taxes.³ presented by the Commission on 29 June 1973 and amended on 26 July 1974. This proposal concerns a uniform basis of assessment of VAT.

The Council considered in particular certain points which had already been discussed at its meeting of 24 November 19755—zero rating, reduced rates, special schemes for small undertakings and farmers, and transactions relating to immovable property-and others also requiring decisions at political level: exemptions, national and international passenger transport, and non-deductibility of certain types of expenditure. Agreement was reached on some of these points, and others were referred back for further study to the Permanent Representatives Committee.

During this meeting, a real effort to negotiate viable compromises was made, and the Finance Ministers undertook to adopt the whole of the proposed directive at a meeting scheduled for 16 December.

Mutual assistance for the recovery of claims

On 8 October, the Commission sent to the Council a proposal for a Directive designed to

Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2135.

Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2115.

OJ C 80 of 5.10.1973 and Supplement 11/73 — Bull. EC. Bull. EC 7/8-1974, point 2137.

Bull. EC 11-1975, point 2126.

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Taxation policy and financial institutions

bring VAT, excise duties and other consumption taxes within the scope of the Directive of 15 March 19761 on mutual assistance for the recovery of claims resulting from operations forming part of the system of financing the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund and from agricultural levies and customs duties.

2120. At its part-session from 11 to 15 October, Parliament² adopted Opinions on two Commission proposals to the Council, one amending the Directive of 19 December 1972 on excise duties on the consumption of manufactured tobaccos³ and the other relating to indirect taxes on transactions in securities. An Opinion on the latter document was also rendered by the Economic and Social Committee⁴ at its session held on 27 and 28 October.

Economic, monetary and financial policy

Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community

2201. On 21 October the Commission laid before the Council the Sixth Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community, drawn up in accordance with Article 4 of the Council Decision of 18 February 1974 on the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of the Member States of the European Economic Community.1 As soon as the Council has adopted the Report, after consulting the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, and has set the economic policy guidelines to be followed by each Member State in 1977, the governments will forward it to their national parliaments.

In the Report, the Commission notes that the recovery which got under way towards the middle of last year gradually gathered momentum under the combined impact of the reflationary measures taken both within and outside the Community, spontaneous expansionary factors, the greater confidence on the part of individuals and firms, and an upswing in international trade. Since the spring, however, the rate of growth has slackened sharply, owing in part to the disappearance of a number of special stimuli, but also to sluggish private consumption and the continued weakness of fixed investment. In addition, price and cost trends still differ considerably between Member States, balance of payments disequilibria have emerged again in a number of them, inflation is still giving cause for concern and there has as yet been no substantial improvement in the situation on the labour market.

OJ L 73 of 19.3.1976 and Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2103.

Point 2420. OJ L 303 of 31.12.1972.

Point 2468.

OJ L 63 of 5.3.1974.

The economic scenario for 1977 is still very difficult to predict. The chances of growth continuing in 1977 hinge very much on the trends which become discernible during the autumn. None the less, in present circumstances it is reasonable to expect real gross domestic product in the Community to grow by 4% in 1977, providing the favourable influences continue at work. Growth of something like 5% is likely in 1976, following a contraction of 2.5% the previous year.

Given the large reserves of productive capacity which still exist in most Member States, the growth of output in the Community seems likely to lead to only a slight improvement in the situation on the labour market in 1977. The unemployment rate in the Community could fall to a little below 4% of the labour force, which, for most of the Member States, would be clearly inadequate. The number of wholly unemployed in the Community would still be at least as high as in 1975.

The outlook for the rate of inflation depends essentially on the success of economic policy and the attitude of the two sides of industry. In the absence of determined action by the Member States, already taken in certain cases, it is to be feared that in 1977 the average rise in consumer prices for the Community as a whole would be scarcely less than the rate recorded this year. The repercussions of the drought on agriculture and any further currency depreciations and import price increases could accentuate this problem. Continued hard-core inflation of this magnitude would be unacceptable. Not only would it undermine the economic recovery, but it would threaten the cohesion of the Community and would give a durable character to the differences in the development of prices and costs within the Community.

The Community's balance of payments will continue to show a substantial deficit in 1977. The efforts made by most Member States to reduce their balance of payments deficits could thus meet with success only if the other Community

countries reduced their surpluses, and if developed countries outside the Community, more particularly the United States and Japan, accepted corresponding deficits.

On the general economic policy guidelines, the Commission stresses that the Community must establish for 1977 an economic policy which is compatible with the medium-term targets agreed at the Tripartite Conference in June¹ and set out in the Community's Fourth Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme,² which was recently laid before the Council.

The experience of the initial stage of the recovery has served to highlight, in several member countries, the persistent nature of inflationary expectations, of the upward movement of costs and of the external disequilibria, and the handicaps which these factors impose on the growth of overall demand. There is a danger that, in certain member countries, a conflict will arise, in 1977, between, on the one hand, the need to reduce the rate of inflation and the balance of payments deficit and, on the other hand, the need to consolidate the economic recovery and to improve the employement situation.

If, in the present situation, it becomes impossible to avoid the threatening conflict between objectives, the difficulties may nevertheless be lessened:

- by a coordinated policy for overall economic management within the Community and at international level;
- efforts by the two sides of industry to bring their demands more closely into line with the performance of the economy generally;
- by an active employment policy combined with measures to encourage structural change.

Bull. EC 6-1976, points 1101 to 1105.

² Bull. EC 9-1976, points 1101 to 1103.

Foreign exchange markets

2202. The possibility of parity adjustments within the snake was one of the reasons behind speculation on the German mark after the general elections in the Federal Republic. As a result, the Community exchange rate scheme remained under pressure during the first two weeks of October, with the spread between the German mark and one or other of the Scandinavian crowns frequently widening to the permitted maximum of 2.25 %. The decision to realign the intervention rates within the snake put an end to these pressures.

The other Community currencies had to withstand repeated onslaughts which, at times, prompted vigorous action on the part of the national monetary authorities. The United Kingdom authoriies, for instance, raised tne minimum lending rate from 13 % to 15 %, but sterling continued its slide. At the beginning of the month, the Italian authorities adopted a package of particularly draconian measures to defend the lira.

Realignment of the intervention rates within the snake

2203. At the close of their meeting on 17 October in Frankfurt, the finance ministers and central bank governors of the countries partipating in the Community exchange rate scheme (the 'snake') agreed to set, with effect from 18 October, new intervention points for the purchase and sale by their central banks of their partners' currencies. This realignment involved a 2% revaluation of the German mark against the EMUA.1 At the same time, the Swedish krona and the Norwegian krone were devalued by 1 %—i.e. 3 % against the German mark— and the Danish krone by 4%—i.e. 6% against the German mark. The central rates of the Belgian and Luxembourg francs and of the Dutch guilder alone remained unchanged, which in effect means a 2% devaluation of these currencies against the German mark.

Those present at the meeting stated their determination to maintain the 'snake' in force on the basis of these new exchange rate relationships and to adopt the necessary stabilization policies.

On 18 October Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President, made the following statement on behalf of the Commission:

'The Commission was informed yesterday evening of the decisions taken by the ministers and central bank governors of the member countries participating in the Community exchange rate scheme.

The Commission attaches major importance to the maintenance in force of the Community exchange rate scheme as a source of stability for the Community economy as a whole and thus to any measure adopted to this end.

The Commission notes that the consultation procedure provided for in the Council Decision dated 18 February 1974, has not been applied.

The Commission expects that, in line with the statement made by the President of the Council on 26 July 1976,² progress will be made, during the latter's term of office, in setting up general Community arrangements for consultation and monitoring of exchange rate policies.'

Furthermore, the technical monetary measures taken underline once more the need to narrow the divergences which still exist between Member States' economies.

Exceptional measures taken by Italy

2204. Exceptional measures were announced by the Italian Government on 1 October to halt the

² Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2201.

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

slide in the lira: the discount rate was raised by three points, from 12 to 15%; exporters were required to convert immediately into lira 50%—instead of 30%—of the amount of their foreign exchange receipts from sales abroad; and, lastly, a 10% surcharge on purchases by residents of foreign exchange was imposed for a period of two weeks.

This last measure was the subject of the following statement by the Commission:

'On the evening of Friday, 1 October, the Commission was informed that the Italian Government intended to introduce a temporary 10% surcharge on purchases by residents of foreign exchange to settle external debts; the measure would apply for not more than a fortnight.

The Commission has noted this information; it regrets that the Government of a Member State should be forced to take emergency safeguard measures.

It does not believe that the recurrent waves of international currency speculation can be durably eliminated by partial or unilateral measures.

The Commission expects the Italian Government and Parliament to take immediate measures to improve the economic situation and to build up confidence once again, thus restoring the internal and external equilibrium of the Italian economy.

At all events, the Commission could not countenance retention of the sucharge beyond the time-limit currently fixed by the Italian Government.'

On 15 October the Italian Government, as part of its recovery plan, adopted various measures in the field of credit control and monetary policy. In a statement released the following day, Mr Haferkamp welcomed the adoption of measures consistent with the targets agreed between the Italian Government and the Community and stressed that these measures, together with the measures already adopted or about to be adopted

by the Italian Government, will be needed to bring the Italian economy back into equilibrium.

When the 10% surcharge on purchases of foreign exchange was discontinued on the agreed date, 18 October, the value of the lira fell sharply. Since the lira was again under strong pressure in the days that followed, the Italian authorities, acting under Article 109 of the EEC Treaty, decided to reintroduce, as a precaution and with effect from 25 October 1976 until no later than 18 February 1977, the surcharge on purchases by residents of foreign exchange, although at a reduced rate of 7%.

In a statement released on 25 October, the Commission had the following to say about this move:

'The Commission has been informed of the decision by the Italian Government to reintroduce, as of 25 October for a period not exceeding four months, a surcharge on purchases by residents of foreign exchange to settle external debts.

The Commission regrets that the Italian Government has felt it necessary to reimpose on a precautionary basis a measure which was to apply for not more than fifteen days. It recalls the reservations it has already expressed concerning partial, unilateral measures.

The Commission, while recognizing the efforts already made, calls once more on the Italian authorities to take as soon as possible the additional measures which are still necessary to improve the economic situation and to build up confidence once again.

The Commission will keep the situation in Italy under close review, and may, as and when appropriate, make proposals or adopt measures.'

Monetary Committee

2205. The Monetary Committee held an extraordinary meeting in Manila on 2 October, on the eve of the Annual Meeting of the IMF and

the World Bank,¹ to discuss the temporary foreign exchange measures announced by the Italian authorities.²

It held its 221st meeting in Brussels on 19 October, with Mr Pöhl in the chair. It discussed the recent realignment with the snake³ and examined the economic situation in Italy. The meeting then considered the proposals put forward in July by the Netherlands Finance Minister, Mr Duisenberg,⁴ aimed at bringing about closer convergence of economic policies within the Community. The Committee agreed that it would adopt a report summarizing the conclusions of its discussions in time for it to be presented to the next session of the Council devoted to economic and financial affairs.

The Committee held its 222nd meeting in Luxembourg on 26 October, mainly to discuss the temporary foreign exchange measures reintroduced by Italy the day before.²

Economic Policy Committee

2206. The Economic Policy Committee held its 37th meeting in Brussels on 6 and 7 October, with Sir Bryan Hopkin in the chair.

The Committee began the first day of the meeting by examining the preliminary draft Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community, prepared by the Commission's departments.⁵ It then discussed a memo by the Netherlands Delegation expounding the proposals put forward by Mr Duisenberg at the Council meeting in July. The Committee unanimously approved the aim pursued but, by a large majority, expressed reservations on the proposed means. In conclusion, it was agreed that the chairman would draw up a draft report to be laid before the Council at its meeting scheduled for 8 November.

The second day of the meeting was given over to discussion with the two sides of industry of the economic situation and the outlook for 1977;

acting on the conclusions reached at the Tripartite Conference in June 19761—which the European Council had endorsed—the Committee heard in turn the views of the representatives of the employer's associations and of the European Trade Union Confederation. This was the first time that consultations of this nature had been held between the Economic Policy Committee and the two sides of industry. Although opinions differed on the progress that could be made from 1977 onwards towards attaining the objectives set by the Tripartite Conference, and also on the kind of policies to be pursued, the meeting agreed that the situation should be examined regularly and that the Member States, the two sides of industry and the Community institutions should collaborate closely with a view to surmounting current difficulties.

The Working Party on Public Finance met on 28 October in Brussels. It continued its work on the structural budget benchmarks and began a study of trends in social security expenditure.

Study Group on medium-term economic assessments

2207. The Study Group met on 18 and 19 October in Brussels. It discussed the work on projecting and analysing economic prospects, to be undertaken once the draft Fourth Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme had been laid before the Council by the Commission. This would involve updating macro-economic projections, as provided for in Article 2 of the Council Decision on the attainment of a high degree of convergence of economic policies; studying the relationship between short-term prospects and

¹ Points 1301 to 1306.

² Point 2204.

³ Point 2203.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2201.

⁵ Point 2201.

⁶ Bull. EC 6-1976, point 1102.

OJ L 63 of 5.3.1974.

Regional policy Regional policy

medium-term guidelines; and simulating variants with the help of the COMET model.

The Group, backed by the Commission's departments, stressed the need for more detailed analytical work in the following areas: investment and employment, employment prospects, investment financing, certain aspects of sectoral developments, movements in effective exchange rates and in relative costs and prices.

The Group also undertook an initial review of the report drawn up by the Working Party on the Situation of, and Prospects for, the World Economy, looking at it mainly in the light of the matters being examined by the experts responsible for specific studies: design of the system of structural indicators, economic trend pattern viewed from a medium-term angle, economic consequences of the population trend.

2208. At its meeting on 27 and 28 October, the *Economic and Social Committee*¹ adopted its Opinion on the Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community in 1976.

Regional policy

Financing operations

Conversion

Financing new activities

2209. On 4 October the Council gave three assents² pursuant to Article 56(2) of the ECSC Treaty, enabling the Commission to grant the following conversion loans:

4 million EUA (approximately Lit 3500 million) to Società Nazionale Cogne SpA, Italy, for the setting up of new high-precision engineering workshops and heat treatment plant at Aosta;

1 152 000 EUA (approximately FF 6 million) to Unité Hermétique SA, France, to help construct a plant for the production of refrigerating compressors on the La Mure industrial estate (Saint-Honoré):

220 000 EUA (approximately £136 000) to Natural Gas Tubes Ltd, United Kingdom, for the extension of their welded steel tube plant on the Tafarnaubach industrial estate, Ebbw Vale, South Wales.

The Commission had requested these assents³ in letters dated 16 and 26 July respectively.

Regional Policy Committee

2210. The Regional Policy Committee held its sixth meeting in Brussels on 19 and 20 October. On the basis of a comparative study of the costs incurred by the Member States in implementing their regional policies, it examined the experience gained by the various countries in this field. In this context, the Committee made a tentative comparison of the costs of regional aid in the nine Member States.⁴ It also examined the 1977 programme of regional studies planned by the Commission.

The Committee continued its study of the problems faced by regions situated on either side of the Community's internal borders⁵ and continued its work on ways of ensuring the 'complementarity" of assistance provided by the European Regional Development Fund. Finally, the EIB observer briefed the Committee on regional aspects of the Bank's operations in 1975.

At the meeting, Mr D. McCutcheon, Irish member, was elected Vice-Chairman of the Regional

Point 2466.

² OJ C 240 of 13.10.1976.

Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2207.

Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2214.

Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2212.

Policy Committee to replace Mr Leonard, Vice Chairman since October 1975,¹ who had been offered another appointment by the Irish Government.

Social policy

Vocational training and guidance

2211. About fifty vocational training officers from the nine countries of the Community attended a *European seminar* on vocational guidance held in London from 12 to 15 October.

This seminar, which was organized by the Commission in collaboration which the British Government, was one of a series held in various Member States since 1966 to review vocational training in the Community and to encourage the exchange of opinions and experience between those responsible in this field.

Concern about employment difficulties throughout the Community dominated the London seminar. British experts outlined the UK system of industrial and vocational training and guidance. They also outlined the specific measures taken to alleviate unemployment, the facilities for handicapped persons and the latest guidance methods. The seminar was opened by Dr Patrick Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission with special responsibility for social affairs, and by Mr John Grant, UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Employment.

Living and working conditions

Housing

2212. As part of Community assistance for Friuli and in particular under the special programme of financial aid towards housing for workers in

the iron and steel firms hit by the earthquake, the Commission decided to grant an ECSC loan of Lit 5400 million (6 million EUA) to repair or rebuild about 900 dwellings. A few days later, the Commission approved projects for repairing 126 dwellings and rebuilding 143 dwellings at a cost of Lit 3 034 250 000.

2213. On 27 October the Commission decided to grant financial aid of DM 10 million for the construction of low-cost housing for workers in *German colleries*. This aid forms part of the second instalment of the 7th ECSC Programme.

Industrial relations

2214. At a meeting held on 5 October, the Commission staff and representatives of seamen's organizations held an exchange of views on shipping problems. The participants examined the study, drawn up by employers and workers, on the employment situation and prospects in this sector. It was agreed that a comparative study should be undertaken on wages, with special reference to earned income, costs and working hours.

Health protection

2215. In Vienna from 12 to 14 October, the Commission took part in the first conference of the ISSA (International Social Security Association) Committee for the Prevention of Occupational Risk in the Metalworking Industry. The Commission representatives outlined to this new ISSA Committee the activities of the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission, and the Commission's policy on research into industrial safety, hygiene and medicine. The conference was followed by a

Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2209.

meeting of the ISSA's Permanent Committee for the Prevention of Occupational Risks.

2216. The Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work met in Luxembourg from 25 to 27 October. Work centred principally on the draft Community action programme for health and safety at work, which is designed to improve the quality of working conditions. Also on the agenda of this meeting was the examination of a draft proposal for a Directive on posting safety signs at work, a list of research work in industrial medicine, and a draft proposal for a Directive on vinyl chloride.

2217. A technical seminar on the harmonization of biological methods of evaluating the quality of surface waters was organised jointly by the Commission and by the Severn Trent Water Authority, Nottingham. It forms part of the Community Environment Programme.¹

2218. On 30 September and 1 October there was a meeting of experts in Milan to examine the problems caused by the Seveso² accident in July as a result of which many people were contaminated by dioxin. At the meeting, which was organized by the Commission and the Italian authorities, experts examined the health and decontamination problems for which solutions have still not been found, and possible ways for the Italian authorities and the Commission to cooperate in order to resolve the most serious problems.

Paul Finet Foundation

2219. The Administrative Board of the Paul Finet Foundation held its annual meeting on 29 October in Luxembourg with Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission and Chairman of the Foundation, in the chair.

The report presented to the Board showed that during the 1975/76 academic year the Founda-

tion examined 1407 applications and awarded 962 grants for a total of Bfrs 8 668 900 to orphans of workers in ECSC industries who lost their lives as a result of an accident at work or an industrial disease. Since the Foundation was created in 1965, 5 804 scholarships have been awarded, totalling Bfrs 47 640 000.

Environment and protection of consumers

Environment

Quality requirements for water to protect shellfish against pollution

2220. On 29 October the Commission approved a proposal for a Council Directive concerning the quality requirements for waters favourable to shellfish growth, i.e., seawater in which there are natural shellfish beds or artificial shellfish farms (in particular oysters, mussels, clams, cockles, scallops and winkles).

The proposal is based on the principles regarding the definition of quality objectives for water, in particular seawater, set out in the European Community Environment Programme.³ As it seeks to fix quality requirements for water conducive to shellfish growing, the Commission's proposal for a Directive lays down the values for the parameters for the quality requirements for such waters, defines the minimum sampling frequency and specifies the methods of analysis to be used.

Point 2221.

Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2230.

³ OJ C 112 of 20.12.1973.

Quality of surface waters

2221. As part of the Community Environment Programme the Commission organized a technical seminar in Nottingham, on the harmonization of biological methods of evaluating the quality of surface waters. It emerged from these discussions that it would be feasible to harmonize the different methods used by specialists in the nine Member States; this would permit a more comprehensive and more strictly comparable assessment of surface waters throughout the Community.

Contamination by toxic products

2222. On 30 September and 1 October in Milan, also as part of the Environment Programme, the Commission organized, with the assistance of the Italian authorities (Ministry of Health, Higher Institute for Health, the Region of Lombardy), a meeting of experts¹ to discuss the decontamination problems posed by the Seveso accident of last July.

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

2223. The Foundation, which was created on 26 May 1975,² is now operational. The organizational phase, the most significant feature of which was the constitutive meeting of the Administrative Board in May 1976, was completed in October with the formal appointment of the Foundation's Director and Deputy Director and the first meeting, in Brussels on 22 October, of the Committee of Experts which is to advise the Foundation's other organs in all fields within the Foundation's term of reference.

2224. On 15 October Parliament³ delivered its Opinion on the Commission's proposal to the

Council on the conclusion of a Convention on the protection of the Mediterranean against pollution and a Protocol on dumping from ships and aircraft. The *Economic and Social Committee*, meeting on 27 and 28 October, delivered an Opinion on the Commission's proposal to the Council on the limitation of noise emission from subsonic aircraft.

Consumer protection

Consumers' Consultative Committee

2225. The Consumers' Consultative Committee met in Brussels on 8 October and adopted opinions on the common agricultural policy and on the new action programme on the environment (1977-81), which the Commission presented to the Council on 24 March.⁵ The Committee also delivered an opinion on the question of product liability⁶ and considered the problems raised by misleading advertising and unit pricing.

Agricultural policy

2226. For the month of October three events stand out: the adoption by the Council of a Resolution extending fishing zones to 200 miles, the presentation by the Commission of a proposal for regular adjustments to the system of monetary compensatory amounts, and, finally, the establishment of detailed rules for the application of the action programme designed to restore balance on the milk market.

Point 2218.

² OJ L 139 of 30.5.1975.

³ Point 2427.

Point 2470.

⁵ OJ C 115 of 24.5.1976 and Supplement 6/76 — Bull. EC.

Supplement 11/76 — Bull. EC.

Community fisheries policy

2227. Following the ministerial session at the Hague on 30 October, the Council adopted, by the written procedure, a Resolution establishing a 200-mile fishing zone pursuant to the declaration of intent by the Council on 27 July. There are two principal elements in this Resolution which was not published officially.

- The Member States will act in concert to extend their fishing limits along their North Sea and North Atlantic coast to 200 miles from 1 January 1977.
- 2. From that date exploitation of fishery resources within these zones by fishing vessels of non-Community countries will be subject to agreements between the Community and the non-member countries concerned. At the same time Community agreements should ensure access for Community fishermen to other countries' waters. To this end the Council instructed the Commission to open negotiations with nonmember countries, in compliance with Council directives, to conclude initial agreements concerning the general conditions which will govern future access to resources in the fishing zones of both Member States and the non-member countries concerned.

The Council also adopted a Resolution concerning several aspects of internal fishing arrangements (in particular the development of the Irish fishing industry, and the need to consider the vital interests of local populations particularly dependent on fishing in certain regions, including Greenland, the Northern part of the United Kingdom, and Ireland).

The Commission which had presented a Communication to the Council² on 23 September on future Community policy in this sphere (both its external and internal policy), welcomed the agreement arrived at between Ministers, which indicated that a Community fisheries policy was being established.

Monetary compensatory amounts: important amendments proposed

2228. On 26 October the Commission proposed to the Council a regular readjustment of the system of monetary compensatory amounts,3 in order to eliminate the distortions of competition caused by the system for some time (due to the very high levels of these amounts) and to reduce budgetary expenditure on it.

Proposed measures to restore balance on the milk market

2229. On 11 October⁴ the Commission put formal proposals to the Council in line with the action programme to restore balance on the milk market adopted by the Council in July.5

Five new proposals are thereby added to the draft Regulation, submitted in July, establishing a system of premiums for the non-marketing of milk and milk products and for the conversion of dairy herds.

Granting of premiums—The first of the measures proposed to reduce production is a system of premiums for the non-marketing of milk and milk products and the conversion of dairy herds. The Commission aims at significantly reducing milk supplies to dairies, which between 1968 and 1975 increased by almost 10 million tonnes to about 81 million tonnes.

It proposes that these premiums, which it had already advocated introducing in 1975,6 should be added to the grants already existing, under the directives on structural policy, for those wishing

Bull. EC 7/8-1976, points 2434 and 2440. Bull. EC 9-1976, points 1201 to 1210.

Points 1101 to 1107.

OJ C 181 of 5.8.1976, C 249 of 22.10.1976, C 252 of 26.10.1976 and C 270 of 16.11.1976.

Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2240 and Supplement 10/76 — Bull. EC. 6 OJ C 31 of 11.2.1976.

Agricultural policy Agricultural policy

to cease farming, in the hope that this twofold benefit will encourage greater cessation of farming by certain milk producers, particularly older farmers. These premiums might also be received concurrently with certain national aids to eradicate bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and leucosis.

Co-responsibility levy and tax on certain fats — The Commission proposes, for the next three milk marketing years, a co-responsibility levy of 2 to 4% of the target price for milk, and 2.5% for the marketing year beginning on 1 April 1977. The levy will be charged—except in hill or mountain areas—on the quantities of milk delivered by producers to dairies or processed on the farm into butter or cream.

The income from this levy, estimated at 330 million u.a. for 1977/78, would be used to increase sales on the Community market (increase in the aid granted for extra quantities of skimmed milk taken over from the dairies by stock farmers, the sale of milk at reduced prices in schools and greater use of butter fat), and on the world market (long-term export contracts, contribution to the programme of aid to developing countries).

At the same time the Commission proposes, in order to reduce the imbalance in the competitive relationship between the various fats, a tax on vegetable or marine fats imported into or produced in the Community. Olive oil, castor oil and fats for certain technical or industrial uses would be excluded.

School programmes—The Commission proposes that, starting from the next milk marketing year, the Community should contribute to the financing of programmes in Member States to provide milk to schoolchildren at reduced prices. The Community contribution is to be 50% of the target price of the milk, that of the Member States being at least 25%. The quantities of milk to be delivered under this programme could amount to 300 000 tonnes; 7.5 million schoolchildren would benefit every year. On this assumption, the Community contribution would be of the order of 25 million u.a.

Suspension of certain aids—Certain national and Community aids to investments in milk production, processing and marketing would be suspended for three years. The Commission proposes excluding from this suspension certain Community aids (granted in connection with modernization plans, or in hill and mountain areas and in less favoured areas) and national aid for research and for product development to increase sales.

Action to eradicate certain contagious diseases—To reduce Community dairy herds and at the same time to improve animal health in the Community, the Commission proposes granting, for three years, Community financial aid for the slaughtering of cattle affected by tuberculosis, brucellosis and leucosis (60 u.a. for cows and 30 u.a. for other cattle slaughtered). Milk production would, as a result of this measure, be reduced by 230 000 tonnes in the first year, 300 000 tonnes in the second year, 280 000 tonnes in the third year and 90 000 tonnes in the fourth year. This drop in production would, over the four years, result in total savings of about 120 million u.a.

2230. On 26 October the Council conducted a general debate on the milk product sector, in particular in the light of the 1977-80 action programme for the progressive achievement of balance on the milk market. In the course of the discussions the delegations emphasized the importance which they attached to the achievement of balance on this market and the measures to be taken to that end.

Measures concerning the monetary situation

2231. In October, monetary compensatory amounts were altered each week for one or other Member State, reflecting the considerable uncertainty on the exchange markets during the month.

44 Bull. EC 10-1976

Agricultural policy Agricultural policy

2232. The drop in the pound, the 4% devaluation in the central rate of the Danish crown, the 2% revaluation in the central rate of the Deutsche Mark within the 'snake' all led to Community action to counter the effects of these exchange rate movements:

- on 6 October, the Irish green pound was devalued by 7.589 %;1
- on 18 October, the monetary compensatory amounts for Germany increased from 7.5% to 9.3%:
- also on 18 October, monetary compensatory amounts of 4.2 % were introduced for Denmark; these were abolished following the devaluation of the green rate of the Danish crown which took effect from 28 October.2
- 2233. The drop in sterling led to the highest monetary compensatory amounts ever. These were fixed at 37.3 % from 25 October. This movement led the Commission to propose a slight devaluation of the green rate of sterling; this proposal has not yet been adopted by the Council. The fall in sterling and the devaluation of the green rate of the Irish pound have led in particular to a considerable increase in the monetary compensatory amounts for trade between Ireland and the United Kingdom. In order to avoid speculation and deflection of trade, transitional measures were applied in trade between the two Member States in certain particularly sensitive areas.3
- 2234. The Commission however is concerned to achieve a more lasting improvement of the situation, and for this reason it submitted a Communication to the Council on 26 October4 on the longer-term measures to be taken in the sphere of monetary compensatory amounts.
- 2235. In order to avoid certain movements stemming from the rules governing the calculation of monetary compensatory amounts in the pigmeat sector—in view of the present very great differences—the Commission now

these amounts in a different manner, taking 85% of the basic price as the basis of calculation instead of 92%. The Regulation involved will apply from 8 November.

Common organizations of markets

2236. In addition to the proposals concerning the milk market, the Council examined the situation of several markets. Measures were taken, in particular in respect of olive oil, wine, milk, beef and veal and fishery products. The Council also decided to transfer 10 000 tonnes of butter and 40 000 tonnes of frozen beef and veal held by the intervention agencies of other Member States to the Italian intervention agency in an attempt to combat speculation and stabilize prices in Italy.

2237. On 25 October, the council fixed⁶ the threshold price for olive oil for the 1976/77 marketing year (141.89 u.a./100 kg) and the standard amount for unrefined oil produced entirely in Greece and transported direct from that country into the Community (0.50 u.a./100 kg since the 1966/67 marketing year). It also extended the conditions governing the award of the subsidy to olive oil producers, as defined in the Regulation of 27 November 1973,7 to cover the 1976/77 marketing year. Finally, pending the general revision of the common organization of markets in that sector, the Commission extended until 31 December the special measures (fixing import levies by tender) for the determination of the supply of olive oil on the world market and on the Greek market.

Bull. EC 10-1976 45

OJ L 274 of 6.10.1976.

OJ L 289 of 20.10.1976, L 296 of 27.10.1976 and L 297 of 28.10.1976.

OJ L 279 of 9.10.1976.

Points 1101 to 1107.

OJ L 301 of 30.10.1976. OJ L 297 of 28.10.1976. OJ L 327 of 28.11.1973.

- 2238. At its two October meetings the Council discussed the wine market situation and the progress of the harvest as the new marketing year began, and also a group of new proposals. It took note of the final balance sheet for the 1974/75 wine year. Three Regulations were adopted,1 dealing with:
- (i) sparkling wines: the marketing of those wines which do not comply with the new rules introduced in May 1976,2 originally authorized until 31 August 1976, was permitted until stocks were exhausted,
- (ii) argol: this product, which is no longer included in the common organization of the market in wine, was added to the products listed in the Regulation of 28 June 1968,3
- (iii) the conversion premium in the wine sector: for technical and administrative reasons, the final dates for the grubbing-up of vines and for the lodging of applications for premiums were brought forward to 1 May 1977 and 1 December 1976 respectively. On 22 October, at the official request of several Member States in the course of discussions on adoption of this Regulation, the Commission submitted to the Council a new proposal to extend the system of conversion premiums to vine cultivation under glass and to certain other varieties.
- 2239. In respect of milk and milk products, the Council adopted⁴ a Regulation on whole drinking milk. Pursuant to the Council Regulation of 29 June 1971,5 as amended on 15 March 1976,6 and with effect from 1 October 1976, Member States must, in the case of whole milk for drinking apply either the formula of standardized whole milk with a minimum fat content of 3.5%, or the formula of non-standardized whole milk with no change in the fat content since milking. Seven Members States deciced to adopt the formula of standardized whole milk. Therefore, the guideline figure for the fat content of standardized whole milk from another Member State to be marketed in Ireland or the United Kingdom, was fixed at

3.51 % and 3.76 % respectively from 1 October until the end of the 1976/77 milk marketing vear.

On 26 October the Council agreed not to extend its Regulation concerning the obligatory purchase of denatured skimmed milk powder beyond 31 October. 6 On 4 October the Commission has proposed to the Council that the period during which the system applied be extended, since the objective aimed at (disposal of 400 000 tonnes) would not be attained by the date initially laid down. The Council took its decision on the basis of information supplied by the Commission concerning protein imports and the disposal of stocks of skimmed milk powder.

2240. The beef and veal market has so evolved? as to make it possible to put an end to private six-month storage contracts for certain categories of adult bovine animals, with Community aid at a standard rate fixed in advance. A total of 146 000 tonnes of meat was affected by this measure, introduced at the end of June⁸ as a result of the drought and consolidated on 3 August.9 In the same way export refunds were reduced by 14% as from 18 October 10 and brought down to the level at the end of July, except in the case of boned meat exported from Ireland to the United States.

2241. In respect of fishery products, the Commission, on the 8 October, 11 presented a draft Regulation to the Council establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of

OJ L 276 of 7.10.1976.

OJ L 135 of 24.5.1976.

OJ L 151 of 30.6.1968. OJ L 272 of 5.10.1976. OJ L 148 of 3.7.1971.

OJ L 67 of 15.3.1976 and Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2240.

OJ L 270 of 2.10.1976.

Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2242.

OJ L 210 of 4.8.1976 and Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 1304.

OJ L 283 of 14.10.1976. OJ L 255 of 28.10.1976.

fishery resources, which it had already proposed in its September communication on future Community policy in this sphere. It also repealed, as from 15 October, the suspension of imports of hake, coalfish and cod in force since April.

Structural policy

2242. The Council held an exchange of views on various aspects of structural policy, and took a decision on one of the points under discussion, on the basis of a report on the proposal for adjusting the amounts laid down in the sociostructural Directives adopted since 1972.

On 10 May 1976¹ the Commission proposed the adjustment of the financial amounts provided for in the Council Directives on the reform of agriculture and on mountain and hill-farming and on farming in certain less-favoured areas. On 25 October² the Council decided to adjust a first instalment of these amounts and agreed to decide on the proposal as a whole before the end of the year. As from 1 January 1977 the maximum investment in pig farming and aid for the keeping of accounts, provided for in the Council Directive of 17 April 1972³ on the modernization of farms, will be increased.

The Council also took note of certain progress reports regarding the proposals under discussion, relating to:

- (i) common action to improve the conditions in which agricultural products are processed and sold,
- (ii) producer groups and associations thereof,
- (iii) forestry measures,
- (iv) special aid to young farmers who have been on their farms for less than five years and are carrying out a development plan.
- 2243. The Commission issued three opinions on provisions concerning the implementation of

structural reform in agriculture which had been communicated by *Italy* (Trentino and Emilia-Romagna) and *Luxembourg*.

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

Financial Report

2244. On 29 October the Committee submitted the fifth EAGGF Financial Report to the Council. This outlines all the operations carried out by the Fund in 1975.

In the Guarantee Section expenditure in 1975 (4 727 million u.a.) was substantially above that of the preceding year (3 107 million u.a.).

This increase is mainly due to:

- (a) the consequences of the year's increase in agricultural prices (+200 million u.a.),
- (b) the drop in world prices for cereals (+220 million u.a.),
- (c) the measures taken to combat the sugar shortage (+200 million u.a.),
- (d) the measures taken following surpluses in the beef and veal sector and support premiums for cattle breeding (+660 million u.a.).
- (e) the deterioration of the monetary situation resulting in increased expenditure on monetary compensatory amounts (+270 million u.a.),
- (f) the increase in accession compensatory amounts (+80 million u.a.).

Since this expenditure is distinctly higher than the appropriations initially provided for (3 980.5 million u.a.), additional appropriations were called upon in the form of a carry-over of 331.5 million u.a. from 1974, a supplementary budget of 200

¹ Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2251.

OJ L 302 of 4.11.1976.

Bull. EC 4-1972, first part, Chapter I.

million u.a. and a series of transfers. Work on the clearing of accounts for 1971 and 1972 has been completed by the Commission. Of a total of 3 900 million u.a., 1.4% has been regarded as not chargeable to the EAGGF. As a result of these decisions, three Member States have appealed to the Court of Justice of the European Communities in respect of part of the expenditure refused by the Commission.

In 1975 expenditure by the Guidance Section on common measures (33.8 million u.a.) and individual measures (11.5 million u.a.) showed a clear increase over 1973 and 1974 (19.4 million u.a. in 1973 and 28.9 million u.a. in 1974). Expenditure related in particular to payments for conversion in the beef and veal sector (25 million u.a.) and for the salt-cod fishing industry (4.9 million u.a.). The 235 million u.a. earmarked for 1974 to improve agricultural structures enabled the Commission to decide in December 1974 and July 1975 on the financing of 766 individual projects out of the 1394 submitted. In December 1975 the Commission decided to grant a sum of 108.4 million u.a. to 319 projects as the first instalment for 1975.

The Guarantee Section stepped up its activities with regard to the *verification* of expenditure and the combating of irregularities, in particular by more on-the-spot checks. Most of the irregularities uncovered for the Guarantee Section related to cereals, beef and veal, fats and pigmeat. In the Guidance Section, they concerned expenditure on premiums from the non-marketing of milk and milk products and beef and veal conversion.

The Community increased its *food aid*, in particular in its cereals (99 million u.a.) and milk products (63 million u.a.) programmes. Total expenditure for 1975 was 164 million u.a.

Competition

2245. In October, under the provisions of Articles 92 to 94 of the EEC Treaty, the Commission

decided to initiate the procedure provided for in Article 93(2) in respect of aid to stock farming granted by *Bavaria*.

2246. At its part-session from 11 to 15 October, *Parliament*¹ adopted several Resolutions or Opinions on agricultural problems: future Community fishery policy, system of premiums for the non-marketing of milk and milk products and the conversion of dairy herds, compulsory incorporation of skimmed-milk powder in animal feed.

Industrial and technological policy

Industry

Iron and steel

Community steel policy

2247. On 6 October the Commission approved a document entitled 'Community steel policy' which is the revised version of its Communication presented in July on 'the problems in the steel industry'. The new document—drawn up in the light of the consultations which Mr Simonet, Vice-President of the Commission, had had with the Member States' Governments and with representatives of the producers, workers, users and traders—reiterates the broad lines of the policy adopted on 21 July 1976. However, it takes account of a number of comments put forward by the governments of the Member States or interested trade circles and contains details, nuances and some new data on several points.

Points 2402 to 2405.

Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2259.

This Commission Communication was discussed by the ECSC Consultative Committee¹ which met in London on 6 and 7 October; the various speakers in the discussion stressed the seriousness of the situation in the Community's iron and steel industry. The Commission's revised document has still to be discussed with the governments of the Member States. The Commission will then adopt its final position before the end of the year on the steel policy to be implemented.

2248. On 20 October the Commission adopted a 'technical annex' to its Communication outlining major elements of the methods to be adopted to implement the new guidelines. This explanatory annex supplies details, in particular on the economic indicators to be used, the forward programmes (forecasting methods, objectives at undertaking level, the rules governing the application of minimum reference prices, exchanges of information, international consultation and cooperation, investment and credit policy.

Forward programme for steel October-December 1976

2249. On 1 October the Commission approved its forward programme for steel for the last quarter of 1976 at its first reading and transmitted it to the ECSC Consultative Committee. The latter, which met in London on 6 and 7 October, delivered its opinion on the programmes; in particular, it considered the figure adopted for the production of crude steel in the Community during the period October-December 1976 to be excessive (34.7 million tonnes compared with 29.85 million tonnes during the fourth quarter of the previous year and 39.21 million tonnes during the corresponding period in 1974). The forward programme has still to be formally approved by the Commission in November after certain amendments have been made in the light of the Consultative Committee's opinion.

Industrial loans

- 2250. In October the Commission adopted a number of decisions on the grant of industrial loans to iron and steel undertakings, pursuant to Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty. The loans are to help finance the following projects:
- Infrastructure Northumbrian Water Authority, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Redcar and South Teesside works of the British Steel Corporation); on 4 October the Council gave its assent² to the partial financing of a project designed to increase industrial water supplies of the works.
- Vocational training centre: DM 15 million loan (some 5.53 million EUA) to the August Thyssen-Hütte AG, Duisburg Hamborn;
- Research centres: £ 4.2 million loan (some 6.3 million EUA) to the British Steel Corporation, London (Ladgate Lane centre and Grangetown laboratory, Teesside);
- Environmental protection: £ 5.6 million loan (some 8.4 million EUA) to the British Steel Corporation, London (works at Stocksbridge, Aldwarke and Tinsley Park, Sheffield);
- Reconstruction of steelworks affected by the Friuli earthquake: loans totalling Lit 4 500 million (some 5 million EUA) for the companies Ferriere Nord SpA, Rivoli di Osoppo, Ferriere Vattlolo Ciessebi SpA, Buia, Minifer SpA, Buia, FE.RI.O SpA, Udine).

Shipbuilding

2251. While the Commission Communication on the problems in the shipbuilding sector is still being examined within the Council, the Commission has presented the OECD Working Party on shipbuilding with a statement defining the com-

Point 2473.

OJ C 240 of 13.10.1976.

mon position of the Member States with regard to the crisis affecting that sector.

That statement, produced on 27 October, underlines the fact that the estimated level of activity by the Japanese shipbuilding industry in 1980 did not leave other operators a reasonable share of the market, and that to prevent any tendency towards regional concentration in the placing of new orders, an 'early-warning' system might be necessary. It also informs the other member countries of the OECD that the Community was studying the measures which it might have to take if efforts to achieve cooperation at international level failed. This joint position for the Community and the Member States had been adopted by the Council on 21 October.

Technology

Data processing

2252. In October the Commission decided to send the Council a four-year programme for the development of data processing in the Community.¹

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

Research questions before the Council

2253. At its meeting on 21 October, which was devoted to research problems, the Council examined the Commission's proposals on new terms of employment for research staff, the JRC research programme for 1977-80, and the question

of the inclusion of the JET project in the fiveyear controlled thermonuclear fusion programme.

The new conditions of employment² are based on a proposal originally drafted in 1971 and amended in 1975. Their primary aim is to ensure the necessary flexibility in the deployment and continuous recruitment of scientific personnel by applying the principle of 'equal pay for equal work'.

The main features of the new Staff Regulations are as follows:

- (i) new fixed-term temporary contracts are introduced for scientific and technical personnel of Categories A and B, to run for not more than five years, but renewable; for other categories of research personnel there are to be temporary contracts for an indefinite period but subject to termination:
- (ii) the appreciable wage discrimination between Establishment and local staff on the one hand, and category C and D established staff on the other, has been abolished.

With regard to the JRC multiannual programme, the Council was particularly pleased that the Commission proposals³ were focussed on a limited number of priority projects in accordance with the guidelines adopted at the Council's meeting on 15 December 1975.⁴ The Council agreed to finalize its decisions on the proposed programme at its next meeting on 18 November, which will be devoted to research question.

The Council also confirmed its decision to go ahead with the JET project as part of the Community's multiannual programme in the field of fusion. Agreement was reached in principle on a number of points, subject to overall agreement on the problems relating to JET. With regard to the scale of financing for the project, the Council

¹ Points 1201 to 1205.

² OJ L 299 of 29.10.1976.

³ Bull. EC 5-1975, points 1301 to 1306.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2264.

approved the breakdown recommended by the Advisory Committee on Fusion (80%) to be borne by the Community budget, 10% by the host country and 10% to be distributed between all the partners in the manner described in the Commission's proposal).

As regards the legal form of the project, the Council gave its agreement to the establishment of a 'Joint Undertaking' which would genuinely comply with the letter and spirit of Articles 45 to 51 of the Euratom Treaty. Detailed proposals for the statutes of the joint Undertaking will have to be presented to the Council for approval as soon as possible after the latter has taken a decision on all the major aspects of the project.

The conditions of employment for personnel assigned to JET would have to be in line with the Community character of the project. In this respect, the guidelines set out in the Commission proposal met with approval, provided they are more specifically worded at a later date.

The Council agreed to resume its study of the Commission's proposal at the meeting to be held on 18 November with a view to reaching agreement on all aspects of the JET project.

On 4 October, the Council had decided to release 4 million u.a. to finance further research in preparation for the construction phase of the JET project.

Science, research and development

European Research and Development Committee

2254. At a meeting on 1 October, the European Research and Development Committee (CERD) decided to put before its Energy Subcommittee the results of a feasibility study on a 'low-energy-consumption society', and noted the work carried out on the topic 'New Growth for Europe'.

These investigations should benefit from the conclusions of a colloquium organized by the Commission at Luxembourg from 4 to 6 October with the collaboration of the Fondation Internationale des Sciences Humaines (FISH).

The Committee also adopted the broad lines of its programme of action for 1977, and decided to take part in a meeting at which, together with representative industrial research organizations, efforts would be made to work out ways and means of gearing research projects to the needs of industry.

European Science Foundation

2255. The Community took part in the annual meeting in Strasbourg on 26 and 27 October of the European Science Foundation, established in November 1974.² It reviewed the activities carried out since its last general meeting in October 1975³ in the various areas which it had felt to be most in need of coordination: astronomy, archaeology, space and genetic engineering. It is to continue its work in these fields, to which it has meanwhile added mathematics, humanities and social sciences. Other fields are currently being examined.

The Commission was represented by the Director-General for Research, Science and Education, who set out, in response to a request from the President of the Foundation, the future line of Community research activities in fields of special interest to the Foundation.

Measurement and control methods

2256. A special meeting was held at Geel, Belgium, on 28 and 29 October, attended by a small

¹ Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2270.

² Eighth General Report, point 312, and Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2257.

Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2253.

number of Community experts responsible for national research on metrology, calibration and control. This meeting was a sequel to the one held in January; the aim was to promote closer cooperation between the standards bodies existing in the Community.

These experts studied the progress made by the ad hoc working party of specialists in the calibration of high-pressure gas meters, such as those used in the large natural gas pipelines; reports were presented on the comparative characteristics of the meters. A further special meeting on measurement and control techniques is to be held in 1977.

Multiannual programmes

Advisory Committee on Fusion

2257. Following meetings held on 17 September and 8 October, the Advisory Committee on Fusion (ACF) delivered an opinion on proposals concerning the JET project which the Commission presented to the Council in September.² With regard to the financing scale for the project, the ACF backed the Commission's proposal recommending that 80 % of the costs be charged to the Community budget, 10% be charged to the host country, and the remaining 10 % be shared between all the partners. Regarding the legal form of the project, the ACF unanimously recommended the Council to adopt the Commission's proposal to set up a 'Joint Undertaking', in accordance with Articles 45 to 51 of the Euratom Treaty, for the construction and operation of the JET. Finally, the ACF stated the principles which in its view should govern the employment of staff for the project team.

Advisory Committee on Fusion

2258. Meeting in Brussels on 27 and 28 October, the ACPM responsible for direct and indirect action projects in the programme on the management of radioactive waste expressed satisfaction with the document published by the JRC on the activities carried out in this field from 1973 to 1976. It gave a favourable opinion regarding the value of the work in connection with the chemical separation and the control of actinides.

The ACPM on high-flux reactors, meeting at the Petten Establishment of the JRC, was pleased with the results of the research carried out during the second quarter of 1976. It welcomed the improvement of experimental capacity resulting from the new configuration of the core and the reactor vessel head. Approval was given for the implementation and irradiation of various new experimental devices during the months ahead.

2260. ¹ The ACPM on environmental research held a meeting on 12 and 13 October. It completed its examination of all the proposals for participation in the first phase of the second indirect action programme for 1976-80,3 and delivered a favourable opinion on the negotiation of 55 contracts for projects in those areas of the programme4 concerned with the determination of exposure-effect relations and the management of information of the environment. Other projects are to be selected after further discussion, on the basis of the funds available. With regard to the proposals for research on the prevention or reduction of pollution and nuisances and the protection of the natural environment,4 a list of priorities was drawn up; the ACPM is to take a decision on the negotiation of contracts at its next meeting.

Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2240.

Bull. EC 9-1976, point 2240. Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 1504.

OJ C 78 of 3.4.1976.

- 2261. The ACPM on plutonium recycling in lightwater reactors, meeting in Brussels on 15 October, delivered a number of favourable opinions, namely on:
- (i) the postponement until mid-1977 of the programme review, which was scheduled in the Council Decision of 17 December 1974¹ to take place at the end of 1976;
- (ii) a Community contribution to the financing of three specific studies in preparation for the forward study on the environmental effects of plutonium recycling in light-water reactors; also the issue of an invitation to tender for ten research projects and studies necessary for the implementation of these three studies. The Community's participation, however, is not to exceed 800 000 u.a.;
 - (iii) the grant of a financial contribution by the Community (1 020 000 u.a.) for the implementation of six R & D proposals in connection with the inspection and safety of plutonium-fuelled light-water reactors;
 - (iv) the financing of an analytical survey of the results obtained from a comparison of the computing codes used for neutron studies of plutonium-fuelled LWR power stations.
- 2262. The ACPM responsible for the *hydrogen* programme met at Ispra on 20 and 21 October. In connection with the direct action project conducted by the Ispra Establishment of the JRC, three main points were discussed:
- (i) the status of the research, which was the subject of a half-yearly report on the three thermochemical processes for hydrogen production now under investigation;
- (ii) the activities under the 1973-76 programme; in this context, the ACPM formulated a favorable opinion, stressing in particular the importance of the results obtained in the following: improved definition of criteria for the evaluation of thermochemical cycles; development of analytical methods and selection of processes; choice of

three sulphur-based thermochemical cycles for the continuation of the studies; improvement of methods for the evaluation of practical difficulties associated with the thermochemical production of hydrogen;

(iii) the preparation of an outline timetable of work for 1977-80 on the basis of the proposal for the next multiannual programme of the JRC.²

As regards the indirect action programme, the ACPM was given a briefing on the situation with respect to the projects already accepted. Two new projects were also examined—one on the electrolysis of water and the other on thermochemical processes.

2263. The Economic and Social Committee,³ meeting on 27 and 28 October, gave unanimous approval, except for certain observations, to the proposal for a Community multiannual programme (1977-80) in the field of education and scientific and technical training, which was presented to the Council by the Commission on 21 July.⁴

Scientific and technical information and information management

2264. A critical examination and assessment of the first three-year plan of action on scientific and technical information and documentation (STID), which has been running for a year and a half, were the main subject on the agenda at the meeting of the Committee for Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation (CIDST) held in Luxembourg on 27-29 October.

The work undertaken in various fields such as biomedicine, energy economy, and the environ-

OJ L 349 of 28.12.1974.

² Bull. EC 5-1976, points 1301 to 1306.

Point 2471.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2272.

ment, as well as the establishment of Euronet and the cooperative information systems, were subjected to critical scrutiny with a view to preparing the ground for a second plan of action in this area, to be put in hand in 1978.

By harmonizing the national policies of the Member States with respect to the international systems which are intended to be set up-e.g., the development sciences information system (DEV-SIS) and the system for exchanging information scientific and technological (SPINES)—the Committee has fulfilled one of the essential duties assigned to it by the Council Resolution of 24 June 1971.1

Energy policy

Formulation and implementation of a Community energy policy

Discussion of energy matters in the Council

2265. At its meeting on 19 October, the Council held a broad exchange of views on the recent Commission Communication on Community energy policy² and on the memoranda presented by certain delegations.3

According to the statement issued at the end of the meeting, all the delegations considered that the Communication offered a true reflection of the energy situation, particularly from the viewpoint of the trend in consumption, dependence and energy conservation, and reiterated that the principal objective of Community energy policy should be to reduce the Community's dependence on imported energy.

The Council's discussions provided the delegations with the opportunity to make known their positions and concern, particularly as regards energy conservation, national programmes, security of imports and the protection and development of the Community's energy resources.

Finally, having concluded that the Commission Communication was a sound basic guide for the Council's future work on energy matters, the Council agreed to decide on the various subjects as their technical preparation progressed. It noted the Commission's proposal for a work programme for subsequent Council meetings which could be altered in the light of suggestions which had been or will be made by the delegations. It agreed to meet again in December with a view to taking a number of decisions on various specific proposals.

Energy Committee

2266. At its meeting on 4 October in Brussels, the Energy Committee resumed its examination of national energy programmes and nuclear policy and in particular the implementation of the programmes and the stocking of nuclear fuels.4 The Committee also discussed a proposal on promoting the use of coal in power stations and various matters concerning oil and gas.

2267. On 15 October Parliament adopted a Resolution on the first Commission report to the Council on the rational utilization of energy programmes and the draft Council recommendations.5

Sectoral problems

Coal

Industrial loans

2268. The Commission approved a futher loan of £27.5 million to the National Coal Board

OJ C 122 of 10.12.1971.

Bull. EC 9-1976, points 2253 to 2255.

Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2280. Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2278.

Point 2421.

(United Kingdom). The loan, granted under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, will help to finance seven projects. These are for the extension of underground working (Ackton Hall colliery in North Yorkshire, Bevercotes and Silverhill collieries in Nottinghamshire and Silverdale colliery in Staffordshire), new mining equipment (Brodsworth colliery, near Doncaster, and Bold colliery, St Helens, in the North Western coalfield) and the electrification of winding engines (Bentinck colliery, South Nottinghamshire).

Nuclear energy

Euratom safeguards

2269. On 19 October the Council approved the Commission Regulation implementing the provisions on the Euratom safeguards system, received in September.1 This new Regulation was required so that the Verification Agreement concluded in April 1973 between the Commission, the seven Member States which do not possess nuclear weapons and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could be put into effect.

Transport policy

Harmonization of structures

2270. The Commission held a meeting on 20 October with railway experts from the 'Group of Nine' (Community railways) of the International Union of Railways (UIC) to examine the conditions of application of the Council Regulations of 26 June, 4 June 1970 and 20 May 1975.

These Regulations concern: action by Member States concerning the obligations inherent in the concept of public service in transport by rail, road and inland waterway, 2 common rules for the normalization of the accounts of railway undertakings,² aids for transport by rail, road and inland waterway³ and the improvement of the situation of railway undertakings and the harmonization of rules governing financial relations between such undertakings and States.4

The proposals which the Commission must present in connection with the tariff obligation referred to in Article 9(2) of the Decision of 20 May 1975 and not covered by the Regulation on public service obligations were also discussed.

In conclusion, the Group gave its comments on the report drawn up by the Advisory Committee on Transport on the future role of the railways in the Community transport system. The Group agreed to work with the Commission to promote cooperation between railway undertakings in accordance with Article 11 of the Council Decision of 20 May 1975.4

As regards aids to shipowners, the Danish Government has informed the Commission of a draft law concerning Treasury guarantees for loans contracted by shipowners for the construction of small cargo vessels.

The Commission had no comments on the draft law which is intended to raise the total amount of guarantees to meet current requirements and offset the rise in building costs. Authorization was therefore granted under Article 92 (3) (c) of the EEC Treaty, but the scheme may, if necessary, be reexamined later in a general review at Community level of Member States' aids to their shipping industries.

2272. The Commission also decided on 6 October⁵ to adopt an Opinion to be sent to the Government of Ireland concerning draft Regulations relating to the application of the Council

Bull. EC 9-1976, point 2257.

OJ L 156 of 28.6.1969.

OJ L 130 of 15.6.1970. OJ L 152 of 12.6.1975.

OJ L 287 of 19.10.1976.

Transport policy Transport policy

Regulation of 25 March 1969 relating to the harmonization of certain social matters in the field of road transport. In the Commission's view, the draft instrument, the European Communities (Road Transport) Regulations, 1976, dealing with the controls and penalties required to give effect to the Council Regulation generally fulfilled the requirements laid down. The Commission did, however, draw the attention of the Irish Government to two points: the penalties provided for should include the possibility of suspending authorization in the event of serious infringements of Community legislation and the clause permitting exemptions to be made to certain provisions of the Regulation should embody a time limit.

2273. Again, regarding the application of the Regulation of 25 March 1969, the Commission decided on 6 October² to endorse a draft United Kingdom Bill and draft Regulations implementing this Regulation; the Bill deals with driving time and the Regulations with the individual control book.

Infrastructures

2274. A meeting was held on 27 October with the UIC Group of Nine to discuss matters concerning railways in connection with the forward study of requirements for the carriage of goods (1985-2000) in which Spain is also taking part. After an exchange of views on problems relating to the carriage of goods, the railways' representatives expressed their willingness to cooperate fully with the Commission in the preparation of this study which could have significant repercussions on the planning of goods transport in the Community.

Shipping and air transport — Port economy

2275. A meeting was held on 25 October with senior air transport officials from the Member States as part of the Commission's work to finalize an action programme on air transport. At the meeting the participants discussed certain specific points and then went on to review the general situation in the air transport sector, touching in particular upon the 'pooling' of aircraft and crews, cooperation with international air transport organizations and the application of the general rules of the Treaty to air transport.

Advisory Committee on Transport

2276. At its plenary meeting on 7 and 8 October in Brussels the Advisory Committee on Transport was consulted by Commission representatives on matters relating to the drawing up of reference tariffs for internal carriage of goods within the Community and problems arising with transport via East/West routes.

2277. On 15 October Parliament³ delivered its Opinion on two Commission proposals to the Council concerning reference tariffs for the carriage of goods by road between Member States and the entry into force of the agreement on the international transport of perishable goods. The Economic and Social Committee,⁴ at its meeting on 27 and 28 October, delivered an Opinion on a proposal from the Commission on the harmonization of certain social provisions in the road transport sector.

56 Bull. EC 10-1976

¹ OJ L 77 of 29.3.1969.

OJ L 287 of 19.10.1976.

Point 2422 and 2425.

⁴ Point 2467.

External relations

Multilateral negotiations

Multilateral negotiations

Trade Negotiations Committee

2301. A number of groups and sub-groups set up under the Trade Negotiations Committee met in October. These were the sector approach, tariffs, tropical products and safeguards groups and the sub-group on government procurement set up in July.¹

Sector approach

The sector approach group met on 12 October and continued its analysis of the Canadian proposal for the conclusion of an agreement on copper and copper products. The Community, and other participants, accepted the Canadian idea of initiating bilateral discussions on this point. In addition, the group took note of the work carried out by the GATT Secretariat on this subject and on the possibilities for action in the field of handicraft products. Particular stress was laid on this latter point by the Indian Delegation. which called for a supplementary study on the preferential duties and treatment applicable to these products. Lastly, the United States Delegation reaffirmed its intention of presenting proposals relating to the steel sector.

Tariffs

1 2303. The tariffs group met in Geneva on 13 and 14 October, the main development being the presentation of the Japanese and Swiss tariff reduction formulas.

These two formulas involve an element of harmonization but to a different extent and under different arrangements. The Japanese formula aims at a maximum reduction of 70% while the Swiss formula does not set any reduction limit.

The group has now received four precise formulas (from the USA, EEC, Japan and Switzerland) and a number of ideas from other countries concerning their objectives in the tariff field.

Tropical products

2304. At a meeting of the tropical products group held from 18 to 20 October, agreement was reached on the entry into force of the offers on 1 January 1977 or as soon as possible during 1977 depending on the legislative procedures of the various participants.

The Community spokesman confirmed that the EEC was working with a view to the entry into force of its offer on 1 January 1977, and that it has already initiated the ratification procedures necessary to meet that target. The Community stated that the implementation of its offer would constitute its special and priority action in this field in accordance with the terms of the Tokyo Declaration.²

The group agreed that its next meeting would be devoted to a study of the position with regard to the implementation of offers and of the progress made in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

Safeguards

2305. The safeguards group met on 27 and 28 October and continued its examination of the proposals already presented, particularly the United States proposal which prompted the Community spokesman to make a statement. Other delegations, including that of Japan, expressed their opinions on the multilateral safeguard system.

Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2304.

Bull. EC 9-1973, point 1106.

The group agreed to continue its work on the basis of the proposals received, providing for differential treatment for the developing countries and taking into account the remarks made by certain delegations. It was decided to hold a further meeting in February 1977.

Non-tariff measures

Government procurement

2306. At its first meeting on 20 October, the sub-group established the future organization of its work. Its Chairman hoped that the paper concerning government procurement currently under discussion in the OECD would be forwarded as soon as possible to the sub-group along with any other proposals—an inventory of which had been called for from the GATT Secretariat.

The Community spokesman hoped that the questionnaire on the nature of the information contained in the OECD 'Green paper' on government procurement would also be sent to the countries that did not belong to OECD.

Commercial policy

Preparing and implementing the common commercial policy

Unilateral import arrangements

2307. Under the Decision of 27 March 1975 on unilateral import arrangements in respect of State-trading countries, the Commission decided to open exceptionally additional import quotas for the following products:

Italy-China: 20 % linear increase in the quotas for eight products;2

Italy-North Korea: unwrought zinc:3

Italy-Czechoslovakia: aminopyrin;4

Germany-North Korea: knitted or crocheted undergarments;3

Italy-Poland and Italy-Czechoslovakia: aluminium scrap, alloyed, in bars.5

Trade agreements: renewals, derogations or authorizations

2308. On 4 October6 the Council decided to 1 authorize the extension or tacit renewal of a 1 number of trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries (fourth batch 1976) which expire or are due to be terminated between 1 November 1976 and 31 January 1977.

At the same time⁶ it authorized the tacit renewal or continued operation until 31 December 1978 of certain treaties of friendship, trade and navigation treaties and similar agreements concluded between the Member States and a number of third countries. This decision will enable commercial relations to be maintained between the Member States and the third countries concerned, on the basis of agreements, pending their replacement by a Community system (conventional or autonomous).

Specific measures of commercial policy

Textiles

2309. On 4 October⁷ the Council adopted a Regulation concerning import arrangements for

QJ L 99 of 21.4.1975.

OJ C 253 of 26.10.1976. OJ C 257 of 30.10.1976.

OJ C 250 of 23.10.1976.

OJ C 261 of 6.11.1976. OJ L 283 of 14.10.1976.

OJ L 282 of 13.10.1976.

certain textile products originating in South Korea. The measures are to enable the Agreement negotiated with that country under the Arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles to be implemented at Community level.

Development and cooperation

Development cooperation policy

Conference on International Economic Cooperation

Seventh session of the Commissions

2310. The four commissions of the 'North-South Conference' held their seventh session in Paris from 20 to 28 October. After the relative euphoria which returned in September with the resumption of the Commissions' work (following the provisional adjournment of July) this session saw the developing countries grow increasingly irritated —more so in some commissions than in others—with the attitude of the industrialized countries.

The reason for this irritability was the profusion of proposals presented at the seventh session of the commissions both by the Group of 19 and by the delegations of the Group of 8. All these proposals were of course intended for the negotiations which are to begin in November on the 'undertakings' to be given and the formulas to be adopted at the ministerial conference. This atmosphere of pre-negotiation in no way helped to ease the tension; now that 'the moment of truth' had arrived, the Group of 19 considered that on the whole the Eight had so far not shown any political will in their proposals to meet the major concerns of the developing countries.

Another feature of the meeting was that the work was speeded up; this will make the position of the Eight very difficult in November if they

are not prepared to make significant progress. This acceleration was due not only to the profusion of proposals but also to the setting-up of contact groups in three commissions (the energy commission being the exception) to deal with the various subject areas of the conference. It would appear that these contact groups will play a crucial role in the November negotiations even if their terms of reference are at present in theory to clarify and explain the positions of the various items of the conference, where possible, in a persuasive manner.

The atmosphere at the difficult October session was therefore one of pre-negotiation in all the commissions. The November session will probably be decisive as a result of the effort which is likely to be made to push things through; if the Eight do not wish to lose control of matters they must be prepared to make certain gestures on fundamental issues, particularly in the contact groups.

Failing this, a crisis situation could well boil up, or the same tense atmosphere will reign as in Nairobi and wild concessions will have to be made at the ministerial meeting from which the Community will not be able to obtain a corresponding political and economic advantage.

Aid to non-associated developing countries

2311. In the field of financial and technical aid to developing countries which are not associated with the Community, the Council agreed in principle at its meeting on 18 and 19 October to commit in 1976 the 20 000 000 u.a. appropriation entered in the general Community budget for this year.² For 1977 the Council agreed to enter 30 000 000 u.a. under his head, but this appropriation will not be released until he Council has

Bull. EC 11-1975, point 2309.

² This position was confirmed at the Council meeting on 8 November.

taken a formal decision on the uses to which it is to be put.

European Agency for Trade Cooperation with the Developing Countries

2312. On 12 October the Commission presented to the Council a proposal to set up a European Agency for Trade Cooperation with the Developing Countries.1

Cooperation with non-governmental organizations

2313. In October fifteen projects submitted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) specializing in development aid were approved by the Commission: seven in ACP coutries, four in Latin America and four in Asia. This means that at the end of October the total amount committed by the Commission for the co-financing of NGO projects was 806 192 u.a. for thirty-two projects.

2314. On 14 and 15 October the third full meeting of the NGO Liaison Committee with Commission officials was held. Subjects discussed included: the NGO general meeting planned for 19 and 20 January 1977, a proposed seminar on education and development, NGO participation in the food aid programme, a review of the cofinancing scheme, and the prospects for next vear.

Food aid and emergency aid

Cereals programme for 1977: Commission proposals

2315. On 21 October the Commission sent to the Council a Communication on the food aid programme (cereals) for 1977. The programme involves 720 500 tonnes of cereals (56 % of the 1 287 000 tonnes committed by the Community

under the Food Aid Convention) for developing countries and international organizations. In the same document the Commission proposed to the Council that the remainder (20 000 tonnes) of the Sahel reserve contained in the 1976 programme be allocated.

At its part-session from 11 to 15 October Parliament² passed a Resolution on the preparation, conduct and outcome of the fourth session of UNCTAD (May 1976) and gave its opinion on the Commission proposals to the Council on the generalized preferences scheme for 1977.

Commodities and world agreements

Meetings on commodities within the framework of UNCTAD

2317. The initial preparatory meetings for the negotiations on commodifies-for which provision was made in the 'integrated programme' adopted in May by UNCTAD IV in Nairobi3 —have been held with the Community present.

The first meetings—which were held in Geneva—dealt with copper (from 27 September to 1 October) and jute and jute fibres (from 25 to 30 October).

On copper, a very important commodity both for developing countries and industrialized countries, including the Community, a work programme was approved at an initial round of consultations in March.4 At the recent preparatory meeting, an

Points 1401 to 1405.

Points 2406.

Bull. EC 5-1976, point 1204. Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2322.

intergovernmental group of experts—within which a sub-group of twenty-eight countries and the Community was set up—was instructed to examine all the problems and possible solutions and to put forward proposals before next March to be considered at a further preparatory meeting.

At the meeting on *jute* the Community representative read a statement which stressed the importance of jute to the economy of certain developing countries and noted that the elements of an international jute agreement should be studied in depth by producers and consumers. The Community considered that at the present preparatory stage the following guidelines might be adopted:

- (i) Improvement of the balance between supply and demand and stabilization of prices, perhaps by means of buffer stocks and other measures;
 (ii) maintenance of the unofficial agreement ar-
- (ii) maintenance of the unofficial agreement arrived at within the framework of the FAO pending the conclusion of a new agreement;
- (iii) the rapid setting-up of 'Jute International', a body (in which the major consumer countries could participate) that would assume overall responsibility for jute research, development and promotion: measures to improve the yield and quality of the fibre, diversifying the use of finished products and publicity campaigns.

Following this meeting an international group of experts was set up to study how to implement the integrated commodities programme in this sector.

Jute

2318. The FAO intergovernmental group on jute, kenaf and allied fibres held its twelfth meeting in Rome from 18 to 20 October. It fixed the range of 1976/77 target prices for jute but was not able to come to an arrangement on kenaf.

Sugar '

2319. The advisory group of the International Sugar Council met in London from 5 to 7 Octo-

ber to continue the preparatory study of the bases of a new agreement with economic provisions. The Community was represented by the Commission, with observer status, and was invited to explain to the group the nature and scope of the Community's proposals for an agreement based on a system of stocks. The main topic of discussion continued, however, to be the concept of an agreement based on quotas, with the possibility of an increased role for stocks. The preparatory work will be continued in November at Consultative Committee level and at Council level.

Coffee and cocoa

2320. On a proposal from the Commission the Council of the European Communities adopted on 19 October¹ two Regulations on the application by the Community of the international coffee and cocoa agreements since these agreements contain provisions which come under the common commercial policy.

The Regulation adopted regarding the international coffee agreement² is concerned with the application of a system of certificates of origin where the quotas are not in force and with the resulting controls on imports into the Community. The Council Regulation regarding the international cocoa agreement makes the economic arrangements and control rules of that agreement applicable in the Community to both imports and exports.

¹ OJ L 309 of 10.11.1976.

OJ L 309 of 10.11.1976.

International organizations

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

2321. The Executive Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) met in special session on 14 and 15 October in Paris. It examined the problem of East-West economic relations on the basis of suggestions made by the US Secretary of State at the ministerial meeting of the OECD Council in June. it was agreed that the appropriate bodies of the OECD would study certain aspects of these relations in greater depth, particularly commercial and financial problems, without, however, going so far as to provide for coordination of the member countries' policies.

The Executive Committee also took stock of the deliberations of the CIEC (Conference on International Economic Cooperation) with the final phase about to begin. It considered that the industrial countries should get down in good time to thinking in depth about the long-term guidelines which should be adopted to govern their relations with the developing countries and that by thinking about this matter they should be able to abandon their hitherto essentially defensive attitude. It was, however, recognized that—as argued by the Community—the successful conclusion of the CIEC had priority for the time being.

2322. The OECD working party on shipbuilding met in Paris on 27 and 28 October. The main feature of the meeting was a statement defining the attitude of the Community and its Member States towards the present crisis in the shipbuilding industry. The meeting thus clarified the positions of those attending. It was decided that a restricted meeting would be held in Tokyo in November followed by an enlarged meeting in Paris on 6 and 7 December.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Consultive Group of Eighteen

2323. The Consultive Group of Eighteen, set up a year ago to enable the Director-General of the GATT to hold informal discussions with the main Contracting Parties on matters of current concern, met in Geneva on 25 and 26 October.

The survey of the world economic situation provided an opportunity for the US representative to show reasonable optimism about the recovery—providing that there was no new rise in oil prices to aggravate inflationary strains—and for the EEC representative to bring up factors of uncertainty (inflation, unemployment, low level of investment) which explain why not all countries are benefiting uniformly from the recovery.

The Australian representative, speaking of international trade in agricultural products, considered that in this sphere the GATT had failed, but the other delegates moderated this judgment. The EEC representative in particular and the Swiss and Japanese representatives, stressed that problems in agriculture were specific to this field and realistic solutions were called for.

On the subject of trade measures motivated by payments difficulties, the US delegate returned to his proposals for tightening disciplines (notifications and systematic examination) without, however, pressing for an immediate discussion. In connection with this matter the subject of strengthening cooperation between the GATT and the IMF—the latter being best able to assess the overall balance of payments situations of the countries—was raised.

On the matter of the GATT's role in the international trading system, the developing countries' representatives in particular, but also the US delegate, thought that it was necessary to im-

¹ Point 2251.

prove the machinery for settling disputes (Articles XXII and XXIII of the General Agreement). The EEC representative, however, supported by the Canadian and Japanese delegates, considered that it would at the very least be ill-advised and premature to attempt to modify the existing rules. An overall examination in due course of the machinery for monitoring and settling disputes envisaged under certain agreements on non-tariff measures in order to check that it was consistent with the current machinery of the General Agreement was not, however, ruled out.

The Director-General of the GATT, as Chairman of the Group, will report to the Council of Representatives and the Contracting Parties on the Group's activities during the past year.

United Nations

General Assembly

2324. On 15 October, during the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, the Commission representative made a statement on behalf of the Community before the Second Committee. The purpose of the statement was to present a synopsis, an overall view of the Community's activities in international relations. This was the first time that a Commission representative had taken part in a general debate within this Committee since the Assembly conferred the status of observer on the Community.

With respect to questions of trade, the statement alluded to certain criticisms made, for the most part, by the developing countries and pointed out that the Community did not share this negative assessment, being convinced that the way the Community, together with its neighbours, was organizing the economy of western Europe could contribute, and indeed was contributing, effectively to the development of the world economy and of world trade.

Like those who spoke before him, the Commission representative stressed that the entry into force and the first results of the Lomé Convention were one of this year's salient features of international economic cooperation. He highlighted the inventive solutions which the Convention had found for a number of problems, in particular the scheme for stabilizing export receipts ('Stabex') which illustrated the Community's concern on the question of commodities.

This new phase in relations between the industrialized countries and the Third World was by no means the Community's sole outside activity. Other examples included food aid, the generalized preferences scheme, trade promotion, new links with other countries (beyond the Mediterranean and the ACP)—commercial cooperation agreements with India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and agreements with Mexico, Canada etc.—not to mention the agreements or meetings with Latin American countries, the Euro-Arab dialogue and talks with the Community's major trading partners (the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand).

In conclusion, the spokesman referred to the Community as a young and dynamic force, which, despite the inevitable difficulties as it developed, could and must continue to play an intelligent and thus constructive role in the internal discussions and negotiations in which it took part.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

2325. The intergovernmental group on meat of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) met in Rome from 4 to 8 October. The meeting was mainly devoted to studying and adopting proposals relating to the international 'guidelines' concerning policies bearing on production, consumption and trade in the cattle and meat sector.

Bull. EC 10-1976

2326. On 12 October¹ Parliament adopted a Resolution on the preparation, proceedings and results of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which was held in Nairobi from 5 to 31 May.

Mediterranean countries

2327. October saw the conclusion of the negotiations with the Mashrek countries (Egypt, Jordan, Syria), thus marking another real step forward in the Community's overall approach to the Mediterranean countries. During the same month the procedures to be followed in the negotiations for the accession of Greece to the Community were defined and on 1 November the Interim Agreement with Portugal entered into force.

Greece

Accession negotiations

2328. Following the formal opening in July of the negotiations on the accession of Greece to the Community,² the first session at ministerial level was held on 19 October in Luxembourg. The meeting agreed the procedures which will be followed in the negotiations and the organization of future work.

2329. Under the authority conferred on it by the Council for that purpose, the Commission together with experts from the Greek Government, began a systematic examination of Community secondary legislation in order to determine the technical amendments that need to be made to some of the instruments to adapt them to the situation of the enlarged Communities following the accession of Greece. This examination began at the bilateral meetings which were held in the second half of October to study acts in the field of transport. It will continue without interruption in the months ahead with the study of the in-

struments relating to the other areas of Community activity; the Commission will present to the Council a report on the results of the examination of each separate field.

Portugal

2330. The EEC-Portugal Joint Committee held its sixth meeting in Lisbon on 28 and 29 October. At that meeting the Portuguese Delegation described the difficulties currently facing the Portuguese economy which are reflected in widening balance of payments deficits.

The Joint Committee noted with satisfaction that the Interim Agreement will enter into force on 1 November as scheduled. Lastly, it was agreed that pending the entry into force of the Additional Protocol and the Financial Protocol, for which the ratification procedures are now under way, the Joint Committee would consider what preparatory work had to be done with a view to implementing the cooperation provided for in those protocols.

2331. The Interim Agreement between the EEC and Portugal, signed on 20 September,³ entered into force on 1 November.⁴ This Agreement contains the trade provisions of the Additional Protocol and provides, in particular, for advance dismantling of EEC tariffs for Portuguese manufactured products and an increase in the tariff quotas for certain wines, and a slower rate for dismantling Portugal's tariffs for certain Community manufactured products.

Egypt

2332. The negotiations between the Community and Egypt on the conclusion of a new agree-

Point 2406.

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

Bull. EC 9-1976, points 1301 to 1304.

⁴ OJ L 273 of 6.10.1976.

ment under the overall Mediterranean approach continued in Brussels on 14 and 15 October. The two delegations reached agreement on all the negotiating points except for the duration of the Financial Protocol. The Egyptian Delegation asked the Community to reconsider its position on this point in order to take greater account of Egypt's economic and financial situation and to agree to the duration of the Protocol being fixed at five years from the date of its signature.

The Egyptian delegation was led by H.E. Mr Zakaria Tawfik Abdul Fattah, Minister of Trade Supply, and the Community delegation by Mr Claude Cheysson, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for development. On 15 October the heads of the two delegations initialled the future agreement. The delegations will submit the result of these negotiations to their respective authorities for final approval.

The purpose of the new agreement between the Community and Egypt is to establish wide-ranging cooperation with a view to contributing to Egypt's economic and social development and strengthening the relations between the two parties. For this purpose the agreement will provide for the implementation of provisions and measures in the fields of economic, financial and technical cooperation and trade. The two delegations agreed to put the trade provisions into force as soon as possible by the conclusion of an interim agreement.

Jordan

2333. The EEC-Jordan negotiations with a view to the conclusion of an agreement under the overall approach were completed on 28 October. As in the case of Egypt the two delegations reached agreement on all the negotiating points except for the duration of the Financial Protocol. The Jordanian Delegation asked the Community to reconsider its position on this point in order to take greater account of Jordan's economic and financial situation and to agree to the duration of

the Protocol being fixed at four years from the date of its signature or three years from the date of its ratification.

The heads of the two delegations initialled the future agreement on 28 October. They will submit the results of these negotiations to their respective authorities for final approval.

The purpose of the agreement concluded between the Community and Jordan—as with the other Mashrek countries—is to establish wide-ranging cooperation with a view to contributing to Jordan's economic and social development and strengthening the relations between the two parties. For this purpose the agreement provides for the implementation of certain provisions in the fields of economic, financial and technical cooperation and in trade, industry and agriculture. It was agreed to put the trade provisions into force as soon as possible by the conclusion of an interim agreement.

Syria

2334. The negotiations with Syria were concluded in Brussels on 29 October. The two delegations reached agreement on all the negotiating points except for the duration of the Financial Protocol. Syria—Like Jordan—asked that the duration of that Protocol should be fixed at four years from the date of its signature or three years from the date of its ratification.

On 29 October the heads of the two delegations initialled the text of the future agreement. The delegations will forward the results of these negotiations to their respective authorities for approval. Like the agreements with Egypt and Jordan, the agreement with Syria will provide for the implementation of provisions and measures in the fields of economic, financial and technical cooperation and in trade. The two delegations agreed to conclude an interim agreement to enable the trade provisions to be put into force rapidly.

65

Yugoslavia

2335. At its meeting on 18 and 19 October, the Council agreed to use the Community budget to cover the guarantee for the loans to be granted by the European Investment Bank to Yugoslavia pursuant to its Decision of 20 January.1

2336. On 12 October Parliament² delivered its Opinion on the cooperation agreements signed by the Community with Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.3

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

ACP-EEC Lomé Convention

The President of the Commission in Africa

2337. Between 28 September and 4 October, Mr. Ortoli, President of the Commission, visited four ACP States: Tanzania, Botswana (where his visit coincided with the tenth anniversary of independence), Zambia and Mauritius. During his visits he had talks with the heads of the four States on relations between the Community and African countries.

Applications for accession to the Convention

2338. The negotiations for the accession of Papua-New Guinea to the Lomé Convention opened in Brussels on 29 October. The Council had authorized the opening of these negotiations on 4 October following the decision in principle taken last July by the ACP-EEC Council4 in favour of this country's request.

Meeting of the Presidents of the ACP and EEC Councils

The President of the ACP Council of Ministers, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Prime Minister of Fiji, and the President of the Council of the European Communities, Mr Max Van der Stoel, accompanied by Mr Claude Cheysson, Member of the Commission, met in Brussels on 20 and 21 October. This meeting had been organized following a special resolution adopted in July by the first Council of ACP-EEC Ministers and its purpose was to clarify certain problems in the application of the Lomé Convention in the commercial field.

The talks concentrated on access to the European market for certain ACP products: bananas, groundnut oil cakes, beef and veal, sugar and vegetable oil. Progress was made on all these questions, especially as regards the special import rules for beef and veal from certain ACP countries and fixing the price of ACP sugar. The possibility of selling the European food surpluses to the ACP States at favourable conditions was also considered.

The two presidents agreed that the next ACP-EEC Council of Ministers meeting should be held in Fiji in April 1977.

Visit of President Senghor to the Commission

2340. Mr Leopold Sedar Senghor, President of Senegal, visited Belgium and took part on 28 October in a working meeting of the Commission during which President Ortoli spoke in particular of the EEC's activities under the Lomé Convention and in general about EEC relations with the Third World. Mr Senghor paid tribute to the Community's work and stressed certain problems

Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2329.

Point 2408.

Bull. EC 1-1976, points 1301 to 1311. Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2347.

which preoccupied his country: the administration of the system of preferences and sales contracts for certain Senegalese export products.

During this visit, Mr Ousmane Sek, Minister for the Plan, and Mr Cheysson signed two financing agreements on the first projects in Senegal under the fourth EDF, involving an amount of 10.7 million units of account, to finance the extension of cotton-growing and the promotion of groundnut production.

Stabilization of export earnings

2341. On 21 October the Commission and the Central African Republic signed a transfer agreement, involving an amount of 353 108 EUA, to compensate for the fall in export earnings from coffee in that country in 1975. The transfers effected under the system of stabilization of export earnings in 1975—twenty-five tranfers concerning seventeen ACP States—now total 72 137 562 EUA. The Stabex¹ system was first implemented on 8 July when twenty-four transfer agreements between the Commission and the ACP States were signed.

European Development Fund

New financing decisions

2342. After obtaining favourable opinions from the EDF Committee, in October the Commission took fourteen new financing decisions involving grants from the fourth EDF and relating to the following projects:

Tanzania: Determination of the set-up of a canvas mill (550 000 EUA)

Sudan: Feasibility study on the manufacture of alcohol, bakery yeast and animal feedingstuffs (114 000 EUA)

Preliminary investigation into the prospects and possibility of setting up pulp and paper production industry (30 000 EUA)

Technical assistance and feasibility studies programme for the development of the building materials industry; part 1 (200 000 EUA)

Economic and technical study of the Kadugli-Talodi road (300 000 EUA)

All ACP: Community programme for the participation of the ACP in international trade events, Dakar Fair (483 000 EUA)

Gambia: Provision of agricultural supplies and equipment (982 000 EUA)

Senegal: Study of the Tambacounda-Kédougou road, Dianké-Makam-Kédougou section (460 000 EUA)

Guyana: Overall feasibility study on the technical, Commercial and socio-economic aspects of a project concerning a fisheries port complex (140 000 EUA)

Rwanda: Construction and equipment of the Butaré Faculty of Medicine (1 520 000 EUA)

Sierra Leone: Equipment of hospitals, dispensaries and health centres (2 150 000 EUA)

Upper Volta: Development of land downstream from rural dams (Phase II) (1778 000 EUA)

Mali: Development of fisheries (Phase II) (4 828 000 EUA)

Somalia: Improvement and asphalting of the Golwein-Gelib road (19 652 000 EUA)

The financing of this important project, estimated at a total cost of more than 39 million EUA, will be borne jointly by the EDF and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

These new decisions bring the total commitments entered into under the fourth EDF to 290 045 000 EUA.

¹ Bull. 7/8-1976, points 1401 to 1406.

Other countries

2343. The main events in relations with nonmember countries in October were the sixmonthly round of high-level consultations with the United States, talks with Japanese industrialists, meetings of two Joint Committees and the agreement reached at the ministerial meeting in the Hague on 30 October concerning Community fisheries policy. This agreement directly affects a number of non-member countries, with which the Commission has been instructed to open negotiations.

Industrialized countries

United States

2344. The thirteenth of the high-level sixmonthly consultation meetings between the Commission and the US Government was held in Washington on 21 and 22 October. The Commission delegation was led by Mr Gundelach and the United States Delegation by Mr W. Rogers, Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs.

The talks were mainly concerned with the multilateral trade negotiations under the GATT (Tokyo Round), the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the 'North-South Dialogue' and various bilateral problems, including those concerning steel.

With regard to the Tokyo Round the two delegations agreed to stress the need for substantial progress in 1977, both in order to avoid 'protectionist' pressures in the United States and to restore confidence in the international trading system.

The United States welcomed the cooperation which had been established with the Community at the Law of the Sea Conference. The US delegation stated that it was in favour of the principle of the future convention being signed by the Community as a body.

On the subject of the North-South Dialogue, the United States delegation dwelt upon the need for cohesion within the Group of 8 (industrialized countries) and stressed that the success of the Conference, at ministerial level, was not to be obtained at the cost of abandoning principles. The Commission delegation confirmed the need for close contacts during the coming weeks.

Among the bilateral problems discussed at this meeting the most important was that involving the steel industry. The Commission representatives highlighted the serious difficulties encountered by Community industry, the rapid exhaustion of the six-monthly quotas for exports of special steels to the United States (and the fact that these same products were imported from the United States at abnormally low prices) and the concern caused by the legal action brought by the US Steel Corporation concerning VAT. The United States delegation suggested early bilateral consultations to deal with the steel problem as a whole; this proposal was accepted by the Commission delegation.

Japan

2345. Mr Doko, President of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), accompanied by a large delegation of Japanese industrialists, visited the Commission on 26 October. The delegation was received by President Ortoli and Mr Gundelach. The Commission expressed serious concern at the ever-growing imbalance in trade between the Community and Japan and at the concentration of Japanese exports to the EEC in certain sectors such as steel, cars, electronics and ball bearings. The need to achieve a balanced reduction in the production capacity of the shipbuilding sector in Japan and Europe was also emphasized.

Points 1501 to 1505.

Mr Doko acknowledged that it was up to both parties to seek solutions to these problems with a view to achieving improved balance of trade.

2346. A Commission delegation held talks in Tokyo on 25 and 26 October in preparation for the meeting of the ECSC-Japan group due to take place on 11 and 12 November in Brussels. In the course of these discussions the Commission delegation attempted to establish the facts of the problems arising from the increase in Community imports of Japanese steel particularly during the second quarter of 1976.

Developing countries in Asia and Latin America

Iran

2347. At its meeting on 18 and 19 October the Council agreed upon the nature of the agreement to be sought with Iran, namely an outline economic and trade cooperation agreement, in line with the approach advocated by the Commission.

India

2348. The fourth meeting of the Joint Committee set up by the Commercial Cooperation Agreement concluded between the Community and India took place in Brussels on 5 and 6 November. Reviewing the various areas in which the two parties have endeavoured to establish commercial cooperation within the spirit of the Agreement, the Commission expressed satisfaction at the tangible results already obtained, particularly in the leather and feedingstuffs sectors.

The Joint Committee adopted a recommendation to the effect that cooperation project should be prepared jointly. For this purpose a mission of Community experts will be visiting India at the beginning of 1977 in order to identify the sectors in which fruitful trade cooperation might be de-

veloped on the basis of the existing complementarity of resources and requirements.

Sri Lanka

2349. The inaugural meeting of the Joint Committee of the EEC-Sri Lanka Agreement was held in Brussels on 11 and 12 October. The Committee adopted its rules of procedure and its programme of work and devoted particular attention to the action that should be taken in order to encourage cooperation for trade purposes between trade and industry in the Community and in Sri Lanka; in this connection a sub-committee would be given the task of exploring the various possibilities, taking particular account of the trade promotion measures already taken or encouraged by the Commission's departments.

Bangladesh

2350. The Commercial Cooperation Agreement negotiated between the European Economic Community and Bangladesh was signed on 19 October in Luxembourg. After the ceremony one of the signatories for Bangladesh, Mr M.N. Huda, Member of the President's Council of Advisers, with responsibility for trade and planning, and Mr F.-X. Ortoli, President of the Commission, surveyed the problems arising in relations between the Community and Bangladesh and the solutions which the new Agreement could provide.

4. Institutions and organs of the Communities

European Parliament

European Parliament

Part-session in Strasbourg from 11 to 15 October

2401. The European Parliament assembled at its traditional venue in Strasbourg for the last time before the spring. The next part-sessions are to be held in Luxembourg, since the new building of the Maison de l'Europe in Strasbourg will not be ready until the opening sittings of the next session in March 1977 and the old one has to be pulled down for structural reasons.

This part-session was dominated by the debate on the milk market. Other issues discussed were the problems connected with the law of the sea, détente in Europe, the UNCTAD Conference and Agreements with the Maghreb countries, the situation of women in the developing countries, safeguarding fundamental rights in the Community, further action to protect birds and numerous technical matters in connection with harmonizing laws and administrative provisions. The House also considered a number of amendments to its rules of procedure.¹

Agriculture

Action to restore balance on the milk market (14 october)

2402. Parliament approved, with reservations, the Commission's proposal for a Regulation introducting a system of premiums for the nonmarketing of milk and for the conversion of dairy cow herds. The House also called for structural improvement in dairy farming by steps to encourage the slaughtering process which had been forced on many farmers by this year's drought; it urged that a close watch be kept on developments on the beef and veal market and

that the income aspect of premiums be carefully considered.

The proposal is part of the 1977-80 action programme for the progressive achievement of balance in the milk market.²

The introduction of a levy on vegetable and marine oils and fats (Community goods and imported goods), however, did not gain majority support.

In view of the disastrous effects of the drought, especially in respect of cattle fodder supplies, Parliament generally considered that the Commission had submitted its proposals at the wrong time. Measures could not be put into practical form until the extent of the damage done by the drought had been accurately assessed.

The House also called for farmers in mountain areas and other less-favoured regions to be exempted from the levy on producers.

By the final vote a total of twenty-one amendments had been tabled to the Resolution motion presented by the Committee on Agriculture (report of Mr de Koning (C-D/NL), most of which, however, did not secure the necessary majority.

Skimmed-milk powder in animal feed (15 October)

2403. Referring to the difficulties for the feedingstuffs industry and trade and the rise in con-

¹ This report was prepared from the German edition of 'Information' published by Parliament's Secretariat.

The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 259 of 4.11.1976 and the report of proceedings is contained in OJ Annex No 207.

The political group and nationality of members are indicated in brackets by the following abbreviations: C-D = Christian Democrats, S = Socialists, L = Liberals and Allies, 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.

² Supplement 10/76 — Bull. EC.

sumer prices, Parliament urged the Council and Commission to terminate the compulsory addition of skimmed-milk powder to animal feeds by the deadline of 31 October 1976. The motion was tabled by several German members of the Socialist Group (Mr Gerlach, Mr Adams, Mr Behrendt, Mr Flämig. Mr Lange, Mr Lautenschlager, Mr Willi Müller, Mr Seefeld, Mr Suck) and Mr Hansen (L/D), and was introduced by Mr Gerlach, who referred back to the previous day's debate concerning new arrangements for the milk market. Though rejected by the Christian Democrats, the motion secured the necessary majority.

Storage of products bought in by intervention agencies (15 October)

2404. A Commission proposal for a Regulation on the storage of products bought in by intervention agencies was approved without debate. The proposal would enable intervention agencies to store goods outside the territory of a Member State when available storage capacity was fully employed. But the House made a reservation to the effect that its assent did not imply that it approved of the policy which necessitated such arrangements.

External relations

200-mile zones

(14 October)

2405. After a lively debate on current problems concerning the law of the sea, Parliament called upon the Council to agree to an extension of the Community Member States' fishing zones to 200 miles on 1 January 1977. The debate was on a motion tabled under urgent procedure by Mr *Prescott* (UK) on behalf of the Socialist Group.

Iceland, Norway, the USA and Canada intend to extend their fishing zones unilaterally to 200 miles early in 1977. No agreement has been reached at the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea in respect of extending economic and fishing zones. Mr Prescott contended that unless the Community acted immediately itself unilateral extension by certain States would have immeasurable effects on Community fishing. Parliament therefore urged the Commission to initiate talks with non-Community countries on fishing agreements and start negotiations with Iceland at once. The House also called for speedy agreement on a new Community fishing policy based on principles similar to those of the common agricultural policy.

The big bone of contention in the debate was the demand by the British and Irish members for Community rules on fishing quotas for each Member State, limits on fishing by a system of licensing agreements, reserved fishing grounds and reserves for inshore fishing up to 50 miles out, which should be controlled by the coastal States concerned 'in order to conserve fish stocks'.

The final vote saw narrow majorities against the detailed points raised by the British and Irish members in all the Groups. The closest result was obtained only after a second call.

UNCTAD IV (12 October)

2406. On the basis of an own-initiative report by its Committee on Development and Cooperation and, after an exhaustive debate on the fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Parliament came to the following conclusions in a unanimously passed Resolution: for all its faults, UNCTAD was still the world's major forum for discussing questions relating to

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Bull. EC 5-1976, points 1201 to 1213.

development; the Community should therefore not be limited to an observer's role there.

Parliament recognized the need for a major change in relations between developing and industrialized countries and urged the Council to accept the principle of a 'new world economic order' based on rights and obligations of developing and industrialized countries alike and allowing for the growing interdependence of the various factors which shape the world economy. The House called for strenuous efforts to implement the basic concepts adopted in Nairobi, such as the integrated programme for commodities and the transfer of technologies. An urgent study should be made of the developing countries' debt burden and an operation should be set up and criteria determined for the poorest of the developing countries.

The lack of unity among the Nine at Nairobi was repeatedly criticized. The rapporteur, Mr Deschamps (C-D/B) complained that the Nine had not tried hard enough to reconcile their viewpoints and urged them to make a more active effort in time for the next UNCTAD Conference. UNCTAD was not just an event organized for the world at large, meant to attract attention every four years; it must be an uninterrupted forum for expressing the needs and aspirations of the developing countries.

In the same vein, Lord Walston (S/UK) urged the Member States to keep a close watch on the problems of the developing countries. This was the best way to prepare for the next UNCTAD Conference and despite the Community's own economic difficulties, which were relatively slight compared with those of the developing countries, accomplish more.

Mr Boano (C-D/I) particularly wanted to see existing inequitable structures eliminated by a new world economic order. Mr Berkhouwer (NL) summed up the principles of the Liberals to the effect that the concept of interdependence must everywhere supersede the concept of confrontation. The development must be from dependence

towards independence and interdependence. He called for comprehensive measures to improve credit facilities for the poorest of the developing countries.

With the exception of the Communists, speakers for the other Groups endorsed the principles of the Resolution. The Communist Group criticized the exaggerated expectations set on Nairobi, which could not materialize in view of the structural realities of dependence.

Generalized preferences (14 October)

2407. Parliament welcomed the Commission's proposal for an overall increase of 39% in the generalized preferences for 1977. This was in the spirit of the Nairobi Resolution concerning manufactured goods. But customs preferences covered only a quarter of all imports from developing countries.

The House felt that further improvements in favour of agricultural produce were desirable, as were measures which would broaden the use of preferences by the developing countries. On this point, the House strongly recommended that an information agency be set up.

Maghreb (12 October)

2408. Parliament welcomed the new Cooperation Agreements with the three Maghreb countires, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco,² as a decisive step towards an overall Mediterranean policy.

In its Resolution, the House described the Agreements as a successful example for a pattern of relations between developed and developing countries.

Bull. EC 6-1976, points 1501 to 1508.

Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2332.

Parliament's only reservation was that any possible harmful effects to certain regions of the Community—the Meditterranean coastal regions which produce competing products—must be compensated by appropriate measures.

The House also expressed its concern over the consequences for those Meditterranean countries which might become Member States; preferences granted to them should not be eroded by those accorded to the Maghreb countries.

Various members of the Committee on Budgets called for direct application of the conciliation procedure between the Council and Parliament on the question of including in the budget special loans to the Maghreb countries. The House approved an additional clause underlining this request to the Council.

Détente in Europe: preparations for the Belgrade Conference (13 October)

2409. A question from the Political Affairs Committee led to a debate on the progress made towards détente since Helsinki. Speakers took their cue from next year's Conference in Belgrade and preparation for it by the western countries, particularly the Community.

The Council President, Mr Brinkhorst, was cautiously optimistic in his answer. At present he could see no real signs of willingness on the part of the East to ease tension in a way that was meaningful for the West. But détente always has its ups-and-downs and must therefore be viewed as a long-term process.

Parliament condemns violation of human rights in Chile (15 October)

2410. Parliament strongly deplored the new wave of repression in Chile. The House con-

demned outright those responsible 'for the murder in Washington of former Chilean Defence Minister Orlando Letelier'. The new wave of repression had recently led to the expulsion of Jaime Castillo, Deputy Chairman of the Chilean Partido Democratica Cristiana and director of the illegal publication 'Politica y Spiritu'. Parliament expressed its alarm at the increase in the number of attacks on Chilean refugees abroad.

The Resolution motion was tabled jointly by the Chairmen of the Christian Democrat and Socialist Groups, Mr Alfred Bertrand (C-D/B) and Mr Ludwig Fellermaier (S/D). It will be addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Council of the European Communities.

The Council, which was meeting the same day to discuss political cooperation, was urged to make every effort in its diplomatic relations and at the United Nations to promote effective protection of fundamental human rights and facilitate the setting-up of international committees of enquiry in those countries where human rights were being violated.

Question time (13 October)

How is the Council preparing for the direct elections?

2411. Answering a question from Mr Caro (C-D/F), the Council President., Mr Brinkhorst said that the Member States first had to ratify the instruments concerning the elections and enact appropriate electoral legislation. In the draft budget for 1977, 400 000 u.a. had been provided for subsequent Community measures. On other details, such as whether these appropriations were to be used for common action or for subsidizing Member States' measures, Mr Brinkhorst would say no more.

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Parliament's seat

2412. If he were a member of Parliament, said Mr Brinkhorst, the Council President, he would choose as its seat the place where power was wielded. With this sibylline remark, he countered a question from Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (S/UK) about the seat of the directly elected European Parliament. Mr Brinkhorst told him that it was certainly not a matter for the Council to produce a study, as hinted by Sir Geoffrey, on the pros and cons of Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg. It was for the Member States alone to decide this issue. In view of its size (410 members compared with 198 now), the directly elected Parliament would have to settle this question with a greater emphasis on suitable accomodation.

Information campaign

2413. Answering a question from Mr Lenihan (DEP/IRL) about financing publicity, Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza of the Commission, followed by several other speakers, stressed the need to keep the public informed, where appropriate, via political activists. Mr Lenihan spoke of allocating Community resources to political parties for publicizing the direct election campaigns. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza confirmed Mr Brinkhorst's statement concerning the appropriations provided in the 1977 budget. The Commission had to discuss their use with Parliament. It was for Parliament to determine how they were to be allocated between the political groups.

Debate on request: Monetary compensatory amounts

2414. On a motion by the Group of European Progressive Democrats, a debate was held following Question Time on the problem of monetary compensatory amounts under the common agricultural policy. What prompted the debate was the depreciation of sterling and the devaluation

of the Irish green pound used in the common agricultural policy.

The debate, which dealt in detail with the complicated system of Community compensatory amounts and its effects on consumer prices in the countries concerned, followed a question by Mr Yeats (DEP/IRL). He had contended that monetary compensatory amounts had reached an intolerably high level and that the British and Irish green pounds should be devalued immediately. Mr Hughes (S) rejected this step for the United Kingdom, pointing to the harmful effects it would probably have for the consumer.

Women in the Community (13 October)

2415. In reply to questions from Mrs Kruchow (L/DK) concerning International Women's Year and the situation of women in the Community, Vice-President Hillery of the Commission assured the House that the Commission would to everything in its power to improve the circumstances of women in the Third World, and particularly in the Lomé Convention countries. However, the Community should take its cue from the projects of the countries concerned for the emancipation of their women.

Dr Hillery then gave an account of measures being taken at Community level. The Directives on equal pay for men and women and equal opportunities of employment fitted into the overall Community concept of support for working women and women seeking employment; through concrete legislation the Community was endeavouring to bring about a change in the traditional attitudes towards women and to boost their confidence in themselves.

During a brief debate, Lord Castle (S/UK) reproved Mrs Kruchow for presenting an out-dated image of women, when she suggested a special information campaign for them in connection with the direct elections to Parliament.

The Friuli earthquake (12 October)

2416. Parliament made an urgent appeal to all the Member States to make sufficient mobile or prefabricated homes available as soon as possible to the inhabitants remaining in Friuli. As many members pointed out, the approaching winter and the latest tremors in the already devastated region made the needs all the more pressing.

Fundamental rights (12 October)

2417. As European law develops, the basic rights embodied in the constitutions of the Member States must not be infringed. This principle was confirmed by Parliament as it gave its opinion on a Commission report concerning the protection of fundamental rights¹ in Community law. The House commended the Commission's contribution towards upholding due respect for fundamental rights in the Community order both in the exercise of its power to take decisions and submit proposals and in its role of guardian of the Treaties.

Concerning the latest developments, Parliament stated that the level of legal security in this specific area was now at least as high as that which would be provided by the adoption of a charter of fundamental rights. It was emphasized, however, that such a charter retained its full validity in the context of the European Union. On this point, the House confirmed its claim that such a document should be drawn up by parliamentary representatives.

The House endorsed the Commission's proposal to confirm the principle of respect for the fundamental rights in the Community in a solemn declaration by Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

Common market

Simplifying customs procedures (13 October)

2418. Referring to the political, economic and psychological significance of measures aimed at improving the operation of the customs union and looking forward to 1 July 1977, from which date the bulk of trade between the nine Community countries and the seven EFTA countries would be duty free, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs asked the Council and Commission for information on how far the work programme approved by the Council for simplifying customs procedures had progressed.

The questioner, Mr Schwörer (C-D/D) referred to the unending complaints from the business world about unduly lengthy customs procedures and complicated rules of origin. It appeared that little progress was being made in the practical application of the simplification programme. Twenty years after the signing of the EEC Treaty, customs formalities had proliferated to such an extent that the situation was now intolerable. The adverse psychological effects were not to be underestimated.

Council President *Brinkhorst* pointed out that harmonization and streamlining on the customs front was to be regarded as a long-term campaign. Some progress, such as the elimination of certain formalities, had already been achieved. He stressed the need to sustain the efforts already made.

Mr Gundelach, Member of the Commission, corroborated Mr Brinkhorst's statements by pointing to the latest simplifications in tariff subheadins for agricultural products, the rules of origin in trade with EFTA countries and the standardization of customs documents. Of interest to the ordinary citizen, was the duty-free consignment

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of non-commercial goods up to a value of 40 u.a. Some twelve further proposals were now on the Council's desk for approval.

Harmonization of indirect taxes on transaction in securities (15 October)

2419. With some reservation. **Parliament** approved the proposal for a Directive concerning indirect taxes on transactions in securities.1

The Resolution emphasized that, in view of the adverse effects of these taxes on the efficient management of the securities market and their relatively low tax yield in comparison with overall revenue from taxation, abolition of these taxes must remain the final aim. This statement found no support among the Socialist Group which felt that the argument that a tax had a relatively low yield was no reason for abolishing it. The Group wanted this reservation to be deleted from the Resolution but failed to convince the House.

Approval of the extension of the first stage of harmonizing taxes on cigarettes (15 October)

2420. Wit some reservation, Parliament agreed that the first stage of harmonizing consumer taxes on cigarettes could be extended until 31 December 1977.2 The duration of the second stage should be correspondingly shortened from 3¹2 to 3 years, so that the third stage could begin on 1 January 1981.

Energy policy (15 October)

2421. Parliament called for a comprehensive energy-saving strategy and practical proposals to reduce the Community's dependence on imports.

The Commission was urged to work out a suitable plan.

The House was giving its Opinion on the first periodical report from the Commission on the Community action programme for the rational use of energy and draft recommendations of the Council. It was noted that each Member State had adopted a pragmatic and diversified approach which reflected a lack of clear decisions at Community level. Parliament feared that in the absence of a comprehensive Community strategy for the rational use of energy, a quickening of economic growth might lead to disproportionate growth in energy consumption.

Transport (15 October)

Reference tariffs

2422. Parliament approved the Commissions's proposal for a Regulation on a system of reference tariffs for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.3 This involves establishing non-obligatory reference tariffs after attempts so far to introduce a mandatory bracket system throughout the Community have failed.

The rapporteur, Mr Schwabe (S/D) describe the proposal as an attempt to make progress in the common transport policy but had to admit that it would not be supported by all concerned.

Third party motor vehicle insurance

2423. On behalf of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Mr Schwörer (C-D/D) asked the Commission about the scope for harmonizing conditions governing civil liability

Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2115. Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2133. Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2284.

(premiums to cover personal injury and material damage). The questioner referred to the constant complaints about the different arrangements in individual States, which the steadily growing tourist business especially had to bear with. The Committee felt that homogeneous conditions in this sector must be created throughout the Community.

Mr Guazzaroni, Member of the Commission, explained that Commission staff had examined with government experts in April this year what needed to be done by way of harmonizing legal provisions. Difficulties had arisen, however. He assured the House that the Commission would carry on working for harmonization. A motion for a resolution was referred to the responsible Committee for examination.

Improving air traffic control

2424. The tragic collision of two aircraft over Zagreb in Yugoslavia on 10 September, in which everyone on board was killed, prompted a joint question to the Commission from the Conservatives, Christian Democrats and Liberals. They called for optimum use of Eurocontrol and the navigation standards for air traffic.

Mr Guazzaroni, Member of the Commission, aid that this was a worldwide problem and could not be solved on a regional scale.

Carriage of perishable foodstuffs

2425. Parliament approved without a debate a Commission proposal for a Decision concerning the entry into force of the agreement on the international carriage of perishable foodstuffs and on the special equipment to be used (ATP). The Agreement was drawn up by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Protection of the environment (15 October)

Starlings and blackbirds for hunting?

2426. Mr Jahn (D), Mr Artzinger (D), Mr Burgbacher (D), Mr Van der Gun (NL), Mr Klepsch (D), Mr Springorum (D) and Mr Vandewiele (B) opposed extending the list of birds which may be hunted from 51 to 60; this list is part of a proposal for a Directive on bird protection which the Commission is now preparing. In an oral question on behalf of the Christian Democrat Group and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, they alerted the Commission to the consequences of the proposed Directive, whereby starlings, blackbirds, chaffinches, hedge larks and other birds would become legal prey.

On behalf of the questioners. Mr Jahn (C-D/D) reiterated Parliament's demands embodied in its Resolution on the preservation of birds, which were generally acknowledged to be realistic, namely: a general ban on trapping birds with nets; a shorter season for hunting migratory birds by other means; a general ban on he ill-treatment of captured birds; a strict ban on the importation into the Community of dead song birds and migratory birds and import controls in the case of live birds. And as positive steps for the protection of birds, he also called for the creation of bird sanctuaries, measures to preserve certain species, reserves where birds could multiply, and healthy environment.

Mr Jahn said it was incomprehensible that the list had been extended by the Commission. Some of these species were protected even in Italy where bird protectors were endeavouring to put an end to this senseless destruction. Over recent years, twelve species of birds has been exterminated in Europe. If this trend was not stopped, the ecological balance in Europe would be upset,

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2432.

since of the 408 species found in Europe, only 125 were increasing; the other 221 were dwindling from year to year.

For the Commission, Mr Guazzaroni pointed out that the definitive text of the draft Directive had still to be established. In many talks with hunting and bird protection associations and with scientists, the Commission had to gather the necessary information. The problem was certainly urgent, but because of its many aspects and the emotion it aroused, it needed the most careful scrutiny.

Protecting the Mediterranean from pollution (15 October)

2427. Parliament approved the Commission proposal that the Council sign the International Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Polllution and the Additional Protocol.¹ Parliament considered the Convention to be a major contribution towards providing comprehensive protection for the seas.

Consultation of Parliament

2428. A report by Mr Lautenschlager (S/D) dealt with the question of strengthening Parliament's powers in the Community's legislative procedures. In its Resolution, the House made it clear that before amending or withdrawing a proposal to the Council, the Commission had to obtain a further opinion from Parliament, if the Council had consulted the House on the original proposal.

Parliament considered that its rights under the Treaties subsisted until the proposal was adopted without amendments. Withdrawal of a proposal must be regarded an amendment, since it could sometimes have considerable political effects.

Part-session in Luxembourg from 25 to 27 October

First reading of 1977 draft budget

2429. Parliament took the view that the draft 1977 budget, as presented by the Council, was totally inadequate as a political instrument in the present critical situation. In its opinion this budget would not overcome unemployment and economic disparities. Furthermore, it was another example of the lack of balance in Community policy, since three quarters of it was devoted to a single sector—agricultural policy.

These were the fundamental charges levelled at the Council during Parliament's first reading of the budget in special session.² Parliament deplored the inadequacy of Community social policy and the Community's inability to draw up a coherent economic policy. The House stressed that the draft budget presented by the Council did not provide funds for financing new and major activities by the Community or to develop existing activities. Parliament was not prepared to accept economy as a justification for this sterile attitude, since savings in the insignificant total expenditure of the Community would have no effect on the inflation rate of any of the Member States and would only prevent the Community from taking an active part in attempts to solve the economic problems common to them all.

At the close of the three-day budget debate, Parliament amended numerous points in the Council's draft. These amendments and proposed modifications would raise the total draft budget to 9 283 million u.a. as compared with the 8 716 million u.a. proposed by the Council (including amendments to agricultural expenditure because of the drought) and the 9 287 million of

Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2235.

² The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are published in OJ C 272 of 17.11.1976, and the report of proceedings is contained in OJ Annex No 208.

the Commission's preliminary draft (payment appropriations). Parliament will have the last word on the amendments, subject to the restrictions imposed by its 'margin of manœuvre', when the second reading is held in December, when the budget will be finally adopted. Decisions on the proposed modifications will be made by the Council.

Parliament and the Council will now initiate the conciliation procedure by means of which they endeavour to reach agreement on the points of contention before the Council presents the amended draft.

Parliament had to vote on a total of 180 draft amendments and proposed modifications. They all referred to Section III—Commission, which covers Community policies. A 100-vote majority was needed.

In most cases Parliament restored the appropriations set out in the Commission's preliminary draft, while changing the emphasis in some other cases.¹

Parliament made new points of emphasis by making a sizeable increase in the appropriations for the Regional Fund and proposing 30 million u.a. for disaster aid. This money would be used to alleviate the consequences of disasters which occurred last year (the Friuli earthquake and the drought). Although one of Parliament's Resolutions described the Council's appropriations for the Social Fund as in no way sufficient to permit the Community to 'play a role in the fight against unemployement', several draft amendments presented by the Socialist Group, aimed at actually increasing the appropriations for the Social Fund, were rejected.

The other increases were related to the field of energy, research and industrial policy (including, in particular, basic research in the aviation sector and a number of energy projects) and food aid for the developing countries. The appropriation of 50 million u.a. to subsidize coal stockholding deserves special mention. No decision has been taken as yet on the method of financing.

Parliament adopted the final version of its own budget, which involves income and expenditure amounting to 65 762 497 u.a. The Council has no further say on that. Parliament amended its original estimate by some ten million u.a. because of a number of new factors, such as the decision on direct elections. This led Parliament to increase the appropriation for preparation of these elections by some four million u.a. Part of this sum—three million u.a.—will go into a fund specially set up for this purpose, from which it may be drawn as required. The remainder is earmarked for improving the technical infrastructure of the information service (radio and television studio, etc.). Mr Gerlach (S/D) voted against this budget for procedural reasons.

The debate was opened by Miss Flesch (L/L), rapporteur on the Parliament, Council and Court of Justice Sections. The Sections referring to the Council and the Court of Justice occasioned no significant observations or amendments worth mentioning.

The rapporteur on the Commission Section and on the budget as a whole, Lord *Bruce of Donington* (S/UK), explained the position of the Committee on Budgets.

The central point of his statement was that the Community budget must, under no circumstances, be regarded as an instrument of European economic policy with which such phenomena as unemployment and inflation could be combated. The portion of the Community's gross national product which it represented was so tiny that it had no effect on economic policy. Considerations of austerity, which had been expressed by some Member States, Lord Bruce said, were therefore quite misplaced. It was also a mistake to regard the financial contributions of the Member States as an added strain on their national budgets. These were in fact budget appropriations spent on political subjectors, the responsibility for

See also point 2482.

which and the financing of which had been transferred to the Community.

For these reasons the Committee on Budgets had called for the cuts made by the Council in the Agricultural Fund, Regional Fund and development and cooperation sectors in the main to be restored. The rapporteur once again pointed out that agricultural expenditure had been removed almost completely from parliamentary control. There had been protests in every budget debate over the way this expenditure was fitted into the budget. The Committee on Budgets was now preparing constructive proposals for modifications aimed at strengthening Parliamentary control, producing a greater balance in EAGGF expenditure, and improving expenditure estimates (agricultural prices).

The rapporteur made one of his main points at the end of his comments. He said that he believed that Parliament should apply its political weight first and foremost in those areas where it had effective powers, mainly on administrative expenditure. Administrative expenditure determined certain staff structures, and these in turn dictated the political scope for action.

In particular, Lord Bruce supported the detailed examination of the organization of the Commission departments. He was critical of the fact that no more than two hundred staff dealt with consumer and workers' matters. The whole Community was oriented towards production, and the production process did not necessarily operate in the interest of the peoples of Europe.

During the two-day debate on the budget, many speakers criticized the proportion of budget expenditure to be spent on agriculture in general, and the disproportion between price support and structural policy in particular. They complained that the Council's draft did not provide either for the financing of fresh, more extensive activities or for the development of activities which had already been begun. They would not accept economy as a justification, but quite bluntly described such an attitude as 'sterile'. The agricul-

tural policy's price mechanism, which swallowed up the lion's share of the budget, would only make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Mr Lange (D), spokesman for the Socialist Group, emphasized the demand for greater clarity in the budget, in spite of the undeniable progress which had been made. He urged the Council to reach an early decision on a uniform basis of assessment for value-added tax, which was an essential condition for the financing of the Community budget entirely from own resources. He also called upon the Council to make it possible for these arrangements to be enforced by 1 January 1978 at the latest, so that Parliament could fully exercise its responsibility to the people of Europe.

This matter was also raised by Mr Aigner (D) on behalf of the Christian Democrats. He pointed out that there was no reason why a harmonization of national activities should lead to a rise in the total expenditure. He rejected the argument that the Community budget was constantly rising, and called attention to the fall which could be seen if the share of the Community budget in total public expenditure in the nine Member States were considered: 1974 1.94%, 1975 1.92 %, 1976 probably below 1.9 %. This was a budget of stagnation. Mr Bangemann (D), spokesman for the Liberals, contested the rapporteur's remarks on the unbalanced staff structure of the Commission. Administrative departments dealing with industrial matters, or particularly competition, were bound to keep the interest of consumers and small businesses in mind. Mr Bangemann said that regional differences within the Community were not exclusively due to the scanty resources of the regional fund; the Member States themselves were very largely responsible. He called for special efforts to assist the European aeronautics industry.

The improvement of budgetary procedure and the problem of the freezing of appropriations were the main concerns of the previous year's rapporteur, Mr Cointat (DEP/F). He also said that his group endorsed the modifications recommended by the Committee on Budgets.

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Mr Shaw (C/UK) agreed, and also expressed the hope that direct elections to the European Parliament would give Parliament greater scope for translating its ideas on the development of the Community's policies into fact.

Mr Leonardi (COM/I) stated that his group would reject the budget. In justification, he said that the Community in its present form was becoming more and more incapable of meeting the real needs of the Member States. The budget was only one more reflection of this crisis situation, and made no provision for real change.

In the view of Mr Cheysson, the Member of the Commission responsible for budgetary matters, the budget was a forecasting instrument, an instrument for defining the different policies. It had to show all income and expenditure, as the Parliament requested. Recalling that in future loans raised by the Community will be entered in the budget, Mr Cheysson insisted that the budget was being made clearer, thus making Parliamentary control easier. He expressed satisfaction that greater use was being made of appropriations for commitment. It was thus possible to avoid including payment appropriations which could not be spent, solely in order to make a start on some project. This explained the low level of appropriations for the Social Fund as against the satisfactory volume of planned commitments.

Lastly, Mr Cheysson drew attention to the difficulties for the Commission caused by the new budgetary schedule, which made it impossible to obtain sufficiently precise estimates on agricultural matters, and meant that last minute changes had to be made.

The president of the Council, Mr Brinkhorst, replied in detail to the House's critical remarks. He told the rapporteur that although he could understand his concern at the cost of the agricultural policy, it was still an essential component of European integration. In the Council's view this would have to remain so.

Replying to criticism of the procedure for estimating agricultural expenditure, he said that the use of procedures to fix limits to expenditure was incompatible with the market organizations. The Council was, however, considering procedures which would ensure the necessary coordination between agricultural policy and budgetary policy.

In particular, he was optimistic that work on a uniform basis of assessment for value-added tax would be completed, and that a European Court of Auditors would be established.

In all thirty speakers took the floor.

Council

In October the Council held six meetings on agriculture, external affairs, energy, research and taxation matters.

409th meeting — Agriculture (Luxembourg, 4 and 5 October)

2430. President: Mr van der Stee, Netherlands Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Lardinois, Member.

Skimmed-milk powder: The Council examined a Commission proposal for the extension beyond 31 October of the compulsory purchase arrangements for skimmed milk powder. It agreed to take up the matter again at its next meeting on 25 October.¹

The green pound: The Council adopted the Regulation amending the exchange rate to be applied in agriculture for the Irish pound. No decision was taken on the United Kingdom green pound.²

Structural policy: The Council discussed various aspects of structural policy on the basis of a report on the proposal for adjusting the amounts

Point 2435.

² Point 2233.

laid down in the socio-structural Directives adopted in 1972. It agreed to the increase in the maximum volume of investment for pigmeat and in aid for the keeping of accounts.1

Beef and butter for Italy: The Council adopted the Regulations on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of frozen beef and butter held by the intervention agencies of other Member States.

The Council also discussed the proposal for a Regulation on the transitional common organization of the market in mutton and lamb and problems concerning fisheries.

410th meeting — Foreign affairs (Luxembourg, 18 and 19 October)

2431. President: Mr van der Stoel. Netherlands Foreign Minister.

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President, Mr Gundelach, Mr Cheysson, Members.

CIEC: The Council took stock of progress in connection with the Conference on International Economic Cooperation as the October session of the four Commissions started in Paris.2

Accession negotiations with Greece: The Council adopted the Community position for the first ministerial meeting of the accession negotiations with Greece held in Luxembourg on 19 October.³

Iran: The Council agreed on the nature of the agreement to be sought with Iran, i.e. an outline commercial and economic agreement in accordance with the approach advocated by the Commission.4

ACP: The Council prepared for the meeting to be held in Brussels on 20 October between its President and the President of the Council of Ministers of the ACP States.5

Fisheries policy: On the basis of the Commission Communication of 23 September, 6 the Council closely examined the problems confronting the Community in connection with the extension of fishing limits to 200 miles from the point of view of its future external fisheries policy and the related internal system. The Council agreed to continue its discussion on these problems before the end of the month in order to reach an agreement.7

Yugoslavia: The Council agreed to use the Community budget to cover the guarantee for the EIB loans to Yugoslavia granted in accordance with the Council decision of 20 January.8

Non-associated developing countries: In the context of financial and technical aid to developing countries not associated with the Community, the Council gave its agreement in principle to the commitment in 1976 of the 20 million u.a. appropriation entered in the budget, on the understanding that the exact allocation of this sum would be considered at the Council meeting on Development Cooperation scheduled for 8 November.9

Budget: The Council adopted a letter of amendment to the draft general budget for 1977 mainly dealing with appropriations relating to EAGGF Guarantee Section. 10

Uniform passport: The Council briefly examined questions still outstanding in connection with the introduction of a uniform passport. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue this examination so that a conclusion could be reached as quickly as possible.

Point 2242.

Point 2310. Point 2328.

Point 2347.

Point 2339.

Bull. EC 9-1976, points 1201 to 1210.

Point 2227.

Point 2335.

Point 2311.

Bull. EC 9-1976, point 2467.

Council

411th meeting — Energy (Luxembourg, 19 October)

2432. President: Mr Lubbers, Netherlands Minister of Economic Affairs.

From the Commission: Mr Simonet, Vice-President.

Community energy policy: The Council held a wide-ranging discussion on the Commission Communication concerning Community energy policy and on the memoranda submitted by certain delegations. The Council felt that the Commission Communication constituted a good basic guide for future work and agreed to decide on the various matters as their technical preparation progressed.¹

412th meeting — Research (Luxembourg, 21 October)

2433. President: Mr Brinkhorst, Netherlands State Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

From the Commission: Mr Brunner, Member.

Multiannual Research Programme: The Council examined the Commission proposals on the Multiannual Research Programme of the Joint Research Centre for 1977-80, and on the inclusion of the JET project in the five-year fusion programme. It decided to finalize its decisions on the proposed programme at its next meeting on research matters planned for 18 November. As regards the JET projects, the Council confirmed commitment to its development as a Community project and reached agreement on the main principles of a number of the project's important aspects such as financing, legal form and Community-style staffing arrangements.²

Conditions of employment: The Council adopted the Regulation on the new conditions of employment for staff of the Joint Research Centre paid from research and investment appropriations.² 413th meeting — Taxation matters (Luxembourg, 21 October)

2433. President: Mr Duisenberg, Netherlands Finance Minister.

From the Commission: Mr Guazzaroni, Member.

VAT: The Council had a broad exchange of views on the proposal for a sixth Directive on VAT. Overall agreement was reached on most of the questions discussed.³

414th meeting — Agriculture (Luxembourg, 25 and 26 October)

2435. President: Mr van der Stee, Netherlands Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President, Mr Lardinois, Mr Cheysson, Members.

Ministers of Agriculture and Finance

The Council conducted a general discussion on problems arising from developments in the monetary situation and affecting the long-term functioning of the system of monetary compensatory amounts.*

Ministers of Agriculture

Milk market: The Council conducted a general debate on the milk products sector, in particular in the light of the 1977-80 action programme for the progressive achievement of balance in the milk market.⁵

Point 2265.

Point 2253.

Point 2118.

Point 1108.

⁵ Point 2230.

Skimmed-milk powder: The Council agreed not to extend beyond 31 October the Regulation on the compulsory purchase of skimmed milk powder.¹

The rest of the Council's discussions centred mainly on the Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources² and the wine sector.³

Commission

Internal organization

2436. Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, with special responsibility for external relations, is unable to carry out his duties during October and November because of heart trouble. The Commission has decided that Mr Finn Olav Gundelach will take over from Sir Christopher in the field of external relations during his absence.

Activities

2437. The Commission held four meetings in October. The main subjects of discussion and concern at these meetings were the Community's economic situation, the repercussions of exchange rate fluctuations on the agricultural market, the situation in the steel industry and budgetary problems.

The Community's economic situation: The Commission adopted the Annual Report to the Council on the Economic Situation in the Community.⁴ The Commission found that the main problems at present are as follows: the recovery is running out of steam, unemployment rates are still high and prices rising in several Member States and the Community's balance of payments has deteriorated. This situation has recently prompted some Member States to take strong protective measures.

As for the future, the Commission is expecting moderate expansion in 1977. It recommends economic policy guidelines for each Member State, the main points being cautious budgetary policies, active employment policies and emphasis on structural measures, particularly in the regions, and also calls on both sides of industry to give more consideration to the general economic situation when formulating their demands.

The economic situation in Italy: The Commission held a wide-ranging discussion on the economic situation in Italy following the Italian Government's decision to reintroduce a surcharge on purchases of foreign currencies.⁵ This charge was first introduced at the beginning of October for fifteen days, and later restored at a lower rate (7% instead of 10%).

The Commission expressed reservations about such a partial unilateral measure; it called upon the Italian Government to lose no time in taking the supplementary economic measures that it considered indispensable for improving Italy's situation; it confirmed its desire to follow very closely the evolution of the Italian situation, particularly the consequences of the special surcharge. The Commission considers that this surcharge should be discontinued as soon as the situation makes this possible.

The Italian measure was taken under Article 109 of the EEC Treaty, which permits such measures as a precaution in a sudden crisis. The Commission reserves the right to take steps in due course to bring the measure into line with Community principles, as it has already done in similar case.

Compensatory monetary amounts: The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council on guidelines for revising the system of monetary compensatory amounts currently applied to trade

¹ Point 2239.

Points 1501 to 1505.

³ Point 2238.

Point 2201.

⁵ Point 2204.

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in the main agricultural products to compensate for fluctuations in exchange rates. It plans a system that will permit regular review and adjustment of monetary compensatory amounts (and, consequently of 'green' currencies), so as to avoid not only the persistence of given situations for an indefinite length of time, but also unduly abrupt changes which could have adverse economic effects. These guidelines will be discussed at a special Council meeting, with the participation of Agricultural and Finance Ministers.

Restoring balance on the milk market: The Commission approved proposals to the Council for legal instruments to implement the action programme for restoring balance on the milk marked adopted last July.² The Commission proposes that the coresponsibility levy on milk production should not be applied until the next milk year (i.e. from 1 April 1977), to allow for the effects of this summer's drought. It proposes to lay down a rate of 2.5 % for this levy.

Food aid: The Commission adopted its proposal for a programme of food aid in cereals for 1977.³ The programme covers the 720 000 tonnes of cereals fixed by the Council in the draft budget. The Commission, however, pointed out that it hopes this quantity will be increase to over a million tonnes. The proposed allocation concentrates aid on the poorest of the developing countries, or on those facing exceptional difficulties, and on the major international aid organizations.

Steel: The Commission Communication on problems in the steel industry⁴ was given a second reading. The Communication, adopted in July at the first reading, had served as the basis for exhaustive discussions with the Governments of the Member States, the steel industry employers' organizations and the trade unions. The Commission took account of the remarks and suggestions gleaned during these discussions to clarify certain passages in its communication, without modifying the main elements. Basically, the issue is to provide for measures that may be taken rapidly to prevent the situation degenerating when crisis threatens or actually occurs. The provisions are necessary because the procedures provided for in the ECSC Treaty to deal with the situation of manifest crisis are cumbersome and complicated.

An explanatory annex, containing the concrete elements of the Commission's proposed new guidelines on common steel policy, was added to the document.

When the ECSC Consultative Committee has been consulted, the Commission's amended Communication will again be discussed with the Member States' Governments. The Commission will then definitively adopt its position, as planned in the work programme it laid down in July.

Data processing: The Commission adopted a proposal for a four-year data processing programme (1978-1981).⁵ This proposal follows two other Communications presented over the past two years; the Council has already taken a decision on the first of these. The Council had approved the principle of a Community programme in July 1974; the programme includes general action (for example, standardization of equipment, coordination of public purchases) and Community support for the data processing industry.

European Agency for Trade Cooperation: The Commission adopted a proposal to the Council to create a European Agency for Trade Cooperation with the Developing Countries. This Agency, financed from the Community budget, will provide technical aid for the developing countries (for official departments and for the private sector), so that, first, they may obtain maximum benefit from the Community generalized system of preferences, and second, campaigns to promote

¹ Points 1101 to 1108.

Point 2229.

³ Point 2315.

⁴ Point 2247.

⁵ Points 1201 to 1205.

⁶ Points 1401 to 1405.

sales of their products in the Community market may be easier to arrange.

ECSC Operational Budget: The Commission adopted at the first reading the ECSC Operational Budget and the rate of the 1977 ECSC levy. The Commission plans to maintain the current level of the levy, i.e. 0.29 %. This rate will enable traditional ECSC activities to be maintained, particularly research activities and subsidised loans for redeployment of labour. Parliament will give an opinion on these documents, and then the Commission will definitively adopt the rate of the levy and the Operational Budget for 1977.

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2438. There were several meetings with the two sides of industry in October.

At the Commission's request, the Economic Policy Committee discussed the Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community with employers' organizations and the European Trade Union Confederation.

The European Trade Union Confederation has also held preliminary consultations on company law relating to groups and multinationals, employment of women, collective agreements, migrant workers and radiation protection.

The workers group on the Administrative Boards of the Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions has been looking for solutions to problems specific to its field.

Youth

Creation of temporary secretariat for young people

2439. Having been authorized by the Council to make 50 000 u.a. available to young people to set up a *Temporary Secretariat*, pending the establishment of the *European Youth Forum*, the Commis-

sion invited delegates from the most representative youth organizations to Brussels, first on 23 July and again on 15 October, to enable them to reach agreement on the operating procedures and activities of the Temporary Secretariat.

On the second occasion, the youth organization representatives meeting in plenary session, unanimously agreed to the creation of such a Secretariat. It consists of 10 representatives covering in a balanced way the differing political beliefs and also the different spheres of interest of national and international youth movements. The Temporary Secretariat will have the tasks of providing as much information and ensuring as much consultation as possible and working out proposals on structure, aims and working methods in order to bring the Forum into being as soon as possible. The Temporary Secretariat should also regularly inform the assembly of youth associations of applications for subsidies submitted to the Commission and of developments in its work.

The Secretariat will work independently from the Commission and will thus be able to develop a special relationship with the organs of the Community, in a spirit of true participation.

Court of Justice

Composition of the Court

2440. By decision of the representative of the governments of the Member States of 14 October

Judge Adolphe *Touffait* was appointed Judge at the Court of Justice for the period up to and including 6 October 1982, in place of Judge Robert *Lecourt*:

Mr Advocate-General Mayras was reappointed Advocate-General at the Court of Justice for a

¹ Point 2484.

further period up to and including 6 October 1982.1

2441. At its meeting on 7 October, the Court of Justice elected Mr Hans Kutscher as president of the Court for the period from 7 October 1976 to 6 October 1979.²

2442. By decisions of the representative of the governments of the Member States of 20 July³ and 14 October Judges Giacinto Bosco and Adolphe Touffait were appointed to the Court of Justice and assumed office upon taking the oath before the Court on 7 October and 26 October respectively.

By decision of the representatives of the governments of the Member States of 20 July, 3 Mr Advocate-General Francesco Capotorti was appointed Advocate-General at the Court of Justice and took up his duties on 7 October.

- 2443. At its meeting on 8 October the Court of Justice elected for one year as from 7 October 1976:2
- Judge André M. Donner as President of the First Chamber.
- Judge Pierre Pescatore as President of the Second Chamber.

The Chambers of the Court are constituted as follows:

First Chamber

André M. Donner. President of Chamber Josse Mertens de Wilmars, Aindrias O'Keeffe (Ó Caoimh) and Giancinto Bosco, Judges;

Advocates-General: Jean Pierre Warner and Henri Mayras

Second Chamber

Pierre *Pescatore*, President of Chamber

Mas Sørensen. Lord Alexander John Mackenzie Stuart and as from 26 October 1976 Adolphe Touffait, Judges;

Advocates-General: Gerhard Reischl and Francesco Capotorti

2444. At its meeting on 8 October the Court of Justice elected Mr Advocate-General Jean-Pierre Warner as First Advocate-General for a period of one year from 7 October 1976.2

2445. At its meeting on 8 October the Court of Justice reappointed Mr Albert Van Houtte as Registrar of the Court for a period of six years from 7 October 1976 to 6 October 1982.2

New Cases

Case 96/76 **BASF** Aktiengesellschaft, Ludwigshafen, v Commission

By its decision of 26 July 1976 relating to a procedure for the implementation of Article 85 of the EEC Treaty (IV 28.996 — Reuter/BASF).4 the Commission found that certain terms of the contract of sale of a group of undertakings concluded between Mr Reuter and BASF under which the seller undertook not to complete constituted an infringement of the said Article. On 7 October, BASF brought an action before the Court of Justice to annul the abovementioned decision.

Case 97/76 — Kommanditgesellschaft in Firma Merkur Aussemhandel GmbH&Co, Hamburg, v Commission

OJ L 302 of 4.11.1976.

OJ C 260 of 5.11.1976.
 Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2447.
 OJ L 254 of 17.9.1976 and Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2125.

2447. As a result of the Commission's adopting Regulation (EEC) No 1497/76 on the application of accession compensatory amounts and monetary compensatory amounts for certain cerealbased compound feedingstuffs,1 a claim for damage was brought against it on 8 October by a German company exporting feedingstuffs. This company is claiming compensation for the loss it claims to have suffered as a result of the fact that the transitional period laid down by the Regulation was not sufficiently long for it to perform its current contracts concerning exports to the new Member States of sweetened tapioca, a product in respect of which it had received an official tariff classification opinion (verbindliche Zolltarifauskunft).

Case 98/96 — Official of the Court of Justice v Court of Justice

2448. This is an action to annul a decision of the Registrar concerning the date of termination of a temporary contract.

Cases 99 and 100/76 — 1. NV Roomboterfabriek 'De Beste Boter', Best, and 2. Firma Josef Hoche, Butterschmelzwerk, Speikern v Bundesanstalt für landwirtschaftliche Marktordnung, Frankfurt/Main

2449. In hearing two cases concerning the refusal of the competent Germany body to release the processing guarantee for butter purchased at a reduced price, the Frankfurt Administrative Court asked the Court of Justice on 18 October for a ruling on whether the first purchaser, who had observed the conditions laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 1259/72 on the disposal of butter at a reduced price to certain Community processing undertakings2 before reselling the butter to other processing undertakings, could be refused repayment of the processing guarantee on the ground that one of these processing undertakings had utilized the product in question otherwise than for the purpose prescribed.

Case 101/76 — Koninklijke Scholten-Honig N.V., Amsterdam v 1. Council and 2. Commission

2450. On 21 October, a Dutch company specializing in the manufacture of glucose from starch brought an action before the Court of Justice to annul Regulation (EEC) No 1862/76 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2742/75 on production refunds in the cereals and rice sectors³ and Regulation (EEC) No 2158/764 laying down rules for the application of that Regulation with regard to production refunds for glucose with a high fructose content. The applicant is invoking the fact that the basic agricultural regulations do not enable a distinction to be made between the various products derived from starch.

Case 102/76 — Mr H.O.A.G.M. Perenboom, Nijmegen v Inspecteur der Directe Belastingen, Nijmegen

2451. In hearing a case concerning the payment of the compulsory social security contribution by a Dutch national, who had lived for the whole of 1972 in the Netherlands but had worked for part of that year in Germany, where tax and social security contributions had been deducted from his wages, the Hoge Raad der Nederlandse asked the Court of Justice on 21 October for an interpretation of Article 12 of Regulation (EEC) No 3 on social security for migrant workers⁵ and of Article 13 of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community⁶ with regard to taking wages received in Germany into account in calculating the contribution in the Netherlands.

OJ L 167 of 26.6.1976.
 OJ L 139 of 17.6.1972.
 OJ L 206 of 31.7.1976.
 OJ L 241 of 2.9.1976.

OJ 30 of 16.12.1958.

OJ L 149 of 5.7 1971.

Case 103/76 — Commission v Kingdom of Belgium

2452. On 21 October the Commission brought an action before the Court to establish that Belgium had failed to fulfil its obligations under certain provisions of Directive 72/161/EEC concerning the provision of socio-economic guidance for and the acquisition of occupational skills by persons engaged in agriculture.¹

Case 104/76 — Mrs G. Jansen, née Jansen, Bocholts, v Landesversicherungsanstalt Rheinprovinz, Düsseldorf

2453. In hearing an action concerning the reimbursment by the German social security authorities of certain pension contributions paid by a German national habitually resident in the Netherlands, the Higher Social Court of North-Rhine-Westphalia asked the Court of Justice on 27 October for a number of preliminary rulings on the applicability of Community Regulations on social security to the right to reimbursement of old-age pension contributions.

Case 105/76 — SpA Interzuccheri, Milano, v Ditta Rezzano e Cavassa, Sori

2454. The Pretura di Recco asked the Court of Justice on 28 October for a number of preliminary rulings on the 'Sovraprezzo' on sugar, a charge levied by an Italian public body, the revenue from which accrues solely to the national sugar industry and beet producers. The Court wished among other things to know whether this sovraprezzo constitutes a charge having equivalent effect to a customs duty and whether it is contrary to the second subparagraph of Article 40(3) of the EEC Treaty.

Similar references were made by the Pretura d'Abbiategrasso in Case $77/76.^2$

Judgments

2455. Since the entry into force of the Protocol conferring jurisdiction on the Court of Justice to interpret the Convention of 27 September 1968 on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters,³ the Court has received several references for rulings on the scope of that convention, a fact which demonstrates its importance in the day-to-day affairs of the courts.

In October, three judgments were given in this connection.⁴

Case 31/71 — Commission Official v Commission

2456. Following interlocutory judgments,⁵ the second of which declared that the action had become inoperative but which reserved the decision as to costs, this action to have the plaintiff declared an invalidity case was removed from the Court record by Order of 6 October.

Case 128/75 — Commission Official v Commission

2457. In its Judgment of 18 October, the Court dismissed the action brought by an official to obtain the support of his superiors against an accusation lodged with those superiors by a third party.

Case 130/75 — Mrs Prais v Council

2458. A candidate for a competition organized by the Council who had been unable to take part on religious grounds brought an action before the Court of Justice to annul the Council's decision not to fix another date for the written tests.

¹ OJ L 96 of 23.4.1972.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2463.

³ OJ L 204 of 2.8.1975.

⁴ Points 2459 to 2461.

Bull. EC 11-1973, point 2437 and 3-1975, point 2437.

In its Judgment of 27 October the Court dismissed this action, ruling in favour of the Council's argument that it had not been notified in time.

Case 12/76 — Industrie Tessili Italiane Como, Como v Firma Dunlop AG, Hanau/Main

2459. In deciding a question relating to the jurisdiction of the German civil courts in connection with a commercial dispute between two companies whose registered offices were situated in different Member States, the Higher Regional Court of Frankfurt/Main requested the Court of Justice on 13 February to give an interpretative ruling on the words 'place where the obligation has been or is to be fulfilled' in Article 5(1) of the Convention of 27 September 1968.

In its Judgment of 6 October the Court ruled that that place was determined in accordance with the law governing the disputed obligation under the conflict of laws rules of the court to which application was made.

Case 14/76 — Ets A. De Bloos SPRL, Leuze, v Ets Bouyer SCA. Tomblaine

2460. In an action concerning the unilateral breach without notice of a sole agency agreement, the Mons Cour d'appel requested the Court of Justice on 13 February to interpret the word 'obligation' in Article 5(1) of the Convention of 27 September 1968¹ and of the concept 'branch or agency' in Article 5(5).

In its Judgment of 6 October the Court ruled that the obligation referred to in Article 5(1) relates either to the contractual obligation serving as a basis for the court proceedings, i.e., the obligation of the principal corresponding to the contractual right invoked to justify the claim of the agent, or to the obligation on the principal arising from the contract, the non-fulfilment of which is invoked as grounds for the agent's claim for damages or to have the contract terminated.

It also states that, in the latter case, it is for the national court to verify whether, under the law

applicable to the contract, the obligation to an autonomous contractual one or an obligation replacing the unfulfilled contractual obligation.

As regards the interpretation of Article 5(5), the Court rules that a sole agent cannot be considered the head of a branch, agency or other establishment of his principal where he is subject to neither the latter's control nor management.

Case 29/76 — Firma LTU Lufttransport — Unternehmen GmbH&Co. KG, Düsseldorf, v Eurocontrol, Brussels

2461. The Higher Regional Court of Düsseldorf asked the Court on 18 March whether the concept 'civil and commercial matters' in the first paragraph of Article 1 of the Convention of 27 September 1968¹ should be interpreted having regard to the law of the State in which judgment has been given in the proceedings of or that in which an action for the grant of an enforcement order has been brought.

In its Judgment of 14 October the Court replied that for the interpretation of this concept, reference had to be made to the objectives and general scheme of the Convention and to the general principles underlying the national systems of law taken as a whole. It added that a judgment given in a case between a public authority and a private person where the public authority acted in the exercise of public powers was excluded from the scope of the convention.

Case 32/76 — Mrs A. Saieva, Vve C. Reale, Montaperto, v Caisse de compensation des allocations familiales de l'industrie charbonnière des bassins de Charleroi et de la Basse-Sambre, Charleroi

2462. In a case concerning the payment of family allowances, the Tribunal de travail of Charleroi asked the Court of Justice on 29 March for

¹ OJ L 204 of 2.8.1975.

a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 42(5) of Regulation (EEC) No 3 on social security for migrant workers¹ and of Article 94(5) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community.²

In its Judgment of 13 October the Court ruled that the first provision should be interpreted as designating the law applicable to the payment of family allowances to the children of a worker who dies as the result of an industrial injury and that the right to family allowances on behalf of the children of the deceased was not linked to the grant of orphan's benefit.

The second provision should be interpreted as meaning that the competent institution of a Member State may not take the place of the insured person for the review of rights acquired by the latter before the entry into force of the Regulation.

Case 88/776 R — Société pour l'exportation des sucres, SA, Antwerp v Commission

2463. In connection with an action to annul a provision of Regulation (EEC) No 1579/76 laying down special detailed rules of application for sugar under Regulation (EEC) No 557/76,³ the plaintiff lodged an application for interim measures.

The Court acceded to this request by Order of 19 October.

Economic and Social Committee

142nd plenary session

2464. The Economic and Social Committee held its 142nd plenary session in Brussels on 27

and 28 October, with Mr Henri Canonge and then Mr Basil de Ferranti in the chair. During this session, the Committee re-elected its Bureau and adopted nine Opinions.

Re-election of the Bureau

2465. The Committee elected Mr Basil de Ferranti (United Kingdom—employers group) Chairman for the second half of the fifth four-year term. The Vice-Chairmen elected were: Mr Mathias Berns (Luxembourg—general interests group) and Mr Johannes van Greunsven (Netherlands—workers group).

The following were elected members of the Bureau:

Group I—Employers: Mr van Campen (Netherlands), Mr Hipp (Germany), Mr Loughrey (Ireland), Mr Masprone (Italy), Mr Renaud (France) and Mr Rømer (Denmark).

Group II—Workers: Mr Delourme (Belgium), Mr Friedrichs (Germany), Mr Nielsen (Denmark), Mr Scalia (Italy), Mr Soulat (France) and Mr Walsh (United Kingdom).

Group III—General Interests: Mr Canonge (France), Mr De Bruyn (Belgium), Mrs Evans (United Kingdom), Mr O'Keeffe (Ireland), Mr Piga (Italy) and Mrs Strobel (Germany).

Opinions

Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community in 1976

2466. In its Opinion, the Committee felt that the present situation was more uncertain than the Commission would admit and that the objective of full employment by 1980 agreed at the

¹ OJ 30 of 16.12.1958.

OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

³ OJ L 172 of 1.7.1976.

Tripartite Conference in June could not be attained unless there were changes in policies. At both Community and national level, the 4% growth rate and the unemployment expected for 1977 were out of line with the objective set for 1980.

The Committee drew attention to the policies of the Member States' governments since the objectives of the Tripartite Conference can be attained only if these policies are working in the right direction and coordinated at Community level.

The Committee's Opinion focussed in particular on ways and means of creating new jobs. Members felt that reflationary programmes must be coordinated, monitored and specifically directed towards investment and creating new jobs. Although public sector deficits must be reduced in the medium-term, investments in that sector would have to generate more sustained movement of growth in the short-term than forecast in the Commission's Annual Report.

Social provisions in road transport

2467. The Committee found that it was unable to deliver a detailed Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on the harmonization of certain social provisions in road transport and asked the Commission to reconsider the matter and draw up a fresh proposal in the light of all the comments and wishes expressed at the meeting. The draft Opinion presented by the transport and communications section had been rejected.

Indirect taxes on transactions in securities

2468. Generally speaking the Committee approved the proposal for a Directive. But it was regarded as a palliative pending the total abolition of taxes on transactions on securities, which should be one of the first objectives of policies to integrate the Community's capital markets.

Customs debt

2469. The Committee found that the proposal for a Directive on harmonizing provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of customs debt did no more than define the liability to payment of customs duties to the authorities and the point at which this liability arises without defining who the person liable actually was. The Committee felt that it was crucially important that identical rules be drawn up to define tax debt in respect of goods, in particular as regards VAT.

Noise emission from subsonic aircraft

2470. The Committee approved the proposal for a Directive on the limitation of noise emission from subsonic aircraft, since it was based on the principles set out in the second action programme on the environment and on work at international level, particularly by the ICAO. It was noted that the second environment programme planned for more comprehensive action concerning emission, propagation and reception of noise. The Committee also recommended the Commission to undertake work as soon as possible on this specific matter of reception of noise from aircraft in order to consolidate the provisions of the present Directive.

Scientific and technical education

2471. Subject to a number of observations, the Committee approved the objectives of the 1977-80 programme for scientific and technical education proposed by the Commission. The Committee agreed that the programme should be fitted into the overall framework of Community research and development policy. It was agreed that the programme should be extended to cover non-nuclear research organization of advanced training courses and the granting of a limited number of scholarships to nationals of non-mem-

ber countries. But the 5 million u.a. available was considered to be a bare minimum and would have to be increased if the legitimate aims of this planned scheme were to be fulfilled.

ECSC Consultative Committee

179th meeting

2472. The Consultative Committee held its 179th meeting in London on 6 and 7 October, with Mr Gormley, the Committee Chairman in the chair.

Mr Simonet, Vice-President of the Commission, attended part of the meeting and outlined the Commission's policy on the steel industry.

The steel industry

2473. Mr Simonet recalled that the Commission was most concerned about the repercussions of the recent crisis in the steel industry and about intentions expressed by groups of firms to join together in order to be better able to cope with a possible reoccurrence. He explained the Commission's plans for a preventive system to enable it to fulfill its task properly, in particular by allowing it to take any necessary corrective measures in good time.

He felt that economic, social and political factors should override legal or technocratic considerations.

Mr Simonet pointed out that the measures to reduce production, to be introduced with the assistance of the steel associations, and, if necessary, to set reference guide prices would depend on the system of economic indicators giving early warning of a crisis.

The policy also covered relations with non-member countries, for the Community could not be expected to solve the problem alone; in view of the social consequences of any crisis, social aspects were also dealt with. Added to the steel policy paper would be a technical annex to be examined by the Commission in the near future.

A new stage in negotiations between the Commission and governments could then be opened. Mr Simonet hoped that the Council meeting would be held in time for a decision to be taken before the end of the year.

Speaking after Mr Simonet, Mr Ferry (France, steel producers) regretted that although the Community steel industry was once again in an extremely critical situation, no action of proven effectiveness had been taken to protect the common market against abnormal imports by producers in non-member countries and to improve the structures of the international steel market. He approved the counter-crisis arrangements, which he felt could be put into effect straightaway since they were flexible and fairly pragmatic. He concluded by pointing out that in addition to emergency measures, broad international consultations were required to highlight the steel industry's specific features, its extreme vulnerability in crises situations and the extent of difficulties in respect of employment and investment.

Other members of the Committee (Mr Meyerwisch, Mr Hamer, Mr Peeters, Mr Dichgans, Mr Van der Rest and Mr Picard), spoke in support of Mr Ferry. They stressed that the steel industry and the steel market were again in a situation which was all the more dramatic because of the increased pressure from imports under abnormal conditions and because the firms affected have already taken a severe battering from the 1975 crisis.

The forward programme for steel for the fourth quarter of 1976 was also discussed.

In conclusion, the Committee adopted a resolution presented by Mr Judith on behalf of the workers' group. It expressed surprise that certain producers and even certain governments had

stopped disclosing information on trends in the European steel market, despite the Decision published in the Official Journal of 23 July 1975. It also reminded the Commission that during the steel crisis the Commission had decided to collect information from firms on present and forecast production, employment, short-time working and redundancies, and to publish rapid statistics on them. It requested the Commission to stand by the decisions it had taken and ensure that they were applied; all interested parties would then have access to an essential tool for assessing and forecasting the state of the steel industry, especially necessary since the European steel market could not at present be described as stable.

2474. The Committee also examined the energy situation in the Community and the revised general state of the coal market (prospects for 1976) and agreed that financial assistance should be accorded for the research programme on safety in mines.

European Investment Bank

Loans issued

2475. The European Investment Bank (EIB) has launched its first bond issue on the Austrian capital market, for \$350 million. The issue has been underwritten by an Austrian banking syndicate.

The bonds will bear interest at a nominal rate of 8%, payable yearly on 20 October as from 1977. They were offered for public subscription at 97.25% and will yield 8.52% per annum.

The maximum life of the bonds will be ten years. Redemption will commence by drawings after four years and take place on 20 October of each year, from 1981 to 1986. Bonds drawn will be redeemed at par. The Bank reserves the right to redeem, either wholly or in part, at 100.5 % of their nominal value, all bonds still in circulation at the nearest forthcoming redemption date.

Application is being made for the bonds to be listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange.

2476. The Bank has signed a contract at Singapore for a \$30 million bond issue on the South-East Asian capital market.

The loan has been underwritten by an international banking syndicate.

The bonds have a life of seven years, carry a coupon of $8\frac{1}{4}$ %, payable annually, and are offered to the public at an issue price of 100%.

The issue is redeemable on 1 November 1983 at par.

However, a Purchase Fund provides the option of buying back bonds to the value of \$1 million annually, if the price of bonds should drop below par.

Application will be made to list the issue on the Singapore and Hong Kong stock exchanges.

Loans granted

Denmark

2477. The EIB has granted a loan equivalent to Dkr 23.5 million (3.6 million EUA) for an industrial project in North Jutland, Denmark.

The finance has been provided for ten years at an interest rate of 9\%\% to Rockwool A/S, which manufactures mineral wool for use in insulation and fire-proofing of buildings, for construction of a new factory at Øster Doense, with one production line in the first stage.

North Jutland, classified as a Special Development Area by the Danish authorities, has suffered from unemployment rates persistently above the national average. The EIB's main interest in the project is the contribution it makes to regional development, including the direct creation of more than eighty new jobs.

However, thermal insulation of buildings can also be considered as having a broader, Community interest as it represents an effective means of reducing consumption of energy for heating.

Italy

2478. Seven new loans totalling the equivalent of Lit. 37 940 million (39.7 million EUA) have been granted in Italy by the Bank, the entire sum for industrial investments in the Mezzogiorno.

There are three 'global' loans totalling Lit 30 000 million, each for 12 years, which will be used to support small and medium-sized industrial ventures; they have been granted to the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno, which will pass on the funds as follows:

- Lit 15 000 million to ISVEIMER Istituto per lo Sviluppo Economico dell'Italia Meridionale;
 Lit 10 000 million to IRFIS Istituto Regionale per il Finanziamento alle Industrie in Sicilia;
 - Lit 5 000 million to CIS Credito Industriale Sardo.

Four loans have been provided for industrial projects which between them involve new fixed investments totalling around Lit 30 600 million and the creation of about 1 250 new jobs. All these loans, listed below, are for eight years at an interest rate of 9%:

- Lit 2 500 million to EFIM Ente Partecipazioni e Finanziamento Industria Manifatturiera for a new factory at Pozzilli (Isernia-Molise) which will produce prefabricated buildings; this is to be built by INSUD Nuove Iniziative per il Sud SpA, part of the EFIM group, and Volani Sud SpA, a company recently created by Volani Edilizia Industrializzata SpA.
- Lit 2 000 million to IMI Istituto Mobiliare Italiano to help to finance a factory to produce conveyor belts and sheet rubber at Ferrandina in Basilicata, to be built by Gommafer, a company created by Pirelli SpA and INSUD.

- Lit 1 600 million, again to IMI, for modernization and extension of the SpA Algel frozen food factory at Cisterna di Latina (Latium).
- Lit 1 840 million, to the Cassa per il mezzogiorno which will pass on the funds to CIS Credito Industriale Sardo to help to finance expansion of a factory at Sarroch, Sardinia, which produces gases for industrial use. The promoters of the project are SIO SARDA Società Sarda per l'Industria dell'Ossigeno e di altri Gas SpA, a company controlled by SIO Società per l'Industria dell'Ossigeno e di altri Gas S.p.A. of Milan, of the French "Air Liquide" group.

2479. The Bank has also granted a loan equivalent to Lit 4500 million (4.7 million EUA), for eight years at an interest rate of 9%, to ENI—Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi. The funds will be passed on to SNAM SpA part of the ENI group, for works to increase the capacity of the natural gas distribution network in parts of the Mezzogiorno.

Three compressor stations are to be built at Cassano-Ionio (Calabria), Pisticci (Basilicata) and Biccari (Molise); a gasfield discovered at Capo Colonna, near Crotone (Calabria) will be linked to the main network and a second main gasline is to be built to serve the Naples region. Costing a total of around Lit 10 500 million, the project will help to meet the growing demand for natural gas in the regions concerned, and in particular the needs of industry.

United Kingdom

2480. The Bank has granted two new loans to the British Steel Corporation for a total of \$10.25 million (16.6 million EUA).

The loans—both for eight years at 9 %—will be used to finance expansion projects at the Consett steel works in Durham and at the Dalzell works in Motherwell, Scotland.

Both projects form part of the British Steel Corporation's ten-year development strategy for modernization and expansion of the British iron and steel industry.

At Consett the BSC are to concentrate local iron and steelmaking on the production of billets and the capacity of the existing billet mill is to be more than doubled to 1 130 000 tonnes per year. The capital cost of the new investments will be about £17 million, of which £6.75 million is to be covered by the EIB loan.

The project at the Dalzell works plate mill consists of expanding capacity from 250 000 to 350 000 tonnes per year enabling Dalzell to handle the bulk of BSC plate output over 75 mm thick. This will cost in the region of £8.8 million, towards which the EIB is contributing of loan of £3.5 million.

Both works are situated in development areas which have for a long time endured high rates of unemployment, due principally to a decline in coalmining and also to rationalization in the steel industry which has meant closure of certain older, less efficient plant.

Kenya

2481. A global loan equivalent to 2 million EUA (about 18.5 million Kenya Shillings) has been granted to the Development Finance Company of Kenya Ltd (DFCK), which will on-lend the funds, with the EIB's agreement in each case, to support the development of various industrial ventures throughout the country.

This is the first loan to be provided by the EIB from its own resources under the terms of the Lomé Convention and also the first financing operation by the Bank for investments in an English-speaking African country.

There is also a further début in that this is the first time the EIB has employed the global loan technique in Africa. This form of financing,

which enables the Bank to channel ressources through experienced local institutions, has been used to effect in most of the EEC countries and also Greece, Turkey and Portugal. The types of projects which benefit from global loans are very often labour-intensive and the amount of employment created may be relatively high in relation to the scale of the investments concerned, which is particularly important in the present stage of Kenya's economic development.

The global loan has been granted for eleven years, including a four-year grace period. The interest rate will be 6%, after application, as provided for under the Lomé Convention, of an interest subsidy of 3%, drawn from the grant aid resources of the Community's European Development Fund.

The Development Finance Company of Kenya was set up in 1963 and its shares are held equally by the Kenya Government-owned Industrial and Commercial Development Corporation (ICDC) and three development agencies of EEC Member Countries: the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) of the United Kingdom, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (Entwicklungsgesellschaft) mbH (DEG) and the Nederlandse Financieringsmaatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden N.V. (FMO).

In the course of its twelve years of operation the Development Finance Company of Kenya has, in cooperation with both local and overseas investors, made a major contribution to Kenya's industrial growth. The company has during this period contributed 180 million Kenya Shillings (19.4 million EUA) to the financing of 63 industrial and tourism projects, creating roughly 30 000 jobs.

Financing Community activities

General Budget for 1977

2482. Mainly as a result of the change in the schedule Parliament was able this year, for the first time, to devote a special meeting to the first-reading debate and vote on the draft Community budget for 1977. The meeting was held in Luxembourg from 25 to 27 October; approximately three-quarters of the Members attended, thereby demonstrating the Parliament's great interest in the budget debate.

When it established the draft budget on 22 July, the Council reduced the appropriations requested by the Commission in its preliminary draft by the following amounts:

- 680 million u.a. in appropriations for commitment;
- 572 million u.a. in appropriations for payment.

By introducing amendments in respect of noncompulsory expenditure and making proposals for changes to compulsory expenditure, the Parliament increased the appropriations entered in the traft budget by the following amounts:

- 636 million u.a. in appropriations for commitnent;
- 567 million u.a. in appropriations for payment.

Thus Parliament has not only restored the appropriations virtually to the level requested by the Commission in its preliminary draft, but has, in some cases, of its own volition proposed that larger appropriations than those requested by the Commission be entered.

The main lines of Parliament's attitude in the budget debate can be summarized as follows:

(a) the priority given to certain policies should also be reflected in the budget allocations and especially in the appropriations assigned to the social, research-energy-industry sectors and de-

velopment aid. This was why Parliament consequently restored almost all the appropriations in those sectors virtually to their original level;

- (b) in the agricultural sector, priority should be given to structural improvements (EAGGF Guidance Section), while expenditure from the EAGGF Guarantee Section should be subject to tighter control. In particular, budget expenditure stemming from exchange rate movements should be clearly identified and curbed in future by suitable measures;
- (c) as regards multiannual projects, Parliament—on a proposal from the Commission—expressed the wish that the Council should make wider use of the technique of appropriations for commitment. Parliament therefore proposed to extend the distinction between appropriations for commitment and appropriations for payment to cover about ten more budget headings in addition to those already accepted by the Council in the draft budget;
- (d) finally, reference must be made to the fact that in some cases Parliament itself took the initiative and proposed the entry of appropriations over and above those initially proposed by the Commission (e.g., 30 million u.a. for aid to disaster victims and 50 million u.a. for aid to coal stockholding, whereas the Commission proposed only 'token entries' for those budget headings in the preliminary draft).

Table 2 shows the successive steps in the examination of the budget for each sector as it stands after Parliament's first reading of the draft budget for 1977.

On 23 November, following a second stage of concertation with a delegation from Parliament, the Council is required to deliver its opinion, at a second reading, on the Parliament's amended version of the draft budget. The Council will-then reach a final decision on the compulsory ex-

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¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2493.

Table 2 — Comparison between the 1976 Budget and the proposed Budget for 1977 (in the various stages of establishment)

		191	76 ¹		1977 (Preliminary draft) ²					
Sector	Appropriations for commitment	%	Appropriations for payment	%	Appropriations for commitment	%	Appropriations for payment	%		
	1		2		3		4			
COMMISSION							3			
Intervention Appropriations						,				
Agriculture	5 790 982 500	64.97	5 790 982 500	68.37	6 398 673 500	63.22	6 236 273 500	67.15		
Social	530 600 001	5.95	452 600 001	5.34	634 722 000	6.27	185 032 000	1.99		
Regional	500 000 000	5.61	300 000 000	3.54	500 000 000	4.94	500 000 000	5.38		
Research, Energy,										
Industry, Transport	337 043 270	3.78	172 992 526	2.04	368 615 776	3.64	249 894 179	2.69		
Development		. 1								
Cooperation	336 255 750	3.77	336 255 750	3.97	425 027 900	4.20	322 027 900	3.47		
Repayments and Aid to		.	i							
Member States and Miscellaneous	437 000 000	4.90	437 000 000	5.16	660 000 000	6.52	660 000 000	7.11		
	2021 991 521	89.—	7 490 930 777	99.42	0.007.020.176	00.00	0 152 227 570	97.70		
Administrative Appropriations	7 931 881 521	8¥.—	7 489 830 777	88.42	8 987 039 176	88.80	8 153 227 579	87.79		
Administrative Appropriations Staff	242 860 542	2.72	242 860 542	2.87	274 328 900	2.71	274 328 900	2.9		
Administrative Expenditure	77 577 107	0.87	77 577 107	0.92	87 889 300	0.87	87 889 300	0.9		
Administrative expenditure Information	6 340 000	0.87	6340000	0.92	7 766 000	0.87	7 766 000	0.93		
information Aids and Subsidies	20 414 401	0.07	20 414 401	0.07	23 476 700	0.08	7 766 000 23 476 700	0.0		
Alds and Subsidies	20 414 401	0.25	20 414 401	U.Z4	23 4 /0 /00	0.23	23 4/0 /00	U.Z.		
	34 192 050	3.90	347 192 050	4.10	393 460 900	3.89	393 460 900	4.24		
Contingency Reserve	3 000 000	0.03	3 000 000	0.03	6 000 000	0.06	6 000 000	0.0		
					-					
Repayment to the Member]]	, 1	j J							
States of 10 % of own										
resources	502 831 534	5.64	502 831 534	5.94	595 939 213	5.89	595 939 213	6.4		
Commission Total	8 784 905 105	98.57	8 342 854 361	98.49	9 982 439 289	98.63	9 148 627 692	98.5		
OTHER INSTITUTIONS	127 755 247	1.43	127 755 247	1.51	138 631 280	1.37	138 631 280	1.5		
	12. 755 2		127 733 217		130 031 200	1.57	130 031 200	1.5		
Grand Total	8 912 660 352	100.—	8 470 609 608	100.—	10 121 070 569	100	9 287 258 972	100		

¹ Including the first and second Supplementary Budgets for 1976.
² Including the first letter of amendment for 1976.
³ The difference between appropriations for commitment and appropriations for payment (725 182 809 u.a.) is the difference between appropriations for commitment and appropriations for payment in the sectors concerned (Item 3200, Chapter 33, Item 3620, Social Fund, Regional Fund and EAGGF Guidance Section).

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Change %		1977 (Co	1977 (Council draft — first reading)			Change %		1977 (Parliament's draft — first reading)				Change %	
Col 3 Col 1	Col 4 Col 2	Appropriations for commitment	%	Appropriations for payment	%	Col 7 Col 1	Col 8 Col 2	Appropriations for commitment	%	Appropriations for payment	%	Col 11 Col 1	Col 12 Col 2
5	6	7		8		9	10	11		12		13	14
											•		
10.49	+ 7.69	6 188 643 500	65.55	6 021 443 500	69.09	+ 6.87	+ 3.98	6 442 703 500	63.94	6 275 503 500	67.60	+11.25	+ 8.37
19.62	- 59.12	590 345 000	6.25	183 685 000	2.11	+11.26	-59.42	662 757 000	6.58	214 247 000	2.31	+24.91	- 52.66
_	+ 66.67	500 000 000	5.30	400 000 000	4.59	-	+33.33	500 000 000	4.96	500 000 000	5.39	-	+66.67
9.36	+ 44.45	255 393 966	2.71	204 071 157	2.34	-24.23	+17.97	383 407 197	3.80	286 285 188	3.08	+13.76	+65.49
26.40	- 4.23	238 007 200	2.52	238 007 200	2.73	- 29.22	- 29.22	394 788 200	3.92	313 788 200	3.38	+17.41	- 6.68
51.03	+ 51.03	560 000 000	5.93	560 000 000	6.43	+28.15	+ 28.15	560 000 000	5.55	560 000 000	6.03	+28.15	+ 28.15
13.30	+ 8.86	8 332 389 666	88.26	7 607 206 857	87.29	+ 5.05	+ 1.57	8 943 655 897	88.75	8 149 823 888	87.79	+12.76	+ 8.81
12.96	+ 12.96	268 237 600	2.84	268 237 600	3.08	+ 10.46	+10.46	269 455 100	2.67	269 455 100	2.90	+ 10.95	+ 10.95
13.29	+ 13.29	85 668 740	0.91	85 668 740	0.98	+10.43	+10.43	85 728 740	0.85	85 728 740	0.92	+10.51	+10.51
22.49	+ 22.49	7 400 000	0.09	7 400 000	0.08	+16.72	+16.72	8 090 000	0.08	8 090 000	0.09	+27.60	+27.60
15.00	+ 15.00	22 657 300	0.24	22 657 300	0.26	+10.99	+10.99	23 660 900	0.24	23 660 900	0.26	+15.90	+15.90
13.33	+ 13.33	383 963 640	4.07	383 963 640	4.41	+ 10.60	+ 10.60	386 934 740	3.84	386 934 740	4.17	+11.45	+11.45
100.00	+ 100.00	4 000 000	0.04	4 000 000	0.05	+33.33	+ 33.33	4 000 000	0.04	4 000 000	0.04	+ 33.33	+33.33
18.52	+ 18.52	582 916 348	6.17	582 916 348	6.69	+15.93	+15.93	594 177 249	5.90	594 177 249	6.40	+ 18.17	+18.17
13.63	+ 9.66	9 303 269 654	98.54	8 578 086 845	98.42	+ 5.90	+ 2.82	9 928 767 886	98.53	9 134 935 877	98.40	+ 13.02	+ 9.49
8.51	+ 8.51	137 611 389	11.46	137 611 389	1.58	+ 7.71	+ 7.71	148 099 329	1.47	148 099 329	1.60	+ 15.92	+ 15.92
13.56	+ 9.64	9 440 881 043	100.—	8 715 698 234 3	100.—	+ 5.93	+ 2.89	10 076 867 215	100.—	9 283 035 206	100.—	+13.06	+ 9.59

penditure: however, the final decision on the non-compulsory expenditure will not come until after the second reading in Parliament, which will take place at the part-session from 13 to 15 December.

ECSC financial operations

Amended ECSC operating budget for 1976

2483. At its meeting on 20 October, the Commission adopted the amended ECSC operating budget for 1976. The total budget was raised from 106 million EUA to 113.6 million EUA following a revision of the estimated revenue from levies (+3 million EUA), the cancellation of commitments which now lapse (+1.6 million EUA), and also as a result of the use of the contingency reserve of 3 million EUA entered in the balance sheet on 31 December 1975. This increase of 7.6 million EUA is made up as follows: increased appropriations for steel research (17.4 million EUA instead of 16 million EUA), a reduction in interest rate subsidies for investments (6 million EUA instead of 7 million EUA), cover for the previous financial year's deficit (1.2 million EUA), and in particular the introduction of a new Chapter for aid in the form of reduced-rate loans granted by the ECSC to the vitims of the Friuli disaster (6 million EUA of the total aid of 11 million EUA, the remaining 5 million EUA being entered in the draft ECSC operational budget for 1977).

Fixing of the rate of the ECSC levy— ECSC operational budget for 1977

2484. At the same meeting of 20 October, the Commission adopted the draft ECSC operational budget for 1977, on the basis of a rate of levy of 0.29 %. The Commission adopted a Communication to the Parliament, which is to deliver its Opinion during its December part-session. The

Consultative Committee has also been informed. Once Parliament has delivered its Opinion, the Commission will take a final decision on the rate of levy to be applied and on the ECSC operational budget for 1977.

Loans raised

2485. The Commission has raised the following loans:

- a \$30 million bond issue. This loan, underwritten by an international banking syndicate, is for five years, carries an interest rate of 7%% and was offered to the public at 99.50%;
- a Lfrs 50 million bond issue. This loan, underwritten by a syndicate of Luxembourg banks, is for eight years, carries an interest rate of $9 \, \%$ and was offered to the public at par.

The bond have been admitted to official quotation on the Luxembourg stock exchange;

— a Lfrs 200 million private loan for six years at an interest rate of 9½%.

These operations bring the total of loans contracted by the ECSC as at 31 October to the equivalent of 3 898 million EUA.

Loans granted

2486. Pursuing the general objectives of the ECSC and acting under Articles 54 and 56 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission granted loans totalling 44.8 million EUA in September and October.

Industrial loans (Article 54) granted during the period under consideration totalled 41.1 million EUA. The loans were granted to four undertakings to finance the following programmes:

Iron and steel industry

(i) Rationalization of the production of pig iron and steel

Financing Community activities

5. Institutional questions — European policy

Hamburger Stahlwerke GmbH, Hamburg Union sidérurgique du Nord et de l'Est de la France SA, USINOR, Paris (Valenciennois and Thionville works)

(ii) Expansion of coastal works Société Lorraine et Méridionale de Laminage Continu SOLMER, Paris (Fos-sur-mer plant)

Overseas project

Iron ore mines

Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, Frankfurt/Main (Bong Mining Company, Monrovia, Liberia)

— A redeployment loan (Article 56) was granted during the same period to facilitate the creation of new activities to provide jobs for redundant workers; the loan totalled 1.6 million EUA. The recipient was:

Acciaierie Megara SpA, Sicily, Italy.

- Loans for the construction of low-cost housing totalled 2.1 million EUA during the same period.

Loan decisions

2487. In September and October the Commission also took eight decisions on the granting of loans and obtained the Council's assent to the granting of five others. The loans decided on total 88.5 million EUA—83.5 million EUA to industry and 5.0 million EUA for the redeployment of workers.

Human rights

2501. On 27 October, the Commission approved and addressed to the Council, the draft of a Joint Declaration by the European Parliament, The Council and the Commission concerning Respect of Human Rights.

This paper is a follow-up to the Report on the Protection of Fundamental Rights1 which the Commission addressed to the European Parliament and the Council on 4 February 1976. It was suggested in the Report that the three political institutions of the Community make a joint solemn declaration affirming their desire to see fundamental rights respected.2 As already set out in the Commission's Report on European Union,³ the aim should be to have fundamental rights explicitly included in a future European constitution. Although the Court of Justice, in its judgments, does indeed at present offer every guarantee that fundamental rights are respected,4 it is equally true that a solemn declaration on the part of the three political institutions, stressing not only the importance of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, but also emphasizing the imperative need for those rights to be protected by all the Community institutions, remains highly desirable. Such a declaration would, moreover, be the answer to the objections which could be made to the exclusively praetorian nature of the present system.

European Union

2502. The Foreign Ministers of the Nine met informally in the Hague on 30 October. Mr van der Stoel, the Netherlands Foreign Minister took the chair and Mr Ortoli, President of the Commission was also present.

Supplement 5/76 — Bull. EC.

² Point 38 of the Report.

³ Supplement 5/75 — Bull. EC.

⁴ Points 9-12 of the Report.

With Mr Tindemans himself in attendance, the Ministers discussed the Belgian Prime Minister's report on European Union. The talks bore mainly on Chapter II—Europe in the World—and Chapter V—Strengthening the Institutions.

Political cooperation

2503. In his capacity as Chairman of the Foreign Ministers' Conference, Mr van der Stoel, the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs reported on 20 October to the Political Affairs Committee of the European Parliament on the state of political cooperation between the Nine.

At this meeting, the Political Affairs Committee, chaired by Mr Lucien Radoux (Socialist Group, Belgium) was informed about several aspects of Community external relations in which the Nine were endeavouring to find common ground, namely in respect of southern Africa, Cyprus, the Aegean and East-West relations.

On southern Africa, Mr van der Stoel said that things were now moving again after remaining in deadlock for so long, and hopes could be entertained of peaceful solutions. In Rhodesia and Namibia in particular, the Nine had adopted common stances with the aim of eliminating the remaining difficulties. This region of the world, said Mr van der Stoel, was now racing against the clock: if negotiations did not secure a solution within three months, further outbreaks of even greater violence could occur and the region would become the most dangerous source of tension in the world.

In the conflict between Greece and Turkey over the Aegean Sea, promptings by the Nine to seek arbitration before the Court in the Hague were still in vain. On Cyprus, the Community and the Nine had continued to support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Waldheim and the United States Secretary of State, Mr Kissinger.

Political cooperation was also engaged in assessing the results—for the moment disappointing—of the CSCE in preparation for the meeting in Belgrade next year where views will be compared on the progress of détente in Europe.

Speaking of relations with the CMEA, Mr van der Stoel felt a response to the CMEA's approach to the Community would be ready by the end of the year. The line to be taken in this response, however, would be that the CMEA was not a body comparable with the Community.

Mr van der Stoel felt that political cooperation between the Nine was generally gaining strength and that the growing convergence to be seen in foreign policies should also come out in certain internal policies of the Community.

Scots law

2504. In the course of one of his visits to Brussels, the Lord Advocate, the Rt. Hon. Ronald King Murray, Q.C., MP, had discussions with the Director-General of the Legal Service of the Commission. In the course of these discussions. certain questions concerning Scots law, the separate nature of the Scottish legal system within the United Kingdom as a whole and the Commission's awareness of this situation were raised. Subsequently this question formed the subject of an exchange of correspondence between the Permanent Representative to the European Communities of the United Kingdom, and the Acting Director-General of the Commission Legal Service. More recently a question was tabled in the European Parliament on the same subject.²

In agreement with the Government of the United Kingdom, the text of the exchange of letters above mentioned is published hereafter.

Supplement 1/76 — Bull. EC.

² On 15 September, Report of proceeding, OJ Annex No 206.

European policy European policy

Letter from the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the European Communities to the Acting Director-General of the Legal Service of the Commission, of 17 May 1976:

2505. You may recall that in January of last year the Lord Advocate, the Rt Hon Ronald King Murray QC MP, in the course of a visit to Brussels had the pleasure of meeting the late Dr Much, then Director-General of the Legal Service of the Commission, and had with him a very friendly and constructive discussion about matters of mutual interest. The Lord Advocate was most grateful to Dr Much for the care with which he considered the points made to him and the reassurance which he gave.

One of the subjects raised by the Lord Advocate with Dr Much was one with regard to which, as Senior Scottish Law Officer, he had for some time felt a certain anxiety. Put briefly, this arose out of the juridical position existing in the UK and, in particular, the fact that Scotland, although an integral part of the UK has her own autonomous legal system and her own law. The Lord Advocate's concern was that the separate nature of Scots law and the Scottish legal system should be appreciated by the Commission and taken into account by it and its services in framing Community secondary legislation and in discharging their other functions.

Apart from his concern about the appreciation of the legal position in the UK by the services of the Commission, the Lord Advocate also feels that there may be a danger that the situation in the UK is not fully understood outside official circles in other Member States. If this is so it could be a source of misunderstanding and confusion especially in commercial transactions, a result which I am sure we would all wish to avoid. Thus a trader or a consumer in another Member State might possibly be misled by the frequent references to 'national law' in the Community Treaties and other documents into believing that, in respect of the United Kingdom, the 'national law' was the law of England. This, of course, is

not the case. There are in the United Kingdom three separate and independent jurisdictions, of which Scotland is one, and Scotland possesses her own legal system, which is entirely separate from, and independent of, those existing in England and Northern Ireland. The 'national' law applicable in Scotland is accordingly the law of Scotland, not the law of England, and it is administered by Scottish, and not English, courts.

Nor is this merely an academic matter. Scots law differs widely from English law in many important respects. Thus (to take one instance) the land law of Scotland is completely different from that of England, and even in the sphere of trade and commerce there are very significant differences between the two systems—for example, in the general law of contract and in the law of bankruptcy. It would, therefore, be most unfortunate if a businessman in another Member State engaged in a commercial transaction in Scotland in the mistaken belief that the applicable law was the law of England.

It is this consideration which has given rise to the Lord Advocate's anxiety. He appreciates that traders and others in the Community have legal advice of a very high quality available to them. Nevertheless he is concerned lest any should be misled by, for example, Community terminolgy and references to 'national law' and, perhaps, suffer loss as a result of an imperfect understanding of the legal systems which co-exist in the United Kingdom.

Regarding the first of the problems outlined above, namely the account which requires to be taken of the existence of the Scottish legal system in Community legislation and the general administrative work of the Commission's services, the Lord Advocate understood that this was not likely to give rise to undue difficulty. As a result of his interview with Dr Much, the Lord Advocate is confident that the Commission—and in particular its Legal Service—are fully aware of the distinct nature of the law of Scotland and conversant with its basic principles. This is evi-

dent from certain Community texts, which as appropriate use language reflecting differences between Scots law and the systems obtaining in other parts of the United Kingdom. The Lord Advocate ventures to hope that the practice of using such language in Community documents, where appropriate, will be strongly encouraged. He would, however, greatly value your views on the question of how knowledge of the juridical position in the United Kingdom, as I have outlined it above, could be more widely disseminated in the other Member States and, more particularly, brought to the notice of Community nationals whose interests are liable to be affected, and perhaps prejudiced, by the kind of misunderstanding to which I have referred earlier in this letter.

Letter from the Acting Director-General of the Commission Legal Service to the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the European Communities of 31 May 1976:

2506. Many thanks for your letter of the 17th May, 1976.

The visit of the Lord Advocate, the Hon. Ronald King Murray, Q.C., MP, was greatly appreciated by Dr Much. Albeit that, of course, the Commission, and in particular its Legal Service, was already aware of the legal position in the United Kingdom in that it comprises three separate and distinct jurisdictions, Dr Much found it very useful to have first hand information from the Senior Scottish Law Officer on particular aspects of the Scottish legal system and to hear from him of the special requirements to which this gives rise in the Commity context.

Dr Much was able during the course of his meeting with the Lord Advocate to assure Mr King Murray that, as the occasion arises, both in their advisory capacity on administrative questions and in so far as they are involved in the legislative process, the members of the Legal Service take great care to ensure that the needs of all legal

systems within the Community are fully taken into account, and that such advices as are rendered on administrative questions, and in the course of the prepation of legislation, fully reflect and accommodate the diverse nature of the differing legal traditions which exist in the Communities. In this respect, the almost unique position occupied by Scots law as being to a considerable extent a civil law system in the common law world, is by no means overlooked. As, of course, you know, the Legal Service is not in general the originating department for most Community Secondary legislation. This responsibility lies mostly with the relevant Directorate-General. However, the legal adviser responsible for advising that Directorate-General in each case ensures that should a question arise which necessitates special treatment for Scotland, or indeed for any other legal system, this aspect is not overlooked.

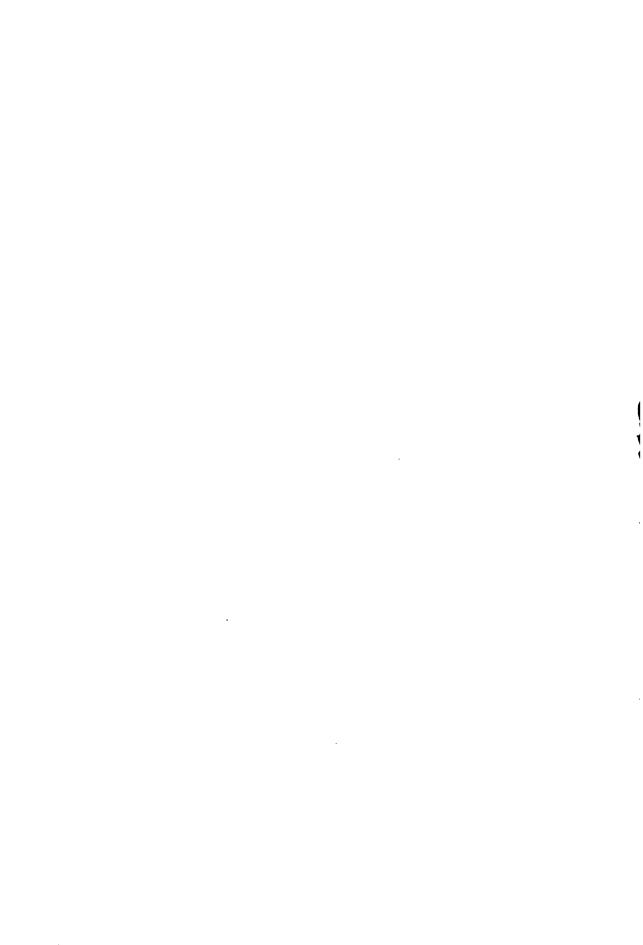
I am happy to be able to confirm that the above administrative practices of which the Lord Advocate was informed orally are, and shall continue to be, the standard practice within the services of the Commission. I am, therefore, confident that the Lord Advocate can rest assured on these points.

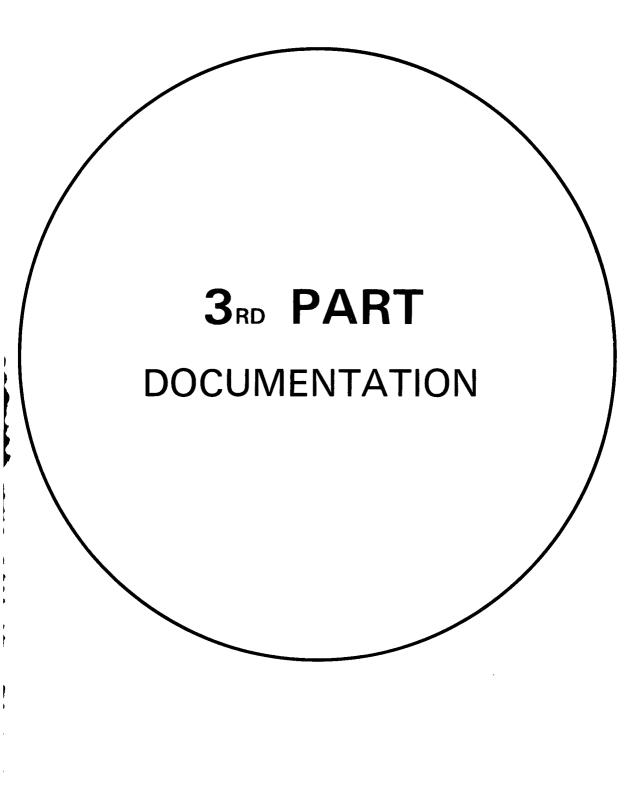
As far as the second problem which you raise is concerned, namely the confusion which undoubtedly exists outside the United Kingdom regarding the meaning of the term 'national law' in relation to the United Kingdom, in so far as such confusion may stem in any degree from language used in the Treaties or their secondary legislation, coupled with the undoubted prevailing view as to the meaning of this term in relation to the United Kingdom, I would agree that all possible steps should be taken to remove these misapprehensions. The problem may be one in the resolution of which the Commission can be of some assistance as far as matters which are within its competence are concerned. But, of course, the problem is perhaps also one for the resolution of which considerable responsibility must rest with HMG. As such, it would perhaps be out of place for us to make suggestions as to how, for

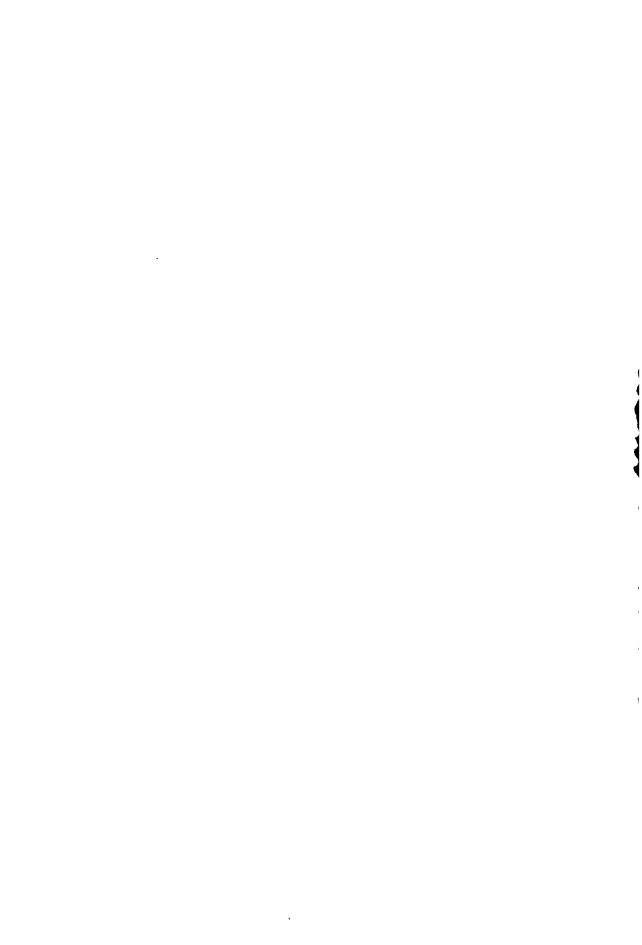
your part, you might proceed. However, it may be that in specific circumstances and in matters within the Comission's competence, the services of the Commission can be of some assistance to you in this area. Thus, for example, questions are not infrequently asked in the European Parliament which necessitate answers which refer to the 'national' law of some particular state. Again, reports and explanatory memoranda prepared for publication or for submission to the European Parliament or the other Community institutions may contain similar references. I can assure you that we shall do our best to ensure that where requisite such references to the United Kingdom will not give rise to any misunderstanding as to the meaning to be attached to the notion of 'national' law in so far as the United Kingdom is concerned.

The services of the Commission, as part of their ongoing process of contacts with the legal professions in the Member States, have already had the pleasure of two visits from the Law Society of Scotland. Such visits are greatly appreciated by the services of the Commission since it gives them a chace to meet at first hand the members of the various legal professions and to hear from them the problems which arise in relation to Community law in their legal systems.

It only remains for me to say that the services of the Commission and the Legal Service in particular will be very pleased in the future, as they have been in the past, to give you whatever assistance they can in the resolution of any problems which arise in the general sphere under discussion.







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Forschungshefte « Kohle ». Nr. 70. EUR 5280.

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Recueil de recherches « charbon ». N° 56. EUR 5283. 1976. 130 p. (F) FB 420,-

7210 (3)

Investigation of a (TiO2) Electrolyte solar cell and the question of the photocatalytic water decomposition. By W. Gissler. Energy. EUR 5514.

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FB 50,-

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Hochleistungs-Abbaubetriebe im Steinkohlenbergbau. Informationstagung (Luxemburg, 29. September bis 1. Oktober 1976). 1. Teil. EUR 5600.

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Chantiers d'abattage à haute performance dans les charbonnages. Journées d'information. (Luxembourg, du 29 septembre au 1^{er} octobre 1976). Volume 1. EUR 5600. 1976. 399 p. (D.E.F.) Volumes 1 + 2 FB 1 100,-

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Partnerschaft der Europäischen Gemeinschaft mit den Vereinigten Staaten auf dem Agrarsektor. Rede von Herrn Petrus Josephus Lardinois vor der National Soyabean Processors Association am 24. August 1976. Mitteilungen zur Gemeinsamen Agrarpolitik. Nr. 7. September 1976.

1976. 7 p. (D.E.F.I.NL)

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Newsletter on the common agricultural policy. No. 7. September 1976.

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Nouvelles de la politique agricole commune. Nº 7. Septembre 1976.

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Forschungshefte « Kohle ». Nr. 70 EUR 5280.

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(1976). Part I. 608 p. Part II. p. 609-1154 (D/E/F) Volumes 1 + 2. FB 2 700,-

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