Bulletin of the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES Commission



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In order to facilitate consultation of the Bulletin in the different language editions, the texts are numbered according to the following system: the first figure indicates the part, the second the chapter and the last two indicate the different points in the chapters. Quotations should be presented, therefore, in the following manner: Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2108.

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.

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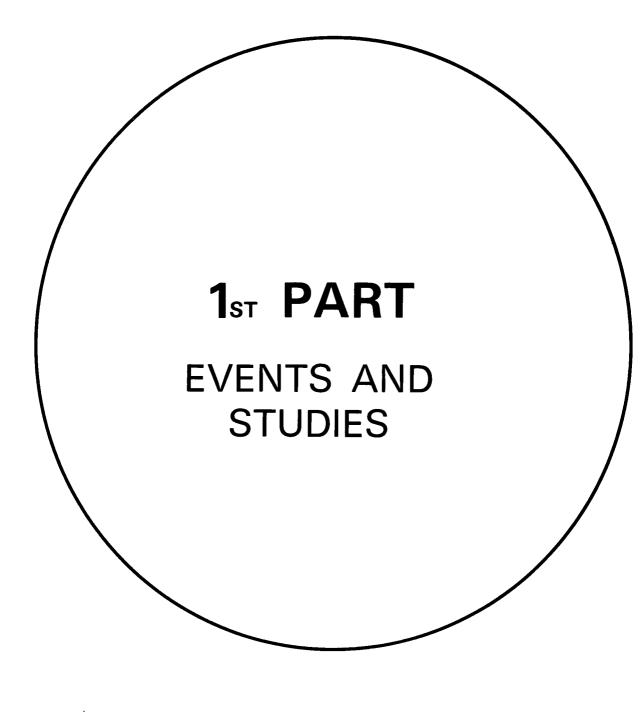
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- 1/76 European Union Report by Mr Leo Tindemans to the European Council
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Fourth programme

1. Medium-term economic policy

The fourth programme

1101. At its meeting of 29 September, the Commission agreed to send to the Council the draft fourth medium-term economic policy programme which it has drawn up on the basis of the preliminary draft submitted by the Economic Policy Committee¹ in accordance with the Council Decision of 18 February 1974.²

In preparing its own draft, the Commission felt that the economic policy objectives contained in the document should be spelled out in terms of action programmes and specific measures. There was also a need for the medium-term economic policies of the Member States to be aligned on the guidelines adopted at Community level. The two sides of industry, which the Commission consulted in accordance with the spirit of the conclusions reached at the last Tripartite Conference,³ shared this view.

Accordingly, the Commission included in the programme a foreword which is part and parcel of the programme. The text of this foreword is given below:

'1. The fourth medium-term economic policy programme must be seen as the framework for Community action in the economic field between 1976 and 1980. It lays down the economic development to be aimed at in the medium term and the economic policy consequences which arise from this. It therefore provides a firm basis for the measures to be taken between now and 1980 with a view to achieving progress towards economic and monetary union.

2. The fourth programme reflects the objectives put forward at the tripartite conference held in June 1976. It considers that the re-establishment of full employment must be the prime economic policy objective at Community and national level over the coming four years. The Community cannot, on social, economic and political grounds, accept a continuation of the level of unemployment recorded in 1975-1976. Full employment must be re-established in the whole of the Community by 1980 at the latest. In concrete terms, this means that the present number of unemployed must be roughly halved by 1980.

3. Full employment can only be re-established if at the same time at least two further basic economic policy objectives are met:

- GDP must grow faster and more evenly than in the last five years;

- inflation must be reduced to a more tolerable level.

4. The 4.5 to 5% annual growth rate of GDP put forward in the medium-term programme for the period 1976-80 must therefore be seen as a minimum.

An increase in the production of goods and services of at least one quarter by 1980 is, perhaps, not an objective in itself. It is, however, necessary to put the Community in a position:

- to re-establish full employment,

- to undertake urgent and necessary social reforms,

- to meet private and collective needs more satisfactorily,

- to reduce regional income differentials and to increase productivity in the less favoured regions,

- to make long-term progress towards greater independence in energy and raw material supplies through related investment,

- to devote more resources towards improving the environment in general and working conditions in particular.

5. In the medium-term, rapid economic growth will facilitate the re-establishment of stability.

For this purpose, reducing the rate of inflation in all the Member States to 4 to 5% by 1980 at the latest must be seen as a minimum requirement.

¹ Buil. EC 6-1976, point 2205.

² OJ L 63 of 5.3.1974.

³ Bull. EC 6-1976, points 1101 to 1105.

An ambitious objective on price stability is essential:

— on external economic policy grounds. Even with floating exchange rates $vis-\dot{a}-vis$ the rest of the world, the Community can only preserve or improve its international competitivity and therefore its capacity to import, if it has a high degree of internal price stability;

— on social and economic policy grounds. The social tensions which have appeared in many Member States can be resolved only if there is a considerable reduction in the rate of inflation;

— on integration policy grounds. As long as inflation rates in the Member States are not reduced to a more or less common level, efforts to achieve greater convergence in economic policy and greater exchange rate stability between the Member States and, consequently, progress towards economic and monetary union will be impeded.

6. A return to full employment must be based on a strategy comprising three main elements:

— an active, regionally and sectorally balanced growth policy: the higher the growth rate of GDP and therefore of total demand in the Community, the greater are the chances of reducing unemployment;

— a sustained effort by the two sides of industry to take account of overall economic constraints in their attitudes to incomes. This is of major importance for the competitiveness of the Community with the rest of the world and the maintenance or creation of jobs within the Community;

— an active and forward-looking employment policy to achieve a better balance between labour supply and demand.

7. The return to a stable situation can be achieved only if internal economic conflicts over distribution between the major social groups can be reduced to a more normal level. This must be seen as an essential part of any economic policy strategy which aims to reduce inflation.

Limits must be set to the self-interest of social groups. Demands made on society must be ac-

companied by correspondingly high returns by the group:

— the social groups must put their own particular interests further behind those of the public as a whole. This would take place voluntarily. In this context the duty of public authorities is to represent with appropriate determination the interests of the general public;

- no group should have the impression of being exploited or disadvantaged;

— the governments and the Community, acting together with the two sides of industry, must discuss and determine the necessary macro-economic framework for this.

A larger degree of social consensus in all the Member States is essential, if excessive and therefore inflationary demands on the national product are to end.

8. Greater social consensus can be achieved only if two important social policy goals are tackled as quickly as possible:

- greater worker participation in management decisions;

- a greater degree of justice in respect of wealth, income and taxation.

At the tripartite conference held in June, the governments and the two sides of industry agreed to take steps to promote the participation of employees in management decisions and capital accumulation by employees. During 1977, therefore, discussions should concentrate on these two areas. Concrete reforms along these lines should be in force in all Member States by 1980 at the latest.

9. The success of the programme also depends on the carrying out of concrete measures in other fields of economic and social policy which, besides their own intrinsic value, also help to improve the social consensus. Particular importance must be attached to the following points:

- investment, employment and labour market policies,

- competition policy,

- consumer protection.

With particular regard to industrial policy, the Commission will introduce the instruments needed to ensure:

(a) detailed information on national industrial objectives and their compatibility with Community objectives,

(b) transparency of resources allocated by the national public authorities to support these objectives,

(c) identification—on the basis of the Community's industrial objectives—of the major priorities to be carried out at Community and national level,

(d) determination of the necessary resources and, on this basis, coordination and concentration of Community instruments on priority objectives. A process of continuing and regular consultation and cooperation with the government authorities and the two sides of industry should be developed. In addition, so as to improve transparency in certain highly capital-intensive industries where there is a danger of surplus capacity the Commission will set up a system for the regular notification of information on investment projects.

The guidelines set out here in the programme must also lead to concrete measures in 1977.

10. The creation of greater stability also means that public deficits must be significantly reduced and public expenditure must grow much more slowly than in the past five years. However, this objective must also be set against the economic and budgetary problems which weigh against a short-term normalization of the public sector share of GDP in some Member States.

11. The programme in no way alters the desire to progress towards economic and monetary union and this objective must be retained in full.

It is clear from the analysis given in the fourth programme that a real solution to the problems of economic policy coordination can only be political and institutional in nature. Even if no major institutional progress can be immediately achieved at present, the procedures and instruments for economic and monetary policy coordination must be improved and developed within the existing political and institutional framework.

The direct elections to the European Parliament will, without doubt, give the Community a new impetus, thus providing a more favourable basis for the urgent and necessary task of resuming progress towards economic and monetary union.

12. Progress must also be achieved between 1977 and 1980 in the following areas:

(a) The creation of a greater degree of convergence in economic development between Member States.

(b) A greater degree of economic policy coordination by the Member States, both internally and externally. Economic policy consultations at Community level must be greatly increased and must include all important national economic policy decisions. In concrete terms this means that:

(i) The Community's medium-term economic programme must be seen as the basic criterion in implementing national economic policies. The Member States' own medium-term economic policy programmes, all important structural reforms and any short-term action plans should be systematically reviewed before their adoption to ensure their compatibility with the objectives of the fourth programme.

(ii) The annual updating of the medium-term projections should be complemented by quantitative information on how the short-term growth path fits in with the medium-term outlook, on desirable differences in the conjunctural situation between countries and on public finance. Particular attention must be paid to the employment position.

(iii) The compatibility of budgetary policy with medium-term stability and employment goals

and with basic macro-economic data should be regularly reviewed.

(iv) The Commission will annually propose quantitative objectives for monetary policy to the Council and will periodically check that they are being observed.

(c) Increased efforts to achieve the gradual establishment of stable exchange rate relationships between the currencies of the nine Member States. This means in practice:

(i) The retention of the present exchange rate agreement between five of the Member States.

(ii) Extension of exchange rate policy cooperation between these five Member States and the remaining four, with a view to ensuring the gradual regrouping of all the Community currencies within the snake.

(iii) Development of the European Monetary Cooperation Fund.

(iv) Improvement of the operation and organization of the capital market so as to achieve effective liberalization of capital movements within the Community.

(d) Removal of customs checks for persons travelling within the Community.

(e) Further development and strengthening of external economic policy.

The Community must promote a stable international order which will ensure in particular:

(i) The maintenance and development of free trade in the world,

(ii) Efforts to reduce exchange rate fluctuations.

In this context, the Community must develop its capacity to act as a single entity. It is the Community's duty, bearing in mind the growing international interdependence of economies and the search for a fairer distribution of wealth, to concentrate increasingly on enabling the developing countries to achieve their aspirations in the matter of economic and social development. 13. The reference framework which the programme represents will have to be translated into concrete economic policy measures; the Commission will put forward appropriate proposals for these.'

1102. Among the main points dealt with in the draft fourth programme, two merit special consideration: the extent of the restructuring of expenditure on GDP which must be carried out during the period and the importance of regulating short-term economic development.

The necessary developments—The recent development of the economic situation and a number of structural factors have brought about appreciable changes in the structure of expenditure on GDP at constant prices. In particular, there has been a sharp fall in the relative share of investment. If unemployment is to be reduced in the medium term, the proportion of GDP accounted for by investment will have to be restored to its former trend. The share of foreign trade must also be increased to account for the deterioration in the terms of trade and the interest on the oil debt. This redistribution of expenditure on GDP will have to be carried out at the expense of consumption and this will in turn affect primary incomes and public finance.

As regards primary incomes, the adjusted share of wages and salaries in national income rose sharply in the Community over the period 1970-75: although this seems to be largely a cyclical phenomenon in France, Ireland and Luxembourg, in other Member States the change is clearly of a structural nature. If the propensity to invest is to match up with the improvement in employment aimed at in the programme, wages and salaries as a proportion of national income will have to revert to their normal previous pattern.

The share of public revenue and expenditure in GDP tended to rise sharply between 1960 and 1973. In all Member States except Italy, Ireland and the United Kingdom, where there were substantial structural deficits, this increase was

achieved in conditions of equilibrium. The recession of 1974-75 automatically entailed a deterioration of the public finance situation in all the Member States. Although public sector deficits gave a short-term boost to the economies, their persistence in the medium term would increase the burden of public debt and, above all, jeopardize the re-establishment of external equilibrium and of the rate of investment.

In addition to the problem of the deficits, another problem arising, in parallel, is that of the share of GDP accounted for by taxes and social welfare contributions: if public expenditure were to go on growing (in relative terms) at such a high rate, many Member States would face a formidable problem constituted by the need to raise taxes and social welfare contributions without undermining the normal operation of their economies.

An aggravating factor is that the official investment drive may not in fact solve the unemployment problem and a specific employment policy aimed principally at matching the supply of labour more closely to demand could not be implemented without additional public spending.

These problems lie at the heart of the issues dealt with in the fourth programme, and a response to them is offered in the main lines of the principal economic policy measures which it proposes.

Short-term economic development — Those responsible for economic policy must ensure that economic development in the Community follows the criteria laid down in the fourth programme.

As the recovery gathers momentum there must be sufficient investment to support growth, for it is desirable that the growth of private and public consumption should lose momentum. The external balance will deteriorate as the recovery progresses, and domestic savings must be stepped up to offset liquidity losses on external account. Inflationary overheating and production capacity bottlenecks must also be avoided—a careful supervision of the domestic and international liquidity situations will be useful in this context. 1103. A last point is that the guidelines set out in the fourth programme will have to be given more substance as and when the economic policies of the Member States are implemented and regularly adjusted as a result of discussions at Community level. In view of the uncertainty which still surrounds future economic development, the Fourth programme is a dynamic instrument and this first document cannot be more than a tentative blueprint. It will have to be amplified and supplemented throughout the fouryear period.

This ongoing process should involve a regular review and, if necessary, adjustment of the macroeconomic guidelines which have been laid down, thus ensuring a greater degree of convergence of economic developments in the Community.

2. Community fisheries policy and law of the sea

1201. Creation of a 200-mile Community fishing zone from January 1977, negotiation of fishing agreements with interested non-member countries, preparation of a Community system for the management of resources: these are the three main points of a Communication on the Community's future fisheries policy which the Commission presented to the Council on 23 September.

200-mile Community fishing zone

1202. Following the declaration of intent adopted by the Council on 27 July,¹ the Commission called upon the Council to adopt a resolution whereby the Member States would act in concert to extend their fishing zones to 200 miles from 1 January 1976 along their North Sea and North Atlantic coasts, without prejudice to action of a similar nature in respect of other fishing zones under their jurisdiction, in particular the Mediterranean.

The resolution proposed by the Commission also states that access by non-Community countries to the new 200-mile zone will be conditional on the conclusion of an agreement to be negotiated between the Community and the country concerned. It follows that the Community must be prepared both to accept negotiations where the Community has a clear interest in maintaining access to a non-member country's waters.

The proposal is designed to follow up the declaration of intent adopted by the Council on 27 July 1976. The Council then made clear its view that measures to establish 200-mile economic zones should be taken only in accordance with the conclusion of the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. At the same time, the Council recognized that the increasing trend among other countries with large-scale fishing industries to extend their fishing zones unilaterally to 200 miles without awaiting the outcome of the conference could force the Member States to **Fisheries**

act in order to protect the legitimate interests of Community fishermen.

The major fishing countries within the North Atlantic area, where a large proportion of Community fishing takes place, have either already extended their fishing limits to 200 miles or are preparing to do so by 1 January or at the latest 1 March 1977. The risk that non-Community countries would then intensify their exploitation of fish stocks within Member States' waters, thus jeopardizing the maintenance of the Community's fishing resources, is becoming daily more real. Concerted action by the Member States to extend their fishing limits to 200 miles on 1 January 1977 will enable the Community to negotiate effectively for continued access for Community fishermen to other countries' waters, to prevent the diversion of non-Community fishermen from other North Atlantic waters to the Community zone, and to start the process of building-up the Community's already much depleted stocks.

External aspects of the common fisheries policy

Negotiations with non-Community countries

1203. Under the proposed resolution, the Community would make it clear to all non-member countries which currently fish in Community waters that they will be able to do so in future only if they negotiate a fisheries agreement with the Community. The Commission's Communication includes proposed negotiating directives for such agreements; it takes account of the exploratory talks which the Commission has had with a number of coastal countries in the North Atlantic area (the United States, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland), as well as of the situation with regard to certain other non-Community countries that fish in the area.

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

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The Agreements envisaged at this stage would be framework agreements concerned with the legal context in which Community fishermen may continue to fish in the waters of non-Community countries and vice-versa. They will not themselves cover actual tonnages or quotas but will provide the basis on which details will be fixed by annual negotiations.

The agreements will take account of the principles generally accepted by the participants at the third UNCLOS, and will contain three main elements: reciprocal fishing rights, access to possible future surpluses, and the phasing out of existing rights where no reciprocal negotiation is possible. The agreements will include one or more of these three different elements, varying from country to country.

The Commission envisages three broad categories of country:

(i) Those whose waters are fished by Community fishermen, but whose fishermen do not traditionally fish in Community waters. The Community will seek to obtain at least most-favoured-nation treatment in the allocation of fish stocks.

(ii) Those with which the Community has extensive interlinked fishing interests calling for reciprocal arrangements. Agreements with these countries could include joint measures to conserve fish stocks. Any reduction in Community fishing in their waters should be as gradual as possible.

(iii) Those that fish in Community waters and in those waters that Community fishermen do not habitually fish. Without excluding some element of reciprocity, the basic objective will be the phasing out of these countries' current fishing operations.

The North-East and North-West Atlantic Fisheries' Commissions

1204. The Communication deals with the future role of the Community in the North-East

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and North-West Atlantic Fisheries' Commissions. The EEC Commission's view, the establishment of a Community 200 mile fishing zone, will require the amendment of the conventions establishing the NEAFC and ICNAF to allow the Community as such to participate.

Community system of management and conservation

1205. The future Community zone will extend to numerous and potentially rich fishing grounds, in which the Community will bear responsibility for conservation and exploitation.

Overfishing of these grounds in the past has so far prevented an optimal yield being attained. In these circumstances the Community must, without delay, by means of an appropriate policy for the protection of fishing grounds ensure conservation and replenishment of stocks; it must also undertake a progressive reorganization of economic activity in this sector, in the light of the volume of resources which can be exploited annually after replenishment.

The conservation policy to be implemented will only be effective if there is a rational policy based on management by stocks or groups of stocks in a given maritime area. These measures will in particular include supervision of fishing gear, the delimitation of areas closed to certain seasonal or long-term fishing, limitation of catches by the fixing of an annual total allowable catch (TAC), perhaps leading eventually to the regulation and supervision of fishing activity in general. With this in view, the Commission proposes the adoption of a Community system for the management of fishing resources, based on permanent rules for conservation and supervision. This system includes in particular a mechanism for allocating quotas, proposed for an initial five-year period.

Inshore fishing

1206. Special attention must be paid to the position of inshore fishing, which may well be threatened during the process of adapting Community fishing to the new situation. The allocation of the availabilities among the fishermen of the Member States in the zone from 0 to 200 miles may have particularly serious social and economic repercussions for the northern regions of the United Kingdom and for Ireland, especially where the availabilities of a given species are below their previous level.

It is therefore proposed that a Community reserve should be established for each of the main species, and that the amount of this reserve should be fixed each year on the basis of the vital needs of the fishermen in these regions and the extent to which catches are below their previous level. This reserve will enable an additional quantity to be allocated on a priority basis to these fishermen, who have traditionally fished the stocks in question.

The Commission is also proposing special measures concerning access to the Member States' coastal waters. These proposals include the extension from six to twelve miles of the waters reserved to inshore fishermen under Article 101 of the Act of Accession. The application of this provision is extended to all Community coasts and beyond 31 December 1982 (the date laid down in Article 101 of the Act of Accession). The special rights which Member States may enjoy within the coastal strips of another Member State will be maintained. The Commission proposes that the Council re-examine all these provisions before 31 December 1982 on the basis of a report from the Commission. Should the Council take no decision to the contrary, on a proposal from the Commission, these provisions would remain in force.

Management measures

1207. Each year the Commission will propose to the Council that an annual total allowable catch (TAC) per stock or group of stocks be fixed. This would at present appear to be for most species one of the most effective means of obtaining an optimum yield from the resources. The fixing of the TAC would also be accompanied by supplementary measures (net meshes, fishing season, etc.) to prevent the taking of immature fish, so that stocks may be maintained at maximum yield.

Following the fixing of the TAC per stock or group of stocks the Community would have to distribute the permissible catches fairly among the fishermen of the Member States, using a system of quotas. The volume of these catches will be equal to the total of the TACs, minus the total of any catches allocated to non-member countries in the Community zone, plus catches by the Community in the waters of non-member countries. The allocation of catches, after deduction of the reserve for fishermen in the northern regions of Britain and in Ireland, should be done primarily on the basis of the Member States' 'historic performances' over a reference period to be determined. The quota allocation mechanism should be reviewed before 31 December 1982 in order to determine, in the light of experience and the results of the conservation policy, what measures should be applied in this field after that date.

Supervision measures

1208. The application of a system for the management of fishery resources based on the establishment of a system of catch quotas must of necessity be accompanied by a suitable system of supervision organized on a Community basis. It is accordingly proposed that a system for supervising fishing should be introduced, based on a Community system for the granting of fishing permits. The supervision is to cover the conservation measures as a whole, must be effected in a detailed manner and must include both activities in the fishing grounds and landings. This is the only way of ensuring that the sacrifices by fishermen in order to replenish resources are not made null and void by the irresponsible behaviour of other fishermen who are less heedful of the need to comply with the conservation measures and in particular with the catch quotas. The system of licences should apply initially to Member States' vessels engaged in fishing in other Member States' coastal zones between 0 and 12 miles.

Structural measures

1209. The Community fleets have been designed according to fishing patterns based on both the nature of the fishery resources and on constraints of a geographical nature (distance from fishing grounds). These patterns no longer correspond to the new conditions which will arise for fishing in the Community. It will therefore be necessary to effect a major reduction and redirection of fishing capacity to bring it to an optimum level in relation to the fishing potential and also to adapt onshore structures and the other activities closely linked to the production process. In order to attain these objectives the Commission proposes:

(a) introducing measures to facilitate the progressive conversion of vessels;

(b) allocating an estimated amount of 400 million u.a. from the EAGGF, spread over a period of five years for the attainment of the objectives pursued.

These measures should help to bring about the definitive withdrawal from operation of obsolete and uneconomic deep-sea fishing vessels and, where appropriate, the temporary withdrawal of fishing vessels capable of adaptation to the changed operating conditions.

They should also promote the constitution of

recognized producers' organizations to lay down plans for cutting back their fleets' operations in line with the introduction of catch quotas and encourage efforts to locate new species of fish or to fish new areas and to evolve techniques for developing and expanding the market for species of fish at present not used, or under-used, for human consumption. They should also make possible the phased conversion of some plants producing significant quantities of fish meal and fish oil, where the continuing production of these would be in conflict with the general objectives of conserving the biological resources of the sea.

Social and regional aspects

1210. The measures to limit catches or control fishing activities necessary for the rational management of the resources of the Community zone are likely during a transitional period to have consequences which could affect the activity of fishermen, and therefore their social situation, in certain maritime regions of the Community. The Community and the Member States must, by the adoption of suitable measures, ensure that the level of employment is maintained in balance with local requirements.

In view of the diversity of the existing national provisions governing this matter, Community coordination measures are required to harmonize the social possibilities open to fishermen in the Community. At the same time specific Community measures complementary to those existing already (European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund and the EIB) should contribute to attaining the general objectives of the common fisheries policy and facilitate adjustment by the fishermen concerned to the structural difficulties of the sector.

Community and Portugal

3. The Community and Portugal

The movement towards closer relations 1301. between the Community and Portugal which dates back to 1974 was marked in September by two significant events: the signature of two Protocols and of an Interim Agreement extending the scope of the Free Trade Agreement signed in 1972, and the formal confirmation by the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs that his country wished to become a member of the Community and would make an official application for membership at the appropriate time.

At the same time, on 22 September, Portugal became the nineteenth member of the Council of Europe¹ —at the invitation of the Committee of Ministers of that organization—when the instruments of accession were handed over to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and the European Convention on Human Rights was signed.

EEC-Portugal relations since 1972

1302. On 22 July 1972 Portugal signed a Free Trade Agreement² with the Community, the entry into force of which coincided with the enlargement of the Community on 1 January 1973.

This Agreement was concerned purely with trade and was negotiated concurrently with the Free Trade Agreements concluded with the other EFTA countries which were not applicants for membership. In order to take account of Portugal's level of development and economic structure the Agreement differed from those with the other EFTA countries in that it contained a slower timetable for the dismantling of tariffs on the Portuguese side, and in addition the Community granted a number of concessions in agriculture and for fishery products.

The development of a closer relationship between the Community and Portugal dates back to the events of April 1974, which cleared the way for the establishment of democracy in Portugal. In May 1974,³ following the visit of Mr Mario Soares to Brussels, the Commission drew attention to the economic, financial, technical and other support which the Community and the Member States could provide to help Portugal in its determination to bring about democracy and economic recovery. The Commission considered that a democratic Portugal naturally had a part to play in the construction of Europe.

On 27 June 1974,⁴ at the meeting of the Joint Committee responsible for administering the 1972 Agreement, the Portuguese delegation reaffirmed that Portugal subscribed fully to the democratic principles and fundamental objectives of the Community. The delegation stated that the Portuguese Government wished to strengthen ties of cooperation with the Community going beyond the 1972 Agreement, on the basis of the evolutive clause in that Agreement, and expressed the hope that the Community would be able to help in the reorganization of the Portuguese economy in order to enable Portugal to play a full part in a democratic Europe. The Community delegation welcomed the political developments in Portugal which, by opening the way towards a democratic order, made the establishment of closer relations with Portugal possible.

Prompted by the Community's favourable attitude, the Portuguese Government indicated at the next meeting of the Joint Committee in Lisbon on 25 and 26 November 1974,⁵ the ways in which it wished to improve the 1972 Agreement in trade matters and other areas. The Working Party set up to examine these requests submitted its report on 28 May 19756 to the Joint Committee, which recommended the opening of negotiations.

- 1 Point 2315. 2
- OJ L 301 of 31.12.1972. 3
- Bull. EC 5-1974, point 2319. 4
- 5
- Bull. EC 6-1974, point 2341. Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2324. Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2333.

On 11 June 1975¹ the Commission forwarded to the Council a set of proposals not only to improve and extend the Free Trade Agreement but also to provide immediate and substantial financial aid. The purpose of this aid was to help the Portuguese Government to deal with the economic crisis without waiting for the conclusion of a formal financial protocol requiring a long delay. On 16 July² the European Council confirmed the principle of aid for Portugal but pointed out that the Community would only be able to support a pluralist democracy. On 7 October³ the Council decided to offer Portugal exceptional emergency aid amounting to 150 million units of account in the form of subsidized EIB loans, the subsidy-totalling some 30 million units of account-to come from the Community budget.

On 20 January 1976⁴ the Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations with Portugal for the improvement and development of the 1972 Agreement.

Results of the negotiations

The negotiations for the improvement of 1303. the 1972 Free Trade Agreement began on 13 February and were completed on 9 June 1976.⁵ The following outlines the results of the negotiations.

Additional Protocol

Trade

The Community will apply the following additional concessions to encourage Portuguese exports:

Industry — The final abolition of customs duties on imports into the Community of industrial products subject to the general tariff dismantling arrangements will be brought forward from 1 July 1977—the date stipulated in the 1972 Agreement-to 1 July 1976. This measure has already been applied in advance.

As regards the sensitive products for which the 1972 Agreement makes special provision, the Protocol specifies the following improvements:

Textiles: Increase in the volumes of import ceilings beyond which customs duties may be reimposed for certain textile products and ready-made articles, provided that Portugal takes the necessary measures so that its exports to the United Kingdom do not exceed the levels agreed for 1976.

Paper: Opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for certain categories of paper for which the 1972 Agreement stipulates a slower tariff dismantling timetable (final abolition on 1 January 1984).

Agriculture — The Community will apply tariff reductions to certain agricultural and preserved fishery products (cucumbers, sweet peppers, cauliflowers, herrings, mackerel, crustaceans, etc.), in addition to the concessions already contained in the 1972 Agreement.

As regards wine, the Community will increase the volume of tariff quotas and the rate of tariff reduction for Port, Madeira and Setubal Muscatel.

In addition, certain provisions of the 1972 Agreement on imports into Portugal have been amended in order to permit Portugal to provide greater protection for certain of its most vulnerable industries. Certain products will be transferred from List A (final abolition on duties on 1 January 1980) to List B (final abolition on 1 January 1985).

Customs duties of up to 20% will be reimposed on certain products, but they will have to be progressively abolished by 1 January 1985.

¹

Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2338. Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2343. Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2333. Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2326. Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2342. 2

³ 4

In order to protect new industries, Portugal may be authorized to reimpose customs duties on products exceeding 10% of the total value of Portugal's imports from the Nine.

Cooperation

Industrial, technical, technological and financial cooperation will be instituted as a means of contributing to Portugal's economic and social development (see also the Financial Protocol).

Labour and social security

Portuguese workers in the Community will benefit from non-discriminatory treatment as regards working conditions and pay. As regards social security they may:

(i) add together periods of insurance or residence completed in the various Member States, for the purpose of calculating pensions and medical care;

(ii) receive medical care and family allowances for themselves and the members of their families resident in the Community;

(iii) freely transfer to Portugal old age and invalidity pensions, etc.

Financial Protocol

Amount: 200 million European units of account in the form of EIB loans, including 150 million EUA attracting interest-rate subsidies of 3% per annum (cost to the Community: 30 million EUA).

Duration: Five years to run from the entry into force of the Protocol or from 1 January 1978, whichever is the later; the exceptional emergency aid is intended to cover 1976 and 1977.

Purpose: Financing of capital projects helping to increase productivity and to diversify the Portuguese economy, and promoting in particular the

industrialization of the country and the modernization of its agriculture. The loans attracting interest-rate subsidies are reserved for the financing of small and medium-sized businesses, economic infrastructure, agricultural development and the processing of agricultural and fishery products.

The Interim Agreement is due to enter into force on 1 November 1976, the Additional Protocol and the Financial Protocol after their ratification, that is in early 1978. The Financial Protocol is to take over from emergency aid and therefore it cannot under any circumstances enter into force before 1 January 1978 since emergency aid will come to an end at the end of 1977.

The present and the future

1304. The speeches made at the ceremony on 20 September in Brussels marking the signature of the two Protocols and the Interim Agreement herald new developments in relations between the Community and Portugal.

The President of the Council, Mr van der Stoel, declared that by establishing cooperation between the Community and Portugal and by making improvements to the 1972 Agreement, the Community was endeavouring to give as speedily as possible effective aid to the Portuguese economy, and thereby to democracy in Portugal. It was the Community's intention to further and develop this form of constructive cooperation—founded as it was on mutual trust—with the Portuguese people.

Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, described the progress made in less than three years: 'All those for whom 25 April 1974 marked Portugal's emergence from a long nightmare and who, since that historic day, have followed with passionate interest, sometimes with apprehension, but always with hope, the struggle of the Portuguese people to strengthen democracy, can but welcome the closer links between democratic Portugal and the Community which Community and Portugal

4. Food aid: The Commission's three-year programme

are being forged today. This intensification of our relations is a logical element in the political plan of a Portugal which is aware of having stabilized the newly restored democracy, eager to achieve economic recovery and to guarantee economic development and desirous of taking its rightful place among the European democracies.'

The Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Medeiros Ferreira, referred to the continuity and the future of the relations between Portugal and the Community and in this connection he reaffirmed Portugal's desire to play its part in Europe and stated that his Government would, in due course, give substance to this desire by applying for membership of the European Communities. 1401. As part of its food aid policy for developing countries, the Commission, in a Communication transmitted to the Council on 15 September, proposed the adoption of a three-year indicative programme covering the period 1977 to 1979.

The programme has four main features: aid is planned for a three-year period; the tonnages to be supplied must be at least equal to those of 1976, but the aim is to increase them significantly if the economic and financial situation of the Community allows; aid will be concentrated on cereals; there will be a gradual process of incorporating national schemes into an overall Community system.

These proposals respect the guidelines put forward in the memorandum presented by the Commission to the Council in March 1974 on Community food aid policy.¹

Medium-term planning

1402. The idea of medium-term planning, advanced by the Commission in its 1974 memorandum—the 'medium term' referring specifically to a three-year period—has recently been accepted by the Council.

It was accepted that in order to minimize the effect of seasonal price variations on the quantities available for food aid, a medium-term food aid programme should be expressed in quantitative terms, and—to allow some flexibility for annual variations in supply and demand—a maximum and minimum quantity should be given for each product supplied.

The Commission was invited to make specific proposals to this effect, and the Communication it presented proposed the adoption of a first three-year indicative food aid programme for the Community, covering the period 1977-79 and taking effect as from 1977.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1974, points 1303 to 1313.

(tonnes)

Future programmes will be adopted every three years, well before they are to come into effect, so that developing countries can be informed sufficiently in advance of intentions of the Community for the following three years.

When it accepted the concept of medium-term planning, the Council made a distinction between global planning—aimed at establishing indicative objectives at world level—and specific planning—confined to certain organizations and clearly defined projects affecting certain countries. The Commission's Communication deals only with the first type of planning. Other proposals, on specific objectives, will be made between now and the end of the year, when the annual programme for 1977 is being presented. In future overall and specific programmes will be prepared at the same time.

Increasing the volume of aid

The 1974 memorandum itself proposed 1403. an increase in the total volume of Community food aid, but this suggestion, in spite of the support of Parliament and the agreement of a number of Member States, has not so far been accepted by the Council. The Commission believes however that the programme should provide for some increase in the Community's present efforts in the food aid field, particularly in cereals. In no way can this be interpreted as likely to generate agricultural surpluses in the Community. Even if Community food aid does rise above the present level, it will continue to be of marginal importance in relation to the Community's agricultural production and the supplies available to it.

The Commission therefore proposes that the Community should undertake to provide a volume of food aid (in cereals, milk powder and butteroil) at least equal to that of 1976, and that it should also set itself the target of a significantly higher maximum level of aid. The proposed programme is shown in Table 1.

Table	1	—	Three-year	indicative	food	aid	pro-
			gramme 197	77-1979			

			(Tonnes)
Products	Minimum annual targets	Maximum annual targets	1976 figures
Cereals – provided by	1 650 000	2 500 000	1 287 000
Community schemes	1 077 000 to 1 350 000		708 000
Skimmed-milk powder	150 000	175 000	150 000
Butteroil	45 000	65 000	45 000

The commodity composition is somewhat different from that given in the 1974 memorandum, sugar and 'other products' not being included in the programme, which is now limited to cereals, skimmed-milk powder and butteroil, three basic food products which have for a long time played a major role in food aid and which can be expected to continue to meet most of the developing countries' food needs.

The Commission also proposed that for all three products only the minimum targets should be adopted as firm supply commitments for 1977. This means that as compared with the effective tonnage in 1976, there would be no change for skimmed-milk powder and butteroil next year, the increase in volume being confined to cereals alone.

As regards the other two years of the programme, the decisions on the size of firm commitments within the range for each product should each be taken in the preceding year, i.e., in 1977 for 1978 and in 1978 for 1979. If necessary, the initial (1977) targets could then be moved upwards within the range.

The minimum and maximum targets proposed are relatively low in relation to production, with the possible exception of skimmed-milk powder (7.7 % in 1977).

The cost of the programme would be 273 million units of account for 1977. This falls short of the figure proposed in the draft budget for 1977 (303.75 million u.a.) which also included sugar (for UNRWA), 'other products' and 'other expenditure', not included in the new proposal.

Breakdown of the programme by product

Cereals

1404. The programme's proposed indicative range for cereals is close to that originally suggested in the Commission memorandum, which was endorsed at the time by a number of Member States. The minimum figure proposed for 1977 is 356 500 tonnes more than the total volume of cereals at present supplied by the Community and the Member States under the Food Aid Convention. This increase was originally proposed in March 1975 as a minimum additional contribution by the Community to the efforts made by other donors to reach the world food aid target of 10 million tonnes, set by the World Food Conference in November 1974.¹

The Commission is maintaining its proposal for an intensified food aid effort on cereals for the following reasons. Firstly, the developing countries' food aid needs have certainly not diminished since 1974. On the contrary, they are bound to increase before currently planned specific measures to increase food production (IFAD) begin to bear fruit. Recent studies have shown that the cereal import requirements of the poorest developing countries taken as a whole may well rise from 19 million tonnes in 1972-74 to 50 million tonnes in 1985. Furthermore, the potential net cereal deficit in 1985 of all developing countries, which the FAO at the World Food Conference put at approximately 80 million tonnes, may prove to be an underestimate. Latest information would suggest that a deficit of 100 million tonnes 'could well prove conservative'. In fact, if the forecast is based on the most recent trends in

cereal production in the developing countries, the deficit could well reach 200 million tonnes a year by 1985.

Moreover, the Community alone among the major donors has not so far responded to the call of the World Food Conference for an increase in food aid in cereals. This has been noted and criticized in various international forums.

The Commission also proposes that the increase of 356 000 tonnes in the present volume of cereal aid offered by the Community and the Member States for 1977 should be made outside the food aid convention, and that it should be handled entirely at Community level. In 1977, national aid should remain at the level recently agreed in the context of the Food Aid Convention, namely 566 500 tonnes.

Skimmed-milk powder

1405. Apart from the considerable needs of many developing countries for purposes of direct consumption, the principal argument in favour of increasing food aid in the form of skimmed-milk powder, or at least in favour of maintaining it at the 1976 level (150 000 tonnes per year) is that an assured high level of food aid in this form is frequently a condition of other investments needed in the dairy industry itself and in the related infrastructures such as the local collection and distribution system, quality control, construction of feeder roads, retail outlets, etc.

The indicative range for skimmed-milk powder in the Commission's proposal represents as realistic an assessment as possible of both the capacity of the developing countries to absorb the commodity, based on the experience gained in the preparation of the enlarged programme of 1976, and the likely availability of skimmed-milk powder supplies in the Community in the period 1977-79.

¹ Bull. EC 11-1974, points 1401 to 1407.

Food aid

The lower limit of the range corresponds to the tonnage offered as food aid in 1976. It falls short of the requests received and is far below the peak level reached at the beginning of the sixties, when world skimmed-milk aid approached 250 000 tonnes per year.

Butteroil

1406. The indicative target figures given for butteroil represent a conservative estimate of the capacity of the developing countries to absorb the product and of the technical capability of European industry to transform butter into butteroil. The proposed range is the same as that originally given in the 1974 memorandum. The planned tonnage for food aid is the same as in 1976.



1. Functioning of the common market

Customs union

Tariff measures

Suspensions

2101. On 9 September¹ the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, adopted regulations totally or partially suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of fresh or chilled vegetables (cauliflowers, white and red cabbages, peas, beans, carrots, onions and celery)-until 30 September in some cases and 31 October in others-on potatoes falling within subheadings 07.01 AI and 07.01 AIIIb of the CCT (until 31 December) and on preserved beans in pod (also until 31 December). The reasons for these measures, some of which extend existing suspensions, are that the products are in short supply or prices have risen following the drought.

2102. On 24 September,² the Commission authorized Denmark and the United Kingdom to suspend totally until 31 October the customs duties on a number of vegetables imported from other Member States.

2103. On 17 and 24 September³ the Commission also decided to authorize Denmark and the United Kingdom to suspend totally until 30 September or 31 October, at the same levels as are applicable in the original Community, the customs duties on certain vegetables imported from third countries. Under the Act of Accession, the new Member States may be authorized to align their duties to those of the Common Customs Tariff at a more rapid rate than that laid down, in respect of products covered by a common organization of the market. The Commission decided to accede to the request from the two countries, since this measure should help improve the supply position by facilitating imports of the vegetables in question from third countries.

2104. To help combat the effect of the drought, the Council decided on 20 September² to suspend totally until 31 March 1977 the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products for use mainly as feedingstuffs. And on 27 September⁴ the Commission authorized Denmark and the United Kingdom to carry out the same suspension of customs duties for the same products imported from other Member States and from non-member countries.

Duty-free entry

2105. On 16 September⁵ the Commission decided to prolong once again-until 31 December 1976-the duty-free importation of goods for free distribution to the earthquake victims in the Friuli region.

On 17 September⁶ Parliament delivered an 2106. opinion on a Commission proposal to the Council on the harmonization of legislation regarding customs debt.

OJ L 251 of 15.9.1976.

² OJ L 261 of 25.9.1976. 3

OJ L 255 of 18.9.1976 and L 261 of 25.9.1976. 4

OJ L 264 of 28.9.1976. OJ L 254 of 17.9.1976. 5

Point 2419.

Competition policy

Internal common market

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical barriers to trade

Dangerous substances

2107. On 20 September the Commission sent to the Council a proposal for amending for the sixth time the Directive of 27 June 1967^1 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances,² with the aim of protecting consumers and workers.

The proposed amendment ties in with both the general programme for the removal of technical barriers to trade and the Community action programme on the environment.

The proposal is designed to deal with the problem of the growing number of chemical compounds produced and the increased risks which the use of these products entails for both human beings and the environment. It requires that any new substance marketed in the Member States must be notified to the responsible national authority, which will have the power to change, if necessary, its classification and to restrict or ban its use.

The Commission's proposal is the natural followup to the Directives already prepared on dangerous substances and preparations, which cover solvents, detergents and the methods of determining the biodegradability of anionic surfactants. Other Directives dealing with certain preparations are being adopted.

In order to keep a close watch on the development and use of new substances, it is proposed that they be systematically listed as soon as they appear on the market.

Competition policy

State aids

Export aids

Italy

2108. On 8 September the Commission adopted a Decision³ on the assistance granted in Italy by the Istituto Nazionale per il Commercio Estero (ICE) to expand sales by certain Italian industries on the markets of the other Member States. The assistance was in the form of financial contributions to joint advertising campaigns launched by the toy, textile, clothing and footwear industries in particular.

The Commission's attention was drawn to this assistance by complaints and requests for information by other Member States and trade organizations, and in April⁴ it initiated the procedure of Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty. At the same time, it asked the other Member States to state whether they operated aid schemes of this kind in intra-Community trade to promote the export of their industrial products.

The Commission has always held that export aids in any form whatsoever in trade between Member States are incompatible with the general principles of a common market, particularly as regards the free movement of goods. In this particular case, the assistance granted by the ICE accounted for a sizeable proportion of turnover on the markets in question and affected mainly industries currently experiencing serious difficulties.

¹ OJ 196 of 16.8.1967.

² Point 2218.

³ OJ L 270 of 2.10.1976.

⁴ Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2116 and 4-1976, point 2112.

Competition policy

2. Economic and monetary union

The Commission Decision requires the Italian Government to adopt the necessary measures without delay to ensure that the ICE discontinues this form of assistance in intra-Community trade.

The other Member States informed the Commission that they did not operate aid schemes of this kind to promote exports of industrial products.

2109. On 16 September Parliament, after debate,¹ passed a Resolution on the Commission's Fifth Report on Competition Policy.

Economic, monetary and financial policy

Fourth medium-term economic policy programme

2201. On 29 September, the Commission adopted the draft of the fourth medium-term economic policy programme referred to in Article 6 of the Council Decision of 18 February 1974.¹ This document,² which was based on the preliminary draft transmitted to the Commission by the Economic Policy Committee in July,³ had been the subject of a broad range of consultations organized by the Commission between Community employers' and workers' organizations in accordance with the conclusions of the Tripartite Conference held in June.⁴

The draft will be transmitted without delay to the Council, which will then consult Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee. The programme will then be adopted by the Council and the governments of the Member States.

Coordination of economic policies

2202. The economic situation in the Community and the preparations for meetings to be held during the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (Manila, 4 to 8 October) were the main items on the agenda of the Council meeting (Economics/Finance) held in Brussels on 20 September and chaired by Mr Duisenberg, Netherlands Minister of Finance.

With regard to the economic situation, Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, said that the *recovery* which had got under way in the Community in the spring of 1975 and which had then gradually spread to all the Member States

OJ L 63 of 5.3.1974.

² Points 1101 to 1103.

³ Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2205.

⁴ Bull. EC 6-1976, points 1101 to 1105.

¹ Point 2420.

Economic, monetary and financial policy

had remained rapid in 1976. However, the strength of the expansion had tended to become more normal in the more recent months.

Roughly one year after the recession had 'bottomed out', there had been no notable improvement in the general *employment* situation in the Community. Germany and Denmark were the only Member States in which the recovery in demand and production had led to a tendency towards a reduction in the numbers of wholly unemployed. In most of the other member countries, the numbers of wholly unemployed had continued to grow. In all countries, the arrival of school and university leavers on the labour market was posing serious problems.

The efforts made by the Member States to cut in*flation* seemed to have produced some results. In June and July, the monthly rate for consumer price increases for the Community as a whole. had been the lowest for several years. In some Member States, changes in basic factors, such as the slow-down in the rise of wage and salary costs, had been partly responsible for this improvement. In other countries, it was only by applying price controls, in some cases rigorous ones, and by postponing adjustments to public service charges that it had been possible to cut the rate of inflation.

In most of the Member States, the economic recovery had been accompanied by a noticeable deterioration in the balance of trade, the main cause of which was the appreciable deterioration in the Community's terms of trade. During more recent months, the deterioration in the trade balance of some deficit Member States seemed to have come to a halt, or at least the rate of deterioration had slowed down.

Community loan

2203. At the same meeting on 20 September, the Council adopted a decision¹ authorizing the Commission to convert a tranche of \$100 million of the variable-interest Community loan contracted in March into a fixed-interest loan. The borrowing operations approved by the Council on 15 March²—covering a total of \$1 300 million to correspond to the total amount of the Community loans granted to Ireland and Italy-included a bank loan of \$300 million for five years with a variable rate of interest fixed at one point above the average London inter-bank rate for dollar deposits for the same term, using steps of three months or six months at the Community's option.³

It being in the interest both of the Community and of the beneficiary Member States that the Community loans should be converted from variable to fixed rates of remuneration, the Commission, acting in accordance with the Council Regulation of 17 February 1975,⁴ had requested the Council's authorization, in July, to initiate negotiations with a view to carrying out one or more operations to convert all or part of the \$300 million loan. The Council gave its authorization on 19 July.

Following negotiations and after consultations with the Monetary Committee, the Council Decision of 20 September 1976 authorized the Commission to carry out the following operations:

(a) to make an advance repayment of one tranche of \$100 million of the variable-interest loan agreed in March, maturing on 15 October; to float a five-year \$100 million public loan (b) – in the United States in the form of bearer coupon notes denominated in dollars. This issue is being underwritten by an international banking syndicate lead-managed by Morgan Stanley and Co. Incorporated. The rate of interest and issue price were to be fixed between the Commission and the banking syndicate when the contract was signed in early October;

- OJ L 265 of 29.9.1976.
- 2
- OJ L 77 of 24.3.1976. Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2202. 3
- 4 OJ L 46 of 20.2.1975.

(c) to execute contracts with Ireland and Italy: for repayment by these countries of their portion (3/13ths and 10/13ths respectively) of the proceeds of the tranche of the variable-interest loan to be repayed by the Community (i.e. \$100 million); to lend the same member countries, and in the same proportions, the proceeds of the new issue.

The economic policy conditions to be observed by Ireland and Italy remain as fixed in March 1976 when the Community loans were granted to them.

Italian protective measures

2204. Following the authorization given by the Commission to Italy on 21 July to maintain, until 5 November 1976, the requirement that operators must lodge for a period of three months a 50 % cash deposit whenever they purchased foreign exchange or deposited lire on foreign accounts¹—a requirement originally authorized by a Commission Decision of 5 May 19762-discussions took place in September between the Commission and the Italian authorities on the possibility of revoking these measures before they were due to expire. As a result, the Italian Government requested the Commission's authorization to reduce the deposit to 45 % on 15 October 1976 and then phase it out in four 45-day stages by 15 April 1977.

After considering Italy's request in the light of the latest available information regarding the economic situation in Italy and of the set of measures which the Italian Government had already begun to implement to consolidate its economic recovery, the Commission adopted a Decision amending the Decision of 21 July 1976 authorizing the Italian Republic to maintain certain protective measures under Article 108 (3) of the Treaty. The text of this Decision of 29 September³ is as follows:

The Commission of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 108 (3) thereof,

Whereas by its Decision of 5 May 1976⁴ the Commission authorized the Italian Republic to require the lodging of a deposit whenever foreign exchange was purchased and whenever lire were deposited in foreign accounts;

Whereas by its Decision of 21 July 1976⁵ the Commission authorized the Italian Republic to maintain in force for a period of three months, expiring on 5 November 1976, the provisions for the compulsory lodging of deposits authorized by its Decision of 5 May 1976;

Whereas as a result of the financial assistance afforded to the Italian Republic, particularly in the form of a Community loan granted under Council Decision 76/322/EEC of 15 March 19766 and as a result of the measures already taken by the Italian Republic, Italy's balance of payments situation has improved since the middle of 1976;

Whereas the economic policy conditions to be observed by the Italian Republic, in accordance with Council Decision 76/324/EEC of 15 March 1976⁶ must continue to be observed particularly as regards the amount of the deficit on Treasury transactions, the financing of this deficit and the growth in total lending;

Whereas the Italian authorities, acting in concert with the Commission, are formulating a set of new monetary and budgetary measures aimed at consolidating the trend towards an improvement in the economic and financial situation,

OJ L 196 of 22.7.1976; Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2202. OJ L 120 of 7.5.1976; Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2205. OJ L 268 of 1.10.1976.

² 3

⁴

OJ L 120 of 7.5.1976. 5

OJ L 196 of 22.7.1976. 6

OJ L 77 of 24.3.1976.

Economic, monetary and financial policy

Economic, monetary and financial policy

Has adopted this decision:

Article 1

Article 1 of the Decision of 21 July 1976 is hereby amended as follows:

"1. The Italian Republic is authorized to maintain in force for a period expiring at the latest on 15 April 1977, the provisions for the compulsory lodging of deposits authorized by Articles 1 and 2 of the Commission Decision of 5 May 1976.

2. The Italian authorities shall gradually relax the provisions for the compulsory lodging of deposits referred to in paragraph 1 according to the following programme.

The proportion to be deposited shall be reduced to:

45% on 15 October 1976,
40% on 30 November 1976,
25% on 15 January 1977,
10% on 28 February 1977,
and abolished on 15 April 1977."

Article 2

Articles 2, 3 and 4 of the Decision of 21 July 1976 shall remain unchanged.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Italian Republic.'

Monetary Committee

2205. The Monetary Committee held its 220th meeting in Copenhagen on 10 September, with Mr Pöhl in the chair. As part of its customary examinations of developments in individual countries, it discussed the situations in Denmark,

France, Italy and the United Kingdom, paying particular attention to recent developments on the exchange markets. It also discussed, in detail, the preparations for the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Manila and the preparations for the meetings of the Interim Committee and the Group of Ten.

In addition, two of the Committee's working parties met in Brussels during September:

On 15 September, the Working Party on the *Harmonization of Monetary Policy Instruments* began a new phase of its work in accordance with the interim progress report it had sent to the Committee;

On 20 and 21 September, the Working Party on *Securities Markets* carried out its customary reviews of the international bond markets, on this occasion for the second quarter of 1976, and the national capital markets.

Economic Policy Committee

2206. At the invitation of its Danish members, the Economic Policy Committee met for a seminar in Copenhagen on 23 and 24 September, in its reduced 'budgets' composition, with Mr Middelhoek in the chair.

The general theme of the seminar was the various methods of medium-term budgetary programming. The three sittings were devoted, in turn, to an examination of existing econometric models in this field, the methods in use in various countries and specific points of method. The seminar was an opportunity for Committee members to exchange notes and also helped to identify those areas which are insufficiently understood. The Committee agreed unanimously that a further and more searching analysis of the subject was needed, with particular attention being paid to techniques for the short- and mediumterm forecasting of tax revenue.

Social policy

Freedom of movement and social security for migrant workers

2207. The Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers, which met on 23 and 24 September, discussed the action to be taken pursuant to the judgment given on 21 October 1975 by the Court of Justice. The latter regarded as incompatible with Article 51 of the EEC Treaty the provisions of the Council Regulation¹ of 14 June 1971 whereby, when two pensions overlap, one of the pensions to which the person concerned would be entitled if no Community rules existed, is reduced.

The first problem will be to determine the cases in which unjustifiable overlapping may occur at Community level, and whether the frequency and significance of these cases is such as to necessitate the introduction of rules restricting the overlapping of pensions.

Living and working conditions

Housing

2208. As part of the first instalment of the 8th scheme of aid for financing low-cost housing for workers in the coal and steel industries, the Commission has approved the following projects: *Belgium*, iron and steel industry, 59 dwellings (Bfrs 12 685 000); coal, 29 dwellings (Bfrs 6 235 000); *France*, iron and steel, 682 dwellings (FF 6 262 000); coal, 95 dwellings (FF 760 000); *Germany*, coal, 65 dwellings (DM 668 000); *Netherlands*, iron and steel, 88 dwellings (FI. 440 000).

Industrial relations

2209. The Joint Committee on Social Problems of Agricultural Workers held a plenary session in Brussels on 17 September. Mr. Lojewski (worker — Germany) was elected Chairman and Mr Cicero (employer — Italy) Vice-Chairman of the Committee for two years.

The Committee approved the organization of a second agricultural safety week from 2 to 8 May 1977 under the auspices of the Commission and with the support of the trade organizations, as for the first safety week in 1974.² In an opinion concerning statistics on accidents at work in agriculture, the Committee observed that it was essential to obtain comparable data in this sphere, so that an analysis of the information collection would enable all necessary preventive measures to be taken. Moreover, it proposed that the studies carried out in certain Member States be examined jointly, so that priority preventive measures in the Community could be defined as soon as possible.

Health protection

2210. A seminar on *radiation protection* problems raised by the preparation and utilization of products containing radioactive substances took place in Luxembourg on 27 and 28 September. Reports, followed by discussions, were presented on the following subjects: legal situation in the Member States and at European level; principles of the organization of reception services; planning of installations; supervision of laboratories; preparation and delivery of pharmaceutical products containing radioactive substances; radiation protection of medical and paramedical staff admin-

¹ OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

² Bull. EC 9-1974, point 2213.

istering short-lived radioisotopes; disposal of biological wastes in hospital situations; ambulant treatment and protection of persons outside the hospital.

2211. The Mines Safety and Health Commission, which met on 3 September, approved the annual report on its activities and a recommendation involving the fixing of dust by means of hygroscopic salt as part of the campaign against coaldust explosions. Moreover, the Working Party on ventilation and firedamp visited mines in North Staffordshire on 14 and 15 September to study methods of balancing pressure with a view to controlling emissions of firedamp from old workings.

2212. At its part-session from 13 to 17 September, Parliament¹ adopted a Resolution on the 1975 Social Report. The Economic and Social Committee,² which met on 29 and 30 September, gave its opinion on the Commission's proposal to the Council for a Directive on safety signs at places of work.

Environment and protection of consumers

Environment

Protection of the Mediterranean against pollution

2213. On 13 September the Community signed the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean against pollution, which was concluded following the negotiations from 2 to 16 February.³ This Convention is accompanied by

two protocols, one of which concerns dumping operations carried out by ships or aircraft.

Protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution

2214. On 20 September the Commission sent the Council a Communication on the results of the negotiations held in April and May⁴ on the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution. The Communication was accompanied by a proposal⁵ in which the Council was asked to approve the Convention (to be signed around 15 October), before concluding it formally.

Helsinki Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area

2215. On 30 September the Commission decided to remind the Danish and German Governments that they could not ratify the Helsinki Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area on their own, as that Convention covered certain activities which were the responsibility of the Community. Helsinki Convention was signed on The 22 March 1974 by the States bordering on the Baltic Sea: Denmark, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, Sweden and the USSR.

Climatic disturbances and water supplies

The consequences of the drought have 2216. led the Commission to study the causes of such climatic disturbances, the means of forecasting

¹ Point 2422.

² Point 2458.

³

Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2222. Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2234, and 5-1976, point 2231. OJ C 239 of 12.10.1976. 4

and controlling them, their repercussions on the Community's water supplies and measures to be implemented to protect water resources. A meeting of scientific experts will be held for this purpose and its task will be to draw up a report on these various points.¹

Cooperation between Switzerland and the Commission

2217. A meeting of experts was held on 28 September in Geneva within the framework of the cooperation between Switzerland and the Commission; it was decided to hold this meeting following an exchange of letters in December 1975.² It has already been decided that the informal technical cooperation should relate mainly to the mutual exchange of information on work, studies and research carried out. In this connection, the experts who met in Geneva discussed methods or measuring water and air pollution and exchanged information on thermal pollution, on anti-noise measures and on their research projects.

During the coming months the exchanges of information will concentrate on the following topics in particular: the monitoring of water pollution; methods for monitoring air pollution from sulphur dioxide and suspended particles; critical assessment of the effects of the oxides of nitrogen on man and the environment; noise measurement and control methods; the effects of thermal discharges on the aquatic and atmospheric environment; measures relating to the production of dangerous chemical substances (data bank, preventive, control and intervention measures, etc.); the drawing-up of inventories of documentation on the environment.

Dangerous substances

2218. In a proposal transmitted to the Council on 20 September, the Commission seeks to Agricultural policy

tighten up the provisions concerning the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.³ The proposal, which comes within the framework of the Communities' action programme on the environment, is meant to deal with the far-reaching changes which have occurred in the chemical industry during recent years. There has been a very rapid increase in the number and quantity of synthetic chemical compounds produced, some of which contain substances which could have harmful effects, whether immediately or at a later date, on man and the environment. This is why the Commission is proposing that the control measures to be implemented by the public authorities before certain new synthetic substances are brought on to the market should be tightened up and harmonized.

2219. The Economic and Social Committee,⁴ which met on 29 and 30 September, delivered its opinion on several Commission proposals on the environment and consumer protection: the Communities' action programme on the environment, the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean against pollution, the procedure for the exchange of information on the quality of surface fresh water, the labelling and presentation of foodstuffs intended for the final consumer and publicity for those foodstuffs.

Agricultural policy

2220. In September the drought was still the main problem on the agricultural agenda. A

¹ Point 2239.

² Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2237. ³ Point 2107.

⁴ Points 2451 and 2452, 2460 and 2461.

Agricultural policy

Agricultural policy

Communication on future external policy on fisheries and the intra-Community system¹ was presented by the Commission to the Council. A supplementary and amending budget for the 1976 financial year was adopted to meet the requirements of the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF. A Scientific Committee for Feedingstuffs has been set up. Finally, the '1974' results from the EEC Farm Accountancy Data Network have been forwarded to the Council.

The consequences of the drought

The severity of this year's drought 2221. prompted the Commission to request the convening of an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Agricultural Ministers. This meeting discussed the consequences of the drought and the measures which had been taken or were planned in some of the sectors affected.²

But the Commission was also concerned about the causes of the catastrophe and decided to undertake studies on weather forecasting. Scientific experts will be given the task of determining the factors responsible for the recent climatic disturbances and the possibility of controlling and mastering them. The problems raised by the depletion of water resources had already been included among the subjects to be dealt with under the Community's action programme on the environment;³ the studies already begun will be continued and intensified, as also will the measures to reduce or eliminate the pollution of surace and ground water with a view to the safejuarding of supplies and the protection of water resources. Structural policy measures may be envisaged, in particular programmes for hydrologial development.⁴ The need for development programmes in this field had been mentioned at the pecial meeting of the Council on 9 September.

2222. In the shorter term the repercussions of he drought on 1976/77 agricultural production nust be remedied. The measures adopted between June and August² will have to be continued and/or extended to new products.

In the beef and veal sector, for instance, the special intervention measures in force since June to aid farmers obliged to slaughter cows have been continued until 30 October and extended to Denmark.5

Several Regulations were adopted relating to supplies of feedingstuffs. The Commission defined the regions particularly affected by the drought which are to receive special aid for liquid skimmed milk.⁶ The Council suspended⁷ until the end of March 1977, the CCT duties on certain agricultural products which go mainly into animal feed. In connection with this measure the Commission authorized⁸ Denmark and the United Kingdom to suspend, temporarily and totally, the customs duties on the same products imported from other Member States and from nonmember countries. The security to be provided on hay imported from non-member countries, which had been introduced in connection with the compulsory purchase of skimmed-milk powder, has been reduced to zero,9 whilst the security on dehydrated fodder has been maintained at 4.5 u.a./100 kg. Finally, the period of validity of import licences for barley and oats was extended¹⁰ from 30 to 60 days, as had already been done for maize and sorghum with effect from 31 July.¹¹

- 2 Bull. EC 7/8-1976, points 1301 to 1304.
- 3 OJ C 112 of 20.12.1973.
- 4 Points 2216 and 2239.
- OJ L 232 of 16.9.1976.
- 6 OJ L 202 of 28.7.1976.
- Point 2104 and OJ L 261 of 25.9.1976. 7
- 8 OJ L 264 of 28.9.1976.
- .9 OJ L 241 of 2.9.1976. 10
- OJ L 261 of 25.9.1976. OJ L 207 of 31.7.1976. 11

¹ Points 1201 to 1210.

The Council also suspended the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties¹ on foodstuffs such as potatoes and certain fresh and chilled vegetables in order to boost supply, since production in 1976 will not be normal. The suspension will be total up to 31 December 1976 for ware and seed potatoes and up to 1 November 1976 for white cabbages and red cabbages, peas and carrots; it will be partial up to 31 December for preserved beans in pod (16%) and up to 1 November 1976 for ribbed celery, beans and onions (18%).

The same suspensions were approved² for Denmark and the United Kingdom for imports of vegetables from other Member States and from non-member countries. From 30 August to 30 September the suspension of the Common Customs Tariff was applied³ to the same fresh and chilled vegetables (except beans and onions) and also to cauliflowers.

Community policy on fisheries

2223. On 23 September the Commission presented to the Council a Communication on future external policy on fisheries and the intra-Community system.⁴ This document was concerned with the creation of a 200-mile Community fishing zone from January 1977, with the working out of a Community system for the conservation and management of fishing resources.

Measures connected with the monetary situation

2224. Movements in the exchange rates for the lira and the pound⁵ necessitated adjustments in monetary compensatory amounts for Italy from 6 and 27 September, and for the United Kingdom and Ireland from 20 and 27 September.

34

The fall of the pound caused monetary compensatory amounts to be fixed at a rate of 28.7 % from 27 September; such rates are a matter for concern because of the distortions they engender.

When the monetary compensatory amounts were calculated,⁶ the new intervention prices for milk and milk products applicable from 16 September were taken into account.

Common market organizations

2225. Apart from its proposals regarding the future common policy on fisheries and the problems caused by the drought, the Commission has also adopted measures relating in particular to the olive oil, fruit and vegetables, wine, milk and milk products and beef and veal sectors.

2226. In view of the favourable market conditions, it seemed opportune to authorize the Italian intervention agency to put up for sale in stages more of the olive oil bought in by this agency during 1975/76.7

2227. The Commission has also approved⁸ two Regulations relating to the sale of butter and skimmed-milk powder from public stocks at a price slightly higher than the intervention price. In view of the market situation and, more especially, the effects of the drought, the quantities of these products available may be insufficient to meet the demand.

Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2241. OJ L 253 of 16.9.1976. 5

OJ L 249 of 11.9.1976 and L 261 of 25.9.1976.

OJ L 251 of 15.9.1976.

OJ L 255 of 18.9.1976 and L 261 of 25.9.1976. 2

OJ L 235 of 26.8.1976.

⁴ Points 1201 to 1210.

⁷ OJ L 247 of 9.9.1976, L 260 of 24.9.1976, and Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2247.

The second increase in common agricultural prices in the *milk and milk products* sectors, agreed in March,¹ took effect on 16 September.

2228. In the *beef and veal* sector the Commission has continued to apply protective measures on imports and measures to facilitate the sale of meat held by the intervention agencies. As regards exports, three Regulations have been approved² by the Commission relating to the applicaton of the system of advance fixing of refunds. The possible reintroduction of the system in the beef and veal sector had been decided upon by the Council on 15 March.³ From 1 October the period of validity of advance fixing certificates will be two months, plus the current month.

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

Guarantee Section

2229. The monetary situation⁴ and the changes in a number of sectors and on certain agricultural markets have made it necessary to increase EAGGF Guarantee Section appropriations. An extra 717 million u.a. was added in the second supplementary and amending budget adopted by Parliament on 16 September,⁵ bringing total Guarantee Section appropriations for 1976 to 5 835 million u.a.

Harmonization of legislation

2230. On 24 September⁶ the Commission set up a Scientific Committee for Feedingstuffs which will advise on certain basic questions relating to the nutritional value of feedingstuffs, the safeguarding of animal health and the quality and wholesomeness of livestock products. The decision to set up this committee was taken in the light of experience of the work of the Scientific Committee for Foodstuffs created in April 1974.⁷ The Commission's intention is to have at its disposal advisory bodies, possessing the advantage of independence, whom it could consult regarding contemplated measures with regard to problems concerning the food cycle and questions relating to the manufacture and utilization of foodstuffs. The Commission has appointed the members of the Committee, the opinions of which will be published.

Farm Accountancy Data Network

2231. On 28 September the Commission forwarded to the Council its report on the '1974' (1974/75) results of the EEC Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN). This report contains a general commentary on the data received from the returning holdings and a number of annexes (tables and graphs). The 13 458 '1974' returning holdings represent just under two million farms, or almost two-thirds of the network's field of survey.

The principal findings as to the distribution and development of farming incomes may be summarized as follows. The farming income per Annual Labour Unit (ALU) for the entire returning sample studied, amounts to 4 661 EUR⁸ per

¹ Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2239 and Table 3.

² OJ L 250 of 14.9.1976.

³ OJ L 67 of 15.3.1976.

⁴ Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2243 and Table 2.

⁵ Points 2406 and 2468.

⁶ OJ L 279 of 9.10.1976.

⁷ Bull. EC 4-1974, point 2236.

⁸ EUR is the monetary unit used by the Statistical Office for some years following the introduction of floating rates for the currencies of certain Member States. For the accounting year '1974', to which the report relates, the EUR was equal to: DM 3.31978; FF 6.01000; Lit. 813.000; Bfrs/Lfrs 48.65720; Fl. 3.35507; Dkr 7.57831; £ Ir. 0.53400; £ 0.54200.

Agricultural policy

ALU: There are considerable variations; over half of the returning holdings in the sample earned less than 4 000 EUR/ALU, just under 40 % had an income of between 4 000 and 10 000 EUR/ALU whereas barely 10 % had an income of over 10 000 EUR/ALU.

The lowest average income per ALU was in the 'permanent crops' holdings (3 625 EUR/ALU). It was 9% above this level in holdings specializing in grazing stock and 50 to 85% higher respectively in pig and poultry farms and arable farms.

The lowest incomes were, however, found in the farms specializing in beef production (2866 EUR/ALU) whereas the highest were in mixed farming (8399 EUR/ALU) and pig farms (6516 EUR/ALU) came second.

The '1974' income per ALU of farms of more than 50 ha (6 523 EUR/ALU) was more than double that of farms of 5 to 10 ha (3 124 EUR/ALU).

The income per ALU expressed in real terms (constant prices) was generally lower in '1974' than in '1973'. This reduction varied according to the type of farming, and the size and geographical location of farms; in some it was quite considerable.

2232. At its part-session from 13 to 17 September, *Parliament*¹ gave its opinion on various Commission proposals to the Council, one of which related to the common organization of the market in potatoes. The *Economic and Social Committee*,² which met on 29 and 30 September, gave its opinion on the Commission's action programme on the progressive achievement of balance in the milk market and on two proposals submitted by the Commission to the Council.

Industrial and technological policy

Industry

Iron and steel

2233. Following the adoption by the Commission on 21 July of a paper on the problems in the steel industry,³ Mr Simonet, Vice-President, held a series of consultations with the Governments of the Member States and with representatives of the groups concerned (producers, trade unions, consumers, traders).

On the whole the Commission's guidelines were welcomed, even if there were slight differences of opinion on certain points.

In the light of those consultations, the Commission instructed Mr Simonet, who had reported on the outcome of his discussions, to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the paper adopted by the Commission in July was amended to take into account the suggestions put forward.

Shipbuilding

2234. A series of consultations were held in August and September with the groups concerned regarding the Communication on shipbuilding transmitted to the Council by the Commission at the beginning of June.⁴

The outcome of these discussions with the representatives of the shipbuilding organizations in the Community and the rest of western Eu-

¹ Points 2412 and 2415.

² Points 2449, 2450 and 2459.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2259.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2257.

rope is that there is little hope of an international agreement being reached at industry level. Such an agreement would spread the effects of the shipbuilding crisis fairly among the various parties to the agreement.

The Commission has therefore decided to step up its efforts to draw up a programme and to coordinate national policies in this field, in accordance with the guidelines set out in its Communication.

Textiles

2235. In view of the excess production capacity in the ladies' stockings and tights sub-sector throughout Member States the of the Community (estimated at 45% for 1975), on 20 September¹ the Commission adopted a Recommendation to the Member States asking them to implement certain rationalization measures.

The Commission stressed the success of its recent efforts to encourage independent action in the organization of production and marketing in the Castelgoffredo centre in Italy. The Commission stated that it would do everything within its power to prevent any increase in capacity and it recommended that investments in that subsector be limited. The Commission also suggested that restrictions should be imposed on certain commercial practices (outward processing traffic) adopted by some producing countries in the Community. To enable it to monitor the situation efficiently, it asked the Member States to send it monthly statistics on trade within the Community.

Technology

Storage of radioactive waste

2236. The Commission has begun to implement the programme of indirect action concerning the management and storage of radioactive waste, by starting to negotiate contracts with bodies and undertakings in the Community. Twenty-seven contracts are concerned, involving a total of 15 725 758 u.a., of which the Community will provide 6 723 000 u.a.

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

Science, research and development

Scientific and Technical Research Committee

At its meeting on 23 and 24 September 2237. the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) carried out a detailed exchange of views on the draft Joint Research Centre multiannual programme for 1977-80.2 There was a broad consensus among the delegations on the scientific and technical content of this programme which they considered to be an appreciable advance on the preceding programmes. Some delegations stressed the need to ensure flexibility in the implementation of the projects proposed, so as to leave the JRC some leeway to expand its contacts with the outside world.

The Committee also expressed three favourable opinions on the Commission proposals on the revision of the energy research and development programme,³ a 1977-80 programme in the field of scientific and technical education³ and a three-

OJ L 265 of 29.9.1976.

²

Bull. EC 5-1976, points 1301 to 1306. Bull. EC 7/8-1976, points 2266 and 2272.

vear (1977-80) technological research programme in the footwear sector.¹

2238. The CREST Sub-committee on Energy Research and Development, which met on 27 September in Brussels, was informed of the state of progress of the work undertaken during the first phase (January 1975-December 1976) of the energy research and development programme adopted by the Council on 26 June 1975.²

The Sub-committee then held a far-ranging discussion to complete the draft of its final report to CREST on the comparison of the national energy R & D policies and programmes.

Climatic problems in the Community

2239. On 22 September, the Commission instructed its relevant departments to bring together a group of scientific experts as soon as possible to draw up a report on:

(i) the possibility of developing a scientific procedure for climatological forecasting and the most appropriate suggestions for establishing it at Community level and by means of international cooperation;

(ii) the determination of the factors responsible for the recent climatic disturbances and of the possibility of controlling and curbing them;

(iii) the assessment, in particular, of the effect of these disturbances on the Community's water supply;

(iv) the most appropriate suggestions for measures to be taken in the short and long term to reduce or offset the harmful effects of permanent or inevitable climatic disturbances.

The Commission believes that it will be possible to hold an initial meeting of the group before the end of November.

Multiannual programmes

JET project

Proposal for a Council decision

2240. Further to the declaration by the Council (Foreign Affairs) on 19 and 20 July,³ the Commission adopted, on 29 September, a proposal for a Council decision aimed at implementing the JET project as part of the multiannual programme of the Community for 1976-80 in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion and plasma physics.

This proposal was drawn up on the basis of the discussions in the relevant advisory bodies of the Commission, particularly the Advisory Committee on Fusion,⁴ on the following points: scales of financing, legal form of the project, terms of employment of the staff and the site of JET.

As regards the scale for financing the construction of JET, the Commission is adhering to its proposal to charge 80% of the project cost (108 million u.a.) to the general budget of the Communities, the remaining 20% being divided among all the other partners. In addition, the special contribution of the host country would consist at the very minimum in payment of all the costs incurred in providing the site with the standard amenities (in particular: connection to electricity supply, auxiliary buildings, cooling watter), and in decommissioning the device at the end of its operating life.

Because of the importance, scientific and technical complexity, dimensions and cost of the project, the Commission proposes to give it the legal form of a 'joint undertaking' in accordance with

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2265.

²

Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2262. Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2270. 3

⁴ Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2266 and 5-1976, point 2272.

Articles 45 to 51 of the Euratom Treaty. This joint undertaking will be run by the 'JET Steering Committee'¹ and the 'JET Council' consisting of two representatives each from Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the Commission and of one representative each from the other Member States and from non-member countries participating in the fusion programme.

The Commission proposes that all the staff assigned to the construction of the JET, with the exception of those provided by the host organization, be employed by the Communities as temporary staff. A maximum of 250 posts for temporary staff would thus be allotted to the fusion programme for the construction of the JET project, while the staff from the host organization seconded to the project would continue to be employed by that organization under the normal conditions of employment.

In its Communication to the Council on the JET site, forwarded on 29 January 1976,² the Commission concluded that JET would have to be located at Ispra; it maintains this view and again stresses the need for a rapid decision. The Commission also proposes that, if an agreement on the site cannot be reached before the end of 1976, the Council request the Commission to choose the site on the basis of an opinion adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes in the 'JET Council'.

The Council will consider the Commission's proposal at its meeting on research due to be held on 21 October.

Scientific and Technical Committee

2241. At its meeting on 29 September, the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) noted and discussed the communications from the Commission on the decommissioning of nuclear power stations and on the possibility of Community action in connection with the setting up of power stations.

The Committee was informed of the conclusions of the working party on the management of radioactive waste that it had set up; its report will be finalized at the next meeting of the STC. There was then an exchange of views on communications from the Commission concerning the carriage of radioactive materials and the problems involved in transporting plutonium.

Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM)

2242. The ACPM responsible for *environmental* research met on 21 and 22 September and continued its examination of the proposals for participation in the second indirect action programme 1976-1980.³ Several projects relating to various themes in the area of research aimed at the establishment of criteria (exposure-effect relation-ships) for pollutants and environmental chemicals⁴ were selected. The Committee must express a definitive opinion on their scientific and financial aspects at its next meeting, at which it will also study the proposals concerning other fields of research in the programme.

2243. The ACPM for the Bureau of Information Analysis met on 15 September at Ispra and studied the results obtained under the 1973-76 multiannual programme. Part of its meeting was devoted to discussing the proposal on the future JRC multiannual programme and the composition and role of the future Management Committee to be responsible for service activities in the field of reactor shielding.

The Committee delivered an opinion in support of a proposal for the continuation of activities in

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2271.

² Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2239.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, points 1501 and 1504.

⁴ OJ C 78 of 3.4.1976.

the field of radiation protection, in accordance with the guidelines in the draft of the next programme. It stressed that a clear appraisal of the technical objectives of the work was indispensable to ensure that the programme would satisfy the requirements of the Community Member States and complement their national programmes in this field. Finally, the Committee, in its opinion, emphasized the need for specialists to assess the current technical requirements in the field of radiation protection and recommended that at least one member from each country on the new ACPM responsible for this activity should be a specialist.

2244. A final report on the 1973-76 activities under the JRC's applied data processing programme was examined by the Advisory Committee on Programme Management at its meeting at Ispra on 28 and 29 September; its reaction to the report was favourable.

The Committee also discussed the budget and staff needed to carry out three sub-projects in the future programme and reviewed the technical aspects of the COST II project (designed to solve the problems of an experimental network linking computers of different types) and of Euronet. It was informed of the structure and terms of reference of the future ACPMs, in particular the ACPM on Data Processing, scheduled to meet for the first time in January 1977.

2245. The Advisory Committee on Programme Management for the Central Bureau for Nuclear Measurements (CBNM) met at Geel on 29 and 30 September. The 1977 programme proposals were discussed by the three ad hoc working parties on neutron data, non-neutron nuclear data and reference materials. Special attention was given to a study on the Community's requirements in the way of reference fissile materials. The ACPM took the view that the conclusions of the study should be closely examined by the Community with a view to the high-level decisions called for in that area. The Committee recommended that a second version of the study be drafted with emphasis on the quantitative aspects and the budget. With some minor alterations, it approved the CBNM's programme for 1977. The Committee was also informed that the modernization of the Van de Graaff particle accelerator would be completed by the end of November, but that technical difficulties would delay activities on LINAC (the other large particle accelerator at Geel) which should normally be in operation at the beginning of 1977.

2246. The ACPM on solar energy, which met on 29 September, had an initial exchange of views on the implementation of the second stage of the R & D programme on solar energy presented by the Commission to the Council in July.¹ In addition, it discussed in detail the interim report drawn up on the basis of current studies on selfcontained mechanical and/or electrical power generating sets. Finally, several proposals for theoretical studies on photoconversion were discussed and selected.

2247. The Commission's proposal to the Council relating to the JRC multiannual research programme (1977-80) was the subject of two opinions delivered in September by Parliament² and by the Economic and Social Committee,³ which both endorsed the programme in the form proposed.

Education

Education Committee

2248. At its meeting on 22 and 23 September, the Education Committee discussed the form of

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2266.

² Point 2417. 3

Point 2457.

the draft resolution to be submitted to the meeting of the Council and Ministers of Education meeting within the Council scheduled for 29 November, concerning the report of the Committee on the problems of transition from study to working life, and suggested measures for action.

The departments of the Commission concerned with education reported to the Committee on progress in the implementation of the various proposals for action, contained in the Council Resolution of 9 February 1976.¹

Arrangements were agreed for a meeting to be held in December of higher education chiefs to prepare a common position on the admission of students from other Member States.

Advisory Committee on Medical Training

2249. The Advisory Committee on Medical Training² held its second meeting on 9 and 10 September.

It noted the results obtained by the two working parties that it had set up to examine the existing documentation on basic medical training and the main trends in the current development of this training. In the light of these results, the Committee confirmed the terms of reference of these two working parties, which are to continue in greater detail the activities that they have already started.

In addition, three other working parties have been set up to examine the theoretical and practical clinical training of doctors, additional training for general practitioners and part-time training for specialists. These working parties were instructed to prepare for the Committee draft opinions or recommendations on the questions studied.

Scientific and technical information and information management

2250. The creation of a single command language for the hundred odd data bases that will be made accessible by Euronet when it goes into service is the subject of a pilot study entrusted by the Commission to a specialized institute. The report drawn up by this institute makes practical proposals for the harmonization of command languages. In addition, a meeting organized at Luxembourg on 21 September brought together representatives of European documentation and information centres - Deutsches Institut für medizinische Dokumentation und Information, Space Documentation Service of the European Space Agency, Ariane (Documentation destinée aux industries du bâtiment), EIRMA-and computer manufacturers. Account will be taken of the opinions expressed at this meeting with a view to first defining, in 1977, and then implementing, recommendations for a common command language.

2251. A computer to process data and *handle* the Community data bases was installed in September in the Commission. The scheduled connection of a number of terminals will enable interested parties outside the Commission to interrogate its data bases, in particular through the medium of Euronet.

2252. As part of the three-year action plan on scientific and technical information, approved by the Council on 18 March 1975, the Commission has decided to organize, from 3 to 6 May 1977 at Luxembourg, a European congress (the third of this type) on documentation systems and networks having as its theme 'breaking the language barrier'. The main subjects dealt with will be the teaching and use of languages in the Community, multilingual terminology and lexicology, multilingual glossaries, non-machine and machine translation.

¹ OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976.

² Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2272 and 5-1976, point 2276.

Energy policy

Development and implementation of a Community energy policy

Energy policy: Commission Communication to the Council

2253. On 29 September the Commission approved a Communication to the Council on the Community energy policy, for discussion at a meeting of Energy Ministers scheduled for October.

The Council is no longer making any headway in its examination of the proposals drawn up following the European Council in Rome in December 1975 to safeguard and promote the development of energy resources.¹ The purpose of the Communication to the Council is not to prompt the adoption of specific decisions but rather to work towards a broad agreement on the two main points: reduced Community dependence on imports and the security of imports.

Reduced dependence

2254. The objective set by the Council, i.e. to reduce dependence on imported energy from 60% to 50% by 1985, is now beginning to look unattainable, although estimated requirements for 1985 have fallen by some 8%. It is now likely that imported oil will represent approximately 45% of supplies by 1985, instead of the target figure of 37%.

There are a number of reasons for these revised estimates:

(i) Internal coal production will be lower than expected, mainly because of the increased costs involved; similarly, oil and gas production could be lower than originally estimated. (ii) The implementation of the nuclear programmes has been slowed down for technical and ecological reasons and because of the decline in the demand for electricity. The shortfall of nuclear-based electricity will need to be counterbalanced by increased oil imports.

(iii) Because of the recession, demand for energy declined in 1974 and 1975, but during the first half of 1976 oil consumption was 9% up on the previous year, and there are no signs that this trend will level off.

(iv) In the longer term oil supply problems could arise, as all the consumer areas will depend on the OPEC countries, whose major producer, Saudi Arabia, could base its oil production on the income it wishes to obtain rather than on demand.

(v) If production were to be restricted in this way, at a time when the North Sea and Alaska could still not supply large quantities, oil prices could rise considerably and the Community's economic development could be held up.

Safeguarding and development of resources — Following the European Council meeting in Rome in December 1975, the Commission proposed a set of measures¹ designed to promote the prospection for and production of oil and gas, the consumption and production of coal and the use of nuclear energy and other sources of energy. These proposals are not of equal importance and some have been discussed at greater length in the Council than others. The Commission considers that, if the progress hoped for is not to be seriously hampered, the Council should not try to take decisions on all the proposals at the same time.

¹ Bull. EC 1-1976, points 1201 to 1208.

Energy savings — The stimulus given by the 1974-75 crisis, which gave rise to the hope that energy consumption might be reduced by 15%, is becoming weaker. The Commission, which is to present a second batch of specific measures to promote energy savings, will study the question of whether the target figure of 15% can be attained and the extent to which it could be adapted to be in line with national plans and objectives. In the Commission's view, prices will probably continue to be the most effective instrument of any energy savings policy, but the application of this instrument is limited by anti-inflation policies. The Commission hopes that the Council will issue directives for the continuation of the work, including the examination of pricing policy.

National programmes — The Commission considers it necessary to carry out regular examinations of national energy programmes in order to detect their shortcomings and conflicts of aims between policies. Special attention should be paid to the question of investments.

Security of imports

2255. The Community, which will probably remain the world's largest oil importer, must be on good terms with the producing countries and the other industrialized countries. Negotiations with the producing countries are currently in progress within the framework of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (North-South Dialogue); the Community's objective is to increase the security of its oil imports and to promote modernization in respect of prices.

Within the framework of the Community's relations with the oil-producing countries, the construction of refineries in these countries must be given close attention, since the Community already has surplus refining capacities. Finally, uranium could also pose problems (danger of shortages) around the beginning of the 1980s. It is therefore important that the Commission should promote uranium prospection and continue discussions with the major producing countries in order to ensure security of supplies to the Community. These uncertainties make it all the more necessary, in the Commission's opinion, to achieve rapid progress on all fronts so that the Community's energy policy can become a political reality both inside and outside the Community.

Sectoral problems

Coal

2256. The Commission has formally adopted¹ a Decision under which the Member States must provide the Commission with information on the financial aid which they intend to grant to the coal industry during the following year. This Decision was taken pursuant to the Decision of 25 February 1976² regarding the new Community system of measures taken by the Member States in this area. On 27 July³ the Council gave the consultation requested by the Commission and made no amendments to the draft.

Nuclear energy

2257. On 22 September the Commission adopted a new Regulation on the application of the provisions relating to Euratom safeguards, which it transmitted to the Council for approval. This new Regulation was required in order to implement the Verification Agreement concluded on 5 April 1973 between the Commission, the seven non-nuclear Member States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

¹ OJ L 292 of 23.10.1976.

² OJ L 63 of 11.3.1976 and Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2263.

³ OJ C 188 of 11.8.1976.

Transport policy

Organization of the markets

2258. Within the framework of the negotiations begun in March 1976¹ between the Community and certain non-member countries (Austria, Finland, Greece, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia) with a view to concluding an agreement on the establishment of uniform rules applicable to the international carriage of passengers by road by means of occasional coach and bus services, the representatives of the Member States finally reached agreement on 13 September on the draft of the control document drawn up by the Commission.² The document will form an integral part of the agreement, a preliminary draft of which was drawn up on 22 and 23 September by a drafting committee composed of representatives from Austria, Sweden, Switzerland and the Commission, in the presence of an observer from the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT). Like the draft control document, the preliminary draft agreement will be laid before all the delegations which have taken part in the negotiations at a plenary meeting scheduled for December.

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2259. On 17 September, *Parliament* delivered its Opinion³ on an amended proposal for a Directive presented to the Council by the Commission on the harmonization of the laws relating to vehicle driving licences. The *Economic and Social Committee*,⁴ which met on 29 and 30 September, delivered Opinions on a number of Communications or proposals from the Commission to the Council concerning the operation of the markets in surface goods transport within the Community, the establishment of uniform rules governing certain road haulage operations, a system for monitoring the transport markets, a system of reference tariffs for the carriage of goods by road, inland waterway and rail and on the implementation of the Agreement⁵ on the carriage of perishable foodstuffs and on the special equipment to be used for such carriage.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2293.

² Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2267. Boint 2421

³ Point 2421.

⁴ Points 2447, 2448 and 2455.

⁵ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2289.

Commercial policy

Commercial policy

Preparing and implementing the common commercial policy

Trade agreements: renewals, derogations or authorizations

2301. On 20 September¹ the Council decided to authorize the prolongation or tacit renewal of a number of trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries (third batch for 1976) which were due to expire or to be terminated between 1 August and 30 October 1976.

Trade protection

Safeguard measures

2302. On 3 September² the Commission adopted a Regulation placing quantitative limits on imports into Germany of various textile products originating in the Republic of Korea (toilet and kitchen linen, tights, socks). On 2 and 14 September³ the Council confirmed the Regulations adopted by the Commission on the rules whereby imports into Denmark of synthetic socks originating in Taiwan⁴ and imports into Italy of electric filament lamps originating in certain European State-trading countries⁴ were made subject to authorization.

Specific measures of commercial policy

Textiles

Romania

2303. Another phase in the negotiations with Romania⁵ for the conclusion of an agreement on trade in textiles took place in Brussels from 20 to 24 September. The talks were devoted mainly to examining the technical details of the agreement. The negotiations are to be resumed in the near future.

India

2304. The consultations with India⁶ under the Agreement concluded between the Community and that country on trade in textile products continued in Brussels on 17 September. The aim of the consultations is to seek a solution to the difficulties caused on the Community market by the sudden increase in India's exports of certain textile handicrafts.

Steel.

2305. On 24 September⁷ the Commission adopted a Decision derogating (for the eightythird time) from the Recommendation of the High Authority of the ECSC of 15 January 1964⁸ concerning an increase in the protective duty on iron and steel products at the external frontiers of the Community. This measure was made necessary by the Decision of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 16 June 1976,⁹ in which provision is made for bringing forward by one year the process of tariff dismantling agreed in the context of the ECSC-Portugal Agreement. As a result, certain ECSC products originating in Portugal are admitted free of customs duties as from 1 July 1976.

- 1 OJ L 270 of 2.10.1976.
- 2 OJ L 243 of 4.9.1976.
- 3 OJ L 242 of 3.9.1976 and L 252 of 16.9.1976.
- 4 Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2312. 5
- Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2312 and 7/8-1976, point 2314. Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2312. OJ L 279 of 9.10.1976.
- 7
- 8
- OJ 8 of 22.1.1964. 9
- OJ L 157 of 18.6.1976.

Non-ferrous metals

2306. On 22 September¹ the Commission adopted a Regulation adjusting the apportionment of the Community quantitative export quota for certain copper ash and residues. The Regulation authorizes the Benelux countries to increase their 1976 quota share from 800 to 870 tonnes by drawing on the Community reserve.

Development and cooperation

Development cooperation policy

Conference on International Economic Cooperation

2307. The North-South Dialogue—which was provisionally adjourned in July when the two sides failed to agree on the work programmes for the four Commissions—resumed normally in September. The deadlock was broken by the efforts of the two co-Chairmen of the Conference, representing the industrialized countries and the developing countries.

Preparation for the 'resumption'

2308. When the Conference's work was suspended on 17 July, it was agreed that contacts would be made in order to determine the way in which the dialogue could best be resumed. At the end of July, the Community had stated its willingness to cooperate with its partners in finding a satisfactory solution to the problems facing the developing countries, particularly as regards indebtedness.²

At the beginning of September, Mr MacEachen and Mr Perez Geurrero, the co-Chairmen of the Conference, consulted a number of participants—with a view to reactivating the Conference—on a draft compromise they had prepared. After a meeting lasting several days agreement was finally reached on a compromise work programme.

The programme lays down that the subjects to be studied by the Commissions should include the protection of the purchasing power of energy export earnings, the improvement and protection of the purchasing power of developing countries' earnings from commodity exports, and the problem of indebtedness. It is explicitly stated that this programme does not involve commitments as to the final results of the Conference.

The sixth session of the Commissions

2309. Following these preliminary consultations, the sixth session was able to take place from 13 to 20 September as initially planned. The draft compromise was accepted by the '8' and by the '19', although with certain reservations, the three main participants on the industrialized side (Community, USA and Japan) making statements when the compromise was adopted. The Community's position was stated on 13 September in the following declaration, distributed as a Conference paper.

'In signifying its agreement to the programme of work, as drawn up, the Delegation of the Community wishes to indicate the spirit in which it intends to participate in the programme's implementation in the Commissions concerned with indebtedness and with the purchasing power of export earnings.

With regard to the question of indebtedness, the Community recognizes that the CIEC is an appropriate forum for dealing with the problems of the indebtedness of the developing countries in accordance with UNCTAD Resolution No 94 IV.

¹ OJ L 259 of 23.9.1976.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1976, points 2320 to 2322.

It is adopting a positive attitude towards the question of alleviating the debt burden of the developing countries.

On this basis, future operations concerning debt problems should be dealt with in such a way that each case may be treated with flexibility.

With regard to the question of export earnings, the Community considers that answers to this issue should be sought by means of solutions based on a common assessment of the evolution of the principal relevant economic factors.'

The developing countries for their part made the following declaration to each Commission:

'The Group of 19 has given its approval to the work programme in spite of its misgivings towards some of its formulations and the fact that it does not meet all the concerns of the Group—as a basis for the continuation of the dialogue during the action-oriented phase with the aim of reaching the objectives set out last July in the Communiqué of the Meeting of Senior Officials.

To this end it is essential that the political will to make the CIEC a success, as reaffirmed in that Communiqué, will henceforth be effectively guiding its work.

The Group of 19 will present its proposals, covering the various items on the work programme and fully reflecting the position and interests of the developing countries. In this context, the Group has in mind not only the questions of the debt of the developing countries and of the protection of the purchasing power of the developing countries export earnings, but any item on the work programme the consideration of which "should lead to proposals for an equitable and comprehensive programme for international economic cooperation including agreements, decisions, engagements and recommendations to be submitted for approval to the Ministerial Conference".'

There was a fairly optimistic atmosphere at the sixth session of the Commissions, which marked

the opening of the second phase of the Conference's work: the original conditions and timetable were respected, contrary to what a number of the participants, especially among the developing countries, had expected; moreover, the compromise programme—which had set the Conference in motion again—seems to have been considered more satisfactory than a number of developing countries had hoped. There was therefore some cause for satisfaction with circumstances in which the work resumed.

The four Commissions did not all advance at the same place. Progress was most marked in the development sector, where a start was made on discussing practical proposals; but although there was some agreement on certain general objectives, specific figures remain a source of contention. In the Energy Commission, proposals for international cooperation in this field are being put into shape; the Community made an important overall proposal on this matter. Work on raw materials is still lagging behind, but in September the group of '19' and some delegations of the '8' helped to set the ball rolling again by stating that they would be ready to put forward proposals at the October session. The work of the Financial Affairs Commission, like that of the Development Commission, remains dominated by the problem of indebtedness.

Although work in some Commissions has not progressed as rapidly as in others, observers consider that the Conference is now well and truly into the negotiating phase.

Cooperation with non-governmental organizations

2310. In the context of cooperation between the Commission and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) specialized in development aid,¹ seventeen of the twenty projects approved (out of sixty

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2324.

submitted by the NGOs) were the subject of cofinancing contracts between several of these organizations and the Commission, involving a total sum of 246 125 units of account. Seven of these projects concern ACP States and ten concern non-associated countries (six in Asia and four in Latin America).

Food aid and emergency aid

Three-year food aid programme

2311. On 15 September, the Commission presented to the Council a Communication in which it proposes that an indicative programme be adopted for the period 1977-79. This provides for a substantial increase in the volume of aid, especially for cereals.¹

2312. On 16 September² Parliament passed a Resolution on the North-South Dialogue, and the *Economic and Social Committee*, which met on 29 and 30 September, delivered its Opinion³ on the Community's 1977 generalized preference scheme.

Commodities and world agreements

Coffee

2313. From 27 to 30 September, the Commission took part in the twenty-ninth session of the International Coffee Agreement in London which saw the provisional entry into force of the Third International Coffee Agreement concluded for a period of six years. On the recommendation of the Commission, the Council of the Communities had decided on 20 September that the Community would apply the 1976 International Coffee Agreement on a provisional basis as soon as it entered into force on 1 October.

During this session the Council adopted a number of regulations concerning: the application of a system of certificates of origin when quotas are not in force, the calculation of basic quotas for exporting member countries, and the verification of the stocks of coffee held in exporting member countries.

The entry into force of the agreement was greeted with satisfaction by all the delegations in London, as it marks the continuation of international cooperation for one of the most important commodities concerning many developing countries.

Cocoa

2314. The Commission took part in the special sessions of the International Cocoa Council, on 30 September and 1 October, which marked the expiry of the First International Cocoa Agreement and the provisional entry into force of the Second International Cocoa Agreement.

As in the case of coffee, the Council of the European Communities had decided on 28 September, on the recommendation of the Commission, that the Community would apply the 1975 International Cocoa Agreement, on a provisional basis, as soon as it entered into force on 1 October.

The producing members asked that the price range fixed in the Agreement be re-examined and reviewed as from the first year; they feel that the prices negotiated in 1975 are too low. This issue will therefore be central to the work of the International Cocoa Organization during 1976/77.

¹ Points 1401 to 1406.

² Point 2409.

International organizations

Council of Europe

Parliamentary Assembly

2315. The Commission was represented, as an observer, at the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which was held from 15 to 23 September in Strasbourg. During this session, Portugal, which had just signed the European Convention on Human Rights, became the nineteenth member of the Council of Europe. According to the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs, European integration was a 'great political and economic objective' for Portugal.

During discussions on the Tindemans Report, the Belgian Prime Minister stressed the Council of Europe's role in the protection of rights and as a forum for the democratic States of Europe. Mr Tindemans felt that relations between the European Communities and the Council of Europe could take the form of accession by the Communities to certain agreements drawn up in Strasbourg, but he expressed doubt as to the usefulness of 'joint' meetings of the two Parliamentary assemblies and of the annual report presented to the Committee of Ministers. With regard to his report, Mr Tindemans stated that Europe should have the courage to define the fields in which it must speak with one voice, the minority having to fall into line with the majority if necessary.

Following discussions on the situation in Spain, the Assembly adopted a resolution in which it expressed its solidarity with democratic forces in Spain and hoped that the Spanish people would be given the opportunity of a referendum to voice unequivocably its opinion on future institutions.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GATT Council

2316. The main topics of discussion at the GATT Council meeting on 17 September were various aspects of the common agricultural policy. This Council decided to set up a panel to examine the compatability with the General Agreement of the EEC system for incorporating skimmed-milk powder into animal feed. The United States had asked in July for a panel to be set up, but the GATT Council had, at that time, not agreed to the request.¹

The Council also considered the planned Community import taxes on vegetable and marine fats and oils, the refunds applicable to exports of malted barley and Community policy concerning beef and veal.

Lastly, it set up three Working Parties responsible respectively for studying, as is customary, the agreements recently concluded between the Community and Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Signature of UK/Euratom/IAEA Agreement on safeguards

2317. An Agreement was signed on 6 September in Vienna between the European Atomic Energy Community, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Kingdom, under which the United Kingdom's peaceful applications of nuclear energy will be subject, in accor-

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2335.

dance with the conditions laid down in the agreement, to the control of the IAEA, in cooperation with Euratom.¹

The signature of this Agreement, based on the spontaneous offer made in 1967 by the United Kingdom, represents a new step towards the harmonization of the Community's entire peaceful nuclear industry from the point of view of the safeguards system.

United Nations

Conference on the Law of the Sea

2318. The Community was represented at the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea held in New York from 2 August to 17 September. At this session the Community delegation requested that the future convention should contain a clause to enable the Community as such to accede to the convention. The next session will be held in New York from 23 May to 15 July 1977.

FAO Regional Conference for Europe

2319. The Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe met in Bucharest from 20 to 25 September, with delegations from twenty-six member States of the 'European region' and in the presence of observers from several international and regional organizations including the Community, OECD, CMEA, and ECE.

The Conference dealt with the following main points: the agricultural development of European countries with an expanding economy and the least-favoured regions of Europe; problems connected with the planning of the use of land and future demand for land resources in Europe; the activities of the FAO and the implementation of recommendations of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

EFTA countries

Switzerland

2320. The Joint Committee set up under the Switzerland/EEC Clock and Watch Agreement of 1967 met on 30 September and 1 October in Lugano, under the chairmanship of Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, Minister in the federal trade division.

The delegations studied the practical questions arising from the application of the Clock and Watch Agreements of 1967 and 1972 and had wide-ranging discussions on the trade policy problems facing the clock-making industries of the contracting parties. They confirmed their common desire for cooperation and consultation.

Mediterranean countries

Greece

2321. On 23 and 24 September, Mr Papaligouras, the Greek Minister for Coordination, with special responsibility for the negotiations on the accession of Greece to the Community, paid a visit to the Commission. Mr Papaligouras had talks with Mr Ortoli, President, Sir Christopher Soames and Mr Haferkamp, Vice-Presidents, and Mr Lardinois, Member of the Commission. He was accompanied by Mr Kyriazidis, Vice-Governor of the Bank of Greece and recently appointed Chief Negotiator at ambassadorial level for the accession negotiations, by Mr Varfis, Secretary-General in the Ministry of Coordination and by Mr Stathatos, Ambassador of Greece to the Community.

Mr Papaligouras also met Mr Brinkhorst, State Secretary in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the country currently in the Council chair.

¹ Ninth General Report, point 322.

The purpose of this visit, which Greece had asked for, was an exchange of views with the Commission about the next stages in the accession negotiations which opened on 27 July.¹

Turkey

2322. On 6 and 7 September Mr Van der Stoel, President of the Council, and Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, visited Ankara for talks with the Turkish Government as arranged in July. They met Mr Demirel, the Prime Minister, and Mr Caglayangil, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The talks concerned the state of relations between the Community and Turkey. The representatives of the Community took this opportunity to provide the Turkish Government with relevant explanations and comments on the Community's global offer which was finalized in July. On behalf of the Turkish Government, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs once again stated that they considered this offer unsatisfactory on many points, in particular the social aspects.

The two parties agreed each to continue its active preparations for the Association Council meeting at ministerial level.

Portugal

2323. On 20 September Mr Medeiros Ferreira. the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Van der Stoel, President of the Council, and Mr Ortoli, President of the Commission, signed an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the Community and Portugal, a Financial Protocol and an Interim Agreement on the trade provisions of the Additional Protocol. The two Protocols were also signed by the representatives of the Member States.²

Mashrek

2324. At its meeting on 20 and 21 September the Council adopted supplementary directives on economic and financial cooperation to enable further negotiations to be held with a view to the conclusion of cooperation agreements with the Mashrek countries: Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

Yugoslavia

2325. A Commission Delegation visited Belgrade on 16 and 17 September for talks with Yugoslav officials responsible for social affairs. These talks form part of the exchanges of information on manpower problems arranged pursuant to the decisions on cooperation taken by the Joint Committee set up under the 1973 Agreement between the Community and Yugoslavia.

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé

Requests for accession to the Convention

2326. On 14 September the Commission sent a Communication to the Council on the negotiations which took place in Brussels in July for the accession of São Tomé and Príncipe and Cape Verde. In this Communication the Commission recommends that the Council approve the result of these negotiations-in the shape of two draft agreements-initiate the procedures for signing

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, points 1201 to 1205. Points 1301 to 1304.

²

and concluding the agreements, and arrange for the prior entry into force of certain trade provisions of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé.

On 10 September the Commission asked the Council and the representatives of the Member States to authorize the opening of negotiations with *Papua New Guinea*, whose request for accession to the Convention of Lomé was officially approved by the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers at their meeting in Brussels in July.¹

ACP-EEC Council of Ministers

2327. The ACP Council of Ministers appointed Mr Tiéoulé Konate and Mr Edwin W. Carrington Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General of the Working Party on the African, Caribbean and Pacific States. Mr Konate took up his appointment on 15 September and Mr Carrington on 4 October.

Trade promotion

2328. Under the trade promotion provisions of the Lomé Convention, the Commission helped to finance the participation of several ACP States and non-associated developing countries in four trade events: the International Leather Week in Paris, the International Fair in Marseilles, the fortieth International Levant Fair in Bari and the Handicrafts Fair in Copenhagen.

European Development Fund

New financing decisions

2329. After receiving a favourable opinion from the EDF Committee, the Commission took eight new financing decisions on 27 September² to be covered by grant aid under the fourth EDF. These decisions bring the total amount of the commitments entered into under the fourth EDF

since 1 April 1976, the date on which the Convention of Lomé came into force, up to 257 058 000 EUA. The new decisions taken by the Commission concern the following projects:

Mauritius — Repair of damage caused by cyclone 'Gervaise'—construction of subsidized housing: 3 million EUA under exceptional aid.

Rwanda — Exceptional aid of 4 million EUA. This grant will enable Rwanda to cope with the difficulties in obtaining supplies of essential imported goods.

Somalia — Hydraulic and agricultural studies for the Saakow scheme, Juba Valley: 1 400 000 EUA.

Madagascar — Study of the drinking water supply in the South: 500 000 EUA.

Niger — Continuation of rural development project in the Department of Badeguicheri: 1 266 000 EUA.

Senegal — Continuation of the peanut scheme: 4.2 million EUA.

Guinea-Bissau — Purchase of agricultural supplies: 462 000 EUA.

Central African Republic — Reconstruction of five bridges on the country's main access routes: 1 195 000 EUA.

Other countries

Industrialized countries

United States

2330. A delegation from the European Parliament, led by its President, Mr Georges Spénale, visited Washington from 20 to 25 September,

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2347.

² OJ C 246 of 19.10.1976.

Other countries

where the tenth round of talks between members of the United States Congress and of the European Parliament was held. These regular meetings, which have been taking place since 1972, give the two sides the opportunity to review the main economic and political problems of the moment in relations between the Community and the United States.

Canada

Entry into force of the framework agreement

2331. After the Community and Canada had exchanged acts on 30 September notifying the completion of the necessary procedures, the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation,¹ signed on 6 July in Ottawa, entered into force on 1 October.² On 17 September³ the Commission had concluded the Framework Agreement on behalf of Euratom and the Protocol between the ECSC and Canada. The Council had formally concluded the Framework Agreement on behalf of the EEC³ on 20 September.

2332. On 14 September⁴ Parliament passed a resolution on the present state of economic and trade relations between the Community and Canada and delivered its Opinion on the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation.

Visit of a Canadian Parliamentary Delegation

2333. The fourth annual round of talks between Delegations from the European Parliament and the Canadian Parliament took place from 13 to 15 September in Luxembourg. The Canadian Delegation attended the plenary session of the European Parliament during which an Opinion was delivered on the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation between Canada and the European Communities; they then discussed various problems involved in the application of the agreement and a number of questions of common interest to Canada and the Community.

Following this meeting, the Canadian Delegation went on to Brussels, where it was received on 16 September by Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission who gave a lunch in its honour.

Visit of the Canadian opposition leader

2334. Mr J. Clarke, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, the official opposition in Canada, was received by President Ortoli on 9 September. Mr Clarke also met Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President, as well as Mr Lardinois and Mr Thomson, Members of the Commission, during his visit to Brussels. The talks at the Commission concentrated on Community/Canada relations and Community developments, particularly in the field of agriculture and regional policy.

Japan

2335. Informal consultations took place on 6 and 7 September in Tokyo between representatives of the Commission and the Japanese authorities on the problems raised by Japanese exports of special steels to the United Kingdom. During these discussions, the Japanese representatives supplied some information and gave assurances regarding likely quantities and prices of Japanese exports of these products.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1976, points 1201 to 1206.

² OJ L 273 of 6.10.1976.

³ OJ L 260 of 24.9.1976.

⁴ Point 2408.

Diplomatic relations

4. Institutions and organs of the Communities

Diplomatic relations

2336. On 23 September¹ the President of the Council and the President of the Commission received His Excellency Mr Ali M. Buhidma, who presented his letters of credence in his capacity as Head of the Mission of the Libyan Arab Republic to the European Economic Community (EEC). The new Ambassador succeeds Mr Aref Ben Musa, who had been recalled to take up other appointments in June 1970.

On the same day¹ the President of the Council and the President of the Commission received. His Excellency Mr Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, who presented his letters of credence in his capacity as Representative and Head of the Mission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC). He replaces Mr Ely Ould Allaf, who had represented Mauritania at the EEC until being recalled to take up other appointments in December 1975.

Still on 23 September¹ the President of the Council and the President of the Commission received His Excellency Mr Raymond Chasle, who presented his letters of credence in his capacity as Head of the Mission of Mauritius to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC). He succeeds Sir Leckraz Teelock, Kt., CBE, High Commissioner in London, who was released from his duties at the European Communities.

¹ OJ C 235 of 7.10.1976.

European Parliament

Part-session in Luxembourg from 13 to 17 September

2401. The major items on the agenda were the direct elections and the Council's presentation of the draft budget for 1977.

Other prominent features were questions about the environmental disaster in Seveso, Italy and the debate on the effects of the drought on farming in the Community.

Matters of foreign policy included the North-South Dialogue, relations with Canada and the policy of *dětente*. On the energy side, Euratom's future research programme was discussed. Economic affairs ranged over official quotation of securities on stock exchanges, harmonization in connection with customs debt, and competition policy. Social policy was the subject of a debate on fundamentals based on the Social Report for 1975.¹

Direct elections (15 September)

2402. It now looks certain that the first direct elections to the European Parliament will take place in 1978. The House acknowledged with re-

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 238 of 11.10.1976 and the report of proceedings is contained in OJ Annex No 206. The political group and nationality of members are indicated

The pointer and handbarry of internet are indicated in brackets by the following abbreviations: $C \cdot D$ = 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.

lief the statement by the Council President, Mr Brinkhorst, State Secretary at the Netherlands Foreign Ministry, announcing that the Foreign Ministers would sign the formal legal acts concerning direct elections on 20 September.

These acts¹ are based on the draft Convention approved by Parliament in January 1975.²

Opening the debate, the rapporteur, Mr Patiin (S/NL) expressed his satisfaction. He summed up where the discussions now stood in the Member States whose reservations had so far held up a final decision. Despite difficulties within the Labour Party, the British Government was now ready to sign. For Denmark, a compromise solution had been found to settle the issue of the dual mandate and the problem of holding national and European elections on the same day. But all in all. Mr Patiin could not hide his disappointment that, compared with the draft which he had prepared, only a modicum of proportionality had survived in the seat allocations. He said that between now and the elections, the House would have the crucial tasks of ensuring that no hitches occurred in fulfilling the election promise and of preparing the people for the elections.

In a Resolution passed by a large majority, Parliament approved the total complement of seats and their allocation between the Member States as decided by the European Council on 12 July.³ The House insisted that the scheduled polling dates in May or June 1978 should be adhered to.

Except for the Communists, all the Groups reacted favourably. For the Socialists, Mr Stewart (UK) said he was convinced that the compromise before them was a reasonable one for all the countries. He strongly opposed any continuation of the dual mandate. The British Government was now firmly resolved to enact the necessary legislation for direct elections.

For the Christian Democrat Group, the Chairman, Mr Bertrand (B) was glad the citizen could now have a say in deciding what was to be the future of Europe. He emphasized, however, that steps must be taken to ensure that all Community citizens, in whatever Member State they lived, were allowed to vote.

The Chairman of the Liberals and Allies Group, Mr Durieux (F) felt that 20 September would furnish the proof that Europe still had the will to unite. The tension between national sovereignty and Community legitimacy must be converted into a driving force. The Chairman of the European Conservatives, Sir Peter Kirk (UK) reminded the House that it was the duty of Members of the European Parliament to enlighten their own national Parliaments.

Four British members of the Socialist Group and the French Communists opposed the direct elections in their planned form. Their remarks set off some heated exchanges towards the end of the debate. Speaking as a national of the one Member State whose Government still had reservations, Mr Espersen (S/DK) took a more subtle line. He summed up the risk factors of the direct elections with the catch-words: lack of interest among the electorates, rivalry between the European and the national Parliaments to the detriment of Europe. The Folketing would have to decide whether these risk factors still justified the Danish reservations. Mr Espersen supported the Resolution passed by the House.

Mr Bordu summarized the counter arguments of the French Communists: direct elections were not the way to make the Community a real democracy; this could be achieved only by strengthening the powers of all Parliaments. For him, Europe would be democratic when it worked in the interests of the working class and of social progress. Mr Bordu warned against the danger of the Community being dominated by the financial power of the Federal Republic of Germany, which was already interfering in the affairs of other countries. Direct elections would

¹ Point 2501.

Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2501. Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 1101. 2

open the gates to this domination. For the rest, he would oppose any attempts to undermine national sovereignty.

In contrast, Mr Sandri, the spokesman for the Italian Communists declared that direct elections could be a major milestone on the road to European unity. They offered new ground for continuing the struggle for democracy. Together with their French colleagues, the Italian Communists abstained because of the uncertainty over certain election procedures and the political climate.

For the British opponents of direct elections, Mrs Dunwoody (S) said that direct elections would create only an appearance of democracy.

Tribute to Fernand Dehousse

2403. Just before the debate on the direct elections Parliament paid tribute to a pioneer European, Fernand *Dehousse*, member and Vice-President of the European Parliament from 1958 until 1970, who died in Liège on 11 August. He drew up the first draft Convention on direct elections to the European Parliament which was presented to the Council in January 1960 and which served as the conceptual and legal basis in the later discussions on the issue of direct elections. Fernand Dehousse was Professor of Law at the University of Liège. A socialist member of Parliament, he had served in the Belgian Government as Minister for Constitutional Reform.

Outcome of the European Council meeting on 12 and 13 July (15 September)

2404. The outstanding result of the meeting of Heads of Government on 12 and 13 July was the decision in principle on the seat allocations for the directly elected European Parliament. The President of the Council, Mr Brinkhorst, reported on the other discussions. Concerning European Union, Mr Brinkhorst explained that the Tindemans Report was at present being examined by the Foreign Ministers in preparation for the next meeting of the European Council in The Hague at the end of November. The ministers were in agreement in their assessment of the economic and social situation. Everyone was conscious of the need for more intensive coordination of economic policies at Community level.

Mr Brinkhorst described the results of the Tripartite Conference as essential for the further development of the Community, meaning its internal cohesion. Concerning Puerto Rico, the President said that the Community must of course be represented at similar summit conferences in future.

In conclusion, Mr Brinkhorst confirmed that the British Government had proposed Mr Roy Jenkins as the next President of the Commission.

Budget

Draft budget for 1977 (15 September)

2405 The President of the Council. Mr Brinkhorst, formally presented the draft of the general budget for the financial year 1977.¹ He expressed his satisfaction with the fruitful cooperation between the two budgetary authorities, Parliament and the Council, under the budget procedure. They had reached agreement on 22 July to extend to further sectors of the budget the distinction between authorizations for payment and for commitment. This would make the budget more comprehensible. Mr Brinkhorst also indicated that he would act on the matters raised by Parliament concerning adjustment of the basis of assessment for VAT, the system of own resources and the Financial Regulation, which were of crucial importance for the exercise of Parliamentary control.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2493.

European Parliament

European Parliament

The Council had trimmed the Commission's preliminary draft¹ by some 600 000 000 u.a. Mr Brinkhorst pointed out that the cuts were in the main spread between the Regional Fund and food aid for developing countries; smaller reductions had been made in the Social Fund and scientific and technical information. The Commission had been given only half the extra staff it had requested.

Mr Brinkhorst stressed that the Council's draft was founded on three principles: extended application of the distinction between payment authorizations and commitment authorizations, the effort to strike a balance between the Community's further development and its internal consolidation, and between the commitments of foreign policy and short-term economic requirements. Activities in the social sphere had gained strength. All in all, the Council had endeavoured to draw up a realistic budget.

In this preliminary policy debate (Parliament is to examine the budget at a first reading during special sittings from 25 to 28 October), the Council's cuts came under heavy fire from the budget rapporteur, Lord Bruce of Donington (S/UK). As one of the richest groups of countries, how could the Community allow itself to make these 'piffling' cuts, especially in aid to the developing countries? Nor did he approve of other reductions. especially in the Social Fund. Lord Bruce called for a close-up, critical appraisal of all agricultural expenditure and the staff structure of the Commission. Calls for moderation achieved nothing if they were followed by petty trimmings instead of a fresh approach to the whole question.

For this year's budgetary procedure, the House approved the draft of a transitional Regulation to amend the Financial Regulation of 25 April 1973 in respect of the general budget of the Communities. The Regulation serves as the legal basis for commitment authorizations.

Second supplementary and amending budget for 1976 (16 September)

Parliament approved and thereby estab-2406. lished the draft of the second supplementary and amending budget for 1976 drawn up by the Council on 22 July.³

Release of appropriations for the JET project (14 September)

2407. Parliament attacked the Council for dillydallying over programme decisions on the JET project and on the multiannual research and investment programme in general; this was preventing any continuity in activity. With this reservation, the House approved the release of 4 million u.a. in commitment authorizations and 1.8 million u.a. in payment authorizations from the appropriations of the 1976 budget.

External relations

Framework Agreement with Canada (14 September)

2408. Parliament welcomed the new Framework Agreement for commercial and economic cooperation between the Community and Canada. This is the first bilateral non-preferential agreement between the Community and an industrialized country.

The House observed with regret, however, that certain aims had not been achieved. The obstacles in respect of the principle of equal right of access to natural resources (uranium) had not been overcome. Fears were expressed that Community investments might be impeded by the

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Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2468. Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2494. 2

³ Point 2468.

present Canadian legislation. Parliament would be glad to see closer cooperation in the sector of heavy-water reactors.

Parliament's hopes for the outcome of the North-South Dialogue (16 September)

2409. Parliament urged the Council and Commission to ensure that the Community worked for positive conclusions in the North-South Dialogue on the matters of the indebtedness of developing countries and of safeguarding their purchasing power. A Resolution motion to this effect was tabled by Miss Flesch (L/L), Mr van der Hek (S/NL), Mr Kaspereit (EPD/F), Lord Reay (C/UK) and Mr Springorum (C-D/D).

No solution had been found for either of these problems at the UNCTAD Conference in Nairobi. The developing countries, as Miss Flesch pointed out, had high hopes for the outcome of the talks in the North-South Dialogue.

Replying to a question from Miss Flesch on the same subject, Mr *Cheysson* summarized the latest position of the dialogue between the developing and industrialized countries, whose specialist Commissions had resumed work in Paris. He welcomed Parliament's move but pointed out that the problem was of greater proportions than indicated in the Resolution.

Agriculture

Tax on margarine (15 September)

2410. The answer by Mr Lardinois, Member of the Commission responsible for agriculture, to a question from Mr Hamilton (UK/S) severely criticizing the proposal to tax vegetable oils, prompted the Socialist Group to request a debate to wind up Question Time.

The agricultural expert of the Socialist Group, Mr Frehsee (D), said that with this tax, the outgoing farming Commissioner, Mr Lardinois, was preparing himself an inglorious exit. With the basic foodstuff, margarine, it was becoming conspicuously clear that the agricultural policy's whole concept of regulating incomes via prices was unsound. The double burden for consumers, who were asked to pay the price and the tax, was untenable. Such a policy discredited the Community.

Mr Lardinois described the Socialist complaints as somewhat exaggerated. The idea and purpose of the levy on vegetable oils was to improve the relationship between butter and margarine. He did not share Mr Frehsee's fears that this would put more strain on the consumers. If the charges were entirely passed on to the consumer, he reckoned that this would raise the price of margarine by 2 to 4 pfennigs at most.

Alleviating the effects of the drought (16 September)

2411. In reply to four oral questions (from the European Progressive Democrats, the Christian Democrats, the Socialists and the Liberals), Mr Lardinois described what the Commission was already doing or was planning to do to alleviate the effects of the drought on farming in the Community. He was generally optimistic about maintaining food supplies to consumers. The Commission was not worried about the food supply situation in those sectors where an organization of the market was operating. But problems might certainly arise where no such organization existed. Potatoes were a case in point. Here the Commission would keep a careful watch on developments and take action where necessary.

Mr Lardinois referred to the already authorized customs duty suspensions for certain products and the newly created liaison services within the Commission which kept in close touch with the consumer associations. He stressed that aid mea**European Parliament**

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sures for agriculture must be compatible with the spirit of the Treaty and focus on the specific problem areas.

He was answering criticism by the Socialist spokesman, Mr Hughes, who warned against taking panic action which would generally cause more harm than good. In speaking to the question from his Group, the Christian-Democrat spokesman, Mr Martens (B) highlighted the difficulties facing cattle breeders whose cheapest supplies, grass and fodder crops, had suffered severely. This would affect milk production more than anything else. With their questions, Mr Cointat (EPD/F) and Mr Durieux (L/F) drew particular attention to the adverse effects on incomes in agriculture.

Parliament supports a market organization for potatoes (16 September)

2412. Against the opinion of the Socialist Group, Parliament felt that a simple common organization of the potato market should be established. The majority of the House considered that the Regulation also served to harmonize disparate national regulations so that an unimpeded liberalization of trade could be ensured. The principle of the market organization lies in making the producer groups responsible for stabilizing the market and organizing supply. The House felt that the time allowed for granting aid to constitute these groups was too short. Mr Lardinois promised an extension.

Mr Haase (D) elucidated the viewpoint of the Socialist Group. The Socialists were afraid of the negative effects for the consumer as a result of what they felt were inadequate quality standards and feared that the taxpayer would be overburdened as a result of the planned support measures for storage and drying. Community agricultural policy and the Third World (16 September)

2413. Five members of the Socialist Group called for the Community agricultural policy to play a bigger part in developing cooperation between Europe and the Third World. This applied both to trade in agricultural products and to efforts towards a more rational organization of the international food supply. Mr Lardinois agreed with this and hoped that town and country on a world scale, meaning industrialized and developing countries as well as town and country within the Community, would come closer together.

Levies in the milk sector (16 September)

2414. On behalf of the European Conservatives, Mr Scott-Hopkins (UK) asked the Commission about the consequences of a cutback in milk production as a result of the premium for withholding milk from the market. In his reply, Mr Lardinois described the intricate correlations in the levy scheme of the common agricultural policy.

Regulations concerning wine (17 September)

2415. Parliament approved four proposals for Regulations concerning various modifications to the organization of the wine market. They involve deferment of the deadline for submitting applications for conversion premiums from 1 September to 1 November 1976, the inclusion of argol in the Annex to Regulation No 827/68 on the common organization of the market for certain agricultural products, production in excess of the prescribed yield per hectare for certain types of wine and the marketing of sparkling wine stocks after 1 September 1976.

Environment (16 September)

The Seveso disaster

2416. Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza assured the Socialist and Christian Democrat Groups that the Commission was now drawing the short- and medium-term conclusions within its province. concerning the Seveso disaster. He was answering two questions about the consequences of the disaster for the Community's environment policy and particularly the activity of the Ispra Establishment. In July, a toxic cloud containing dioxin had escaped from the ICMESA chemical works, devastating with consequences for the environment and the local population.

Mr Scarascia Mugnozza acknowledged that the Community Regulations at present covered only the marketing of certain dangerous products. Production was subject to no kind of Community rules. The Commission was now considering measures to cover this sector as well. In the specific case of Seveso, the Ispra Establishment was investigating the potential spread of the escaped gas and would provide the authorities with any other help required.

Opening the debate for the Socialist and Christian-Democrat Groups, Mr Della Briotta (S/I) and Mr Giraudo (C-D/I) spoke of the enormous inconvenience for the local population. Mr Giraudo put the material damage at Lit 605 000 million. Stressing the gravity of the situation, Mr Della Briotta said that representatives of the Hoffmann La Roche company, of which ICMESA was a subsidiary, had felt obliged to come to Luxembourg and hand notes to members of the House.

Research

(14 September)

2417. The Commission's proposals for the future multiannual research programme of the Joint Research Centre (1977-80)¹ were in line

with Parliament's ideas and the House approved the Commission's new approach. Positive features were the overriding criterion of Community interest in the choice of research actions, the clear-cut objectives and the priorities.

As the rapporteur, Mrs Walz (C-D/D), pointed out, the new programme was the second multiannual programme since the fundamental crisis concerning Community research in 1967, after which all the Council had been able to produce were annual programmes. It took over from the 1973-76 transitional programme and offered a clear-cut concept geared to the Community's most urgent needs.

Common market

Conditions for admission of securities to official stock exchange quotation (17 September)

2418. Despite some reservations and many requests for amendments, Parliament approved the Commission's proposal for a Directive on admission of securities to official stock exchange quotation, on the basis of a report by Mr Bangemann (L/D).

Parliament noted that although the coordination measures in the proposed Directive would allow some progress to be made towards the free movement of capital, they still left a wide margin of discretion to Member States, thus jeopardizing the very aims of the Directive. The Commission was therefore urged to present a further proposal as soon as possible laying down minimum conditions subject to which an issuer in one Member State may have securities admitted to official quotation on stock exchanges throughout the Community. The Commission was also asked to present to the Council as soon as possible a prop-

¹ Bull. EC 5-1976, points 1301 to 1306.

² Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2113.

osal for a Directive on the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services for stockbrokers.

Customs debt: Harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action (17 September)

2419. Parliament approved the proposal for a Directive concerning the rules to be observed by the Member States when laying down their legal and administrative procedures concerning the existence of customs debt,¹ the liability for payment of the amount, and settlement.

Fifth report on competition policy (16 September)

2420. Parliament took the view that the Commission lacked adequate means to counteract the growing concentration of business companies, although it commended the Commission's performance and steady progress. On the basis of a report by Mr Normanton (C/UK), the House was expressing its Opinion on the Commission's Fifth Report on Competition Policy. The Commission needed to extend the scope and application of its competition policy to ensure that the whole range of Community activity was covered. It should carefully consider how competition policy might fruitfully be applied to such diverse areas as social policy, the approximation of laws, relations between the EEC and State-trading countries, accession of new Member States, the common agricultural policy, fishing policy and the Law of the Sea. Close attention should also be paid to the competition aspects of energy policy, consumer protection, credit institutions, economic law and industrial policy.

The House recommended that next year a detailed investigation be made of competition policies in the Member States. Numerous further

suggestions, for the most part aimed at strengthening and extending the application of the competition rules, concerned patent licensing agreements, selective marketing, business practices restricting competition, oil companies, the multinationals, credit institutions, State monopolies, government contracts, price studies and consumer policy, small and medium-sized undertakings, insurance and State aids.

Transport

European driving licence will be optional (17 September)

2421. A European driving licence is to be issued in future for drivers of motor vehicles who want to drive vehicles in other Community countries than their own. Member States can maintain their own regulations for internal traffic. This proposal to the Council is the result of four years' collaboration between the Commission and Parliament. Parliament described the Directive as a model for optional harmonization, which would set uniform standards only for those who wished to make use of them. Community licences were to be issued within a certain period-still to be determined-after a national licence had been obtained and without any further tests. After that period, licences would be issued only after theoretical and practical tests and on presentation of proof of physical fitness to drive.

Social Affairs

Social Report (14 September)

2422. In its Resolution, concerning the Commission's Report on the Social Situation in 1975,

¹ Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2103.

² Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2289.

based on a report by Mr Meintz (L/L), Parliament expressed its astonishment that despite steadily increasing unemployment throughout 1975, no action had yet been taken on its proposals and demands. The House urged that the proposal on coordinating employment policies of the Member States put to the Council in April 1975 should be implemented immediately.

Parliament considered that the present economic crisis was structural rather than cyclical. It therefore called for structural measures; the unequal effects on the different social groups were dangerous. The House demanded emergency measures to help young people, women, migrant workers and the elderly who were all particularly hard hit by unemployment. Social Fund aid for training the young unemployed and an appraisal of possibilities for early retirement were also called for. The situation on the labour market should be clarified through more intensive cooperation between national employment authorities.

Further demands were for a high quality of vocational guidance and a policy which would put an end to discrimination against women at work. In view of the structural divergences on the national labour markets, Parliament felt that it would still be necessary to employ migrant workers on the present scale. Speakers on all sides deplored the lack of penetrating structural measures and supported the demands of the rapporteur. Vice-President Hillery of the Commission spoke of the 'slow miracle', the cooperation which was to be brought about between the two sides of industry, employers and unions, if a new economic and social balance was to be achieved. He pointed out that the economic structures could not be improved without the collaboration of both sides of industry and national governments.

Joint sitting: European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

2423. On 14 September, the 198 members of the European Parliament and the 147 members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held their twenty-second joint meeting. The theme was 'European responsibilities in the world'. It was the first time they had met in Luxembourg.

The agenda included two statements by the rapporteurs, Mr Vedovato for the Parliamentary Assembly and Sir Geoffrey de Freitas for the European Parliament. The focal points of the debate were relations with the Third World, the Atlantic Alliance, the Euro-Arab Dialogue, the role of the United Nations and relations with Comecon.

Council

In September the Council held three meetings dealing with agriculture, economic and financial affairs and foreign affairs.

406th meeting — Agriculture (Brussels, 9 September)

2424. President: Mr van der Stee, Netherlands Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Lardinois, Member.

This special neeting was devoted mainly to the problems caused for European agriculture by the drought. On the basis of a Commission Communication, the Council analysed the situation in detail and took stock, as far as was possible with the information available, of production levels and the supply prospects for the 1976/77 marketing year.¹

Points 2221 to 2222.

407th meeting — Economic and financial affairs (Brussels, 20 September)

2425. President: Mr Duisenberg, Netherlands Minister of Finance.

From the Commission: Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President.

Economic situation in the Community: The Council discussed the economic situation in the Community on the basis of a working paper presented by the Commission.¹

Annual meeting of the IMF: On the basis of a report from the Chairman of the Monetary Committee, the Council worked out the Community position to be presented by the President, Mr Duisenberg, at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Manilla, planned for early October.¹

Consolidation of the Community loan: The Council adopted a decision enabling the Commission to transform part of the variable-interest loan it contracted last March on behalf of the Community, into a fixed-interest loan.²

408th meeting — Foreign affairs (Brussels, 20 September)

2426. President: Mr Van der Stoel, Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs.

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President; Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President; Mr Cheysson, Mr Gundelach, Members.

Election of the European Parliament: The Ministers signed the instruments concerning the election of the European Parliament. The Council Decision was signed by the President and the representatives of the Member States; the act providing for elections by direct universal suffrage was signed by the representatives of the Member States.³

Portugal: The interim EEC-Portugal agreement was also signed at this meeting.⁴

Fishing — 200 mile limit: The Council took stock of the situation for the Community following the third session of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea regarding the question of extending fishing limits to 200 miles.⁵

North-South dialogue: The Council noted a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee on the work of the four Commissions of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation in Paris.⁶

Work in progress at the Council: In the role conferred on it by the Paris summit of December 1974 - i.e., that of providing coordination and impetus—the Council reviewed, on the basis of a document prepared by the President, the main problems outstanding in those Councils composed of Ministers other than the Foreign Ministers. This review of outstanding problems enabled the members of the Council to take stock of persisting difficulties and to consider what action should be taken so that decisions could be reached by the dates set.

The Council's other deliberations dealt with the Tindemans report and the Community's relations with the CMEA, Spain, Turkey, Iran and the Middle-East countries.

Commission

Activities

2427. The Commission held four meetings in September. Discussions revolved around the situation in agriculture—particularly the effects of the drought, structural problems on the milk

¹ Point 2202. ² Point 2203

² Point 2203.

³ Points 2501 to 2507. ⁴ Points 1301 to 1304.

⁵ Point 1202.

⁶ Points 2307 to 2309.

market and matters concerning fisheries—the preparation of the fourth medium-term economic policy programme and the application of the European unit of account to the Community Budget.

Medium-term economic policy: The Commission adopted the draft fourth medium-term economic policy programme, covering the period 1976 to 1980. The proposal was based on the work of the Economic Policy Committee after consultation with both sides of industry.¹

Applying the EUA to the general Budget: The Commission adopted a set of proposals to the Council connected with the application of the European unit of account to the general Budget of the Communities from 1 January 1978.²

1977 Budget: The Commission adopted the letter of amendment to the draft 1977 Budget, announced when the Budget was presented.³

Agriculture: The Commission examined the situation of agriculture in the Community, which has suffered severely from the drought.

Aid is granted to farmers in such cases under national schemes, as explicitly provided in the EEC Treaty. The Commission will have to see that the aid measures conform to the common agricultural policy rules and are consistent with overall objectives. Since a reduction in Community production could lead to supply problems for certain products or to excessive price rises, the Commission has presented two proposals to the Council for suspending customs duties on certain fruits and vegetables until the end of the year. Furthermore, the Commission intends to propose that some measures to rationalize the milk market by granting Community aid for certain conversion operations should be speeded up.⁴

Common fisheries policy: The Commission devoted a great deal of time to drawing up a Communication to the Council on common fisheries policy (internal arrangements as well as relations with non-member countries) in view of the forthcoming extension to 200 miles of the 'economic zone' of the Member States, where Community arrangements will apply. The European Council approved this extension in principle in July.⁵

Food aid: The Commission adopted a proposal for a three-year food aid programme for 1977, 1978 and 1979. It is proposed that the Community commit itself for these three years to supply at least the same volume of food aid in cereals, skimmed milk powder and butteroil as during the current year, and that it aim at a maximum level of aid appreciably higher than in 1976; every effort will be made to achieve this target as far as the economic and financial situation allows.⁶

Deposits on imports in Italy: After receiving a request from the Italian Government, the Commission reviewed the deposit arrangements currently applying to imports into Italy. It adopted a Decision authorizing the Italian Government to extend these arrangements beyond 5 November, the date fixed in its earlier Decision, on condition that the deposit is phased out by 15 April 1977 at the latest. The deposit will be reduced in five stages, the dates for which are set in the Decision. The first reduction in the amount of the deposit will be made on 15 October.⁷

Weather forecasting: The Commission has decided to convene a group of top scientific experts to report on the possibility of developing medium-term weather forecasting techniques and on the study of the factors responsible for the recent climatic disturbances.⁸

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¹ Points 1101 to 1103.

Point 2469.

³ Point 2467.

⁴ Points 2221 and 2222. 5 Points 1201 to 1210

⁵ Points 1201 to 1210.

⁶ Points 1401 to 1406.

⁷ Point 2404.
⁸ Point 2239.

Court of Justice

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2428. Before the Commission adopted the draft fourth medium-term economic policy programme to the Council,¹ consultations were held with both sides of industry on the preliminary draft prepared by the Economic Policy Committee.

Preliminary consultations were also held with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) in preparation for the energy conference that was held in Fontainebleau from 19 to 21 September.

Court of Justice

New cases

Case 86/76 — Gervais-Danone AG, Munich v Hauptzollamt München-Schwanthalerstrasse (now Hauptzollamt München-Mitte)

2429. In a case concerning the tariff classification of fat compounds containing 85% butter, the Bundesfinanzhof asked the Court of Justice on 13 September for an interpretation of heading No 15.13 of the Common Customs Tariff and also for a ruling on the validity of Regulation (EEC) No 496/69 on the classification of goods under subheadings Nos 21.07 D VIII and IX of the Common Customs Tariff² in that it does not specify the content of headings Nos 15.13 and 21.07 but amends them and is therefore not covered by Regulation (EEC) No 97/69 on measures to be taken for uniform application of the nomenclature of the Common Customs Tariff.³

Case 87/76 — Mr W. Bozzone, Masserano v Office de sécurité sociale d'outre-mer, Brussels

2430. In hearing an action brought by an Italian national residing in Italy concerning the payment of a disability allowance to which he had become entitled in the Belgian Congo before its independence, the Brussels Tribunal de travail asked the Court of Justice on 15 September for a preliminary ruling on the compatibility of the residence clause contained in the Colonial Decree of 7 August 1952 on sickness or disability insurance for colonial employees⁴ with the first subparagraph of Article 10(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community.⁵

Case 88/76 — Société pour l'exportation des sucres SA, Antwerp, v Commission

2431. A Belgian sugar exporting company holding export licences certifying the refund fixed in connection with partial awards had requested the cancellation of unused licences pursuant to Regulation (EEC) No 557/76 on the exchange rates to be applied in agriculture⁶ and Regulation (EEC) No 571/76 laying down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EEC) No $557/76.^{7}$ The competent body refused to grant this request on the basis of Regulation (EEC) No 1579/76 laying down special detailed rules of application for sugar under Regulation (EEC) No 557/76,8 which had meanwhile amended the previous regulations.

Following this refusal, the undertaking brought an action before the Court of Justice on 16 September to annul Article 1(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1579/76 in so far as it abolishes the right to have such licences cancelled.

This action was followed by an application for interim measures extending the validity of the

- OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971. 6
- OJ L 67 of 15.3.1976. OJ L 68 of 15.3.1976. 7
- 8 OJ L 172 of 1.7.1976.

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Points 1101 to 1103. OJ L 67 of 19.3.1969. 2

OJ L 14 of 21.1.1969. 3

⁴ Official Gazette of the Belgian Congo, 1952, Part I, p. 2236.

export licences until one month after the date of the judgment on the main issue.

Case 89/76 — Commission v Kingdom of the Netherlands

2432. On 17 September, the Commission brought an action before the Court of Justice for a ruling that in levying a charge for health inspections of vegetables and certain vegetable products intended for export to the other Member States, the Netherlands had failed to fulfil its obligations under the EEC Treaty, in particular with regard to the prohibition on levying charges having an effect equivalent to customs duties contained in Articles 12 and 16.

Case 90/76 — Srl H. Van Ameyde v Srl Ufficio centrale italiano di assistenza assicurativa automobilisti in circolazione internazionale (UCI), Milan

2433. In hearing a case between an insurance company and the Italian central bureau for insurance in respect of the use of motor vehicles in other countries (a public law company whose members are insurance companies authorized to provide insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles) concerning the refusal of the latter to authorize the plaintiff to settle claims arising from accidents caused by vehicles registered in other countries because it is not a member of the bureau, the Tribunale civile e penale di Milano asked the Court of Justice on 27 September for a number of preliminary rulings.

These references for rulings concern the compatibility of Italian laws and practice in this sector with:

(1) Community acts adopted on the subject of insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles, and to the enforcement of the obligation to insure against such liability, i.e. Directive 72/166/EEC,¹ Recommendation 73/185/EEC² and Decision 74/166/EEC.³

(2) Articles 85, 86 and 90 of the EEC Treaty (competition) in that they confine the settlement of accident claims only to insurance companies which are members of the national bureau;

(3) Articles 7 (principle of non-discrimination) and 52 and 59 of the EEC Treaty (freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services).

In the event of an affirmative ruling on point (1), the court also asks for a ruling on the validity of the abovementioned Community acts in relation to the Articles of the EEC Treaty mentioned in (2) and (3).

Case 91/76 — Miss J. de Lacroix v Court of Justice

2434. This is an action to annul the Court's decision not to accept the candidature of the plaintiff for a post as a laywyer-linguist.

Case 92/76 — Commission official v Commission

2435. Following two other actions (Cases 126/75 and 34/76) still pending before the Court of Justice, a Commission official brought a fresh action on 27 September to annul the Commission's decision to reinstate him more than 34 months after the expiry of his leave on personal grounds. The plaintiff asks that he be reinstated with retroactive effect and be paid his salary from the time of the first vacancy in a post of his category to have arisen since the expiry of his leave. This action is accompanied by a claim for damages.

Case 93/76 — Mr F. Liegeois, Marcinelle v Office national des pensions pour travailleurs salariés, Brussels.

2436. In hearing a case concerning the regularization under the pensions scheme for employed

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OJ L 103 of 2.5.1972. OJ L 194 of 16.7.1973. 2

³ OJ L 87 of 30.3.1974.

persons of periods of study completed in another Member State, the Charleroi Tribunal de travail asked the Court of Justice on 28 September for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 9(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community¹ and in particular on the question of whether the provisions of Belgian law which govern such regularization are such as to make insurance cover conditional upon the completion of an insurance period.

Case 94/76 — Mr B. Adleff, Grasslfing, Post Olching v (1) Council and (2) Commission

2437. This case, which is similar to case 83/76,² concerns a claim brought by a poultry farmer for compensation for damage he claims to have suffered as a result of the application of Regulation (EEC) No 563/76 on the compulsory purchase of skimmed-milk powder held by intervention agencies for use in feedingstuffs.³ In this action, as in the abovementioned case, the plaintiff invokes *inter alia* violation of fundamental rights.

Case 95/76 — Commission official v Commission

2438. A retired Commission official brought an action on 30 September against the Commission to have the amount credited to his account under the temporary joint provident scheme of the institutions of the Communities at the time of the entry into force of the Staff Regulations taken into consideration for the purposes of calculating his pension rights.

Cases 41, 43 and 44/73 Interpr — SA Générale sucrière, Paris, et al. v Commission

2439. In its judgment of 16 December 1975 in the 'sugar' cases, the Court reduced the fines that the Commission had imposed on certain sugar undertakings for infringements of the rules on competition.⁴ The operative part of the judgment gave the amounts to be paid in units of ac-

count and, in brackets, the equivalent in national currency, converted on the basis of the official par values of the International Monetary Fund.

As several undertakings paid their fines by remitting the equivalent in Italian lire, also converted on the basis of the official parity (which represents a saving of more than 35%), the Commission informed them that it considered the payments to be incomplete.

In order to resolve this dispute, certain undertakings requested the Court on 30 September for an interpretation of Article 3(b) of the operative part of the abovementioned judgment to determine whether the equivalent amount in national currency given in brackets has only an indicative value or, on the contrary, determines the amount of their indebtedness to the Commission.

Judgments

Case 105/76 — Council official v Council

2440. In its judgment of 29 September the Court upheld this action to annul an appointment.

Case 9/76 — Commission official v Commission

2441. This action to annul a decision of a selection board for internal competitions refusing to include the plaintiff on the list of candidates, and the competitions and subsequent appointments was dismissed as unfounded by the Court in its judgment of 29 September.

Case 10/76 — Commission v Italian Republic

2442. On 5 February, the Commission commenced proceedings before the Court of Justice

¹ OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2469.

³ OJ L 67 of 22.3.1976.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2434.

Court of Justice

against Italy for failure to fulfil its obligations under Directive 71/305/EEC concerning the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts.¹

In its judgment of 22 September, the Court ruled in favour of the Commission.

Case 17/76 — Mr R.J. Brack (deceased) v Insurance Officer

2443. A British national subject to social security arrangements first as an employed worker and then as a self-employed person, whose claim for sickness insurance benefit was rejected by an Insurance Officer on the grounds that the risk occurred when the person concerned was in France, lodged an appeal against the decision with the National Insurance Commissioner. The latter requested the Court of Justice on 16 February 1976 for a preliminary ruling on, inter alia, the interpretation of the word 'worker' in Article 1(a) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community,² together with Annex V(1)thereto (United Kingdom).

In its judgment of 29 September, the Court listed, having regard to the specific details of the case in point, a number of conditions which a person had to satisfy in order to be considered, under English law, a worker within the meaning of Article 1(a)(ii) of the abovementioned Regulation, even if he were self-employed when the risk occurred.

Case 22/76 — Import gadgets SRL, Paris, v SpA LAMP, Pavia

2444. The Tribunale de Pavia asked the Court of Justice on 5 March for a preliminary ruling on the tariff classification of acoustic devices imitating the sound of laughter, intended principally for the manufacture of talking dolls (heading No 97.02 B or 97.03 B of the Common Customs Tariff). In its judgment of 22 September, the Court ruled that such devices fall within heading No 97.02 B.

Economic and Social Committee

141st plenary session

2445. The Economic and Social Committee held its 141st plenary session on 29 and 30 September with the Chairman, Mr Canonge, in the chair. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President and Mr Lardinois, Member of the Commission, attended part of the meeting, at which President Canonge made a speech to mark the end of his term of office. The Committee adopted sixteen Opinions.

Mr Canonge's speech

2446. In his speech, Mr Canonge first of all reviewed the activities of the Economic and Social Committee over the past two years, laying particular emphasis on the strengthening of the Committee's relations with the Community institutions, notably Parliament. He also commented on the operation and future of the Committee. When the Treaties were drawn up, the Committee was established on the basis of a compromise. This produced a hybrid institutional organ, which is neither a technical committee of experts to assist the executive body nor an economic and social assembly. This explains some of the contradictions in the Committee's role: for instance, it has been granted the right of initiative, but it is left on the sidelines when it comes to the organization of tripartite conferences. The Committee may not have operated as well as expected, but the tripartite conferences themselves did not pro-

¹ OJ L 185 of 16.8.1971.

² OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

duce very concrete results. A significant pointer to the disturbing debilitation of the ESC was the fact that these conferences called on the Commission to implement proposed measures and to consult the two sides of industry directly. But the outcome of ignoring the Economic and Social Committee in this way would be that one of the institutional organs established by the Treaties was left idling away and not to proper use, while other important work was being organized elsewhere even though the 1972 Summit Conference clearly and unequivocally marked the transition of the ESC from an advisory body to an economic and social assembly in which major economic and social problems could be tackled. In the present circumstances, what workers and employers in Europe need most is a framework for negotiations and decisions. In view of the flexibility of its structures, the ESC could help them evolve a new style of thinking and a new way of looking at things, so as to clarify and determine the necessary choices, which would then be submitted to those empowered to take decisions. There will barely be two years left in which to adapt the Committee to changes in the Community and in economic and social life and to the political climate. Efforts must be made to ensure that the ESC is a privileged body where economic and social groups actively seek to meet and exchange ideas and information and present their own legitimate interests for the benefit of all the institutions. In doing so, they should face up to their responsibilities as often as possible by presenting the Community's decision-making bodies with clear choices and detailed proposals.

Opinions

Carriage of goods by road between Member States

2447. In this Opinion, which was adopted by 60 votes to 29 with 8 abstentions, the Committee disapproved of the Commission's proposal. It felt that, until further progress had been made and a solution found at Community level for the har-

monization of competition conditions, further steps to open up the international market in the carriage of goods by road would lead to imbalances on the transport markets and entail disadvantages for certain Member States and certain regions.

Operation of the markets for the carriage of goods by land

2448. The Committee adopted, by 70 votes to 28 with 11 abstentions, an Opinion on four proposals for Council Regulations concerning a system for the monitoring of the markets for the carriage of goods by rail, road and inland waterway between the Member States, price formation in respect of the international carriage of goods by rail, a system of reference tariffs for the carriage of goods by road between the Member States and a system of reference tariffs for the carriage of goods by inland waterway between the Member States. It withheld approval of the Commission's proposals in their existing form, since it doubted whether a liberalized transport market such as that envisaged by the Commission could operate on its own without any rules. On several occasions in the past, the Committee has put forward general economic objectives in support of this view. Its reservations were based on fundamental considerations and on the existence of specific shortcomings in the Commission's overall approach.

Action programme (1977-80) for the progressive achievement of balance in the milk market

2449. This Opinion was adopted by 43 votes to 12 with 16 abstentions. The Committee noted that the action programme had been presented at a time when the initial effects of the rather exceptional drought were being felt to varying extents depending on the region involved. It felt, therefore, that the date of implementation of the programme should take account of this situation and these developments. The Opinion maintains that, because of developments in recent years on the various agricultural markets, notably the milk market, the Community management methods must be made more efficient. The Committee stressed that the action programme was a commendable effort in that it gave overall consideration to the problems facing the Community in connection with animal products and fats.

It then considered individually the various measures proposed. It expressed reservations regarding the suspension of all national aids without exception. It drew the Commission's attention to the inadvisability in the present circumstances of introducing the proposed system of financial participation for milk producers, especially as it had not yet been possible to make a more detailed assessment of the effects of the drought. However, it approved the Commission's proposal to seek and open up new markets for milk products. It regretted that the Commission had not formally stressed the need to improve quality. Finally, it rejected, by a narrow majority of 43 votes to 36 with four abstentions, the Commission's proposal to introduce a tax on vegetable fats and oils.

Premium for the non-marketing of milk

2450. In this Opinion, which was adopted unanimously with only eight abstentions, the Committee approved the general lines of the Commission's proposal. It pointed out, however, that, in view of the exceptional circumstances caused by the drought, a much greater number of dairy farmers than expected might apply for the premiums proposed by the Commission. This, it felt, could cause difficulties for the milk-processing industries. To counteract this, it proposed additional machinery which would include the processing firms in the framework of the planned Community mechanism.

Convention on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution

2451. The Committee unanimously adopted an Opinion on the Commission Communication on the results of the negotiations and the proposal for a Council Decision concluding a Convention on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and a Protocol on the prevention of the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft. It approved the proposed Decision and asked the Commission to begin a study of ways to provide the Community with additional instruments capable of coping more effectively with problems rased by pollution of the seas.

Quality of fresh surface water

2452. The proposal for a Council Decision establishing a common procedure for the exchange of information on the quality of fresh surface water in the Community was unanimously adopted. However, the Committee hoped that new sampling stations would be set up and measures to increase knowledge of the quality of water introduced as soon as possible, if necessary by Community action.

Harmonization of systems of company taxation and of withholding taxes on dividends

2453. The Opinion on the proposal for a Directive on the harmonization of systems of company taxation and of withholding taxes on dividends was adopted by 64 votes to 25 with 12 abstentions. In this Opinion, the Committee stated that the proposed Directive constituted further progress towards the free movement of capital in the Community, but would make no significant contribution unless it were accompanied by a joint approach in combating monetary instability and removing obstacles to capital movements. The Committee generally approved the proposal for a Directive but commented on a number of points.

Manufactured tobacco-sixth Directive

2454. An Opinion on the proposal for a Directive amending the Directive concerning taxes other than turnover taxes on the consumption of manufactured tobacco was unanimously adopted. In this Opinion, the Committee states unequivocally that, unless the Council takes a clear decision before 31 December on proposed criteria for the second stage of harmonization of taxes on tobacco (cigarettes), there will be serious doubts about whether the Community really has the political will to carry out the present tax harmonization programme or any similar programme.

Agreement on the international carriage of perishable foodstuffs

2455. The Committee approved unanimously, with one abstention, the proposal for a Council Directive on the implementation of the Agreement on the international carriage of perishable foodstuffs and special equipment for this purpose (ATP).

1977 generalized tariff preferences scheme

2456. The Opinion on the 1977 generalized tariff preferences scheme was adopted unanimously with seven abstentions. The Committee reaffirmed its agreement in principle to the operation by the Community of a scheme of generalized preferences for the developing countries. However, it expressed reservations regarding the extension proposed by the Commission and regretted that the latter had not made any significant progress in ensuring that the scheme primarily benefited those developing countries most in need of help. It felt that the Commission should not hesitate to exclude from the scheme developing countries which had achieved a certain level of competitiveness.

The JRC's multiannual programme

2457. The Committee approved unanimously, with four abstentions, the proposal concerning the JRC's 1977-80 multiannual research programme. It felt that the JRC's work should be accorded primary importance. However, as long as only 0.5% of all public expenditure on research and development in the Community was allocated to direct Community research activities, the JRC could play only an auxiliary role. The Member States should therefore transfer more of their powers and the corresponding financial resources to the Community, especially in the case of expensive major programmes. It also considered that the JRC should play a greater role in coordinating research projects requiring cooperation between the Member States.

Safety signs at work

2458. The Committee unanimously approved the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to safety signs at work. It pointed out that the proposed measures were only one aspect of the action which should be taken in general for the improvement of safety and health protection at work.

Quality wines produced in specified regions

2459. The Committee adopted by a large majority (six votes against and seven abstentions) the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation No 817/70 laying down special arrangements for quality wines produced in specified regions. It approved in general terms the proposal to introduce a minimum degree of harmonization in the Community of the arrangements regarding excess production of these wines per hectare.

Second environment programme

2460. The Committee adopted unanimously, with four abstentions, the draft Council Resolution concerning the establishment and implementation of a Community policy and action programme on the environment. The Opinion stressed the need to coordinate efforts by the Member States and the Commission on the environment policy and to this end urged the Commission to manage the information agreement more actively with a view to introducing an overall policy. It dealt in turn with a cost analysis of environmental protection, the prevention and reduction of environmental pollution and imbalances, an information campaign through the education media, Community action to combat pollution of fresh and sea water, air and soil pollution, Community action in the field of energy production, and Community action with regard to certain side-effects of the campaign against waste.

Labelling of foodstuffs

2461. The Committee unanimously adopted an Opinion on the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States on the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for consumers. First, the Committee hoped that arrangements could be made to ensure that the Directive was respected. It also stressed that the adoption of vertical Directives provided for in the programme for the removal of technical barriers to trade should be speeded up so that the Directive on labelling could be applied more effectively.

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

2462. The Committee approved, with seven abstentions, the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation No 1365/75 on the settingup of a European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

European Investment Bank

Management Committee

2463. The Board of Governors of the European Investment Bank has appointed as Vice-President of the Bank and Member of the Management Committee, Mr Maurits *Esselens*, Director-General (Treasury), Ministry of Finance, Belgium.

Mr Esselens, prior to this appointment a Director of the Bank, takes up office on 1 October 1976, replacing Mr Sjoerd *Boomstra* who has been obliged to relinquish his post at the end of September for personal reasons.

Having served on the EIB's Board of Directors since 1958, when the Bank was created, Mr Boomstra was appointed Vice-President in 1970. In June 1976¹ when the statutory term of office of the Bank's Management Committee came up for renewal, he announced that he would continue to occupy his post for a limited period only.

Mr Esselens' term of office will expire in 1982 at the same time as that of the other members of the Management Committee.

As from 1 October 1976 the composition of the EIB's Management Committee will be as follows: M. Yves *Le Portz*, President; Mr Horst-Otto *Steffe*, Sir Raymond Bell, Mr Giorgio *Bombassei Frascani* de *Vettor* and Mr Maurits *Esselens*, Vice-Presidents.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2473.

With effect from the same date, Mr Ludovicus *Meulemans* has been appointed Director of the Bank to replace Mr Esselens. Mr Meulemans is Inspector General (Treasury Administration) at the Ministry of Finance, Belgium. Finally, on the nomination of the Benelux countries, Baron B.F. *van Ittersum*, Director (Domestic Finance) at the Netherlands Ministry of Finance, has been appointed an Alternate Director of the EIB.

Loans granted

France

2464. A loan equivalent to FF 156.7 million (30 million EUA) has been granted by the Bank for the improvement of the telecommunications network in Aquitaine, France.

It will help finance various works in the region, costing some FF 600 million, which will enable close on 60 000 new main lines to be installed. The scheme includes construction or expansion of 49 large and medium-sized telephone exchanges, extensions to the urban and trunk networks, and facilities for the connection of 500 new telex subscribers.

The loan has been granted for a period of 12 years at an interest rate of 93/4% to the Caisse nationale des télécommunications in Paris, which will make the funds available to the administration des postes et télécommunications (PTT).

Italy

2465. For the mining of uranium deposits discovered in the North of Italy, the Bank has granted a loan equivalent to Lit. 9 000 million (9.7 million EUA) to AGIP SpA—part of the ENI-Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi group—for a term of 12 years at an interest rate of 9 1/2%.

It is the first time the EIB has provided finance for a project concerning extraction of uranium. The discovery—in the upper Val Seriana near Novazza, in the province of Bergamo—is the result of a prospecting programme carried out for several years by AGIP, which undertakes mining activities for the ENI group.

The reserves, which amount to about 1 500 tonnes of uranium concentrates, are the most important found in Italy to date.

Mining operations will begin in 1979 and should carry on for about ten years. Measures are being taken in both the extraction and the processing of the mineral to safeguard workers' health and protect the natural surroundings of the Val Seriana. A welcome aspect in this mountainous area will be the creation of around 120 new jobs.

Although these deposits will meet only a fraction of the uranium requirements of one Member Country of the EEC, they nonetheless contribute to the development and diversification of European energy resources.

Upper Volta

2466. The first financing operations to be carried out by the EIB under the Lomé Convention have been in favour of the Republic of Upper Volta.

Acting as agent for the EEC, the Bank has provided two loans, totalling the equivalent of 4 428 000 EUA (CFA F 1 155 million) for extensions to a sugar complex at Barfora in the southwest of the country.

The loans have been made available from the 95 million EUA of European Development Fund resources set aside under the Lomé Convention for risk capital operations to be managed by the EIB.

A conditional loan of 1 428 000 u.a. has been granted to the Republic of Upper Volta for a term of 20 years, including a 6-year grace period, with a rate of interest of 2% per annum. It will go towards financing an increase in the capital of Société Sucrière Voltaïque (SOSUHV), the project sponsor, in which the State has a majority shareholding.

This company has also received a subordinated loan worth $3\,000\,000$ u.a. for a term of 13 years, including a 9-year grace period. The interest rate is 2% for the first 7 years and $5\,1/2\%$ thereafter.

The funds advanced will be used for extending the area of sugar cane plantations from 2 250 to 3 500 hectares and for increasing the sugar mill capacity to raise annual output from 20 000 to 31 500 tonnes.

As a result of this capital investment the Upper Volta will be in a position to meet all its sugar requirements until about 1985 without having to import supplies, which will have a favourable effect on the country's balance of payments.

The total fixed investments involved are put at CFA F 4 248 million and they will mean 500 new jobs for Upper Volta nationals. The Caisse centrale de coopération économique (France) is co-financing the project through the Banque nationale de développement.

The Lomé Convention provides for the Community to grant financial aid of 3 390 million EUA between now and 1980. The EIB will be responsible for making available 585 million EUA made up as follows: 390 million EUA in loans from its own resources, normally to be provided with an interest rebate to 3%, for which 100 million EUA is set aside from the resources of the European Development Fund. A further 95 million EUA, also to come from EDF resources, is earmarked for risk capital operations. This assistance may be used either as a direct contribution towards increasing the equity capital of an enterprise or to provide quasi-capital assistance in the form of subordinated loans (repayable only after senior loans have been paid off) of conditional loans (repayable only after fulfilment of certain conditions, indicating that a project has overcome teething problems and has reached a certain level of profitability).

Financing Community activities

Budgets

General budget for 1977

Letter of amendment to the preliminary draft general budget

2467. In its desire to present as comprehensive a preliminary draft budget as possible to the Budgetary Authority, the Commission submitted initial estimates of EAGGF Guarantee Section and 'green currency' expenditure for 1977 on 15 June on the basis of the information then available.

The Commission was, however, fully aware of the dangers of presenting agricultural estimates so early in the year when not enough was known about the outcome of the harvests, when the financial effects of the drought affecting Community agriculture could only be guessed at, and when the currency trends were still highly uncertain. Although these uncertainties have not been entirely dispelled, they no longer constitute such a formidable difficulty.

This was why the Commission stated on 8 July that it would send a letter of amendment in September 'bringing the initial estimates up to date on the basis of incomplete but highly indicative seasonal outturns for the most important crops. The amendments will take into account the effects of the drought and other factors already brought to the attention of the EAGGF Committee'.

When the Council drew up the draft general budget of the Communities for the financial year 1977 on 22 July it stated in its explanatory memorandum that a letter of amendment would be presented by the Commission in September on the following:

Table 2 — Comparison between the preliminary draft and the letter of amendment

(u.a.)

	Initial preliminary draft	Preliminary draft as altered by the letter of amendment	Change
Commission			
<i>Title 1</i> (Expenditure relating to persons working with the Institution)	254 384 600	254 384 600	—
<i>Title 2</i> (Buildings, equipment and miscellaneous administrative expenditure)	116 344 100	116 344 100	
<i>Ttitle 3</i> (Expenditure on specific projects under- taken by the Institution)	251 569 679	251 569 679	
Title 4 (Repayments and aids to Member States and miscellaneous)	1 195 706 538	1 227 939 213	+ 32 232 675 1
<i>Title 5</i> (New Social Fund – Expenditure under Article 4 of the Council Decision of 1 February 1971)	672 440 000	672 440 000	_
<i>Titles 6 and 7</i> (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund – Guarantee Section)	5 840 000 000	5 646 900 000	- 193 100 000
<i>Title 8</i> (European Agricultural Guidance and Gua- rantee Fund – Guidance Section)	164 100 000	162 600 000	- 1 500 000
<i>Title 9</i> (Cooperation with the developing countries and non-member countries)	382 491 200	323 991 200	- 58 500 000
Title 10 (Provisional appropriations)	245 063 900	494 563 900	+ 249 500 000
Commission – Total	9 122 100 017	9 150 732 692	+ 28 632 675
Other Institutions	138 631 280	138 631 280	
Grand total	9 260 731 297	9 289 363 972	+ 28 632 6752

¹ This results from the following changes:
 — Chapter 40 = + 50 232 675 (EEC guarantee for EIB loans to Yugoslavia)
 — Chapter 47 = - 18 000 000 (implications of the application of the dual exchange rate)

² If Chapter 40 (+50.2 million u.a.) is not included, the letter of amendment involves a total reduction of 21.6 million u.a.

(a) appropriations for the EAGGF Guarantee Section:

(b) appropriations for financial cooperation with non-associated developing countries;

(c) revision of own resources estimates.

The letter of amendment, which was forwarded by the Commission on 27 September, incorporates the changes which have since had to be made to the following four items in the light of new information:

(i) transfer of expenditure on aid to beekeepers from the Guidance Section to the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF;

(ii) adjustment of appropriations for food aid;

(iii) creation of a new budget heading to finance the Community guarantee for EIB loans to Yugoslavia;

(iv) adjustment of the establishment plan.

^{+ 32 232 675}

Second supplementary and amending budget for 1976

2468. At its sitting on 16 September Parliament approved, with no amendments, the draft budget presented by the Council¹ and finally adopted the second supplementary and amending budget for 1976.

This second supplementary and amending budget covers the changes required in the following budgetary sectors:

(a) the figures for own resources contained in the statement of revenue have been increased appreciably compared with the initial estimates. The forecast for the implementation of the 1976 budget also suggests that exchange rate gains will be around 200 million u.a.;

(b) considerable additional appropriations are required for monetary measures in the agricultural sector: 130 million u.a. for the 'accession' compensatory amounts and 350 million u.a. for the 'monetary' compensatory amounts;

(c) an additional appropriation of 237 million u.a. is required for agricultural expenditure proper in the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF, of which 175 million u.a. is due to developments in the economic situation;

(d) an appropriation of 2 105 million u.a. must be added to Article 490 (Interest relief on loans granted by the European Investment Bank to Portugal) as the volume of loans granted to Portugal in 1976 is higher than originally forecast;

(e) a correction is necessary in Annex I (Research appropriations): this operation will not, however, alter the overall figures as it involves only internal adjustments.

Table 3 shows the effects of this supplementary budget.

Application of the European unit of account to the Communities' budget

2469. In its Communication to the Council of 24 March on the problems of applying the unit of account to the budget of the Communities, the Commission proposed that the European unit of account (EUA) be used for this purpose as from 1 January 1978.²

On 19 May a proposal for a Regulation amending the Financial Regulation of 25 April 1973 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities was forwarded to the Budgetary Authorities.³ It contained a new formulation of the definition of the unit of account used in drawing up the Communities' budget. The proposal also provided for using the EUA in the accounts, and in the presentation of the revenue and expenditure account and the financial balance sheet; these changes should take effect from 1 January 1978.

On 29 September the Commission adopted a set of proposals designed to ensure compliance with the deadline for the application of the EUA to the Community budget (1 January 1978).

The first proposal is a draft resolution confirming the Council's political will to apply the EUA to the general budget of the European Communities from the 1978 financial year.

The Commission separated from its proposal for a Regulation amending the Financial Regulation of 25 April 19734-presented on 26 May 1976-the provisions necessary for the application of the EUA. This was done because of the time required for the examination and adoption of the overall proposal for amending the Financial Regulation.

A proposal was also presented aimed at defining the rules for the application of the EUA to the general budget.

According to this proposal for a Regulation the EUA will be used in the budget as an accounting instrument, i.e. as an instrument of internal budget management (the EUA will have a variable

Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2494. Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2468. 1

²

Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2469. 3

⁴ OJ L 116 of 1.5.1973.

Table 3 — Breakdown of expenditure and revenue by category

		u.a.	
Category of expenditure	1976 Budget incl first supplementary budget	Second supplementary budget	New total 1976
Appropriations for adminstrative and operating expendi-			
ture (Titles 1 to 4 and Chapters 98 and 99)	536 968 548	_	536 968 548
— Aid to Portugal (Article 490)	12 000 000	+ 2 105 000	14 105 000
Payment appropriations for expenditure on Euratom research and investment (Chapter 33)	135 182 526		135 182 526
a) European Social Fund (Chapter 55)	441 000 000		441 000 000
b) European Regional Development Fund (Chapter 55) –	441 000 000		441 000 000
Payment appropriations	300 000 000	_	300 000 000
c) Community aid to the Friuli earthquake area	60 000 000	-	60 000 000
EAGGF: — Guarantee Section (Titles 6 and 7)	5 160 300 000	+ 717 370 000	5 877 670 000
- Guidance Section (Title 8)	325 000 000	+ /1/ 5/0 000	325 000 000
Expenditure on cooperation with the developing coun-	323 000 000		323 000 000
tries (Chapters 90, 92, 93 and 94)	237 222 000	+ 40 630 000	277 852 000
Reimbursement to the Member States of 10% of the amounts paid over as own resources (Chapter 29)	430 212 259	+ 72 619 275	- 502 831 534
Expenditure – Total	7 637 885 333	+832 724 275	8 470 609 608
Category of revenue			
Miscellaneous revenue :			
 general budget research and Investment activities 	38 387 658 ¹ 5 417 000	+200000000	238 387 658 ¹ 5 417 000
Contributions by the Member States to complementary	341/000		3417000
Euratom programmes	9 189 453	_	9 189 453
Proportion of ECSC levies earmarked for administrative			
expenditure	18 000 000	-	18 000 000
Revenue – Total	70 994 111	+ 200 000 000	270 991 111
Appropriations to be financed in accordance with the Decision of 21 April 1970	7 566 891 222	+632 724 275	8 199 615 497
¹ This includes 900 000 u.a. entered under item 9311 in the statement of re	venue (COST contributions)	<u> </u>	

daily rate), and as an instrument of settlement, i.e. as an instrument of external budget management (the Communities' claims and liabilities will be denominated in EUA).

However, a separate proposal will be made laying down the rules governing the application of the EUA to staff expenditure.

Own resources estimates for the 1977 budget

Revision of estimates contained in the preliminary draft

2470. The establishment of budget estimates of own resources consists of two basic operations:

(1) drawing up an estimate of own resources for the current financial year; this operation is based primarily on the outturns already recorded for the financial year in question and on the monthly outturn rate of previous years;

(2) estimating the trends in key aggregates (growth, production, external trade, etc.) on the basis of which the amount of own resources is calculated.

The first of these operations forms the basis for calculation to which are applied, in the second stage, the expected variations produced by the different forecasting models.

The reliability of estimates of own resources for the current year increases in direct proportion to the number of recorded monthly outturns, particularly outturns of customs duties.

When the preliminary draft budget for 1977 was drawn up, the only information available was for outturns in the first quarter of 1976 and—in the case of some countries—for January and February only. These figures—which confirmed a slight upward trend in payments—were, however, inadequate for a sound estimate for 1976 and, consequently, offered no basis for a final estimate for 1977. The figures given in the preliminary draft budget for 1977 could therefore only be provisional.

Record outturns were observed when the accounts were closed for the first half of 1976. When submitting the second supplementary and amending budget for 1976, the Commission took the opportunity to adjust the figures for customs duties and agricultural levies, since the latest estimates revealed a 17% increase over the initial estimates.

In view of the adjustments made to the 1976 figures, the basis of calculation for 1977 must be revised and the hypotheses and parameters updated.

Estimates of own resources paid over for 1977 rise from 5 457.1 million u.a. as shown in the preliminary draft to 5 959.4 million u.a. given in the letter of amendment to the 1977 budget.

ECSC financial operations

Loans

2471. The Commission raised the following loans in September:

- a SF 25 million private placement for eight years at 57/8%;

— a DM 125 million bond issue. This loan, which was underwritten by a syndicate of German banks, is for seven years and carries an interest rate of 73/4%. It was offered to the public at 100.50%;

— a DM 75 million bond issue, which was also underwritten by a syndicate of German banks. It carries an interest rate of 73/4% and is for ten years; it was issued at 99.5%.

These issues bring the total of loans contracted by the ECSC as at 30 September to the equivalent of 3 824.7 million EUA.

5. Institutional questions — European policy

European policy

Election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage

2501. Meeting on 20 September, the Council approved the instruments concerning election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage. There are two instruments: 'the Act concerning the election of representatives to the Assembly by direct universal suffrage' and a Council Decision.' Having approved the texts, the Ministers then formally signed them.

Council Decision

2502. With its Decision the Council adopted the provisions establishing certain arrangements for electing members of Parliament by direct universal suffrage, which it recommends the Member States to adopt in accordance with their constitutional procedures.

This Decision contains a recital to the effect that the Council intends 'to give effect to the conclusions of the European Council in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975, that the election of the Assembly should be held on a single date within the period May-June 1978'.

The Act

2503. The main provisions of this Act are as follows:

(a) it determines the following allocation of seats:

Belgium	24
Denmark	16
Germany	81
France	81
Ireland	15
Italy	81
Luxembourg	6

Netherl	ands	25
United	Kingdom	81

(b) it lays down the term of office of representatives (five years);

(c) representatives will vote on an individual and personal basis and will not be bound by any instructions or receive a binding mandate;

(d) the office of representative in the Parliament is compatible with membership of the Parliament of a Member State;

(e) it lays down the functions which are incompatible with the office of representative in the Parliament: membership of the Government of a Member State, and the holding of posts in Community institutions and organs;

(f) Parliament will draw up a proposal for a uniform electoral procedure. Pending the entry into force of this procedure the electoral procedure will be governed in each Member State by its national provisions;

(g) each Member State will determine the date on which members of the European Parliament will be elected, on the understanding that the date must fall within the same period for all the Member States, this period to start on a Thursday morning and end in the evening of the following Sunday. The counting of votes may not begin until that Sunday evening after the close of polling in the Member State whose electors are the last to vote;

(h) the period referred to above will be determined for the first elections by the Council acting unanimously after consulting the Assembly. Subsequent elections will take place in the corresponding period five years later. This period may be brought forward or put back one month should it prove impossible to hold the elections in the Community during the period which would result from a straightforward application of the texts;

¹ OJ L 278 of 8.10.1976.

(*i*) each Member State will lay down appropriate procedures for filling any seat which falls vacant during the five-year term of office for the remainder of that period;

(j) any necessary implementing measures willbe adopted by the Council acting unanimously on a proposal from Parliament after consulting the Commission.

Speeches at the ceremony

2504. At the signing ceremony speeches were made by the Presidents of the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament.

Mr Van der Stoel, President of the Council

2505. Mr Max Van der Stoel, President of the Council and the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs, declared:

'The act which we are about to sign today is, to me, a fundamental step on the long road which we have been following together for twenty-four years towards the building of a united democratic Europe, a Europe of solidarity.

For the first time, the people of Europe will be called upon to elect their representatives, to choose between the different forms of society put before them and hence to give impetus to the development of Community action. Therein lies, in my view, the profond significance of elections by direct universal suffrage. The Communities have often been criticized for acting behind the screen of secrecy of diplomatic conferences or becoming enmeshed in bureaucracy and technicalities. We know, on the other hand, that what we are doing is directed first and foremost towards the well-being of our peoples, the raising of their standard of living and their social and economic development. Our aim is to increase the prosperity and the well-being of the people of Europe and to contribute to a stable, just world order. It is a logical extension of the democratic principles adhered to by our peoples that the citizens of Europe themselves should indicate the manner in which these objectives are to be achieved.

The idea of electing the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage is enshrined in the Treaties and represents a bold innovation foreseen by the founders of the Communities in order to give the newborn Europe a political dimension and democratic credentials hitherto not enjoyed by any other international enterprise. However, great difficulties stood in the way of the attainment of this goal and a great deal of time, great efforts and strength of political resolve were needed to overcome them.

I would here like to pay tribute to all those whose labours have lead to the decision which we are taking today. May I first mention a great European who has recently departed from us, Senator Fernand Dehousse who was the European Parliament's first rapporteur on direct elections and who struggled incessantly right up to the time of his death to see his dream crowned with success.

Then I would like to point to the ceaseless efforts of the whole of the European Parliament and in particular its President, Mr Spénale and its rapporteur, Mr Patijn. The proposal which they submitted to us was balanced and realistic and greatly eased our task of finding acceptable and satisfactory solutions to the problems facing us. Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the efforts of all nine Member States' Governments, who despite the real political difficulties facing them have given clear evidence of their courage, resolve and determination.

I am well aware that today's act is but one step. All our national Parliaments will now have to approve it and draw up the legislation required to implement it.

I would like to make an urgent appeal to our Governments and Parliaments to continue to show the same resolve which has brought us this far, so that we may stand by the commitment which we are entering into to hold the elections throughout the Community in May or June 1978.

I am also aware that elections by universal suffrage are not in themselves an answer to all our problems. In the face of a particularly difficult economic and social situation, of a world cast into turmoil by great changes, fierce strife and dangerous tension, the Community can develop only if it retains its inner cohesion, follows a bold—and at the same time generous—external policy and strives ceaselessly to maintain stability, peace and social justice. The European Parliament to be elected by our peoples will have an essential contribution to make by playing to the full its role as provider of democratic control and political impetus.'

2506. On behalf of the Commission, the President, Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, had this to say:

'The agreement you are about to sign is, for me, doubly significant. In the first place, you will be making it clear that our Community is an active force. I do not think that any one of us would have dared to think, two years ago, that we could have reached this point so quickly. Of course, there is provision in the Treaties for the direct election of the European Parliament by universal suffrage, but it had been put off for so long; and today it is accomplished. For myself, after nearly four years as President of the Commission, what is being done today gives me good reason for hope and confidence in the Community.

But this is not all. In deciding that Parliament should be elected by universal suffrage, you also recognize that democracy is an essential part of what we are doing together. For it is surely the Community's main characteristic, and perhaps its most important justification, that it is a community of peoples united by an ideal of life in a democratic system.

And now we are going to let the people of Europe have their own say. It is a great step for-

ward, after all we have heard about the technocracy or bureaucracy that sometimes appears to be typical of the Community. We shall now be able to ask our people to tell us, by the way they vote, what they want, what their aims and objectives are—to tell us what they think Europe should be. Obviously, all this is not going to happen overnight, but from today on it will none the less be a determining factor in making the Europe of the future.

No one can yet say how these elections will turn out. But the simple fact that the Community's dynamism has been affirmed at a difficult time by means of a major decision concerning its very roots in democracy is, I feel, significant. Today is a great day; I would like to tell you how happy it makes me to be here with you on this occasion.'

2507. Mr Georges Spénale, President of the European Parliament, said:

'The meeting of the European Council on 12 July, and the Council meeting on 20 September together mark a historic stage in the construction of Europe: the way is now open towards a Europe for citizens beside the Europe of States.

The citizens of the Nine will no longer have imposed upon them a European law, neither ratified nor promulgated, but directly applicable in all the Member States; on the contrary, they will, through their elected representatives, have helped to formulate it. As the Treaties of Paris and Rome had always intended, a substantial part of the people's sovereignty has finally been restored, twenty years on.

In twenty months' time, the rest of the world will see the Community achieve for itself the real parliamentary democracy, under the dual plurality of parties and peoples, which it requires of any State seeking Community membership.

On behalf of the European Parliament, I would thank the Council for seeing the enterprise through to the signature stage today, despite the very real difficulties which had to be overcome. May I also thank the Council and its President, Mr Van der Stoel, for inviting me to this ceremony as the representative of the European Parliament which has striven so much for this goal. I accepted not just because it is an honour for me, but more than anything else because the Act which has just been signed reflects to a large degree Parliament's proposals. Our presence here today is a token that our institutions are in agreement on the fundamentals.

The Community side is now complete; the national procedures must now be carried through. We have turned the corner; a new road lies before us, long and in places very hard.

The champions of the European cause, wherever they are—in government, parliament, the parties, the unions, in the streets, on the farm, in the works canteen or at home—must all now mobilize their efforts to ensure that the ratification procedures are carried through, so that national electoral legislation will be duly enacted, so that all citizens will feel involved and so that in spring 1978 when, with no further delay, they are able to make their voice heard, their response will show that our peoples are passionately resolved to build a Europe on the foundations of democracy, solidarity and hope.

The countdown has begun, tonight.'

Political cooperation

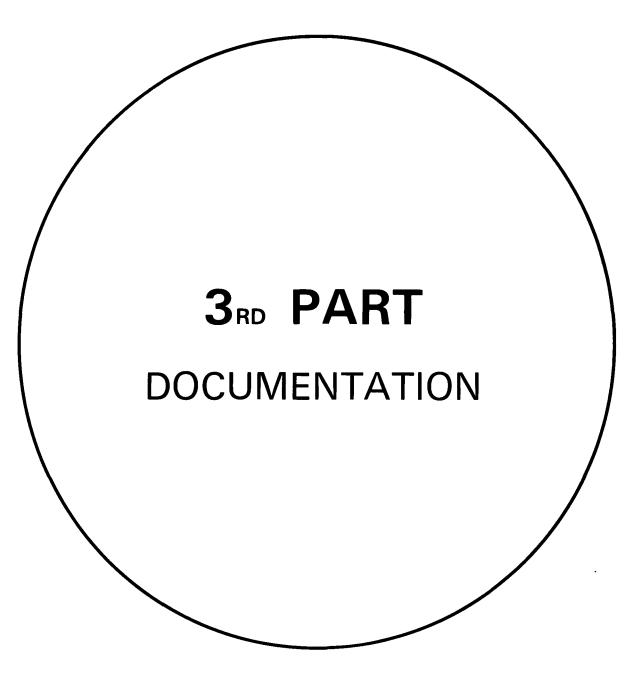
2508. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Nine met in Beetsterzwaag, Friesland on 11 and 12 September. The meeting was chaired by Mr Max Van der Stoel, the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs and was attended by Mr Francois-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission. The discussions centred on the problems in southern Africa, the situation in Lebanon, relations between Greece and Turkey, Community relations with Spain and Portugal and action against international terrorism. The Ministers also discussed Mr Tindeman's Report on European Union.¹

Mr Leo *Tindemans*, the Belgian Prime Minister, was himself present.

European Union

2509. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Nine continued their discussions on the Tindemans Report on European Union¹ during their meeting in Beetsterzwaag on 11 and 12 September and at the Council meeting on 20 September. They dealt in particular with Chapter II ('Europe in the World') and will be drawing up a report on that Chapter for the next meeting of the European Council to be held in The Hague on 29 and 30 November.

¹ Supplement 1/76 — Bull. EC.



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