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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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<sup>\*</sup> In preparation.

### Election of the European Parliament

#### Agreement in the European Council

'The European Council agreed on the following number and apportionment of the seats in the European Parliament to be elected in 1978 by direct universal suffrage:

Luxembourg	6
Ireland	15
Denmark	16
Belgium	24
Netherlands	25
France	81
Italy	81
United Kingdom	81
Germany	81
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It also took note of a declaration by the Federal Chancellor on the application to Land Berlin of the Act instituting direct election of the European Parliament.

The British and Danish Prime Ministers confirmed the declarations made by them at the European Council session in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975.

The European Council requested the Council to take a comprehensive decision on the direct election of the European Parliament by the end of July 1976.'

This was the statement issued by the Heads of Government announcing the agreement reached at the European Council meeting in Brussels on 12 and 13 July. The number and distribution among the Member States of the seats were the last problems still outstanding and a number of proposals and compromise formulas had been put forward in an effort to find a solution. The Foreign Ministers managed to bring positions closer into line in June and this enabled the European Council finally to settle the matter.

Bull. EC 6-1976





### The second Tripartite Conference

Tripartite Conference

1101. A second Tripartite Conference was held in Luxembourg on 24 June, chaired by Mr Raymond Vouël, President of the Council. It was attended by government representatives (Ministers of Economic and Financial Affairs and Ministers of Social Affairs or Employment), representatives of both sides of industry (trade union and employers' organizations) and representatives of the Community institutions. Mr Haferkamp, Dr Hillery and Mr Thomson attended on behalf of the Commission.

The Conference was a succes for the Community and, in particular, for the Commission, whose paper on the restoration of full employment and stability provided a focal point for the discussions. Preliminary consultations had been held on the paper at European level between governments, Community institutions and trade union and employers' organizations, and this led to agreement on several practical objectives. The Conference ended with the adoption of a joint statement making a number of constructive points (no statement was released after the first Conference, held in November 1975). In short, the Conference, attended by about a hundred participants (twenty of whom were ministers or State secretaries), was more satisfactory than had been expected prior to its opening.

#### The joint statement

- 1102. At the close of the Conference—which had been the occasion of protracted discussions and of hard bargaining on some points—the following statement on the restoration of full employment and stability in the Community was released:
- 1. The representatives of the workers' and employers' organizations met at Luxembourg on 24 June 1976 with members of the Council and Commission of the European Communities, under the Chairmanship of Mr Raymond Vouël,

President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities.

2. On this occasion, they discussed in depth the problem of employment and stability in the Community, thus continuing in greater detail the discussions held in Brussels on 18 November 1975 on the economic and social situation in the Community.

The Conference expressed the resolve of all the participants to unify their efforts in order:

- (i) to consolidate the economic recovery, so as to
- (ii) achieve growth while maintaining stability over the coming years, and thus
- (iii) to create the conditions for full employment and further social progress.
- 3. All the participants emphasized the need for the rapid and simultaneous re-establishment of full and better employment and stability in the Community. They noted that these two aims were closely linked.

They also noted that it will not in the future be possible to solve any of these problems in isolation.

- 4. The Conference noted that as regards both supply and demand, economic policies should be directed at achieving the conditions for sustained and balanced growth in all the regions of the Community over the coming years in order to speed up the absorption of unemployment and a return to full employment by 1980.
- 5. The scale of this growth will indeed depend on the particular situations obtaining in Member States; however, for the Community as a whole, the average annual growth rate should be approximately 5% over the period from 1976 to 1980. This will require a greater increase in investments, and particularly in investments which create new jobs.
- 6. To attain the above targets, joint and coordinated efforts would have to be made by the

governments, employers and labour and by the Community institutions, with each party acting within its own field of responsibility.

7. A policy of regular and lasting growth presupposes that any suitable measures to avoid further inflationary tendencies should be taken in good time.

The rate of inflation in the Member States should be reduced gradually to one which is compatible with lasting stability and should be approximately 4 to 5% by 1980 at the latest.

- 8. The governments will make an essential contribution towards restoring price stability by means of:
- (i) a reduction of budget deficits in the medium term;
- (ii) a monetary policy corresponding to the growth prospects for the national product;
- (iii) a dynamic competition policy;
- (iv) a dynamic labour policy.
- 9. Only a joint effort by all the parties to adapt trends in incomes of every kind to objective economic criteria, accompanied by price restraint, will make it possible to create once again the conditions for a more balanced and equitable economic and social situation.
- 10. The parties to this Conference also discussed a number of specific measures for improving the employment situations; particularly for young people. Such measures will be taken according to the circumstances obtaining in the various Member States, and will be periodically examined by the Community institutions. Employers and labour will be associated with this examination.
- 11. Both governments and employers and labour will take appropriate measures to promote workers' interests and their participation in the life of undertakings.
- 12. An improvement in the coordination of the economic and monetary policies of the Member

States should, moreover, contribute towards a greater alignment of economic development in the member countries and thus help towards the achievement of the common targets. For this purpose particular attention should be paid to structural and regional problems.

- 13. It was agreed that the dialogue begun at this Conference should be continued. For this purpose, a further Conference could be convened in due course to review developments in the situation and to take stock of the results achieved by the joint efforts of all parties.
- 14. Until then, informal contacts will be maintained between the representatives of the institutions and of employers and labour whenever this appears necessary to one of these parties.
- 15. The Standing Committee on Employment will continue with its work, playing particular attention to the specific measures designed to help improve the employment situation. The Economic Policy Committee will, moreover, establish contact with the representatives of employers and labour for the purpose of periodically examining with them short-term economic prospects and the Community's medium-term programme.

#### The conference and its outcome

1103. The adoption of the joint statement, which was based largely on the document on the restoration of full employment and stability adopted by the Commission on 26 May, represents a major step forward at Community level. This is the first time that the governments, trade unions and employers' organizations of the nine member countries have got together to attempt to define a Community strategy for restoring full employment and stability. The strategy comprises a number of quantitative objectives and commitments by governments, workers and employers

Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2202.

alike to frame their respective policies in the light of its objectives. The Conference has served to bring out clearly a point to which the Commission gave particular emphasis, namely that the present economic crisis can be overcome only through the combined efforts of governments, workers, employers and the Community institutions.

#### The various standpoints

1104. In his opening speech setting out the views of the Commission, Mr Haferkamp especially stressed the need:

- (i) for a combined and simultaneous attack on the dual problem of unemployment and inflation and to adopt an effective Community strategy with this aim in view;
- (ii) for precise objectives for economic growth, the restoration of full employment and the reduction of rates of inflation;
- (iii) for governments, on the one hand, to reduce inflation by employing a rigorous monetary policy and by gradually correcting budgetary deficits and, on the other hand, to provide proper support for the recovery;
- (iv) for trade unions to moderate their wage claims as much as possible;
- (v) for firms to accept a strict control over prices;
- (vi) for governments, employers and labour to act together to promote workers' interests and their involvement in decision-taking.

The governments gave general endorsement to the Commission's analysis and strategy for the future. Speaking for the Council, Mr Vouël stressed the need to define more precisely objectives relating to growth, incomes and prices and budgetary policy, with a view to achieving greater convergence of economic trends as between the Member States.

There were, however, differences of view as to

the advisability of fixing, at Community level, quantitative growth, and counter-inflation targets. Some governments expressed fundamental reservations about fixing such targets, while others felt there were problems concerning their content.

Workers' interests were mainly represented at the Conference by the European Trade Union Confederation, which includes all the trade unions in the Member States with the exception of the French CGT, CGC and CFTC. The Confederation's Chairman, Mr Vetter, gave a generally favourable welcome to the Commission's proposals for overcoming the economic crisis in the Community. He laid particular stress on the need to fix quantitative objectives and to take immediate appropriate measures to achieve them.

Mr Vetter stated, however, that the ETUC could not subscribe to an incomes policy. He pointed out that trade unions had already shown moderation as regards wage increases; it was now up to firms to show the same spirit with regard to prices and for governments to monitor price restraint.

In his preliminary statement, the spokesman for the *employers' organizations*, Mr Provost, emphasized the worsening financial position of firms—a trend which was endangering the recovery in investment and, therefore, the restoration of full employment. A satisfactory level of investment could be restored only if profit margins were allowed to revert to normal. Managements were well aware of their responsibilities as regards prices, but were opposed to direct interference of any kind in this field.

### The outcome of the Conference and future prospects

1105. In view of the differing standpoints at the beginning of the Conference, it is heartening to note that a consensus was finally reached on objectives and measures for overcoming unemployment and inflation.

# 2. Community-Canada Agreement

**Tripartite Conference** 

The constructive outcome can be attributed to several factors, notably:

- (i) the desire of all those taking part to achieve a 'Community success' in a field which, directly or indirectly, concerns all Community citizens;
- (ii) the determination of the European Trade Union Confederation to obtain from the governments of Member States a firm commitment to a resolute policy of full employment and stability;
- (iii) the interest of some governments in a constructive agreement at Community level to help them find solutions at national level to stability and employment problems;
- (iv) and, finally, the intensive preparations made by the Commission, the employers' and labour representatives and the governments prior to the Conference.

However important the results achieved on 24 June may have been, the real success of the second Tripartite Conference will depend on the practical measures to be implemented at both national and Community level.

As regards the Community, two existing committees—the Standing Committee on Employment and the Economic Policy Committee— will have the main responsibility for a task of patient persuasion at Community level to foster the steady improvement of understanding both within and between each group (of employers, trade unions and governments) on the key economic and social problems which—although to varying degrees—face all the Member States.

The Commission, for its part, will act with all due diligence to ensure the success of the next phase. It plans, by means of specific measures in practical fields, to make full use during the months to come of the opportunities for concerted action which the Conference has generated.

1201. This Agreement with Canada is the first framework agreement for commercial and economic cooperation negotiated by the Community with an industrialized country.

#### **Objectives**

1202. The negotiations were opened officially on 11 March this year<sup>1</sup> and were concluded at the level of officials in Brussels on 2 June.<sup>2</sup> The text of the Agreement was submitted to the Council at its meeting on 29 and 30 June, and it was decided that the Agreement would be signed in Ottawa on 6 July.

Canada and the Community were resolved to consolidate, deepen and diversify their commercial and economic relations to the full extent of their growing capacity to meet each other's requirements on the basis of mutual benefit. Since the increasingly dynamic trade relationship called for close cooperation across the whole range of commercial and economic endeavour (this cooperation to be realized in an evolutionary and pragmatic fashion as the two parties' policies developed), the conclusion of a framework agreement for commercial and economic cooperation seemed to be appropriate. The negotiations were conducted, and the provisions of the Agreement established, on the basis of these considerations and with the interdependence and complementarity of the Community and Canadian economies in mind.

#### **Content of the Agreement**

1203. The Agreement will be of indefinite duration and will be evolutionary in character. It may, however, be terminated by either contracting party after five years from its entry into force, subject to one year's notice.

Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2355.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2344.

The Agreement is non-preferential in nature and the two contracting parties undertake to accord each other, on an equal and reciprocal basis, most-favoured-nation treatment in accordance with their rights and obligations under GATT.

The main points of this Agreement are concerned with commercial and economic cooperation and the creation of a Joint Cooperation Committee to promote these activities.

#### Commercial cooperation

- 1204. Under the terms of the Agreement, the contracting parties undertake 'to promote the development and diversification of their reciprocal commercial exchanges to the highest possible level'. To this end and in accordance with their respective policies and objectives the parties will:
- (a) cooperate at the international level and bilaterally in the solution of commercial problems of common interest:
- (b) use their best endeavours to grant each other the widest facilities for commercial transactions in which one or the other has an interest;
- (c) take fully into account their respective interests and needs regarding access to and further processing of resources.

The parties to the Agreement will use their best endeavours to discourage, in conformity with their legislation, restrictions of competition by enterprises of their respective industries, including pricing practices distorting competition. At the request of either party, they will hold consultations and review these matters in the Joint Cooperation Committee which is to be set up.

#### Economic cooperation

1205. Canada and the Community, in the light of the complementarity of their economies and of their capabilities and long-term economic aspirations, will foster mutual economic cooperation in

- all fields deemed suitable by them. The objectives of such cooperation will include:
- (i) the development and prosperity of European and Canadian industries;
- (ii) the encouragement of technological and scientific progress;
- (iii) the opening up of new sources of supply and new markets;
- (iv) the creation of new employment opportunities:
- (v) the reduction of regional disparities;
- (vi) the protection and improvement of the environment;
- (vii) generally to contribute to the development of their respective economies and standards of living.

As means to such ends, the contracting parties will, as appropriate, encourage and facilitate, *inter alia*:

- (i) broader inter-corporate links between their respective industries, especially in the form of joint ventures;
- (ii) greater participation by their respective firms in the industrial development of the contracting parties on mutually advantageous terms;
- (iii) increased and mutually beneficial investment;
- (iv) technological and scientific exchanges;
- (v) joint operations by their respective firms and organizations in third countries.

The parties will encourage the regular exchange of industrial, agricultural and other information relevant to commercial and economic cooperation as well as the development of contacts and promotion activities between firms and organizations in the Community and Canada.

It is clearly laid down that, without prejudice to the relevant provisions of the Treaties establishing the Communities, the Agreement and any action taken under it in no way affect the powers of the Member States of the Communities to unCommunity-Canada Agreement

dertake bilateral activities with Canada in the field of economic cooperation and to conclude, where appropriate, new economic cooperation agreements with Canada.

#### Joint Cooperation Committee

1206. A Joint Cooperation Committee is to be set up to promote and keep under review the various commercial and economic cooperation activities envisaged between Canada and the Community. Consultations will be held in the Committee at an appropriate level in order to facilitate the implementation and to further the general aims of the Agreement. The Committee will normally meet at least once a year and special meetings will be held at the request of either party.

# 3. Regional policy: First Report on the European Regional Development Fund

1301. The First Annual Report on the European Regional Development Fund, which was established on 18 March 1975, was approved by the Commission on 23 June and forwarded to the Council and to Parliament.

The report,<sup>2</sup> which is both political and economic in nature, assesses the impact of the economic crisis on the Regional Fund. It stresses that regional development has been made more difficult by the aggravation of the problems of the less-favoured regions and the changed investment priorities resulting from the structural problems now affecting the economy as a whole. It also estimates that the rate of inflation, highest in the countries with the greatest regional problems, means that the 500 million u.a. fixed in 1974 for the Fund's 1977 budget would need to be 750 million u.a. to have the same real value in 1977.

The Report stresses that the gap between the more prosperous and the poorer regions has increased rather than decreased since 1970. In that year per capita GDP in the richest regions — Paris and Hamburg — was four and five times higher respectively than that in the poorest regions of the South of Italy and the West of Ireland. In 1975, these ratios were 5:1 and 6:1. The gap between Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom, on the one hand, and the other Member States of the Community, on the other, has been widening.

The first Report on the Fund's activities covers a short period, from its establishment in March 1975 and the adoption of the supplementary budget at the end of April up to the end of that year. None the less, the grants from the Fund used up the whole of the 300 million u.a. available for that year and payments made during the year amounted to about 91 million u.a. Since the first application for payments was made only in November, the Commission considers this situation to be very satisfactory.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OJ L 73 of 21.3.1975.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Supplement 7/76 — Bull. EC.

First ERDF Report First ERDF Report

By the time the Second Annual Report is due to be presented in June 1977, the Commission will already have decided on the proposals it is to make to the Council for the re-examination of the Fund regulation which the latter is to carry out during that year. This illustrates how short is the period effectively available for the Community institutions and others to reach their conclusions from the experience of the Fund's initial phase and to take their decisions for the future.

Although no final judgments can be made on the basis of a few months of Fund operation at the end of 1975, the Commission has drawn a number of preliminary conclusions which Mr Thomson has asked the Member States to take account of in future. The main points are:

- (a) The principle that fund resources must be additional to national regional development efforts is fundamental. Not all Member States have yet been able to devise fully satisfactory mechanisms to show just how Fund resources are being employed. The Commission looks forward to further progress in this direction during 1977, which it will follow closely.
- (b) Fund resources should be concentrated more clearly on regions with the greatest difficulties and on projects and sectors which will most effectively help overcome those difficulties. This is all the more important in view of the relatively limited resources available.
- (c) Regional development programmes are crucial not only for the purposes of the Fund, but also to ensure adequate coordination between Community and national measures in the field of regional development.

The Regional Fund must not be confused with Community regional policy: it is but one instrument of that policy, though, for the present at least, one of the most important. If regional disparities are to be redressed, an overall policy is needed, and this calls for effective coordination of all Community policies, general and sectoral.

and of the financial instruments used. But coordination between Community policies and instruments is not enough: these policies and instruments must also be coordinated with the countries' own policies and aid schemes for the regions.

14 Bull, EC 6-1976

### 4. Transport infrastructure

Transport infrastructure

# Action proposed by the Commission

1401. On 30 June the Commission approved some important proposals relating to transport infrastructure. They are the first step towards a better infrastructure policy and at the same time give the common transport policy another chance.

The Communication to the Council on action in the field of transport infrastructure adopted by the Commission is accompanied by proposals to institute a consultation procedure and create a committee on transport infrastructure and a proposal for a regulation on aid for projects of Community interest.

These documents together form the second part of the common transport policy which the Commission recommended in its Communication to the Council on 25 October 1973. The first part was made up of a number of measures relating to the organization of the market.

1402. The aim of the communication to the Council is to lay down objectives having regard to the stage of development reached by the Community. The idea is to build up gradually, by continuous cooperation with the Member States, a Community communications network which meets the Community's requirements at optimum cost.

Since 1973 the Commission has been preparing the way for coherent action in this field through various limited measures, in particular, meetings for the exchange of information on national programmes and a forward study of the goods transport requirements in the years 1985 and 2000.

1403. The Decision establishing a consultation procedure and setting up a Committee for Transport Infrastructure is, as the first instrument of action, a direct response to numerous bodies, especially the European Parliament, which for some years

have been calling for a more effective instrument for coordinating transport infrastructure-investments than the consultation procedure set up by the Council Decision of 28 February 1966.<sup>2</sup>

Three requirements form the basis of the proposed decision:

- (a) to improve the practical operation of the consultation procedure set up by the Council Decision of 28 February 1966 for projects of Community interest,
- (b) to combine this procedure with a series of supplementary activities necessary for the full assessment of projects (in particular forward studies).
- (c) to provide for a very flexible institutional structure to ensure ongoing cooperation between the Member States and the Commission.

1404. The second instrument of the action proposed is a regulation on support for projects of Community interest in the field of transport infrastructure. Since the Commission wished to concentrate this aid on the limited number of projects of special importance from a Community point of view, it was thought preferable not to employ a fund but rather to introduce an original system which would enable effective action to be taken by using the most suitable method of financing; as regards the decision-making process, provision has also been made for a statute which reflects the balance of powers in the Community.

Projects eligible for financial support are essentially of the following types:

- (a) projects to be carried out on the territory of a Member State where non-execution would create a bottleneck in Community traffic,
- (b) cross-frontier projects which are not financially attractive enough to arouse the interest of

Supplement 16/73 — Bull. EC.

OJ 42 of 8.3.1966.

# 5. Generalized preferences 1977

Transport infrastructure

- a Member State, bearing in mind the funds at its disposal,
- (c) projects whose socio-economic benefit nationally is not sufficient to motivate their execution but which are more beneficial from the Community's point of view because of its specific objective,
- (d) projects which contribute to equipment standardization and the synchronization of work in the Community's communications network.

# The Commission recommends an improved scheme

1501. On 30 June the Commission adopted proposals concerning the generalized tariff preferences scheme for developing countries for 1977. They follow in the direction taken since the Community first introduced the generalized system of preferences on 1 July 1971, since when the scope of these preferences has been progressively improved and extended.

In adopting its proposals for 1977 the Commission wanted to present a balanced and fair coherent entity responding as constructively as possible to the overall aims of the generalized system of preferences (GSP) while also taking account of the diversity of situations in the beneficiary developing countries. If the Council adopts the Commission's proposals without any major amendments, the 1977 scheme will represent a significant advance towards the implementation of the important Council Resolution of 3 March 1975 on the future development of preferences.

#### Content of the 1977 scheme

1502. The Commission proposals for 1977 are a substantial improvement on the scheme for this year. The volume of preferential imports will rise from 4 600 to 6 500 million u.a.—an increase in value of 42 %—a fact which highlights the economic and political importance of generalized preferences.

Broken down by major group of products the increase is 51% for manufactured products other than textiles, 24% for agricultural products and 4% for textiles. The main features of the 1977 scheme can be summarized as follows for each of these groups.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2318.

#### Agricultural products

1503. The Commission's proposals for 1977 take up the improvements adopted by the Council on 6 April for the offer relating to tropical products within the multilateral trade negotiations in GATT. The agricultural section of the 1977 GSP will therefore cover new products and the preferential margins for many products already included will be improved.

Altogether 296 agricultural products (Chapters 1 to 24 of the CCT) will be covered by the GSP and the total involved is estimated at 1 235 million u.a. for 1977 (as against 250 products with a total volume of trade of 1 000 million u.a. in 1976). Most of these improvements represent a special effort in favour of the poorest countries (Virgina tobacco, spices, vegetable oils, certain cut flowers).

#### Manufactured products other than textiles

1504. In accordance with the Community's undertakings at the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (North-South Dialogue) in Paris and at UNCTAD IV in Nairobi, the Commission proposes to change the reference year for calculating the ceilings; this will raise these ceilings appreciably, even after allowing for inflation. Instead of 1971, which was the reference year for calculating the ceilings in 1974, 1975 and 1976, the Commission proposes to adopt 1974, the latest year for which the relevant Community statistics are available, as the reference year; for individual sensitive and semi-sensitive products the increases, in value or in volume as the case may be, resulting from these calculations will be limited to a maximum of 50 % by comparison with 1976. This measure applies to all manufactured products other than textiles, apart from footwear and certain steel products for which it is proposed to freeze the 1976 levels because of the very difficult situation in these two industries. With this change of reference year imports qualifying for the preferential treatment will be 51 % up in all.

#### Textiles

1505. The overall volume of the ceiling will be lifted from 75 323 tonnes to 79 131 tonnes, an increase of 5 %. But the Commission proposals in this sector also incorporate important innovations.

Pending the establishment of a link with the Multifibre Arrangement, the generalized system of preferences will be extended, on a provisional basis, to all developing countries and territories except Romania. The distinction between cotton and other textiles will be dropped, considerably simplifying both the administration and utilization of the GSP. For particularly sensitive textile products, a dual system will be applied, involving stricter arrangements for the 'over-competitive' countries—all of them being treated equally (which means that Hong Kong, which is not at present on the list, will have to be included)-and more flexible rules for the other beneficiaries, who are among the poorest developing countries.

In practice the Commission proposes that for 28 products each overall ceiling will be divided into two parts: 30% for the more competitive beneficiaries, administered as a tariff quota without a maximum country amount and with a reserve portion; the other part of 70% set aside for the other beneficiaries and administered under a ceiling with a normal maximum country amount of 50%.

The general system will be applied to all the beneficiaries without discrimination. For each product the most competitive beneficiaries subject to the stricter arrangements will be identified on the basis of two objective criteria: per capita GNP of at least 300 dollars and at least 6% of the imports of the product in question into the Community coming from the countries enjoying generalized tariff preferences.

Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2304.

Although the burden is not shared equally among the industrialized countries in this sector, the Commission considers it legitimate to include textiles in the GSP. Not to have included them would have considerably lessened the political scope of the Community scheme and would have diminished its economic effects for a number of beneficiaries, particularly some of the poorest such as Pakistan and India. Moreover, should Community industries be adversely affected by disruptions, the Multifibre Arrangement will provide solutions.

For jute and coir products, the Commission proposes in general to maintain the existing rules. Adjustments could be made on the basis of agreements on these products negotiated with the main exporting countries.

### Significance and development of the generalized system of preferences

1506. The improvements proposed by the Commission for next year (which are possible and which the Community economy can tolerate, given the signs of economic recovery) have an evident political significance. They mark a refusal to revert to protectionism and constitute an act of responsibility *vis-à-vis* the developing countries, thus confirming the Community's resolve to honour its commitments towards those countries.

Essential aspects of the generalized system of preferences

1507. The preference from which exports from the developing countries to the Community benefit consists, for the main manufactured products, of total exemption from customs duties up to certain ceilings. In other words, no common

customs tariff duties are levied on products imported into the Community from the developing countries (within certain limits) whereas for the same products coming from industrialized countries the Community importer must pay the CCT duty. For many agricultural products, developing countries' exports are duty-free or CCT duties are reduced, without any restrictions as to quantities. The implementation of the Community's generalized system of preferences forms part of the Community's efforts gradually to readjust economic relations between industrialized and developing countries to make them more equitable and bring them closer into line with the requirements of the modern world. It ties up with the desire expressed at the seventh special session of the UN General Assembly for a 'new international economic order' and the positions adopted more recently at the North-South Dialogue and UNCTAD IV.

In its desire to promote development cooperation, the Community was the originator of the generalized system of preferences when at a GATT meeting, in May 1963, Community representatives advocated the adoption of a system of that kind. The idea did not bear fruit until some years later, following two years of discussions at UNCTAD from 1968 to 1970.

Finally, it was the Community which first applied its GSP on 1 July 1971, to be followed the same year by Japan and Norway and in 1972 by Finland, Sweden, New Zealand, Switzerland and Austria. Canada came next on 1 July 1974 and the United States not until 1 January 1976.

There is, therefore, a generalized system of preferences and there are various schemes applied according to country. In principle, generalized tariff preferences are accorded by all the industrialized countries. However, with the various schemes being introduced over a number of years, until recently burdens and responsibilities within the family of industrialized countries were not fairly distributed.

Generalized preferences and the Community's development policy

1508. Refusing to be a closed world, turned inward on itself, the Community has, since its inception, concerned itself increasingly with the developing countries. For instance, remaining within the context of generalized preferences, the first 1971 scheme covered only 147 processed agricultural products involving an annual value of imports of 45 million u.a.; in 1977 the number of products will increase to 296, representing trade worth more than 1 200 million u.a. In the industrial sector, the volume of trade initially covered amounted to 1 200 million u.a.; the 1977 proposals relating to this sector cover a trade volume of over 5 200 million u.a.

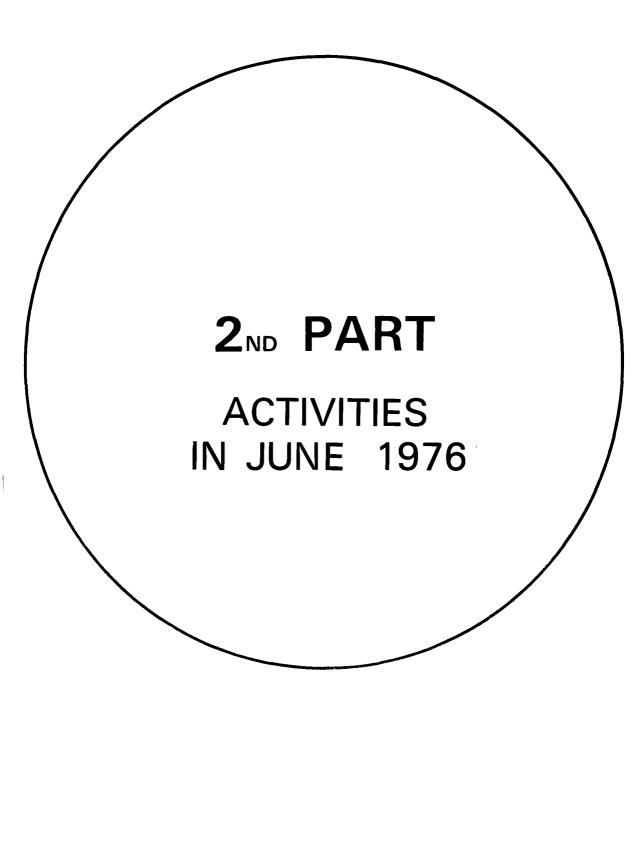
The beneficiary countries have not always used the Community's generalized preferences scheme as well as they might. The Commission has intensified its efforts to ensure that better use is made of the preferential advantages offered, especially by launching an information campaign directed at the beneficiary countries. It intends to propose to the Council in the near future that a European agency for trade cooperation with the developing countries should be set up with the general aim of facilitating the achievement of the Community's objectives in the field of trade relations with these countries by means of practical measures taken in the two complementary areas of utilization of generalized tariff preferences and trade promotion.

Generalized preferences—like the ACP-EEC Lomé Convention— play a vital role in the Community's development policy. In fact, the Community has decided, as has already been announced, to extend its generalized preferences scheme beyond 1980 and it will continue its endeavours to ensure that all developing countries, especially the least developed among them, can benefit to the full from the preferential advantages offered. Lastly, it must be borne in mind

that the generalized tariff preferences represent a major contribution towards improving the balance between developed and developing countries.

Bull. EC 6-1976





# 1. Functioning of the common market

Customs union

#### Customs union

#### **Common Customs Tariff**

#### Nomenclature

2101. On 11 June<sup>1</sup> the Commission adopted a Regulation laying down the analytic (physicochemical) conditions to be met by tallows containing small quantities of other fats (heading 15.02 of the Common Customs Tariff).

2102. On 16 June<sup>2</sup> the Commission amended its Regulation of 17 April 1975<sup>3</sup> laying down the conditions for entry of Port, Madeira, Sherry, Setubal muscatel and Tokay (Aszu and Szamorodni) wines falling within sub-heading 22.05 C III (a) 1 and (b) 1 and 2 and 22.05 C IV (a) 1 and (b) 1 and 2 of the Common Customs Tariff. The purpose is to extend by one year (until 30 June 1977) the period of validity of the certificates of origin of wines imported from Portugal which must be presented for these wines to be included in the abovementioned CCT sub-headings. This will enable Portugal, which as a result of technical difficulties will not be able to issue certificates conforming to the required models in time, to continue to export wines to the Community.

#### Tariff measures

#### Suspensions

2103. On 1 June<sup>1</sup> the Council adopted, on a proposal from the Commission, a Regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous customs duties on a number of *industrial products*. This Regulation covers some 245 products, mainly raw materials or semi-finished products (especially chemicals) intended for the Community's user industries. They include several new products and others in respect of which duties were sus-

pended last year. These suspensions, which entered into force on 1 July, are valid until 30 June 1977 for most of the products and until 31 December 1976 for fifteen of them.

2104. On the same date<sup>4</sup> the Council adopted a Regulation temporarily and totally suspending the customs duties applicable in the Community as originally constituted on a number of *chemical products* imported from the new Member States.

2105. The Council also decided, on 21 June<sup>5</sup> temporarily to suspend the autonomous CCT duties on a number of agricultural products; this suspension is total in some cases, partial in others, and covers varying periods. In the case of most of these products, the decision extends suspensions already in force from 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976 or for periods determined by reference to the interests of Community production.

#### Tariff quotas

2106. On 21 June<sup>6</sup> the Council adopted two Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 30 000 head of heifers and cows other than those intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds at a duty of 4% (with a first tranche of 19 000 head and a reserve of 11 000 head), and of 5 000 head of bulls, cows and heifers other than those intended for slaughter, of certain Alpine breeds at a duty of 4% (with a first tranche of 3 425 head and a reserve of 1 575 head). These two quotas apply for the period from 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977.

OJ L 153 of 12.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OJ L 156 of 17.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OJ L 111 of 30.4.1975.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 145 of 3.6.1976.

OJ L 163 of 24.6.1976.

OJ L 167 of 26.6.1976.

Customs union Customs union

2107. On 29 June the Council adopted two Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota for:

- (i) Processing work in relation to certain textile products under the Community outward processing arrangements (Switzerland), free of customs duty, of 1870 000 u.a. of value added. This quota, which was opened for the period from 1 September 1976 to 31 August 1977, is divided into three categories of processing. A first tranche of 1 640 000 u.a. is allocated to the Member States of the Community as originally constituted, the second tranche of 230 000 u.a. constitutes a Community reserve. In case of need in the Member States to which no initial quota share was allocated, the States concerned may draw from such reserve a sufficient share of the quota.
- (ii) 52 000 tonnes of ferro-chromium containing not less than 4% by weight of carbon.<sup>2</sup> A first tranche of 47 000 tonnes is allocated among the Member States, the second tranche of 5000 tonnes is kept in reserve. Moreover Member States are authorized, up to a limit of 20 % of the quotas allocated to them, to charge against this tariff quota imports of ferro-chromium containing a quantity of between 3 and 4% by weight of carbon. This quota applies until 31 December.
- 2108. Also on 29 June<sup>2</sup> the Council increased from 5 500 to 9 350 tonnes the volume of the Community tariff quota for unwrought magnesium opehed for 1976. This increase of 3 850 tonnes is allocated on the basis of 350 tonnes for extrapure unwrought magnesium, 600 tonnes for unwrought magnesium not in alloy and 2 900 tonnes for unwrought magnesium in alloy.
- 2109. On 21 June<sup>3</sup> the Council adopted two Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for rum, arrack and tafia subheading 22.09 C I) allocated as follows:
- (i) for the ACP States, a volume of 162 013 hectolitres of pure alcohol, originating in those States;

(ii) for the overseas countries and territories associated with the Community, a volume of 80 724 hectolitres of pure alcohol, originating in those countries.

These tariff quotas are free of customs duty and are valid from 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977.

2110. In order to meet the Community's obligations to Malta set out in the 1970 Association Agreement, on 29 June<sup>1</sup> the Council amended the 1975 Regulations<sup>4</sup> on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota opened for 1976 for certain textile products originating in Malta.

In anticipation of the implementation on 1 July of the Interim Agreements between the Community and the Maghreb States — Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia — on 24 June<sup>5</sup> the Council adopted three Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain wines originating in Algeria and for apricot pulp from Morocco and Tunisia.

#### Duty-free entry

2112. On 17 June<sup>6</sup> the Commission decided to prolong until 15 July the duty-free importation established by its Decision of 14 May 1976<sup>7</sup> in respect of all goods imported for free circulation by State organizations or by approved organizations for free distribution to the earthquake victims in the Friuli region. This Decision took effect on 15 June. In the light of information to be provided by the Italian Government, the Commission will

OJ L 182 of 8.7.1976. OJ L 181 of 7.7.1976. OJ L 165 of 25.6.1976.

OJ L 317 of 8.12.1975.

OJ L 169 of 28.6.1976.

OJ L 171 of 30.6.1976.

OJ L 131 of 20.5.1976 and Bull. EC 5-1976, point 1505.

consider within one month whether this Decision should be maintained, modified or repealed.

# Customs arrangements concerning the movement of goods

2113. By decision of 29 June the Council authorized the Commission to negotiate an agreement between the EEC, Austria and Switzerland to extend the application of the rules on Community transit. The agreement envisaged will extend the application of the two bilateral EEC-Austria and EEC-Switzerland Agreements concluded in November 1972<sup>1</sup> to traffic crossing both Austrian and Swiss territory. The negotiations are due to open in mid-October.

# Origin and methods of administrative cooperation

2114. The Commission approved the substance and decided on publication of the explanatory notes to the rules of origin provided for in the context of trade with the ACP States and the OCT.

2115. On a proposal from the Commission, the Council approved the text of the draft decision of the EEC-Israel Joint Committee amending Protocol No 3 of the EEC-Israel Agreement. This draft decision was presented to the EEC-Israel Joint Committee meeting held in Jerusalem from 3 to 7 June.<sup>2</sup>

### Customs arrangements based on economic considerations

2116. On 4 June<sup>3</sup> the Commission adopted a Directive on the calculation of total or partial relief from import duties under the *outward processing procedure*. The aim of this directive is to en-

sure that this calculation is carried out taking account of the need to respect the objectives sought in the agricultural policy by the adoption of monetary compensatory amounts, accession compensatory amounts and additional amounts.

2117. At its part-session from 14 to 18 June the European Parliament delivered its opinion on a number of proposals from the Commission to the Council concerning suspensions of CCT duties or the opening of certain tariff quotas.

#### Internal common market

#### Free movement of goods

#### Removal of technical barriers to trade

The Council adopts eighteen directives

2118. In approving a package of eighteen Directives on the removal of technical barriers to trade in industrial products at its meeting on 29 and 30 June, the Council took an important step on the road towards the establishment of a single European market.

Seven of the eighteen Directives deal with motor vehicles, two with tractors, four with measuring instruments, two with radio interference, one with pressure vessels, one with cosmetics and one with dangerous substances and preparations. These supplement the sixty-two Directives already adopted by the Council.

OJ L 294 of 29.12.1972 and Bull, EC 11-1972, point 2.

Point 2343.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OJ L 153 of 12.6.1976.

After years of effort the Community's internal market and hence its cohesion will be appreciably strengthened. This will have beneficial consequences both because of the direct effects of the Directives and because they enable Europe to assert its identity even more clearly in relations with its economic partners.

The significance and scope of the Council Directives can best be seen, for instance, against the background of the difficult GATT negotiations on the removal of non-tariff barriers, which, in the present economic situation, are at least as effective a weapon as customs duties in protecting national markets. One specific instance of the repercussions abroad of harmonization measures in the field of technical regulations is the Japanese authorities' recent recognition of the equivalence of motor vehicle specifications, which will open up fresh possibilities for the Community motor industry.

At the same time, this harmonization process, which extends to a great variety of products, benefits the 250 million Community consumers and users. By enabling firms to offer their products throughout the common market it encourages competition and thus increases the range and quality of products offered and customer choice and also paves the way for large-scale production with all that this implies as regards consumer prices.

The Council, like the Commission in its proposals, maintained at a high level the requirements which the products in question must satisfy in order to protect and, in many cases, improve the quality of life. Although earlier national rules were also aimed at protecting health and safety, the differences between them often turned them into tools of trade protectionism.

The Council's decision is important both because of its effects—for it enables trade barriers to be removed, while ensuring that the quality of the products placed on the markets is maintained at a high level— and its wide field of application. With the adoption of the new package the num-

ber of Council Directives on the removal of technical barriers to trade in industrial products has been increased at one go by nearly one third to a total of eighty. The situation as it now stands is described below.

Motor vehicles — With the adoption of eight Directives on lighting, almost all the work of harmonization in the field of motor vehicles has been completed. All that remains is a small series of Directives designed to ensure the safety of driver and passengers (safety glass, seat belts and head restraints).

Tractors — Definite progress has been made as regards the permissible sound level of tractors. All Member States now set as their target a sound level considered internationally to be the maximum permissible (90 or 86 dB depending on the measuring methods used) and a deadline will be fixed by means of the procedure of the Committee on the Adaptation to Technical Progress.

Measuring instruments — With the adoption of four Directives on clinical thermometers, electrical energy meters, alcohol tables and alcoholometers, there are now twenty Council Directives covering the field of metrology at Community level. The Council Directives are based on the work of international organizations (e.g. Cenelec and OIML) and are therefore set in a framework far larger than the Community, since the activities of these organizations extend to the whole of the industrialized world. The solution adopted will not give rise to protectionism and will facilitate exports.

Interference (electrical equipment) — The two Directives on radio interference produced by electrical household appliances (such as irons, hair dryers, toasters, razors, etc.) and fluorescent lighting are the first of a series of Directives which will cover all types of electrical appliances and machines subject to national rules in this field. The

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 5-1976, points 2110 and 2345.

total harmonization solution has been chosen. i.e.- existing national rules are replaced by common European rules.

Pressure vessels — The outline Directive in question represents the beginnings of harmonization in this field after years of effort at world level and will influence work on a whole series of specific Directives currently being examined by the Council or being prepared by the Commission.

Cosmetics — This Directive provides for total harmonization, i.e., the replacement of existing national rules by Community provisions. Its aim is to protect the health of users and provide them with more information regarding the ingredients and instructions for the use of the product concerned. During the work in the Council, the Member States and the Commission were able to draw up 'positive' lists, notably of permitted colouring matter and the conditions governing its use, and 'negative' lists of banned products.

Dangerous substances — Pursuant to this Directive Member States undertake to impose a total ban on monomer vinyl chloride as an aerosol propellant because it constitutes a hazard to human health. Provision has been made for a long-term ban by all Member States on the use of PCBs and PCTs (polychlorinated biphenyls and triphenvls).

#### Commission proposal

2119. On 8 June the Commission decided to amend its proposal for a Directive on roll-over protection structures for tractors, presented to the Council in December 1974.1 This amendment relates to the administrative procedure for EEC approval of roll-over protection structures not mounted on the tractor at the time of approval, an area which was not covered in the original proposal.

#### Protective measures

Ireland

2120. On 25 June<sup>2</sup> the Commission decided to extend for six months, until 31 December 1976, the authorization granted to the Irish Government on 22 December 1975<sup>3</sup> (under Article 135 of the Act of Accession) to levy a duty of 9% on imports of *footwear* from the United Kingdom. 18.5% on those from the other Member States and 23.5% on those from non-member countries.

This decision was taken in the light of a further deterioration of the situation in the Irish footwear industry and the worsening position of the Irish economy as a whole. Statistics available for the first four months of 1976 show an increase of 74% in footwear imports over the corresponding period of 1975. Moreover, the number of factory closures in 1976 is proof of the continuing decline in the employment situation.

These problems should, however, be seen in the context of the plan for reorganizing the industry referred to in the Decision of 22 December 1975.3 This plan has now been drawn up and is currently being examined by the Irish Government.

#### Parmaceutical products

The Pharmaceutical Committee set up by the Council Decision of 20 May 19754 met on 22 and 23 June with the Director-General for the Internal Market in the chair. It considered possible changes to the Council Directive of 26 January 1965 on proprietary medicinal products<sup>5</sup> and also discussed a number of current problems in the pharmaceuticals field.

Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2115. OJ L 182 of 8.7.1976.

Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2115.

OJ L 147 of 9.6.1975.

OJ 22 of 9.2.1965.

#### Trade arrangements

2122. On 8 June the Commission adopted a Regulation<sup>1</sup> which allows Austrian cheese fondue to be imported into the Community under CCT heading 21.07 E instead of under heading 21.07 F and hence to qualify for a reduced import charge (maximum duty). This tariff concession was previously granted to Switzerland and can, now be extended to Austria, as the latter's authorities have accepted the Community requirements for this product.

#### Distortions of competition

**Electricity** 

2123. The Commission has taken a decision under Article 101 of the EEC Treaty concerning a complaint from UNAPACE, the *Italian* union for the private production of electricity. Article 101 deals with distortions of competition caused by a disparity between laws, regulations or administrative action in Member States.

The complaint alleged that the strict legislation in force in Italy regarding the granting of authorizations for private production of electricity, which resulted in price increases in certain sectors, produced distortions of competition which must be eliminated in accordance with Article 101 of the EEC Treaty.

On examining the complaint, the Commission found that the criteria for establishing that competition had been distorted were not fulfilled. It suggested, however, to the Italian Government that a balanced development in the electrical energy sector required reasonable coordination between public and private electricity production. Private production could in fact fulfil a complementary role in this respect, particularly with reference to the programme for the rational utilization of energy. For example, mechanisms could be developed for better coordination of the utilization of different sorts of energy or the recovery of energy losses from production units in the private sector.

The Italian Government is therefore asked to operate its legislation and current practice, bearing in mind the need for cooperation between public and private electricity producers.

#### Competition policy

# Restrictive practices, mergers and dominant positions: specific cases

Pharmaceuticals major guilty of abusing its dominant position

2124. On 9 June the Commission issued a Decision under Article 86 of the EEC Treaty against Hoffman-La Roche (Roche), a multinational group with headquarters in Switzerland. The Commission held that Roche had abused its dominant position on the vitamins market and fined it 300 000 u.a.

Roche, the world's leading vitamin manufacturer, had entered into exclusive or preferential supply contracts with a number of major bulk vitamin users, who incorporate the vitamins into their own medicines, foods and feedstuffs. Holding a dominant position in the common market for seven groups of vitamins (A, B2, B6, C, E, biotin (H) and pantothenic acid (B3)), Roche was able to corner the market and virtually prevent its chief competitors from supplying these important customers.

Whether to compensate for the exclusivity or to encourage a preferential link, the contracts provided for fidelity rebates based not on differences in the costs related to the quantities supplied by Roche, but on the proportion of the customer's requirements covered. Furthermore, the rebates were not calculated separately for each group of vitamins but were aggregated over all purchases from Roche, so that Roche was able to benefit

OJ L 149 of 9.6.1976.

from the fidelity arrangement even in respect of those vitamins for which it does not hold a dominant position in the market. The clause giving Roche the opportunity to align its prices on lower prices charged by competitors could have made the system built upon the contracts somewhat less restrictive, but in fact, as only prices offered by 'reputable' manufacturers in the customer's own country could be considered, the upshot was that Roche was in a position to decide whether or not to bring down its prices and thereby keep the sale.

The Commission's Decision, which imposes a fine of 300 000 u.a. accords with its finding upheld by the Court of Justice in the sugar cartel case<sup>1</sup> that fidelity rebates given by firms holding a dominant position are incompatible with the common market because they reinforce that dominance. This applies to any firm with a dominant position in the common market, wherever its head office may be.

#### State aids

#### Industry aids

#### Belgium

2125. On 3 June the Commission concluded that it had no objections to the scheme of aid which the Belgian Government proposed to give the *iron and steel industry*, since the ECSC Treaty was not infringed.

Aids are being given to promote investment, and take the form of five-year exemption from land tax, accelerated depreciation, possible State guarantees and interest relief grants. The State may also guarantee loans raised by firms to boost their working capital.

The Commission's view was that the aids were not caught by the prohibition in Article 4 (c) of

the ECSC Treaty and that there were no grounds for Commission action under Article 67.

#### Aids financed by parafiscal charges

#### Italy

2126. On 16 June<sup>2</sup> the Commission decided that a scheme of assistance in favour of the press introduced in Italy under the law of 6 June 1975 was incompatible with the common market.

In July 1975<sup>3</sup> the Commission had initiated the procedure of Article 93(2) in respect of this scheme of assistance since it regarded the aid granted to publishers when buying newsprint as discriminating against paper imported direct from other Member States rather than through the ENCC (Ente Nationale per la Cellulosa e per la Carta).

The Italian Government informed the Commission that the procedure for granting the aid was discriminatory in appearance only, for the sole object was to ensure that the paper was indeed used for printing newspapers and magazines.

The Commission nevertheless feld that the Italian Government should publish this statement so that firms concerned would be aware of their opportunity to qualify for assistance under the Law of 6 June 1975 as regards paper imported direct from other Member States.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 12-1972, point 13 (Commission Decision), and 12-1975, point 2334 (Court Judgment).

OJ L 185 of 9.7.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2134.

# 2. Economic and montary union

Economic, monetary and financial policy

# Economic, monetary and financial policy

#### Puerto Rico 'Summit'

2201. Convened by President Ford, an international conference was held in Puerto Rico on 27 and 28 June and was attended by the Heads of State or Government of seven countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. A joint communiqué was issued following the meeting. The last 'economic summit' of this kind was held at Rambouillet from 15 to 17 November 1975.

On 23 June, the Spokesmen's Group of the Commission issued the following statement:

'The Community, as such will not be taking part in the Puerto Rico meeting. The attitude of the Commission, which had wanted the Community to be represented by the President of the Council and the President of the Commission, was justified by the fact that questions involving the European Community's interests will be dealt with at this meeting.

The Commission regrets that this reasoning did not prevail. It is relying on the Member States attending to see that the results of the conference are in line with Community interests, it being understood that no decision will be taken on matters for which the Community is reponsible.

The entire question of Community representation at such meetings will be discussed at the next meeting of the European Council.'

#### **Second Tripartite Conference**

The second Tripartite Conference<sup>3</sup> was held in Luxembourg on 24 June, with Mr Vouël, the Luxembourg Minister of Finance, in the chair. It was attended by Ministers of Economic and Financial Affairs, Ministers of Labour or Social Affairs, representatives from employers' and trade

union organizations in the Member States, and the Commission. The Commission was represented by Mr Haferkamp and Dr Hillery, Vice-Presidents, and Mr Thomson, Member.

The conference, which was devoted to a thorough examination of the problems of employment and stability in the Community, ended with the adoption of a joint statement.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Economic situation**

Economic policy to be followed in 1976: a Commission Communication

2203. In preparation for the Council's second annual review of the economic situation in the Community, as provided for in the Council Decision of 18 February 1974,<sup>5</sup> the Commission laid before the Council on 30 June a Communication on the economic policy to be followed in 1976 and on the preparation of public budgets for 1977.

In this document the Commission expresses the view that the recovery is well under way at *international level* and that the upswing in industrial activity and trade is generally more vigorous than expected. Although the improvement in economic activity is lagging behind in many small industrialized countries, the gross national product of the developed countries outside the Community is expected to grow in volume by more than 5 1/2 % in 1976. In the large majority of countries, however, inflation, at the beginning of the recovery, was running at appreciably higher levels than has been the case in the past.

As for the *Community*, the Commission reports that the recovery has gathered momentum and has in fact shown more vigour than expected in

Bull. EC 6-1976

<sup>1</sup> The text of this statement appears in the Third Part (Documentation).

Bull. EC 11-1975, Third Part (Documentation).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bull. 5-1976, points 2201 and 2202.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Points 1101 to 1105.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> OJ L 63 of 5.3.1974.

several Member countries. However, the number of wholly unemployed has fallen only a little so far, consumer prices have risen more quickly than in the second half of 1975 and the 'spread' of inflation rates in the individual member countries has widened once again, to a disturbing degree. Externally. the Community's current account is deteriorating rather less rapidly, while the monetary disturbances in the early part of the year have now largely died down.

With regard to the *outlook*, the Commission believes that between now and the end of 1976 growth in the Community will probably remain rapid. For the full year, the Community's gross domestic product in real terms is expected to expand by about 41/2%. Growth will be approximately at the same rate in 1977. Italy and the United Kingdom and also, to a lesser extent, Irethe Belgo-Luxembourg Economic land and Union, could well achieve more rapid growth than had been expected, provided the tendencies towards stabilization at home and abroad become firmer. On the other hand, the rate of growth in the Member States in which the recovery first got under way and which are expected to make the largest gains in 1976 will probably come down closer towards the Community average. This will be the case in Germany and France in particular.

In view of general trends, the number of wholly unemployed should decline in all Member States. Intra-Community trade will contribute more than previously to market unification; in 1977, as in 1976, it will grow significantly, outpacing the expansion in exports to non-member countries. Closer alignment of the divergent price trends is a necessary and possible development between now and the end of next year. At Community level, it could make for some slackening in the rise in the implicit price index of private consumption. As regards the Community's external balance, the rapid growth in exports to non-member countries together with a slightly slower increase in the volume of imports will probably make for a gradual but continued improvement in the Community's current account. This overall improvement does not, however, mean that trends in individual Member States will necessarily develop along parallel lines.

As regards general economic policy guidelines, the Commission states that:

'The Member States and the Community are faced with major economic policy problems:

- (i) the persistence of the recovery is not yet assured;
- (ii) employment prospects are improving only slowly;
- (iii) the rate of inflation is still too high;
- (iv) the excessive divergences from one country to another are in danger of persisting.

Traditional economic management instruments are not by themselves sufficient to resolve these problems and to improve the cohesion of the Community. The Community will also need to:

- (i) adjust income claims to the macro-economic and structural constraints;
- (ii) reorientate medium-term policy to goals fixed jointly;
- (iii) strictly coordinate "conjunctural" policies in the Community in terms of these objectives;
- (iv) implement appropriate structural and regional reforms.

With a view to safeguarding the current rate of economic growth within the Community and thereby improving the chances of full employment being restored in 1980, the Commission has proposed<sup>1</sup> the implementation of a strategy incorporating specific targets: an average real growth rate for the Community of between 4 1/2% and 5% in gross domestic product between now and 1980 and a reduction in the rate of increase in consumer prices to not more than 4 to 5% on average by 1980. Targets for within this period and for each country could help to

Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2202.

smooth out economic fluctuations and adapt the behaviour of consumers and firms.

From the second half of 1976 onwards, the weakening of the effects of the temporary measures to stimulate demand and the operation of the builtin stabilizers will probably provide the needed moderating effect on the growth in the economy. In additon, the monetary policy measures taken in a number of countries to counteract upheavals abroad will probably work in the same direction, notably by making it easier for the disparities in the rates of growth of prices to be narrowed.

Beyond 1976, the attainment of the priority objective of a gradual return to an adequate rate of growth combined with economic stability calls for generally cautious economic policies making simultaneous use of the widest possible range of instruments available. A key factor here will be a suitable incomes policy that will need to be geared to the specific situation in each Member State. Monetary and budgetary policy instruments too will have to create the general conditions conducive to an easing of price and cost pressures. Ceilings should also be imposed on the growth in the liquidity to complete the guidelines adopted each year for the trend in net budgetary positions. Economic policies will have to be chosen so as to obtain a rapid reduction in unemployment and the necessary switch in the structure in domestic demand towards fixed investment and. in some countries, to exports.

New proposals have been put forward by the Commission to restore full employment and stability in the Community.<sup>1</sup> None the less, the Commission reiterates here that, as regards incomes policy and policy on savings and wealth:

- (a) the central government and the other authorities should show restraint with regard to the level of their current expenditure, should apply a fair fiscal policy and should enforce the rules on competition notably as regards business mergers;
- (b) workers should take part in the joint effort to reduce production costs, in particular by being

more flexible as regards the growth in their money wages, such as to take more into account the potential of the economy;

- (c) non-wage income recipients should show a corresponding moderation;
- (d) firms should impose upon themselves a strict discipline as regards price increases;
- (e) the governments and both sides of industry should adopt appropriate measures to promote asset-ownership by employees as well as their participation in entrepreneurial decision-making.'

As regards budgetary policy guidelines, the Commission feels that: 'The economic outlook for the second half of 1976 and for 1977 calls for prudent budgetary management.

For 1976, the governments have taken appropriate steps to ensure that the impact on economic activity of fiscal policy is gradually tempered by seeking to reduce or at least to stabilize the scale of the net borrowing requirement in proportion to GDP. This line must be firmly maintained in the second half of the year, particularly in Member States with balance of payments difficulties.

The policy of scaling down the deficits will have to be pursued in 1977, to re-establish equilibrium in the medium term, even if it means coordinated simultaneous action with regard to incomes. Given the requirements posed by such an objective, the relative reduction of deficits should be based not only on higher growth in tax revenue, already achieved in 1976, but in particular on appropriate curbs on public expenditure. If this strategy were unsuccessful, moderation of the growth of taxes and parafiscal charges, generally considered necessary over the years ahead, would almost certainly remain an illusory goal. The risk would also be reduced of excessive public deficits having to be financed through the creation of too much liquidity, which, together with the growth of credit necessary for the recovery of investment, would pose dangers for the monetary equilibrium of the economy.

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Bull. EC 6-1976

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2202.

These general guidelines do not preclude, and may indeed necessitate, specific and limited measures providing tax relief, to the extent that such measures would help restrain cost and price rises and promote the recovery of private investment in countries where such a recovery is slow to develop'.

The Commission also stresses that: 'monetary policy will have to contribute to the effort to reduce the rate of increase of prices through ensuring non-inflationary financing of the economic upswing. To achieve this the expansion of liquidity, which has been too rapid up to the present in several countries, will have to be moderated, especially in those where an improvement in the balance of payments is required. This action must be undertaken within a Community framework. Savings both at home and from abroad will have to be channelled more effectively towards investment financing. The exchange markets will become more stable as the erosion of domestic purchasing power in several Member States is checked and as the deficit countries' balance of payments improve. But an orderly situation in the exchange markets requires a greater convergence of monetary policy. For this interest rates will have to be kept at a relatively high level in those countries where the disequilibria are most serious'.

#### **Monetary Committee**

2204. The Monetary Committee held its 219th meeting in The Hague on 21 June with Mr Pöhl in the chair. On the basis of a report by the Working Party on Short-term Capital Markets and a statement by Mr Larre, Director-General of the Bank for International Settlements, it discussed in detail the control of the Eurobond markets. As the United Kingdom had not participated in the medium-term financial aid granted to Italy, the Committee, in accordance with the Council Decision establishing the aid mechanism, also examined the United Kingdom payments and reserves positions.

#### **Economic Policy Committee**

2205. The Economic Policy Committee held two meetings in Brussels in June: It met on 23 June in reduced composition 'short-term', with Mr Cortesse in the chair. After thorough discussion, the Committee endorsed the main points of the preliminary draft of the Commission's Communication to the Council on the economic policy to be followed in 1976 and on the preparation of public budgets for 1977.

On 28 and 29 June, it held a full meeting, at which Sir Bryan Hopkin took the chair. This meeting was entirely devoted to the final revision and adoption of the preliminary draft fourth medium-term economic policy programme covering the period 1976-80. The document was transmitted immediately to the Commission.<sup>2</sup>

The period covered by the fourth programme is likely to be of crucial importance for the Community, as during the period the Member States will have to make a joint effort:

- (a) to achieve a recovery avoiding the inevitable hazards and respecting the relevant constraints,
- (b) to put a stop to the losses the Community is suffering with regard to achievements made in the past,
- (c) to develop new forces that can be harnessed to integration.
- (d) to define the role and function of the Community in a changing world,

Point 2203.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In accordance with Article 6 of the Council Decision of 18 February 1974 (OJ L 63 of 5.3.1974) and on the basis of a preliminary draft prepared by the Economic Policy Committee, the Commission draws up a draft medium-term economic policy programme for submission to the Council. After Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee have been consulted, the programme is adopted by the Council and governments of the Member States. A forthcoming edition of the Bulletin will include a summary of the draft fourth programme as submitted by the Commission to the Council.

(e) to offer a more satisfying response to the needs and demands of our societies.

The fourth programme aims at an increased rate of growth (an annual average of between 4.5 and 5% over the period) in order to achieve by 1980 an appreciably lower rate of unemployment than that currently being recorded. The programe sets further objectives for the Community: a substantial and general reduction in the rate of inflation and a narrowing of the disparities in inflation rates between Member countries. In order to achieve these objectives, the programme particularly stresses the need for certain structural policies (especially in the public finance, investment and employment sectors) and for further progress towards achieving a better social consensus and reinforcing the Community.

#### Working Party on the Comparison of Budgets

2206. The Working Party on the Comparison of Budgets met in Brussels on 22 June and held a wide-ranging discussion on the conclusions to be drawn from the seminar on public finance statistics organized in Paris on 23 and 24 March by the International Monetary Fund. They adopted a Commission staff progress report on work at international level towards providing comparable statistics in this field, and discussed the matters on their agenda relating to public sector statistics with a view to the Conference of European Statisticians to be held in Geneva in July.

2207. At its part-session from 14 to 18 June, *Parliament* adopted two Resolutions on the reestablishment of full employment and stability in the Community and, more generally, on preparations for the Tripartite Conference.

#### Regional policy

#### Financing operations

#### **European Regional Development Fund**

First Annual Report

2208. The First Report on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was adopted by the Commission on 23 June and then forwarded to the Council and Parliament.<sup>1</sup>

#### Conversion

Conversion policy in iron and steel areas

2209. On 2 June, the Commission discussed a memorandum on the conversion policy to be pursued in areas affected by structural changes in the iron and steel industry. On 10 June Mr Thomson outlined the conclusions of this discussion to the ECSC Consultative Committee.<sup>2</sup>

The following are among the Commission's intentions:

- (a) to promote the re-employment studies required under Article 46(4) of the ECSC Treaty;
- (b) to coordinate the use of the financial instruments available so as to facilitate, where possible, the conversion of the areas concerned. This involves:
- (i) maintaining the readaptation aid for workers;
- (ii) discussing with the Member States the possibility of making greater use of the ERDF;
- (iii) extending application of Article 56 to regions affected by technological changes in the iron and steel industry.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Point 1301.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Point 2458.

#### Financing new activities

- 2210. On 1 June, the Council, in accordance with Article 56(2) of the ECSC Treaty, gave its assent to the following conversion loans, which the Commission proposed to grant:
- (i) FF 6 million (about 1.2 million EUA) for the Société industrielle de Bruay (France) to assist the construction of a factory producing railway equipment at Bruay-en-Artois;
- (ii) FF 40 million (about 7.74 million EUA) for the *Société artésienne de Vinyle* (France) to assist the construction of a factory producing polyvinyl chloride (PVC) at Mazingarbe, Pas-de-Calais.
- 2211. In addition, the contract for the grant of a conversion loan—to which the Council gave its assent on 6 April 1976<sup>2</sup>—to Natural Gas Tubes Ltd of London was signed in June. This loan of £50 000 (1.64 million EUA) is intended to partfinance the construction of a new plant to make welded steel tubes at Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale, South Wales.

The total cost of the investment is £2.84 million (4.9 million EUA), and it is estimated that 120 new jobs will be created. Preference for these jobs will be given to former workers from the Ebbw Vale works of the British Steel Corporation. A suitable retraining scheme is being worked out in conjunction with the ESC and the Employment Service Agency. The interest rate will be reduced for the first five years of the loan in view of the jobs created.

The loan is made under Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty, under which the Commission can help finance investments which create new jobs in areas of high unemployment caused by closures in the coal or steel industries.

#### **Regional Policy Committee**

2212. The Regional Policy Committee held its fifth meeting on 29 and 30 June.

It examined the annual information which had been provided by the Member States for 1976 in accordance with Article 6 of the Council Regulation of 18 March 1975 establishing a European Regional Development Fund and which take the place of regional development programmes. It based its examination on a summary of this annual information prepared by the Commission's departments.

The Committee also decided on a fourth tranche of infrastructure investment projects costing 10 million u.a. or more. Lastly, it pushed ahead with its examination of the problem of regions situated on either side of the Community's internal borders, on the basis of a report presented by Mr R. Charlier, a Belgian member of the Committee.

#### Social policy

#### **Employment**

Second Tripartite Conference

2213. A Tripartite Conference on Employment and Economic Stability in the Community was held on 24 June in Luxembourg. Taking part were representatives of the nine governments (the Ministers of Economic Affairs, Finance, Employment and Social Affairs), representatives of workers' and employers' organizations, Commission representatives and, as observers, delegations from the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.<sup>3</sup>

OJ C 134 of 15.6.1976.

OJ C 91 of 22.4.1976 and Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2211.

Points 1101 to 1105.

2214. The ECSC Consultative Committee, meeting on 10 June, adopted a resolution on proposed measures to be taken in the field of employment.

# Free movement and social security for migrant workers

2215. At the invitation of the Government of the Grand Duchy, the Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers held its 150th meeting in Luxembourg on 3 and 4 June; the meeting was opened by Mr Berg, the Minister of Labour and Social Security and President of the Council.

The Administrative Commission continued its work on the subject of the effect of recent decisions of the Court of Justice on pensions for migrant workers. In addition, it examined the situation of workers who, after being insured in the United Kingdom, go to work in another Member State where they become disabled. As legislation stands at present these workers cannot receive invalidity benefits from the United Kingdom. To remedy the situation, the Administrative Commission is preparing proposals for the amendment of the 1971 Regulation.<sup>3</sup>

The Audit Board attached to the Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers, meeting on 24 and 25 June, examined in detail the effect of variations in exchange rates on the social security benefits payable to migrant workers. This is a problem which has been pressing for some time, in particular for certain categories of recipients of pensions or annuities payable by a Member State other than that in which they reside; the substantial changes in the rates for a number of currencies, together with the reduction in purchasing power, can in certain cases combine to the considerable disadvantage of migrant workers. A report which is to be drawn up will show the various possible situations and will include details of the extent of the fluctuations recorded in the Member States in recent years.

## Social Fund, re-employment and retraining

Social Fund

2217. The Comittee of the Social Fund, meeting in plenary session in Brussels on 25 June, examined a number of applications for aid from the Fund submitted by the Member States. These applications concerned retraining measures for agricultural and textile workers, migrant workers and—in particular—young people aged under 25 (Article 4); they also concerned retraining measures on behalf of workers from certain regions and groups of undertakings, to meet the requirements resulting from technical progress (Article 5).

2218. In June the Commission decided under Article 56(2)(b) of the ECSC Treaty, to contribute to the cost of retraining workers affected by partial or total closures of undertakings in the coal and steel sectors in three Member States.

In *Germany*, four credits were allocated; two of these, amounting to a total of 3 861 247.67 EUA (DM 11 500 000), concern 3 763 workers affected by colliery closures and two others, for a total of 493 876.81 EUA (DM 1 490 000), concern about 800 workers affected by the closure of two ironore mines.

In *Belgium*, four credits were increased and three granted in favour of 1 281 workers affected by closures of steel works or collieries amounting to a total of 1 898 333.47 EUA (Bfrs 85 900 000).

In the United Kingdom, one credit of 54 266.23 EUA (£ 31 625) will help with the retraining of 187 workers affected by the closure of a steel works.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Point 2458.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OJ C 151 of 3.7.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OJ L 149 of 14.6.1971.

### Social security and social action

#### Social protection

2219. On 16 June the Commission decided to consult the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee concerning its draft recommendation on the extension of social protection. In its 'social action programme' the Commission proposed the gradual extension of social protection, particularly within the context of the social security systems, to groups not covered or inadequately protected by existing schemes. The Council accepted this proposal, which forms part of its resolution of 21 January 1974 on the social action programme.

The proposed recommendation is intended:

- (a) to protect the entire working population against sickness, invalidity and old age and to generalize entitlement to family benefits;
- (b) to extend gradually the same protection (except for invalidity) to the *non-working population*, beginning with the congenitally handicapped and those persons (particularly women) who devote themselves to household tasks;
- (c) to guarantee, to certain categories of persons unable to follow an occupation, incomes and services similar to those provided for by social security. These categories are the congenitally handicapped, young people looking for jobs and self-employed persons forced to give up their activity for economic reasons and find themselves without resources.

Protection can be extended via existing social security schemes (compulsory or voluntary) or in certain cases through the social assistance system. Member States will thus have a wide choice of means at their disposal to realize these objectives before the end of 1980, as recommended by the Commission.

#### Occupational diseases

2220. Meeting on 1 and 2 June, the government experts examined the extent to which the Member States of the Community had carried out the EEC recommendations of 23 July 1962<sup>2</sup> and 20 July 1966<sup>3</sup> concerning compensation for occupational diseases. They gave their approval for the up-dating of these recommendations and encouraged the Commission similarly to up-date the 'medical information notices on occupational diseases' in the European list. The experts recognized that the mixed system recommended by the Commission would constitute real progress; it is expected that this system will be adopted where it is not already in force. Finally, they approved the Commission's intention to hold a meeting of government and independent experts in 1977 to define the concept of 'presumption of origin' of the diseases and to examine the difficulties of interpreting and applying this concept.

## Living and working conditions

#### Job humanization

2221. On 8 June the Commission transmitted to the Council a Communication on the reform of the organization of work which provides for actions conerning the humanization of working conditions pursuant to the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning the social action programme. In this way it is intended to give workers 'wider opportunities, especially those of having their own responsibilities and duties and of obtaining higher qualifications'.

The Communication deals in detail with measures already introduced in application of the

Supplement 2/74 — Bull. EC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OJ 80 of 31.8.1962.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OJ 147 of 9.8.1966.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 13 of 12.2.1974 and Supplement 2/74 — Bull. EC.

Council Resolution, in particular those involving worker participation and institutionalized consultation procedures, guidelines on future policy concerning the conditions for progress as regards the humanization of work and finally, the measures at present planned either by the Commission or by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

## **Health protection**

- 2222. The Council has amended the Directives laying down basic standards as regards the protection of the population and of workers against dangers arising from ionizing radiation. Although the basic standards in force up to the present have provided excellent protection, they required up-dating and amending for several reasons:
- (a) the advance of scientific knowledge, as a result of which the International Committee on Radiological Protection has amended certain guiding principles of radiation protection;
- (b) experience acquired in the course of the practical application of the basic standards by Member States;
- (c) information gained from the work carried out by the Commission within the context of its research programme on biology and health protection.<sup>1</sup>

While retaining the basic principles of the Directives laid down in 1959, the aim of this revision was to strengthen radiation protection by introducing, into the new standards, a certain number of concepts designed to improve not the quality, but the practical organization, of radiation protection (medical supervision of nuclear workers and control of ambient radioactivity) and better adapt it to actual requirements. In addition, the field of application of the standards, which covers in principle all the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, has been extended and defined more clearly.

Thus the new Directive for the first time lays down permissible maximum doses for students and apprentices; it also stipulates that for the population in general all doses of radiation (in particular irradiation of patients for medical purposes and radiation from consumer goods containing radioactive substances) should be as weak as possible, it being understood that the maximum permissible dose already fixed remains unchanged.

The Member States are required to enforce the necessary measures within two years.

2223. From 21 to 23 June, the Commission organized in Berlin, with the assistance of the Phvsikalisch-Technische-Bundesanstalt (Federal Centre for Physical and Technical Research), an information seminar on individual dosimetry in radiation protection, which was attended by seventy specialists from the radiation protection departments and radiation measuring laboratories in the Member States of the Community. The participants in this seminar stressed the need to organize, at European level, large-scale inter-comparison programmes to improve measuring techniques in the radiation protection sector. In addition, the Commission was invited to extend future inter-comparison programmes to cover, in particular, dosimetry in case of accident, neutron dosimetry and beta dosimetry, which will be of increasing importance for radiation protection as nuclear technology develops.

2224. The Commission organized a meeting between a group of experts in virology and representatives of the national authorities to examine health problems which might arise for the population from an extension to the countries of the Community of the swine flu virus, recently identified in New Jersey.

2225. On 29 June the Commission presented to the Council an interim report on the objective

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OJ L 187 of 12.7.1976.

valuation of the danger to human health of pollution by certain persistent organochlorine compounds. This report summarizes the work carried out so far in this field in connection with the action programme on the environment. It concerns the following points: the presence of organohalogen compounds in water, air and foodstuffs; the comparability of analysis methods; residues of pesticides in human tissues; criteria (dose/effect ratio) for human beings.

2226. On 15 June the Commission decided to grant financial aid amounting to 27 000 u.a. for a research project concerned with the exposure of workers in the ECSC industries to various toxic substances. This project will be carried within the context of the second ECSC Research Programme on chronic respiratory infections.

2227. The Economic and Social Committee, meeting on 30 June and 1 July, gave its opinion on two Commission proposals to the Council concerning the fixing of criteria and health protection standards for sulphur dioxide and suspended particles in the urban atmosphere.

# Environment and protection of consumers

#### **Environment**

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

2228. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President, represented the Commission at the 'United Nations Conference on Human Settlements—Habitat 1976' which was held in Vancouver (Canada) from 31 May to 11 June.<sup>2</sup>

#### Cooperation with Canada

2229. The first round of talks between the Canadian authorities and the Commission—within the framework of the cooperation envisaged in the exchange of letters in November 1975<sup>3</sup>—was held on 8 June in Ottawa during Mr Scarascia Mugnozza's visit to Canada.<sup>4</sup> A number of priority areas were identified in which cooperation would be stepped up, in particular water quality and use, scientific criteria for assessing environmental quality, problems caused by noise, waste and certain toxic chemicals.

#### Protection of the public

2230. At its meeting on 1 June the Council adopted a Directive revising the 'basic standards' concerning the protection of the public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore the Commission afforded to the Council on 29 June a Communication assessing the risks to human health from pollution caused by certain persistent organochlorine compounds.<sup>5</sup>

2231. On 18 June the European Parliament delivered its opinion on a Commission proposal to the Council amending once again the Directive of 5 November 19636 concerning the preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs. The Economic and Social Committee, at its meeting on 30 June and 1 July, gave its opinion on the following proposals for Directives drawn up by the Commission: the reduction of sulphur emissions resulting from the use of fuel oils, the permissible noise level of moter cycles, standards of protection concerning sulphur dioxide and suspended particles in the urban atmosphere.

Point 2455.

Point 2333.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 11-1975, point 2223.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Point 2363.

Point 2225.

OJ 12 of 27.1.1964. Points 2453 and 2455.

Agricultural policy Agricultural policy

## Agricultural policy

2232. In June, the Council and the Commission adopted various further Regulations and Decisions implementing the package deal on 1976/77 prices and related measures, in the cereals, sugar, oilseeds and protein products, wine and beef and veal sectors. In addition, the Commission sent a proposal to the Council for a second instalment of 95 000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder as food aid, to follow the first instalment of 55 000 tonnes.<sup>2</sup>

In the field of international trade, the Council took decisions on the exceptional arrangements for imports of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom after 31 December 1977 and on imports of sugar and beef and veal from the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. It was decided that the EAGGF Guidance Section should make financial contributions to the rebuilding of the Friuli region following the earthquake in May. Measures adopted in the veterinary field included the setting up of an advisory committee.

# Implementation of the common agricultural policy in the enlarged Community

2233. After discussing the political aspects, the Council—which had already discussed the question in May<sup>3</sup> on the basis of the Commission's proposals and report—agreed<sup>4</sup> to extend the period of validity of the exceptional arrangements for imports of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom, provided for by Protocol No 18 annexed to the Act of Accession.

These exceptional arrangements provide for imports to the United Kingdom of 125 000, 120 000 and 115 000 tonnes in 1978, 1979 and 1980 respectively. In the event of these imports exceeding 25 % of direct consumption of butter in the United Kingdom, a decision may be taken to sell the excess quantity on specific terms, for purposes other than direct consumption.

Bull. EC 6-1976

## Measures connected with the monetary situation

2234. The compensatory amounts for Ireland and the United Kingdom were amended with effect from 7 June and those for Italy from 21 June on account of the movements in the exchange rates of the currencies of these countries.

Although sterling and the Irish pound had fallen considerably during the reference period for the calculation of the monetary compensatory amounts applicable in principle as from 14 June, these amounts were not amended,<sup>5</sup> since the exchange rates of these currencies were under strong speculative pressure and could not be regarded as representative. These rates have in fact improved in the meantime, and the differences recorded during the above period have disappeared.

## Common organization of markets

2235. In June, a number of regulations were introduced concerning trade in agricultural products. For instance, the period of validity of export certificates for malt was reduced<sup>6</sup> to four months—the previous period of validity of eleven months continuing to apply on strict conditions and subject to a security of 20 u.a./tonne—while the security to be lodged when tendering for the export of sugar was increased<sup>7</sup> from 1 to 2 u.a./100 kg. The Commission decided on 14 June<sup>8</sup> to apply the tendering procedure for fixing import levies for olive oil. The protective measures on imports of preserved mushrooms<sup>7</sup> were eased as regards cultivated mushrooms, but mea-

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 3-1976, points 2239 to 2246.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OJ L 146 of 4.6.1976 and C 150 of 2.7.1976.

Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2346.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Point 2367 and OJ L 185 of 9.7.1976.

OJ L 153 of 12.6.1976.

<sup>6</sup> OJL 156 of 17.6.1976.

OJ L 158 of 19.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> OJ L 154 of 15.6.1976 and Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2252.

sures were taken<sup>1</sup> to suspend imports of dessert apples from Chile in June. In addition, the suspension of imports of fresh and chilled cod<sup>2</sup> also applies as from 12 June to frozen whole cod.<sup>3</sup>

Measures were also taken or proposed for improving the situation of the markets where surpluses exist, namely wine, hops, milk products and beef and veal.

2236. Of the cereal prices for 1976/77, the threshold prices and 'accession' compensatory amounts remained to be fixed; the Council did this on 21 June.<sup>4</sup> In addition, it determined<sup>4</sup> the minimum requirements as regards intervention for common wheat of bread-making quality (baking test), while the Commission for its part adopted<sup>3</sup> a Regulation concerning the qualities of durum wheat qualitying for aid.

A Regulation consolidating the acts in the *rice* sector, proposed by the Commission on 14 November 1975,<sup>5</sup> was adopted by the Council on 21 June.<sup>6</sup>

2237. Taking account of the decisions adopted at its meeting from 2 to 6 March, particularly those concerning prices, and of the outcome of the negotiations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and India concerning the guaranteed price for cane sugar imports under preferential arrangements,<sup>7</sup> the Council adopted a number of measures relating to the *sugar* sector.<sup>8</sup>

With a view to contributing towards the stabilization of the markets and to ensuring that consumers are supplied at reasonable prices and that normal supplies can be guaranteed for the whole of the Community and for its individual regions, arrangements were introduced for a system of minimum stocks (10 %). It is now possible for export refunds to be granted on sugar covered by preferential import arrangements under the Lomé Convention, the Council Decision concerning imports of cane sugar originating in the Overseas Countries and Territories and the Agreement between the Community and India on cane sugar.

The Council also fixed the differential charge levied on preferential raw sugar and the differential amount to be granted for raw cane sugar from the French Overseas Departments for the 1976/77 sugar marketing year at the same level as for the previous marketing (1.20 u.a./100 kg). The Council also took a decision concerning the refining in the Community of sugar produced in the French Overseas Departments in 1976/77, granting a subsidy of 1.29 u.a./100 kg of white sugar. Finally, the basic Regulation on the common organization of the market in sugar was amended following the various decisions in the 1976/77 price package which enter into force on 1 July 1976.

2238. In the oilseeds and protein products sectors too, formal regulations were adopted implementing items of the 1976/77 price package approved at the beginning of March.9 'Accession' compensatory amounts were fixed for colza and rape seed and a decision was taken concerning the main intervention centres for oilseeds and the prices applicable to them. In addition, after examining the opinion delivered by the European Parliament on the matter, the Council formally adopted the temporary system of aid for private storage of certain protein products, as a supplement to the measure requiring 400 000 tonnes 10 of skimmed-milk powder to be incorporated in animal feedingstuffs between 15 March and 31 October 1976. The storage aid will be granted between 1 July and 31 October 1976 for a total quantity equivalent to 250 000 tonnes of oil cakes; the duration of storage contracts may not exceed twelve months.

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OJ L 150 of 9.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2253.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 153 of 12.6.1976.

<sup>4</sup> OJL 180 of 6.7.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Bull. EC 11-1975, point 2230.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> OJ L 166 of 25.6.1976.

Point 2350.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> OJ L 167 of 26.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> OJ L 165 of 25.6.1976 and L 170 of 29.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2240.

Agricultural policy Agricultural policy

2239. On 1 June the Council decided to make provision for a second round of table wine distillation operations approved on 15 March 1976.<sup>2</sup> primarily to aid Italy. Some French white wine producers who failed to submit their applications in time may take up this distillation option for a total of 1.4 million hectolitres. The Commission adjusted<sup>3</sup> the detailed rules for the distillation of wine. It also defined4 the factors to be taken into consideration to check that free-at-frontier reference prices applicable to imports of products in the wine-growing sector originating in certain non-member countries are observed and fixed these prices applicable with effect from 1 July 1976.

The transitional arrangements introduced by the Council on 28 December 1973<sup>5</sup> for imports of the wine product exported under the label of 'Cyprus' Sherry', originating and coming from Cyprus, and the introduction of subsidies for similar wine products produced in the Community as originally constituted and exported to Ireland and the United Kingdom were extended until 30 June 1977.6 It was impossible to market the entire 1974 harvest in 1975 and relatively large stocks still remain from earlier years.

*2240*. The Council held a general discussion on the situation as regards hops. The Commission added to the information already supplied to the Council—report on the hop production and marketing situation for the 1975 harvest and proposal on producer aid for that harvest-proposing special measures for stabilizing the market. The market in hops is in its turn experiencing difficulties on account of structural surpluses, not only in the Community but throughout the world. The Commission is contemplating granting aid of 1 200 u.a./ha to producer groups for non-harvesting of part of the 1976 hop crop; this will be limited to 10% of the areas registered as being in full production for each group. This is a temporary measure, pending the revision of the basic Regulation proposed to the Council on 18 February 1976.8

2241. In the milk products sector, the provisions relating to the denaturing of skimmed-milk powder introduced in March9 were relaxed and supplemented.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, the Member States which export skimmed-milk powder for use in animal feedingstuffs were authorized11 to grand aid in the importing country's stead. Finally, the price reductions granted to purchasers of intervention butter for the manufacture of pastry products were increased<sup>12</sup> from 10 to 14 u.a./100 kg in the case of processing into concentrated butter.

2242. As regards beef and veal, several intervention measures were adopted. With a view to facilitating sale, the prices, fixed in advance at a standard rate, of certain meat held by the intervention agencies were adjusted 10 together with the date of the taking over of the meat by these agencies. The Commission endorsed13 the intervention measure to be taken in France concerning cow carcasses relating to a maximum of about 10 000 tonnes, during the period 28 June to 31 July 1976. This is to cope with the large-scale slaughtering which seems likely as a result of the drought. The Commission adopted 14 a further measure concerning private storage to provide aid fixed in advance at a standard rate for 76 000 tonnes of beef.

The Council extended 13 until 31 December 1976 the arrangements laid down for imports of beef

OJL 144 of 2.6.1976.

Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2241.

OJ L 151 of 10.6.1976.

OJ L 157 of 18.6.1976, L 158 of 19.6.1976 and Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2226.

OJ L 359 of 28.12.1973; Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2227 and 12-1973, point 2239.

OJ L 175 of 1.7.1976 and Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2228.

OJ C 149 of 1.7.1976.

OJC 51 of 5.3.1976.

Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2256.

<sup>10</sup> OJ L 158 of 19.6.1976.

OJ L 170 of 29.6.1976.

OJ L 153 of 12.6.1976. OJ L 165 of 25.6.1976.

OJ L 167 of 26.6.1976 and Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2247.

and veal originating in certain ACP countries: 27 532 tonnes per year may be imported with a 90% reduction in the levy.

#### **European Agricultural Guidance and** Guarantee Fund

Guidance Section

2243. As an act of Community solidarity with the victims of the earthquake in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region in May,1 the Council adopted two measures on 21 June<sup>2</sup> to provide assistance from the EAGGF Guidance Section. The first will enable the stricken towns and villages to qualify as areas covered by the Council Directive of 28 April 1975<sup>3</sup> on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas. The second measure provides for a Community contribution towards the cost of repairing earthquake damage to agriculture in Friuli within the limit of the appropriations entered in the first supplementary budget for 1976<sup>4</sup> for the reconstruction and improvement of production conditions in agriculture or in agricultural holdings and/or installations for the marketing or processing of agricultural products.

2244. On 25 June the Commission approved a Decision relating to the applications for the refund of aid granted by the Member States under the Directive of 28 April 1975 on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas.

#### Conditions of competition

2245. At the request of the Danish authorities, the Council decided on 21 June,5 in view of the exceptional circumstances, to authorize Denmark—under the third subparagraph of Article 93(2) of the Treaty—to grant aid for the slaughter of hens, up to a ceiling of 600 000 Danish kroner, during a period expiring on 1 October 1976.

2246. In accordance with an undertaking made at the Council meeting on 2 October 19746 the Member States have provided the Commission with complete lists of State aid existing in agriculture in 1974. Under Article 93(1) of the Treaty the Commission has decided to ask the Member States to bring this list up to date annually.

#### Harmonization of legislation

2247. In accordance with the procedure of the Standing Veterinary Committee, the Commission on 10 June took a decision to place 350 000 doses of toot-and-mouth disease vaccine at the disposal of the FAO as an EEC contribution towards the campaign to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in the countries of south-east Europe. The vaccine is from the Community stock (3 million doses)—established by virtue of the Council Decision of 26 March 19738—of which this is the last instalment.

In accordance with Article 106 of the Act of Accession and corresponding articles in two Council Directives.9 the Commission, on 29 June, adopted a report to the Council on the exceptions allowed in the veterinary field to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. This report analyses the evolution of disease patterns in the Community since the entry of the new Member States and describes the measures implemented to combat the diseases.

Bull. EC 5-1976, points 1501 to 1506.

OJ L 171 of 30.6.1976 and L 168 of 28.6.1976.

Bull. EC 5-1976, points 2223 to 2225.

Point 2478.

OJ L 168 of 28.6.1976.

Bull. EC 10-1974, points 1104 and 1105. OJ L 160 of 22.6.1976.

OJL 106 of 20.4.1973.

OJL 302 of 31.12.1972.

The report outlines measures which the Council should adopt in order progressively to replace the exceptions allowed to the three new Member States by common provisions. These measures include the development of common control procedures for foot-and-mouth disease, Community action to eradicate swine fever and joint action to support and reinforce preventive measures taken against brucellosis and tuberculosis. The Council is to decide on these proposals before the end of the year.

## Cooperation with farming associations

2249. In order to ensure that all interested parties are properly consulted on matters concerning the harmonization of agricultural and food products, the Commission decided on 15 June¹ to set up an Advisory Veterinary Committee. This Committee will be composed of representatives of agricultural producers and cooperatives, industry, commerce, workers, consumers and the veterinarians' professional association set up at Community level. Each of these categories will have two of the fourteen permanent seats; they may, in addition, for each item on the agenda, appoint four experts each.

One established the Committee will replace the written consultation procedure applied hitherto; this will be a more efficient system, involving the parties concerned continuously and more closely in the Commission's work in this field. In the foodstuffs sector, an advisory committee was set up in June 1975<sup>2</sup> and experience has shown that this formula is of great benefit since it makes for a very considerable improvement in the quality of the consultation between trade circles, consumers and the Commission.

2250. At its part-session from 14 to 18 June, the *European Parliament*<sup>3</sup> delivered some ten Opinions relating to a series of Commission proposals to the Council.

# Industrial and technological policy

#### Industry

#### Iron and steel

Forward programme for steel: July to September 1976

2251. In its forward programme for the third quarter of this year the Commission estimates that Community crude steel production will reach something like 35.4 million tonnes, 8 million more than in the third quarter of 1975 but 2.6 million less than in the corresponding period of 1974. The Commission provisionally approved the forward programme on 2 June and will reach its final decision in the light of the Opinion delivered on 10 June by the ECSC Consultative Committee.<sup>4</sup>

In the Community steel industry, the first quarter of 1976 saw a continuation of the recovery that started in September and October 1975. New orders for ordinary steels booked by the industry in the first quarter were almost 31 % up on the orders received at the height of the crisis, in the third quarter of 1975. Despite this substantial increase, incoming orders for the first quarter of 1976 were still well below (about 13 %) the record levels attained at the end of 1973 and in the early months of 1974. An important feature of the recovery in the order book position during the winter and spring of 1975/76 was that it was limited to the Community market, while export orders remain at the low level to which they fell during the summer of 1975.

OJ L 171 of 30.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2259.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Points 2418 to 2420.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Point 2461.

Crude steel output in the Community passed the 11 million tonne mark in March 1976 after remaining in the 10 million tonne bracket during the previous six months. Most recent signs indicate that it will probably exceed 12 million tonnes in the early summer months. However, output still remains well below the record levels (13 to 14 million tonnes per month) of 1974, largely because of the drop of 1 to 2 million tonnes per month in net exports compared with 1974. Even with output at 12 million tonnes, average utilization of capacity in the Community will be little more than 70%.

The price of rolled products has continued to strengthen on the Community market in the second quarter of 1976. List prices are continuing to rise more steeply for some products, such as cold-rolled products, coils and more recently strip and wire rod. Prices of concrete reinforcing rounds and plate rolled on four-high mills have recorded smaller increases. The basic prices applicable to deliveries up to the end of the second quarter of 1976 remain below the high levels of 1974.

The Commission estimates that crude steel output will be 35.4 million tonnes in the third quarter of 1976, 8 million tonnes up on 1975 and 2.6 million tonnes down on the third quarter of 1974. The increase is mainly due to the growing Community demand while the drop largely reflects the slackening of exports. This production level gives a capacity utilization of just under 71%. Total demand will be below the record 1974 levels and the crisis, especially as regards demand for some major products, can by no means be considered as over; however, the rapid picking up of demand in the Community in recent months suggests a higher production level than specified in previous forward programmes for 1976, to reflect the expansion in demand.

As regards employment, short-time working in the Community steel industry has been substantially reduced, at least as far as the number of workers affected is concerned. Company estimates prepared for May 1976 indicate less than 40 000 on short-time working against 107 000 in March 1976 and 223 000 in December 1975. This rapid decline is expected to continue so that short-time working will disappear almost completely during the third quarter of 1976.

#### Aviation

Talks with the heads of Community airline companies

2252. On 9 June, in response to a request from the Chairmen of Community airline companies for an informal meeting with the Commission, Mr Scarascia Mugnozza had talks with the heads of the major airlines—Aer Lingus, Air France, Alitalia, British Airways, British Caledonian, KLM, Lufthansa, Sabena, SAS and UTA. A meeting of this type had already been held in 1974 at Mr Scarascia Mugnozza's initiative.

Points raised at the meeting included specific action to be taken on civil aviation in connection with measures called for in the programme of action for the European aeronautics sector presented by the Commission to the Council on 3 October 1975. At the end of the meeting it was agreed that further discussions would be held and that information would be exchanged regularly.

2253. On 10 June the ECSC Consultative Committee<sup>2</sup> delivered its Opinion on the Community financing of fifty-four steel research projects.<sup>3</sup>

Bull. EC 6-1976

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm I}$  Bull. EC 10-1975, points 1201 to 1204, and Supplement 11/75 — Bull. EC.

Point 2462.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OJ C 129 of 11.6.1976, and Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2260.

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

## Science, research and development

#### Energy research

2254. Two Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPMs), for the *Systems Analysis* and *Geothermal Energy* sectors of the energy research programme adopted by the Council on 22 August 1975,<sup>1</sup> met on 4 and 25 June respectively.

After examining the status of the work in progress they specified the guidelines they contemplate for the implementation of the second stage (1977-79) of the programme; these discussions will continue at the end of the year, after the Council has acted on the proposal for the revision of the programme on energy research which the Commission must submit to it.

#### Scientific and Technical Research Committee

2255. At its meeting of 10 June the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) devoted most of its discussions to the 'spin-off' from the symposium which was held in Milan from 24 to 26 May² under the auspices of CERD on the subject of 'a scientific and technological policy for the European Community'. The delegations which attended the CREST meeting expressed their opinions in particular on the aims and priorities of R & D in the long and medium term and on encouragement for innovation and its connections with industrial policy.

CREST also approved the scheme to commission an *ad hoc* working party in the field of scientific and technical cooperation with the developing countries. Within nine months this working party will have to make a preliminary analysis of the Member States' activities in this field, in order to determine the sectors in which a Community operation could be undertaken.

2256. The CREST meeting on 28 and 29 June dealt with three main subjects: proposals for indirect R & D action, proposals for concerted action on the same field and Community structures and procedures relating to science and technology.

The proposals for indirect action concerned the training and in-service training programmes in the R & D sector, more especially with regard to data processing. These programmes will soon be submitted to the Commission and the Council and CREST will then express a formal opinion on them. CREST has already acknowledged the scientific and technical value of the data-processing training programmes, but it requested the Commission to provide certain details regarding the implementation of the programme of general training. Another proposal for indirect action concerned the revision of the R & D programme in the energy sector which will also be forwarded to the Commission in the weeks ahead; the majority of the Committee expressed their approval of this proposal.

The proposals for concerted action related to the treatment and use of sewage sludge (COST 68); the creation of an oceanographic and meteorological data buoy network (COST 43); and the development of the great conurbations.

CREST has not expressed a formal opinion on the first two action projects but it nevertheless acknowledged their scientific and technical value and recommended to the Commission's departments that they communicate them immediately to the Commission and the Council after making certain amendments. The Committee expressed a favourable opinion on the third proposal, for co-

Bull. EC 6-1976 45

OJ L 231 of 2.9.1975; Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2262 and 7/8-1975, point 2263.

Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2263.

ordination of certain national programmes concerning growth and the problems raised by the development of conurbations.

CREST went on to a broad discussion on Community mechanisms in the scientific and technical fields; the conclusions of this discussion, which followed the previous talks on the aims and priorities of R & D,1 will be taken into consideration by the Commission's departments in order to prepare a forthcoming communication from the Commission to the Council on the guidelines of the common R & D policy for the period 1977-80.

Lastly, CREST approved the principle of regular examination of budgets and national budget forecasts and decided to set up a subcommittee to assist the Commission's departments in this task: it also instructed the Statistics Subcommittee to specify certain R & D indicators according to priorities laid down by the Member States.

#### Meeting of senior officials in the field of scientific and technical research

The Committee of Senior Officals in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) met on 23 and 24 June.

After examining the problems of industrial property raised by the completion of a project relating to electronic traffic aids on major roads (COST 30), the Committee adopted a draft memorandum of understanding<sup>2</sup> to be approved by the governments concerned by not requiring ratification by the national Parliaments. This memorandum could be signed in October 1976.

The Committee also expressed its agreement in principle with a preliminary draft of the same type on the study of techniques for reducing videophone service redundance (COST 211); the final adoption of an agreement on this subject would take place after the finalization of a tech-

nical annex specifying in particular the distribution of the work among the participants.

The Committee discussed technical and other problems raised by optical fibre systems (COST 208); it reserved the right to re-examine this project when CREST has expressed an opinion regarding its value for the Community.

Finally, the Committee examined a memorandum prepared by the secretariat concerning an R & D programme relating to the setting up of an oceanographic and meteorological data buoy network (COST 43).

### European Research and Development Committee

2258. At its meeting on 28 June the European Research and Development Committee (CERD) adopted a favourable attitude to the principle of a programme which, in the form of studies, symposia and publications, would deal with the question of 'Science in Society'.

The Committee also examined the conclusions of the symposium which was held in Milan last May<sup>3</sup> for the purpose of laying down guidelines for a common R & D policy. It also recommended that the Commission establish links with industrial research through the medium of a subcommittee which could be set up within CERD.

Lastly, CERD examined the results obtained by making use of the Pestel-Mesarovic model for European problems such as demography or economics.

Point 2255 and Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2265.

Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2271. Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2263.

#### Multiannual programme

## Communication from the Commission concerning the JET project

2259. A certain amount of concern having been expressed at the Council meetings of 15 December 1975<sup>1</sup> and 24 February 1976<sup>2</sup> as to the scientific aims, the technical and financial aspects and the management structures of the JET project, the Commission sent a Communication on this subject to the Council on 11 June.

After examining these different aspects in detail and bearing in mind the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Fusion,<sup>3</sup> the Commission again concluded that there was no valid reason for postponing once more the final decision on the construction of JET by invoking scientific, technical, financial or administrative arguments. The Commission also stated that, in the present situation, lack of decision compromised not only the project itself and the implementation of the entire fusion programme but also belief in the Community institutions' power of decision.

In January 1976 the Commission had sent the Council a first Communication concerning the site of Jet,4 in which, after examining all the aspects of the problem, it concluded that this site should be Ispra and asked the Council to take a decision on this choice. In the new Communication the Commission confirmed the objective value of its proposal and urged the Council to take a final decision on the matter.

## Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPMs)

2260. The ACPM for Environmental Research met on 22 June. It resumed and completed the discussions started at its previous meeting<sup>5</sup> on the selection criteria to be adopted for the proposal for participation in the 1976-80 five-year programme and on the assessment of the results of the first programme (1973-75). The Committee examined reports by panels of experts on several specific research subjects. Lastly it broached the discussion of dissemination of the results obtained in the course of the 1973-75 programme.

#### Education

#### Meeting of national experts

2261. On 3 June the Commission took part in a meeting of national experts in public service and social security, arranged by the Education Committee, to consider problems of calculating seniority and pension entitlements in respect of periods of service spent in teaching or research in other Member States by staff of higher education establishments. This is one of the points in the action programme in the field of education<sup>6</sup> to be implemented at Member State level, to facilitate the free movement and mobility of teaching staff and research workers.

#### Education Committee

2262. At its meeting on 4 June the Education Committee looked at several items of the action programme in the field of education<sup>6</sup> to be implemented at Community level, in particular the production of an information handbook for students, a programme to facilitate short study visits by teaching and administrative staff and research

Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2264.

Bull. EC 2-1976, point 1401. Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2272. Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2239.

Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2267. OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976.

workers, examination of the needs for educational structures and programmes specially designed for children of migrant workers, and the need to give education a European dimension.

In the context of the report which it is preparing on the transition from school to working life, the Education Committee at its meeting on 14 June considered a draft text of conclusions and recommendations presented by the Commission's departments.

## Committee of Senior Officials in the field of Public Health

2263. The work of the Committee of Senior Officials in the field of Public Health, which met on 17 and 18 June, was concerned mainly with three questions — medical demography; examination of the provisions of the 'Doctors' directives in connection with the provision of services; the role of general practitioners and the position they occupy in the organization of medical care.

As far as medical demography is concerned, the Committee took stock of the work done so far on statistical information. It was agreed to bring together a panel of experts with a view to finding ways of harmonizing certain collected data.

Examination of the terms of the 'Doctors' directives on the provision of services¹ enabled the members of the panel to study together various questions relating to the interpretation of these terms. In particular it was agreed to draft a Community form for the declaration concerning provision of services which is required by one of the directives of 16 June 1975.

The changes now taking place in most of the Community countries as regards general practitioners were the subject of a detailed discussion which will be continued at the Committee's next meeting.

# Scientific and technical information and information management

### EURONET technology

2264. A communication published in the Official Journal of the European Communities<sup>2</sup> states that, as a result of the signature of a contract on the implementation of the EURONET project, between the Commission and the national Postal and Telecommunications Administrations of the nine Member States, these administrations will be responsible for the conception, planning and setting up of the telecommunications network for EURONET.

In setting up this network it is planned to make very considerable use of the technology developed within the framework of the European Informatics Network (EIN) to which will be added, where necessary, hardware and software to allow of virtual call facilities and switches for the assembly and separation of 'packets' where terminals which do not specialize in 'packets' traffic are concerned.

At the meeting of the Management Committee of the Postal and Telecommunications Administrations, held in Paris at the end of May, it was agreed that tenders for the supply of additional processing centres would be called for from companies established in the Community countries. It is planned to issue an official call for tenders in July 1976. The communication states that preliminary proposals will nevertheless be submitted to the Postal and Telecommunications Administrations to enable them to make a preselection. It is expected that the equipment necessary for the development of the software can be supplied by December 1976; but delivery of

OJ L 167 of 30.6.1975.

OJ C 130 of 12.6.1976.

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the equipment for setting up the network should take place towards the middle of 1977.

Utilization of the results of Community research

2265. For the purpose of making more widely known and exploiting inventions resulting from the research programmes financed out of public funds in the Community, a stand was arranged at the 'Achema 1976' Exhibition in Frankfurt, from 20 to 26 June. Five inventions resulting from the Community research programme were on view there, as were three inventions financed out of the public funds of Member States; the Community research programme on hydrogen was also presented to the public. New licence agreements are already envisaged for most of the inventions exhibited.

## Transport policy

## Organization of the markets

*2266*. The negotiations with Switzerland<sup>1</sup> to reach agreement on the establishment of a European Fund for the temporary immobilization of inland waterway vessels came to fruition at a plenary conference of delegations held in Brussels on 9 June with the Commission representative in the chair. The negotiators fixed 9 July as the date for initialling the draft agreement. The Council Decision of 17 May<sup>2</sup>—supplementary to its previous directives to the Commission—disposed of the final difficulties at Community level to the rapid conclusion of these negotiations.

2267. As part of the negotiations between the European Economic Community and various non-member countries (Austria, Finland, Greece, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Yugoslavia) to reach agreement on the establishment of uniform rules applicable to non-scheduled international passenger services by bus and coach,3 the Commission convened the representatives of the Member States on 28 June to obtain their views on a new draft inspection document which it had drawn up for the departments concerned. This document is based on the model already adopted at Community level and that contemplated by the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT).

Broad agreement has been reached on the contents and presentation of this document, which will be submitted for approval at the next round of negotiations.

2268. On 30 June the Commission decided to send the Irish Government a recommendation4 concerning a Bill amending and adding to the 1933 and 1971 Road Transport Acts and containing provisions relating to other problems connected with those dealt with in the laws in question. In its recommendation the Commission confirms that the provisions advocated by Ireland in the road haulage sector are not likely to encroach upon the special provisions that are to be adopted at Community level in the near future; it does however consider that the proposed measures involve certain drawbacks likely to affect the smooth operation of the system.

2269. At its meeting on 10 June the ECSC Consultative Committee<sup>5</sup> adopted a Resolution on the draft of a new agreement on the establishment of through international railway tariffs for the carriage of coal and steel.6

Bull. EC 6-1976 49

Bull. EC 2-1973, point 2240. Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2286. Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2268 and 3-1976, point 2293.

OJ L 196 of 22.7.1976.

Point 2459.

OJC 151 of 3.7.1976.

#### Harmonization of structures

2270. The Advisory Committee on aids for transport—set up by the Council Regulation of 4 June 1970 on the granting of aids for transport<sup>1</sup>—met on 21 May. It examined the aids awarded by the Belgian and French Governments to barge operators facing a difficult situation as a result of strikes or the recession and concerning which the Commission has already expressed a favourable opinion.

It also examined other aids to waterway transport which have been referred to the Commission and which concern in particular the *Belgian* and *Dutch* scrapping systems, the buying-up of obsolete vessels in *France* and the construction or modernization of vessels in *Luxembourg*. The Committee also dealt with two aids, one of which was awarded to the *British* Railways Board for research and the other to the National Freight Corporation for rationalization.

2271. The Commission decided on 11 June<sup>2</sup> to send *Denmark* a favourable *opinion* concerning a Danish Government decree on the introduction of tachygraphs in the road transport sector.

2272. Having received requests from the three new Member States to extend the period of post-ponement of application in their national transport systems of the Council Regulation of 25 March 1969 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport,<sup>3</sup> the Commission decided on 23 June<sup>2</sup> to authorize, under Article 135 of the Act of Accession, protective measures in respect of this Regulation until 28 February 1977 in the *United Kingdom* and *Ireland* and until 31 January 1977 in *Denmark*.

#### Infrastructures

Action in the field of transport infrastructure

2273. On 30 June the Commission approved a Communication to the Council on action in the field of transport infrastructure.<sup>4</sup>

## Sea and air transport — Port economy

Relations with non-member countries in the sea transport sector

2274. On 30 June the Commission adopted a Communication to the Council on the Community's relations with non-member countries. This is the first time that the Commission has made an overall pronouncement on the difficulties encountered by the Member States' merchant marine fleets on the measures to be taken at Community level to alleviate them.

Analysing the increasingly difficult position of sea transport, the Commission notes that past actions at Community level to remedy this state of affairs had been of an extremely limited scope, particularly because of the reluctance of some Member States to recognize that the Community has powers in this field or to grant such powers. But it has now become essential to protect the basic interest of the Community and its Member States and the Commission advocates a number of measures to this end, stating in particular that:

(i) the common interest must be protected, the objective being the establishment of a common policy involving, if necessary, the negotiation of purely maritime agreements between the Community and non-member countries. Meanwhile, Member States must consult each other at Com-

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 130 of 15.6.1970.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OJ L 191 of 15.7.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OJ L 77 of 29.3.1969.

Points 1401 to 1404.

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munity level on the measures to be taken under bilateral agreements they have concluded with certain non-member countries;

- (ii) the Member States and the Commission must ensure close coordination of their positions within international organizations dealing with sea transport or at other multilateral discussions before taking, according to the case at hand, Community or joint action;
- (iii) when it is felt that the time is right, sea transport clauses must be included in the directives for negotiating agreements between the Community and non-member countries;
- (iv) where this appears opportune, questions of sea transport must be discussed in the course of the contacts between the Community and nonmember countries, even when outside the scope of a commercial or other agreement with the country in question;
- (v) the Commission must examine, in collaboration with the Member States, the advisability of adopting other measures, including countermeasures, in the sea transport sector.

The Commission proposes that the Council should approve these guidelines. If appropriate, it will forward to the Council proposals for concrete decisions concerning the measures outlined above.

## **Advisory Committee on Transport**

2275. The Advisory Committee on Transport met in plenary session in Brussels on 3 and 4 June and examined a draft opinion on the improvement of investment procedures in transport infrastructure, especially as regards financing and management.

## Commercial policy

## Preparing and implementing the common commercial policy

Trade protection

2301. In June the Commission extended the validity of various Community surveillance measures which were due to expire on 30 June as imports of the products in question continue to exercise pressure both on quantities and prices so that there is still a threat of injury to Community producers. These extensions relate to imports of slide fasteners1 and shoes2 originating in all nonmember countries and of certain stockings originating in Korea or in Taiwan.3

The Commission has also extended until 31 December the validity of protective measures with regard to imports into the United Kingdom of cotton yarn originating in Spain4 and imports into Italy of malleable cast-iron tube and pipe-fittings originating in Taiwan.5

On 15 June it also introduced quotas applicable until 31 December in respect of imports into the Benelux countries of cotton yarn not put up for retail sale, originating in *Mexico*. Notwithstanding these measures, adopted as a result of the sharp and substantial increase in Mexican exports of this product and of their relatively low price, consultations and negotiations between the Community and Mexico will continue.

2303. After a hearing of the interested parties and, more particularly, the Brazilian exporters, the Commission terminated the anti-dumping/anti-subsidies procedure introduced in March

OJ L 163 of 24.6.1976.

OJ L 167 of 26.6.1976.

OJ L 151 of 10.6.1976.

OJ L 165 of 25.6.1976.

OJ L 172 of 1.7.1976. OJ L 155 of 16.6.1976.

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for imports of hard building board of wood pulp, originating in Brazil, considering that it was not necessary at present to introduce defensive measures. It also gave notice of the initiation of a similar procedure concerning imports of furazolidone from Hungary.<sup>2</sup>

## Specific measures of commercial policy

#### **Textiles**

India

2304. The negotiations which took place from 28 June to 1 July between the Community and India resulted in the conclusion of an agreement on jute products the draft of which was initialled on 2 July. An earlier agreement on the same products concluded with India had expired on 31 December 1975. The new agreement, covering a period of four years, will apply retrospectively from 1 January 1976. India will voluntarily restrict its exports to the Community of certain categories of jute fabrics (especially carpet underlays and decorative fabrics) to agreed levels in order to take account of the difficulties-mainly regional—faced by the jute industry in the Community. No restrictions are laid down for imports of yarn, but a consultation clause has been agreed under which restrictions may be applied in certain circumstances.

The new agreement also provides for the continuation of the Community's programme for the progressive suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties as part of its offer under the generalized system of preferences. Import duties, which under an earlier agreement had already been reduced by 50% or 60% from the basic level, will be reduced by 80% on 1 January 1977 and by 100% (total suspension) on 1 July 1978. In the case of jute yarn, however, duties will be totally suspended on 1 January 1977.

Pending the completion of the necessary procedures for the entry into force of the agreement, the two parties have agreed to apply it *de facto*.

#### Yugoslavia

2305. The negotiations which opened in March 1976<sup>3</sup> between Yugoslavia and the Community for the conclusion of an agreement on trade in textile products—under the Multifibre Arrangement—were pursued from 22 to 25 June and culminated in an *agreement* which was initialled on 25 June.

Under the agreement Yugoslavia will apply voluntary restraints to its exports to the Community of linen and cotton fabrics (re-imports into the Community after working or processing are not included in the ceilings). For its part, the Community undertakes immediately to suspend quantitative restrictions in respect of products covered by the agreement and not to adopt the safeguard measures provided for in the Multifibre Arrangement. Lastly, the agreement provides for a specific consultation procedure. Valid for two years, the agreement will apply retrospectively from 1 January 1976.

#### Scrap

2306. At the Council meeting on 21 and 22 June, the government representatives decided to accord certain Member States (Germany, Benelux, Denmark, France, United Kingdom) a quota totalling 315 000 tonnes for exports of scrap to non-member countries. This decision applies to the third quarter of 1976 and should be extended for the last quarter unless the quota needs to be changed in the light of a review of the situation based on a report requested from the Commission.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OJ C 138 of 19.6.1976.

OJ C 123 of 4.6.1976.

Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2309.

## Development and cooperation

#### **Development cooperation policy**

## Conference on International Economic Cooperation

2307. The Community took part in the fourth session of meetings of the commissions set up under the Conference on International Economic Cooperation ('North-South Dialogue') held in Paris from 8 to 15 June and in the meeting of the co-Chairmen of the Conference on 17 and 18 June.

These meetings dealt with three essential questions: the 'backwash' from the fourth session of UNCTAD, the completion of the first phase of the commissions' work (on which the report was drawn up by the co-Chairmen) and the preparation of the Conference meeting of senior officials. fixed for July. Looking ahead to this, the commissions and the co-Chairmen have already turned their attention towards the second phase of the Conference, considered the commissions' work programmes for the second half of the year and agreed upon dates for their meetings (to be presented to the senior officials for approval). In accordance with the initial arrangements the ministerial meeting to bring the Conference's work to a conclusion will be held towards the end of December.

#### The fourth session of the commissions

2308. The fourth session of the commissions was greatly influenced by the results of the recent meeting of UNCTAD IV and by the ideas of the various parties present for the programme of work during the second six months.

Consequently the agendas were not full and the work consisted rather in watching and waiting and asking questions; the meetings of certain

commissions (raw materials, financial affairs) were even cut short. This situation was also accentuated by the fact that the fourth session was followed immediately by the co-Chairmen's meeting and that, at least in certain commissions, a large part of the work was perforce devoted to preparing for this meeting.

Concerning the assessments of achievements in Nairobi, the Group of 19 (representing the developing countries) which met right at the beginning of the session issued a general declaration which was quite significant in that it stressed that the Paris dialogue should continue since the results of UNCTAD fell far short of the expectations of the developing countries. The Group of 19 considers that the dialogue held within the CIEC offers the industrialized countries an additional opportunity to show their political goodwill in working out adequate and constructive solutions to the developing countries' economic problems.

The commissions spent considerable time discussing their future work in the light of the results of UNCTAD IV and the Resolutions adopted following the Nairobi Conference. The guidelines for the Raw Materials Commission, for instance, reflect the Nairobi Resolution on commodities and the consequent large-scale programme of negotiations. The sample applies to the Financial Affairs and Development Commissions as regards the problem of debt, which UNCTAD referred to other bodies for consideration, notably the CIEC. This will be one of the major objectives of the second phase of the work and a kind of 'division of labour' has been worked out for the two commissions: the Development Commission will deal with aspects of debt linked with development policy and the purely financial aspects of the problem will come under the other Commission.

The discussions of substance were held mainly within the Energy and Development Commissions. The former held a wide-ranging discussion on the indexation of oil prices and the co-Chairmen of this Commission are directing their work

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towards setting up a forum for permanent consultation. The Development Commission also held very full debates on the problems of the multinationals and the least developed countries. The Raw Materials Commission completed its work programme.

#### The co-Chairmen's meeting

2309. The co-Chairmen of the Conference and of its four commissions met on 17 and 18 June, to review the work of the Conference and to pave the way for the meeting of senior officials from 8 to 10 July.

They agreed that the CIEC has completed the initial, analytical phase of its work. During this first phase, detailed discussions were held on a wide range of international economic problems of concern to both developing and industrialized countries.

They agreed that in the second half of the year the commissions of the Conference would concentrate their work on specific areas of common concern, with the objective of reaching concrete and equitable results satisfactory to all parties which would constitute a significant advance in international economic cooperation. They took the view that the senior officials' meeting would constitute the turning point between the analytical and the action-oriented phases of the Conference, and that preparations for the senior officials' meeting should proceed in that perspective.

The co-Chairmen had a first exchange of views on possible programmes for commissions during the second half of the year. They noted suggestions made by co-Chairmen of commissions on areas of concentration for their work, for the purpose of arriving at a concrete outcome before the Ministerial meeting. To this end it was agreed that adequate preparations would have to be made for the Ministerial meeting. Areas of concentration are considered to be appropriate subjects for further discussion and action-oriented

work. The work programmes of commissions for the final phase are expected to be set at the July meetings of the commissions.

The provisional dates for the sessions of the commissions in the second half of the year submitted to the meeting of senior officials for approval are as follows: 12-16 July, 13-20 September, 20-27 October and 16-23 November. The commissions may themselves unanimously amend these dates if this is necessary to complete the work programmes.

Commenting to the press on the work of the Conference, Mr MacEachen, the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr Pérez-Guerrero, the Venezuelan Minister of State for International Economic Affairs, stressed that the Conference was passing from the analytical phase on to the action-oriented phase. Mr MacEachen considered that the Nairobi Conference had had a positive effect on the North-South Dialogue; Mr Pérez-Guerrero, the spokesman for the developing countries, admitted that the results of UNCTAD IV were inadequate in some respects but that efforts should be made to consolidate that which existed and to go beyond that which had already been achieved to concentrate on certain precise themes.

#### The Community and the Paris Conference

2310. While the Commission presented to the Council a number of working papers on the continuation of the work of the CIEC, the Council—at its meeting on 29 and 30 June—held an exchange of views in preparation for the meeting of senior officials in Paris from 8 to 10 July. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the formulation of the Community's position.

In this connection, after noting that Mr Albert Dondelinger was resigning his position as co-Chairman of the Commission on Financial Affairs of the CIEC, the Council and the Commission agreed to appoint Mr Dirk Spierenburg, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, to this function. They expressed their gratitude to Mr Albert Dondelinger for the way in which he had discharged his duties during the past six months.

#### World Food Council and IFAD

2311. The Commission was represented at the second ministerial session of the World Food Council (Rome, 15 to 17 June) and at the conference of plenipotentiaries on the setting-up of the IFAD.<sup>2</sup>

#### Generalized preferences

2312. On 30 June the Commission approved a Communication and proposals to the Council on the Community's generalized preferences scheme for 1977.<sup>3</sup>

#### Food aid and emergency aid

#### Skimmed-milk powder: 1976 programme

2313. On 1 June the Council adopted the skimmed-milk powder food aid programme for 1976 (*first instalment*). These 55 000 tonnes<sup>4</sup> are allocated as shown in Table 1.

The Commission presented a Communication to the Council on 8 June<sup>5</sup> concerning the allocation of the *second instalment* of 95 000 tonnes which will bring the total under the 1976 programme up to 150 000 tonnes.

#### **Emergency** aid

2314. Because of the considerable and urgent needs of the *Timor refugees*, the Council decided

on 1 June,<sup>4</sup> on a proposal from the Commission, to supply emergency food aid in the form of 2 000 tonnes of cereals and 100 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder, via the International Committee of the Red Cross. These quantities are to be delivered free at the port of unloading. The cost of the operation will amount to some 488 000 EUA.

2315. On 18 June the Council decided to supply aid for the population of the Lake Kivu area in Zaire (6 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder).

2316. On 21 June the Council decided:

to supply food aid to the International Committee of the Red Cross for the Bolivia operation: 240 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder;

to supply aid to the people of Vietnam via international organizations (ICRC, UNHCR, UNICEF): 2 500 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder and 1 200 tonnes of butteroil.

2317. On 24 June the Commission decided to propose that the Council supply additional food aid for the repatriates from Angola in Portugal—via the World Food Programme (WFP)—involving 500 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder and 250 tonnes of butteroil to be delivered free at the port of unloading and the payment to the WFP of a lump sum contribution of 20 EUA/tonne for the internal land transport, handling and storage costs. The scheme will cost some 656 000 EUA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Member and then Vice-President of the ECSC High Authority from 1952 to 1963, Mr Spierenburg was later the Netherlands Permanent Representative to the European Communities (1963-70) and to NATO (1970-74) before being appointed Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for questions concerning European and Atlantic cooperation and chairman of the Advisory Committee on European Union (1974-75).

Points 2330 and 2331.

Points 1501 to 1508.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 146 of 4.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> OJ C 150 of 2.7.1976.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 160 of 22.6.1976.

OJ L 170 of 29.6.1976.

Table 1 — Skimmed milk powder: 1976 programme (first instalment)

Recipient countries and organizations	skimmed-milk powder allocated (tonnes)	Financing arrangements	
Countries			
Afghanistan	200	fob	
Bangladesh	4 000	cif	
Egypt	800	fob	
Ethiopia	500	free at destination	
Grenada	100	fob	
Guinea-Bissau	500	cif	
Haiti	1 000	cif	
Upper-Volta	700	free at destination	
Honduras	800	cif	
Cape Verde Islands	450	cif	
Mauritius	200	fob	
India	5 000	cif	
Jordan	600	fob	
Kenya	200	fob	
Mali	800	free at destination	
Malta	100	fob	
Mauritania	500	free at destination	
Niger	350	free at destination	
Pakistan	2 500	fob	
Peru	600	fob	
Philippines	500	fob	
Rwanda	200	free at destination	
Sao Tome and Prin-			
cipe	100	cif	
Senegal	350	free at destination	
Somalia	850	free at destination	
Sudan	170	fob	
Sri Lanka	850	fob	
[anzania	350	fob	
Uruguay	200	fob	
Yemen A.R.	200	fob	
O			
Organizations ICRC	2 000	from at double ation	
League RCS	1 000	free at destination free at destination	
WFP	20 000	fob + flat rate	
WIT	20 000	contribution 80 u.a./tonr	
INICEE	4,000	from at deathers!	
UNICEF	4 000	free at destination	
UNRWA	700	cif	
Reserve	3 630	ı.	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In the case of emergency measures set off against the reserve, the financing covers forwarding expenditure incurred between the fob stage and the destination, plus distribution costs where the aid is forwarded by an international organization. The financing may be wholly or partially in the form of a lump-sum payment

2318. On 30 June, because of the difficult food situation in Niger and the need for butteroil in the diet of the population of Mali, the Commission proposed that the Council supply food aid in the form of 1 000 tonnes of cereals to Niger and 100 tonnes of butteroil to Mali. The cost of these two schemes is estimated at 2 039 000 EUA.

2319. At its part-session from 14 to 18 June the European Parliament<sup>1</sup> adopted a Resolution on financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries and delivered its opinion on a proposal to renew the agreement between the Community and UNRWA.

# Commodities and world agreements

Sugar

2320. The Consultative Committee and Council of the International Sugar Organization met in London on 17 and 18 June respectively to decide on the convening of a conference to negotiate a new International Sugar Agreement with economic provisions.<sup>2</sup> The Community, represented by the Commission, took part in these meetings with observer status.

The governments of the nine Member States having agreed to the suggestions put forward by the Commission in a Communication presented to the Council on 9 June, the Community had adopted the following formal position: it wished to participate in a new International Agreement; it did not consider the draft negotiating document adequate in its present form and felt that deferment of the decision to convene the conference might make it possible for the Community to participate in the necessary further preparatory work.

Point 2415.

Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2319.

The Council decided to defer the convening of the conference until the spring of 1977 and established a programme of further preparatory work. The Community noted these arrangements, without making any commitment.

2321. An ad hoc consultation between the Community and the ACP countries concerned was held before the Council meeting, following the decision of 5 June to that effect taken in the course of the annual ACP sugar price negotiations.<sup>1</sup>

#### Coffee

2322. On 14 June the Commission presented a Communication to the Council concerning the International Coffee Agreement, 1976. It recommended that, while awaiting signature of the Agreement on behalf of the Community and continuing the procedures necessary for its conclusion, the EEC as an importing member should apply the Agreement on a provisional basis.

The negotiations for the conclusion of a new International Agreement—to replace the 1968 Agreement, extended in 1973 without its economic provisions, which expires on 30 September—were successfully concluded in December 1975.<sup>2</sup> The Agreement, which is open for signature from 31 January to 31 July, should enter into force on 1 October for a period of six years.

#### Tin

2323. During its meeting on 21 and 22 June, the Council stated its agreement to the principle of the Community's provisional application of the fifth International Tin Agreement<sup>3</sup> and it adopted a Decision concerning the presentation of a Community statement on this subject.

## International organizations

#### **Council of Europe**

2324. The first Conference of European Ministers for Cultural Affairs, organized by the Council of Europe, was held in Oslo from 15 to 17 June and attended by representatives of some twenty countries. It dealt with cultural cooperation and adopted the guidelines for a European cultural policy. The Conference also advocated the setting up of a European office for the dissemination of the arts.

# Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OECD Ministerial Council

2325. The OECD Council met in Paris on 21 and 22 June at ministerial level under the chairmanship of Mr Papaligouras, the Greek Minister of Coordination and Planning. The Commission was represented by President Ortoli and Sir Christopher Soames.

The Ministers looked at international economic relations, in particular with developing countries, international investment and multinationals and economic and monetary policies. They also renewed the Trade Pledge of 30 May 1974, the aim of which is to avoid restrictions on trade and other current transactions which might trigger off chain reactions and compromise the economic recovery. They also heard a report by the Chairman of the Governing Board of the IEA on the Agency's work during the year.

Point 2350.

Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2322.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2321 and 4-1976, point 2322.

Speaking on the subject of international economic relations, Mr Ortoli said that the North-South Dialogue was vital for the Community, which produced neither raw materials nor energy and which depended so heavily on the rest of the world for its supplies; quite apart from its responsibilities towards the Third World it wished for stable relations, for it saw interdependence as a fact and the development of the Third World as being in the interests of the industrialized countries. The first phase of the Dialogue had been essentially analytical and now a more constructive approach needed to be adopted and the work directed at a limited number of subjects on which agreement was possible. Mr Ortoli gave as examples energy, raw materials, world food security, industrial cooperation and the debt problem.

In the communiqué published at the end of the meeting, the Ministers 'reaffirmed that cooperation among industrialized countries within the OECD in pursuit of improved relations with the developing countries is essential to achieve a coherent approach to the evolving economic relations between the industrialized and developing countries and to lead to agreements on practical measures. They noted that the recently concluded meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, following the constructive outcome of the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 1975, had achieved progress on a number of issues which are being pursued. Ministers also noted that at the Conference on International Economic Cooperation the Dialogue has now been well launched and the ground prepared for the achievement of concrete results in the second half of the year. They underlined the value they attach to the successful outcome of the Conference.'

The Ministerial Council adopted a declaration setting out guidelines for multinationals, national treatment, international investment incentives and disincentives and consultation and review procedures relating to these matters. Three decisions were also adopted on the intergovernmental consultation procedures necessary in these fields.

Finally, the Ministers discussed economic and monetary problems. President Ortoli reiterated the Community's concern on certain points, namely employment, the sluggishness of the recovery of investment demand and in fact a drop in the rate of investment, and above all the rekindling of inflation. At the end of the discussions, the Ministers 'agreed on the main elements of a strategy for sustained economic expansion, to be carried out through their respective policies. The basic premise on which this strategy rests is that the steady economic growth needed to restore full employment and satisfy rising economic and social aspirations will not prove sustainable unless all member countries make further progress towards eradicating inflation.'

## International Atomic Energy Agency

2326. On 14 June the Council approved the text of the joint agreement on safeguards<sup>1</sup> negotiated by the Commission and the UK Government with the International Atomic Energy Agency which is aimed at implementing the spontaneous offer made by the United Kingdom in 1967 in connection with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. On 17 June the Board of Governors of the Agency also approved this agreement.

## General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

**GATT** Council

2327. During the GATT Council meeting on 14 June the Community spokesman informed the contracting parties of the agreements concluded with the three Maghreb countries (Algeria, Mor-

58 Bull. EC 6-1976

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ninth General Report, point 322.

occo and Tunisia), stressing their political, economic and commercial aspects and their objectives of establishing wide-ranging cooperation with a view to encouraging closer relations with the EEC.

The Community spokesman also provided information on progress towards agreements between the EEC and Cyprus, Spain and Malta. Regarding Malta, he specified the objectives of the protocol concluded last March which lavs down certain provisions relating to enlargement of the EEC. At the same meeting the question was raised of monetary measures applied by Italy and of the arrangements regarding minimum prices, licences and securities required for imports into the Community of processed fruit and vegetables. On this latter point, the United States called for the establishment of a panel under the provisions of Article XXIII(2) of the General Agreement with a view to investigating the arrangements in question and formulating appropriate recommendations. The Council decided to return to this question at its next meeting.

#### **United Nations**

#### **International Labour Organization**

2328. The first Tripartite World Conference on employment, distribution of income, social progress and the international division of labour was held in Geneva from 14 to 17 June under the auspices of the ILO. It was attended by 1 300 representatives of the governments, employees and employers of 121 countries.

The Commission, in cooperation with the Council, coordinated the positions of the Community Member States at the Conference. Mr Berg, Luxembourg Minister of Labour, in his capacity as President of the Council, and Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission, pointed to the contribution the Community can and already does make to solving the problems arising in connec-

tion with the developing countries' adjustment to industrial development.

Lastly, in a declaration annexed to the minutes, the Community expressed its agreement in principle with the conclusions of the Conference.

2329. The Commission also took part in the 61st meeting of the *International Labour Conference*. The items on the agenda included improving the implementation of the ILO standards, the working environment and the employment and living and working conditions of nursing staff.

#### International Fund for Agricultural Development

2330. A Conference of plenipotentiaries on the setting up of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) met in Rome from 10 to 13 June. This meeting did not produce the expected result, namely the signature of the agreement setting up the IFAD, but some progress was made particularly as regards the volume of contributions announced.

On that occasion the Member States announced or confirmed their intended contributions. The Community, represented at the Conference by the Commission, as an observer, was not able to declare itself prepared to make a contribution to the Fund.

#### **World Food Council**

2331. The second ministerial meeting of the World Food Council was held in Rome from 15 to 17 June. The discussions, in which the Community took part, related mainly to increasing food crop production in the developing countries, food aid and the international food security arrangements.

The World Food Council, which adopted its rules of procedure, gave the Community the right—as

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requested by the latter—to participate in its proceedings, although without a right to vote.

During the meeting the Community announced that it had decided to implement medium-term indicative planning of the volume of its food aid.

#### Conference on the Law of the Sea

2332. In a Communication presented to the Council on 8 June the Commission reviewed the last session of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea<sup>1</sup> and proposed a number of guidelines in anticipation of the next session to be held in New York from 2 August to 17 September.

The main points contained in these proposals are as follows:

Exclusive economic zone (EEZ) — This refers to the creation of a 200-mile zone where the coastal State would exercise sovereign rights over resources, notably fisheries. In the opinion of the Commission the creation of such a zone should be agreed to.

Continental shelf — The question here is whether the sovereign rights of coastal States over energy and mineral resources should, where necessary, extend beyond 200 miles and whether the coastal State ought to pay the international community part of the profits from operations beyond the 200-mile limit. The Commission feels that such an extension should be accepted.

International sea-bed — The Conference is endeavouring to determine the conditions for exploiting marine resources beyond the EEZ and the continental shelf with special reference to nickel, manganese, cobalt and copper nodules. One notion gaining currency at the Conference is the setting-up of an International Authority which would award operating contracts to operators and which would also be able to exploit these resources through an Enterprise. A proportion (still to be determined) of the operating profits would be shared with the developing countries. The Commission proposes that the principle of setting

up an International Authority and an Enterprise be accepted.

Prevention of pollution — The trickiest problem arises out of the insistence of certain countries on the adoption of anti-pollution measures which would threaten freedom of navigation in the EEZ. The Commission feels that any powers exercised by coastal States in this matter must be genuinely necessary in order to control pollution and must not interfere unduly with shipping.

Other matters — Other proposals concern matters of a more technical nature, notably marine scientific research (where the principal task is to determine the respective rights of the coastal States and of other countries in the EEZ and also the transfer of marine technology for the benefit of the developing countries) and the settlement of disputes.

#### Conference on human settlements

2333. The Commission was represented by Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements—Habitat 76, held in Vancouver, Canada from 31 May to 11 June.

Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, in a statement before the Conference, stressed the convergence between the objectives sought by that Conference and by the Community, namely the constant improvement of the quality of life of the people. After giving an account of Community policies in various fields (political, social, regional, environment and development aid), Mr Scarascia Mugnozza concluded that by contributing their experience and their resources the Communities had shown their determination to assume their share of the joint effort to reduce and eliminate the deficiencies in human settlements and to encourage social progress and establish better living conditions in the context of greater freedom.

Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2327.

## **EFTA** countries

#### Joint Committees

EEC-Austria

2334. The Joint Committee set up under the EEC-Austria Agreement held its seventh meeting in Brussels on 11 June with Mr Meisl, Sektionschef at the Austrian Ministry of Trade and Industry, in the chair. This was followed by the fourth meeting of the Joint Committee set up under the ECSC-Austria Agreement.

The two delegations considered the functioning of the Agreement and held a wide-ranging discussion on the general economic situation. They concluded that the present economic difficulties have in no way hampered the development of cooperation between the Community and Austria. The other matters dealt with were of a technical nature. At the ECSC meeting the two heads of delegation outlined the situation in the Community and Austrian iron and steel markets.

#### EEC-Iceland

2335. The seventh meeting of the Joint Committee set up under the EEC-Iceland Agreement was held in Brussels on 14 June under the chairmanship of Mr Tómas A. Tómasson, Head of the Icelandic Mission to the European Communities. The delegations held a wide-ranging discussion on international economic problems.

Concerning the functioning of the Agreement, the Community informed the Icelandic Delegation that, following the agreement on fishing rights signed between the United Kingdom and Iceland on 1 June and the agreements signed in 1975 with Belgium and Germany, the fishing problems between Iceland and the Member States had been satisfactorily solved at the present time. The conditions required for the application of Protocol No 6 to the EEC-Iceland Agree-

ment—which provides for tariff reductions on imports of certain fish products from Iceland—are thus fulfilled.

The Council of the European Communities adopted a Regulation on 18 June<sup>1</sup> implementing the Protocol as from 1 July. It has not been possible to implement this Protocol before now since the Member States and Iceland had not been able to find a satisfactory solution to the economic difficulties resulting from the measures taken by Iceland in respect of fishing rights.<sup>2</sup>

#### EEC-Finland

2336. The Joint Committee set up under the EEC-Finland Agreement held its sixth meeting in Brussels on 15 June with Mr Åke Wihtol, Head of the Finnish Mission to the European Communities, in the chair. This meeting was followed by the third meeting of the Joint Committee set up under the ECSC-Finland Agreement.

The two delegations examined the functioning of the Agreements and held a wide-ranging discussion on the general economic situation and on specific problems affecting trade. They observed that the Agreements were operating normally in spite of the present difficult international economic situation.

## Mediterranean countries

#### Greece

2337. The EEC-Greece Association Council met at ambassador level in Brussels on 18 June.

The main items on the agenda concerned the possibility of introducing special arrangements for

OJ No L 161 of 23.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Iceland unilaterally extended its fishing limits to 50 miles (1 September 1972) and then to 200 miles (15 October 1975).

peaches—account being taken of the fact that Greece is applying internal measures largely inspired by the Community rules—and the question of the Community protective measures in respect of imports of tomato concentrates from Greece. The positions of the two sides differed considerably and no agreement was reached at the meeting.

The Council also gave an account of other important aspects of EEC-Greece relations within the framework of the Association, in particular the prospects of an early presentation of the Community offer concerning the second financial protocol.

#### **Cyprus**

2338. On 29 June<sup>1</sup> the Council extended until 30 June 1977 the arrangements applicable to imports into the United Kingdom and Ireland (since 1973) of Cyprus Sherry.

#### Maghreb

Since all the necessary procedures had been completed, the Interim Agreements concluded with Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia<sup>2</sup> entered into force on 1 July.3 These Interim Agreements make it possible to apply in advance the trade section of the Cooperation Agreements4 which were signed with those countries in their respective capitals5 at the end of April and have yet to be ratified in the Community. The trade provisions of the Cooperation Agreements cover in particular the abolition of customs duties and quantitative restrictions on all industrial projects originating in the Maghreb countries and the grant of tariff concessions for the bulk of their agricultural exports. For Morocco and Tunisia these arrangements represent a considerable improvement over those established by the Association Agreement concluded in 1969. For Algeria, the Interim Agreement is of particular significance since for the first time it enables the Community to place its relations with that country on a contractual basis.

The Interim Agreements with the Maghreb countries represent an important stage in putting the overall Mediterranean policy into practice and constitute at the same time a starting point for wide-ranging cooperation. The Community and the Maghreb countries have agreed to begin straightaway—while applying the Interim Agreement—the preparatory work for the implementation of economic, financial and technical cooperation. The aim is that it should be possible to adopt practical measures immediately upon the entry into force of the Cooperation Agreements following the completion of the ratification procedures.

#### Spain

2340. The talks between representatives of the Spanish Government and of the Commission, which opened in February 1976, were concluded on 2 June. Their purpose had been to familiarize the Commission with the new Spanish Government's policies towards the Community and to examine the basis on which the negotiations, suspended in October 1975, could be resumed.

During these talks the Spanish Delegation confirmed the position of its authorities, which was to confine themselves, in present circumstances, to adapting the 1970 Agreement.

2341. Mr José Maria Socias Humbert, Deputy Secretary-General of the Spanish trade union organization, visited the Commission on 25 June and met Sir Christopher Soames and Dr Hillery. Mr

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 175 of 1.7.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OJ L 141 of 28.5.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OJ L 170 of 29.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bull. EC 1-1976, points 1301 to 1311.

Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2332.

Mediterranean countries Mediterranean countries

Socias informed the Commission of the objectives of the Spanish trade union reform.

#### **Portugal**

2342. The negotiations between the Community and Portugal which opened in February with a view to concluding an additional protocol to the 1972 Agreement and a financial protocol were completed on 9 June. They stemmed from a Portuguese request for closer links with the Community and for a broadening of the relations that have existed between Portugal and the Community since 1972.

The trade section of the additional protocol permits Portugal to slow down the dismantling of tariffs for some industrial products, steps up the preference margin enjoyed by Portugal and increases the tariff quotas for imports into the EEC of some Portuguese wines; on the Community's side the dismantling of tariffs for industrial products coming from Portugal will be brought forward. The cooperation section of the protocol also contains provisions by which the Community accords Portuguese workers employed in the Member States non-discrimination in the matter of working conditions and pay. In the field of social security, one advantage amongst others will be the aggregation of periods of insurance and employment completed by Portuguese workers.

The financial protocol, which will take over from the emergency aid granted to Portugal by the Community in October 1975, provides for Community participation in the financing of projects designed to contribute to economic and social development in Portugal. This cooperation will take the form of loans from the European Investment Bank's own resources up to 200 million u.a., of which 150 million u.a. will be combined with an interest rate subsidy of 3%, which is equal to an overall financing of 230 million u.a., on top of the 180 million u.a. which the Community accorded last October.

The two protocols are due to be signed by the respective ministers in Brussels in September. An Interim Agreement will be signed on the same date to enable the trade provisions of the additional protocol to enter into force this year prior to completion of the ratification procedures.

In anticipation, the Community will accord duty-free entry to industrial products from Portugal as from 1 July under the Regulation adopted by the Council on 16 June.<sup>2</sup>

#### Israel

2343. The EEC-Israel Joint Committee held its first meeting in Jerusalem from 3 to 7 June under the chairmanship of Mr E. Ben Horin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of the Israel Mission to the European Communities. The closing session was chaired by Mr Ygal Allon, the Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr Claude Cheyson, Member of the Commission.

The Joint Committee adopted its rules of procedure and approved certain amendments to Protocol No 3 to the Agreement, concerning rules of origin and methods of administrative cooperation in customs matters.

After noting the situation as regards trade between the Community and Israel, the size of Israel's trade deficit and its effects on the country's economy, the Joint Committee examined in detail certain questions arising from the implementation of the Agreement, in particular the tariff measures which the Israeli authorities proposed to take to help certain nascent industries.

The Joint Committee also embarked on a preliminary examination of problems connected with the implementation of cooperation measures, in particular in the industrial, commercial and scien-

Bull. EC 6-1976

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2333.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OJ L 157 of 18.6.1976.

tific fields, mainly on the basis of a set of proposals put forward by the Israeli Delegation. In this context it decided to set up a working party to collate and analyse information which would enable it at its next meeting to examine the possibilities of cooperation as provided in Article 18 of the Agreement and in an exchange of letters on scientific and technological cooperation.

#### **Egypt**

2344. Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, paid an official visit to Egypt from 6 to 10 June. He was received by Mr Sadat, President of the Republic, and had talks with the Prime Minister Mr Mandouh Salem, and with several members of the Government, in particular the Ministers of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Trade.

The talks concerned the various aspects of relations between the Community and Egypt—in particular the prospects for the conclusion of a cooperation agreement—and the more general question of the Community's 'Mediterranean approach', the Euro-Arab Dialogue and relations between industrialized and developing countries.

2345. At its part-session from 14 to 18 June, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on the situation in Lebanon and delivered its opinion on proposals from the Commission to the Council concerning imports into the Community of various agricultural products originating in Algeria, Morocco or Tunisia.

# African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

#### **ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé**

#### Requests for accession to the Convention

2346. The Seychelles—a former dependent territory of the United Kingdom which became independent in June—have formally requested accession to the Lomé Convention.

At its meeting on 1 June, the Council issued directives to the Commission for the opening of negotiations on the accession to the Convention of Sao Tome and Principe and Cape Verde.

#### **ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly: first meeting**

2347. The constituent session of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly¹ was held in Luxembourg from 1 to 3 June under the joint chairmanship of Mr Spénale, President of the European Parliament, and Mr Yacé, President of the Ivory Coast National Assembly. A dozen or so ministers from ACP countries took part in the work of the Assembly which was composed of equal numbers of Members of the European Parliament and of representatives appointed by the ACP States.

This constituent session offered the two parties the opportunity to discuss various specific points concerning the implementation of the Convention.

There was a long debate on 'Stabex' and in the Resolution adopted at the end of the meeting the hope was expressed that the number of products covered by the Stabex system would soon be increased. The Resolution also refers to the problems with exports of beef and veal and of sugar

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OJ C 154 of 7.7.1976.

and calls for satisfactory solutions to be found as soon as possible.

The need to make economic and social circles, particularly the trade unions, play an active role in implementing the Convention, was also discussed. Mr Cheysson, Member of the Commission, stressed this need and was backed by many Members of the European Parliament. In its Resolution, the Assembly instructed its Joint Committee to submit to it 'proposals for consulting organizations representative of the economic and social sectors'.

The delegates also discussed the possibility of the accession to the Convention of new countries, which had, moreover, sent observers to the session. A delegation from Surinam was present; the Comoros and Sao Tome and Principe were represented at ministerial level and Cape Verde had also sent representatives.

The Joint Committee of the Assembly will meet in Lomé (Togo) on 29 November 1976 and the next plenary session will be held in March or April.

#### Official visit of the President of Niger

2348. From 23 to 26 June, Lieutenant-Colonel S. Kountché, President of Niger, paid an official visit to Belgium and to the Commission.

He met Mr Ortoli, President of the Commission, Mr Cheysson and Mr Simonet, Members of the Commission, with whom he discussed both the implementation of the Lomé Convention (to which Niger is a party) and problems of international cooperation in the light of the results of UNCTAD IV and of the North-South Dialogue.

Concerning the Lomé Convention, the discussions dealt in particular with the manner in which the Stabex system is to be put into effect—a point of particular interest to Niger because of the considerable drop in its export earnings on groundnuts and on raw hides, skins and

leather in 1975. The implementation of development projects to be financed under the fourth EDF were the subject of a working meeting. Finally, since Niger is an important uranium producer, the prospects and conditions for marketing this product, particularly in the European Community, were also discussed.

#### Trade arrangements

2349. June saw the successful conclusion of the negotiations on the guaranteed price for sugar originating in the ACP States and the adoption by the Council on 21 June<sup>1</sup> of Regulations concerning imports of beef and veal and of rum from the ACP.

#### Sugar

2350. The negotiations that had started on 29 April<sup>2</sup> on the guaranteed price for sugar imports from the ACP States and India were successfully concluded, after an interruption, on 5 June. The final compromise—which was contained in agreements, in the form of exchanges of letters, formally concluded by the Council on 29 June<sup>3</sup>—is in three main parts:

- (i) The guaranteed price is fixed at 26.70 EUA per 100 kg of raw sugar and 34.14 EUA per 100 kg of white sugar. However, this price includes a market premium of 0.48 EUA per 100 kg of white sugar which is to be repaid by the exporting country in question if the price obtained for the sale by the intervention agency is below the guaranteed price;
- (ii) The guaranteed price, although fixed for the delivery period from 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977, is applicable as from 1 April 1976;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OJ L 165 of 25.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2340.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OJ L 176 of 1.7.1976.

(iii) The guaranteed price is negotiated annually in accordance with Protocol No 3 to the Lomé Convention.

#### Beef and veal

2351. As in December 1975, the special arrangements for imports of beef and veal originating in certain ACP States (Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar and Swaziland) have again been extended for a period of six months. Thus, import certificates are delivered, within certain quantity limits, and imports can still be effected on special conditions with the Community granting, besides duty-free entry, a 90% reduction in import charges provided that an export tax of an amount corresponding to the reduction is imposed in the originating ACP State.

#### Rum

2352. A Council Regulation has fixed at 162013 hl of pure alcohol the quantity of rum, arrack and tafia that can be imported duty-free from the ACP States between 1 July 1976 and 30 June 1977. This quantity is distributed among the Member States.

#### Trade promotion

2353. As part of its trade promotion effort for products from the ACP States, the Commission organized a seminar on marketing techniques in Yaoussoukro, Ivory Coast, designed for the top staff on the export promotion boards; 40 high-ranking officials from 36 ACP States took part in the seminar.

#### **European Development Fund**

New financing decision

2354. On 8 June<sup>2</sup> the Commission took a new financing decision under the fourth EDF. It concerns the main part (22 054 000 EUA) of the project for the modernization of the Niamey-Zinder highway in *Niger*.

## Association of Overseas Countries and Territories

2355. On 29 June,<sup>3</sup> the Council adopted a Decision concerning the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Economic Community.

According to this Decision, the Overseas Countries and Territories will have direct access to the Community market on the same terms as those granted to the ACP States which signed the Convention of Lomé, i.e., as a general rule, with total exemption from duties.

Moreover, aid amounting to 60 million EUA will be given to these Countries and Territories in the context of financial and technical cooperation and the stabilization of export earnings.

This association, which is based on Part Four of the Treaty of Rome will henceforth cover not only the French and Dutch Countries and Territories already associated with the Community, but also the United Kingdom Overseas Countries and Territories referred to in the Accession Treaty.

2356. The Council adopted at the same time<sup>3</sup> a Regulation fixing the guaranteed prices applicable in 1976/77 to cane sugar originating in the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT).

OJ L 165 of 25.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OJ C 143 of 24.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OJ L 176 of 1.7.1976.

2357. On 21 June<sup>1</sup> the Council fixed at 80 724 hl of pure alcohol the quota of rum, arrack and tafia that can be imported duty-free from the OCT during the period from 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977.

#### Yaoundé Convention

#### **European Development Fund**

New financing decision

2358. A Decision concerning the financing of a project for the development of market gardening in *Upper Volta* under the third EDF (346 000 EUA as a grant) was taken by the Commission on 8 June.<sup>2</sup>

## Other countries

#### Industrialized countries

#### **United States**

2359. On 11 June the President of the United States announced that American imports of special steels would be subject to quotas for three years from 14 June. The quotas fixed are given below, together with the ITC's proposals<sup>3</sup> and average actual imports since 1970:

For Japan, the quota level was fixed following an Orderly Market Arrangement (OMA). The EEC did not follow the United States' invitation to do the same as it did not consider that the situation justified any measure to limit, or impose quotas on, imports.

2360. The Communities noted the explanations given by the United States on the difficulties experienced by their special steels industry. They reaffirmed the position they had already expressed in the OECD and in notes to the Department of State to the effect that the American difficulties were mainly attributable to a falling off in internal demand, rooted in the world-wide recession. This recession was now giving way to a general economic recovery, already evident in the United States. Community steel exports have not caused or threatened material injury to the US industry.

Consequently the Communities deeply regret the fact that the President of the United States thought it necessary to impose quotas on Community exports. The Communities reserve the right to take counter-measures under Article XIX of GATT. They will follow closely the development of trade in this sector and will keep the implementation of the US restrictions under constant review, in order to determine how far the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2335, 3-1976, point 2354 and 4-1976, point 2342.

	Quotas proposed by the International Trade Commission for 1976-77	Quotas imposed by decision of 14 June		Average imports		
		1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1975	1970-74
Total	146 000	147 000	151 500	155 900	153 700	152 000
Community	34 000	32 000	33 000	33 900	28 700	29 000
Japan	63 500	66 400	68 400	70 000	78 000	66 000
Sweden	23 500	24 000	24 700	25 500	22 800	

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OJ L 165 of 25.6.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OJ C 143 of 24.6.1976.

Community's trade suffers or is likely to suffer harmful effects.

2361. At the prompting of the United States Mission to the Communities, senior officials of the United States Administration—including a member of the Council of Economic Advisers, Professor Malkiel—had a meeting on 8 June with their counterparts from the Commission departments, the aim being to establish closer relations. They discussed the short-term outlook (1976-77) in the United States and the Community, medium-term problems concerning the entire current economic cycle and national and international monetary and financial questions.

#### Canada

2362. After the successful outcome of the negotiations for the conclusion of a framework economic and trade cooperation agreement between Canada and the European Communities, on 14 June the Commission presented to the Council a Communication on the signature and conclusion of the agreement.<sup>1</sup>

2363. Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza—who visited Canada from 31 May to 5 June—met the Deputy Minister of the Environment, Mr Blair Seaborn, and the Deputy Minister of Consumer Affairs, Mrs Sylvia Ostry, in Ottawa. The talks related to the protection of the *environment* and EEC-Canada cooperation in that field,<sup>2</sup> as well as matters concerning *consumer protection*.

2364. On 29 June the Council adopted a decision giving interim directives to the Commission for the negotiation of one or more exchanges of letters supplementing or interpreting the current provisions on safeguards in the Euratom-Canada Agreement of 6 October 1959; the Canadian authorities have decided to impose more stringent requirements as regards the guarantees to be applied to their exports in the nuclear field. In due course, after the experts have completed

their work, the Council will examine the question of a general revision of the Euratom-Canada Agreement.

#### Japan

2365. On 10 and 11 June the Community and Japan held their eighth high-level consultation meeting in Tokyo. The exchanges of views related primarily to the world economic situation and to that of the two partners in particular; the Japanese Delegation confirmed that Japan's economy was recovering.

The Community delegation reiterated its anxiety about the continuing tendency for the Community's deficit in trade with Japan to widen. This deficit, which amounted to \$2 000 million in 1974, rose to \$3 200 million in 1975. The two parties agreed that the solution to this problem should consist in expanding Community exports to Japan. For this purpose the Community and Japanese authorities would examine those sectors where Community exports are still hampered by non-tariff barriers imposed by Japan.

As regards the environment, it was agreed to arrange for annual exchanges of information.

Many other questions of interest to both the Community and Japan in international affairs were raised at the meeting, including the question of the multilateral negotiations in GATT and the prospects for the North-South Dialogue after UNCTAD IV in Nairobi.

2366. As part of the contacts established between the ECSC High Authority in 1965, the 22nd ECSC-Japan consultation on the situation in the steel industry was held in Tokyo on 18 and 19 June.

Points 1201 to 1206; the agreement was signed in Ottawa on 6 July.

Point 2229.

Other countries Other countries

The two parties agreed that signs of recovery were appearing in that sector; in Japan, they were now at a more advanced stage than in the Community.

Until the end of the year, Japan intends to ensure that its supply does not create disturbances on the Community market. As from next year it is hoped that supply and demand will once again be in balance. The two delegations expressed the opinion that cooperation between Japan and the Community should be intensified in order to guard against crises in the iron and steel sector in coming years.

#### New Zealand

2367. In accordance with the intention expressed in May, the Council, at its meeting on 21 June, endorsed the Commission proposal to extend the exceptional arrangements for imports nto the United Kingdom of New Zealand butter.

Under these exceptional arrangements the UK is authorized to import 125 000 tonnes in 1978, 120 000 tonnes in 1979 and 115 000 tonnes in 1980. Should imports exceed 25 % of direct butter consumption in the United Kingdom, it may be decided to sell the amounts in excess, on conditions to be determined, for uses other than direct consumption.

In formally adopting the decision on 29 June,<sup>2</sup> the Council considered that this did not preclude the application at a later date of Article 5(2) of Protocol 18 to the Act of Accession on imports of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom. In this connection it noted the Commission's intention to report on the situation on the Community and the world butter market before 31 December 1978.

#### Australia

2368. An Australian Delegation headed by Mr A.P. Renouf, Secretary of the Department of For-

eign Affairs, visited the Commission on 10 and 11 June to initiate the first of a series of *informal*, *high-level consultations* between Australian and Commission officials. These discussions, which are intended to take place annually, covered a wide range of subjects including economic developments in the Community and Australia, current international discussions on commodities, trade and development, relations with third countries and economic and commercial questions of mutual interest.

This first meeting showed Australia's awareness of the usefulness of initiating a dialogue with the Community as such.

## Developing countries in Asia and Latin America

#### Pakistan

2369. On 25 June, in Brussels, the European Economic Community and Pakistan notified each other of the completion of the necessary procedures for the entry into force of the *trade cooperation agreement* signed on 1 June.<sup>3</sup> This agreement can therefore enter into force on 1 July.

#### India

2370. At its meeting on 21 and 22 June, the Council approved the outcome of the negotiations between the Commission, on behalf of the Community, and the ACP States and India on guaranteed sugar prices for 1976/77.4

Bull. EC 6-1976

Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2346.

OJ L 185 of 9.7.1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2347.

<sup>4</sup> Point 2350.

## Meeting between the Community and Latin-America

2371. The first session of the seventh meeting at ambassadorial level between the Community and Latin America took place on 25 June.<sup>1</sup>

The main item on the agenda was a wide-ranging discussion of relations between industrialized and developing countries in the light of the results of the last UNCTAD and prior to the further proceedings of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation. The question of the implementation of the Community development cooperation policy, in particular in so far as it will benefit Latin America, was also raised again.

Similarly, the question of Latin-America exports of beef and veal and bananas to the Community was discussed again.

#### Visit by a delegation from the Central-American Common Market to the Commission

2372. From 14 to 18 June, the Commission received a delegation consisting of the Secretary-General of the Secretariat (SIECA) of the Central-American Common Market and of the Directors of the other Institutes forming the Central-American integration system.

The visit, which had been planned since Sir Christopher Soames was in Latin America in 1975,<sup>2</sup> forms part of the Community's technical assistance programme to regional integration among developing countries.

As planned, the visit served to continue the discussions, which, at different levels, have been going on for the last two years between senior officials from the above integration organizations and from the national administrations of CACM Member States and officials of the Commission.

On this last occasion, the discussions dealt with problems of integration in general in the light of the experience gained in the Central-American Common Market and in the EEC. They also made it possible to explore the possibilities of the EEC continuing its technical assistance to regional integration in Central America.

#### Uruguay

EEC-Uruguay Joint Committee

2373. The Joint Committee established by the trade agreement between the European Economic Community and Uruguay, signed on 2 April 1973,<sup>3</sup> which entered into force on 1 August 1974, held its first ordinary meeting in Brussels on 9 June.

It examined the implementation of the Agreement and the development of trade between the Community and Uruguay in the context of the economic situation and development prospects of both parties. The two delegations held a wideranging exchange of views on arrangements for imports of beef and veal into the EEC. The Uruguay Delegation also discussed the present difficulty of access to the Community market for certain agricultural products.

The Joint Committee went on to examine the use Uruguay had made of the generalized system of preferences. Lastly, there was an exchange of views on the results achieved in operating the trade promotion programme. The Uruguay Delegation stressed its interest in the further development of this programme.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2348.

Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2342.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 4-1973, point 2314.

Diplomatic relations

# 4. Institutions and organs of the Communities

#### Diplomatic relations

2374. On 1 June the President of the Council and the President of the Commission received Their Excellencies Mr Gabriel Oyaletor Ijewere (Nigeria) and Mr Huan Hsiang (People's Republic of China), who presented their letters of credence as heads of their countries' missions to the European Economic Community.

They succeed, Mr Eduard Olusola Sanu (Nigeria) and Mr Li Lien-pi, (China), who have been recalled to take up other appointments.

#### European Parliament

# Part-session in Strasbourg from 14 to 18 June

2401. Although it was defeated, the motion of censure on the Commission, tabled by the European Conservative Group, dominated the June part-session. Direct election of the European Parliament and the results of the UNCTAD Conference in Nairobi were the topics of two statements by the President of the Council, Mr Thorn. Parliament dealt with other topical political matters in a Resolution on the situation in the Lebanon and during Question Time, when Parliament's wish for the Community to be represented at the Puerto Rico economic conference was impressed upon the President of the Council.

Considerable time was devoted to preparations for the Tripartite Conference scheduled for 24 June. Other matters on the agenda were a question on the situation of women in the Community, competition, industrial and energy policy, protection of the environment, the agricultural market, the budget and Community action to aid Friuli.<sup>1</sup>

## Censure motion defeated (16 June)

2402. Parliament rejected by 109 votes to 18, with 4 abstentions, a censure motion tabled by

<sup>1</sup> 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 159 of 12.7.1976 and the report of proceedings is contained in OJ Annex No 204.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OJ C 130 of 12.6.1976.

the European Conservative Group, the first ever to be put to the vote in the European Parliament. Socialists, Christian Democrats, Liberals and European Progressive Democrats unanimously stated that as an attempt to change the direction of the common agricultural policy, and above all to eliminate a number of undesirable side-effects such as surplus production, the Conservative motion was the wrong move at the wrong time directed at the wrong target.

This was given by Sir Peter Kirk (UK), the spokesman for the Conservatives, as the main reason for bringing into the line the heaviest weapon in Parliament's arsenal. The Conservative Group had been stirred into action by the problem of the recently issued Community regulations aimed at reducing the 'skimmed-milk powder mountain'. The motion accused the Commission of failing to consult Parliament adequately, of involving producers and consumers in heavy costs with its proposals and, in general, of having 'failed lamentably' in its attempts to regulate the milk market.

Speaking in defence of the Commission, President *Ortoli* described the Conservative arguments as unconvincing. He said that Parliament had had sufficient opportunity to state its views, that costs were being kept within limits, since the measures were of limited duration, and that the Commission, which had repeatedly made proposals for restructuring the common agricultural policy, was the last body which could be accused of inactivity.

Mr Ortoli's view that if the blame was to be laid at anybody's door, then it should be at the Council's and not the Commission's, was backed by the spokesmen for all the Groups. Almost all speakers criticized the Conservatives for complaining about the cost of the agricultural policy, after they themselves had voted for the last farm price increase in February.

However, a motion for a Resolution tabled by the Socialists under urgent procedure after the vote, blaming the Council for the misguided policy in the milk products sector, failed to find support among the other Groups, which, though continuing to express confidence in the Commission, were unwilling to go straight into a debate about the Council's responsibility. The Socialist motion was referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Generally speaking, the Common Agricultural Policy came in for qualified criticism during the debate even from those who voted against the censure motion. Mr Fellermaier (S/D) called on the Commission to step up its efforts, during its last months in office, to put the agricultural policy on a more suitable course and to be more tenacious in getting its proposals accepted by the Council. Mr de Koning (C-D/NL), on the other hand, paid tribute to Mr Lardinois, the Member of the Commission responsible for agriculture, though he, too, was obliged to admit that there was a great deal of fault to be found with the common agricultural market. Mr Liogier (EPD/F) referred to the farm price compromise at the beginning of the year, describing it as a positive aspect in the common agricultural market.

Mr Cipolla (COM/I) criticized Mr Lardinois for failing to continue the positive trends initiated by his predecessor, Mr Mansholt. Mr Baas (L/NL) stressed the social policy aspects of the common agricultural policy. Both he and Mr Liogier stressed that the negative effects of importing American soya beans in connection with the amassing of the skimmed-milk mountain must be borne in mind when considering the problem of surpluses.

After Mr Ortoli had presented the Commission's standpoint at the beginning of the debate, Mr Lardinois dealt in detail towards the end with the remarks of individual members.

## Parliament presses for direct election (18 June)

2403. Parliament demanded that the European Council, meeting in Brussels on 12 and 13 July,

European Parliament European Parliament

honour the commitments made in 1974 by the Heads of State or Government. The rapporteur, Mr Patijn (S/NL), said that a decision on direct elections had to be taken, otherwise these elections could not be held in 1978. A minimum of two years was needed to prepare for them.

Parliament confirmed the flexibility it had previously shown on the still unsettled question of how many seats each Member State should have. Although it continued to take the view that its proposal of 355 seats gave the best balance, it took care to point out that it would endorse any figure between 350 and 400. Only such a figure, however, could ensure balanced representation of the peoples of the Community and their minorities.

The outgoing President of the Council, Mr Thorn—of whom the President of the Commission, Mr Ortoli, said that it would be to his credit if agreement were reached on this matter in July—welcomed the Resolution and urged Parliament to maintain a united front and not to let up in its demand for direct elections. Encouraging the House, he pointed to the considerable growth in its importance and functions since its founding. Mr Thorn did not attempt to conceal his disappointment over the way negotiations on direct elections had gone so far and said that anyone who contributed to their failure would bear an incalculable responsibility. The Resolution was passed with only one vote against.

# Precedence of Community law (15 June)

2404. It was Parliament's view that the ruling by the Second Senate of the German Federal Constitutional Court on 29 May 1974 that national courts should have the right to examine the compatibility of Community Regulations with basic constitutional rights is an infringement of the European Treaties. Parliament held that only the Court of Justice of the European Communities was entitled to judge the legality of ac-

tion taken by Community bodies. The precedence of Community law over national law was a prerequisite for uniform application of Community law and thus a guarantee of the equality of all citizens.

As regards the question of basic rights, the Resolution stressed that the constitutions of all the Member States were based on the same philosophical, political and legal principles. It was clear from the judgments of the Court of Justice that these basic rights were an integral component of general legal principles, which the Court safeguarded by observing not only the common constitutional traditions of the Member States, but also the international instruments by which human rights were protected, in particular the European Human Rights Convention.

Mr Aigner (C-D/D) was not entirely satisfied with that, proposing that Parliament and the Commission jointly define basic rights at European level as a guarantee against possible negative developments.

Mr Ortoli recalled that the Commission had conveyed to the German Government its deep concern about this infringement of the Treaties, pointing out that the Community's legal system must not be undermined. He said that it had not so far seemed necessary to institute procedures to clarify the infringement question. He was convinced that the stand taken by Parliament and the Commission's measures would have the desired effect.

## **Tripartite Conference** (17 June)

2405. On the basis of a report from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and another from the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education, Parliament made its preparations for the Tripartite Conference of governments, Commission and the two sides of industry convened for 24 June in Luxembourg.

The conclusions of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs were presented by Mr Artzinger (C-D/D), who said in his introductory remarks that although the predominant problem of unemployment was primarily of a social nature, it was inextricably bound up with economic problems. He said that firms' manufacturing capacity would have to be more fully utilized before new people were employed, that jobs had to be found for an increased number of people and that there was an investment gap affecting a million jobs.

Mr Artzinger appealed to all democratic forces to offer their unlimited collaboration, for, he said—fully endorsing the Commission's view—success could be achieved only on the basis of a comprehensive Community strategy for economic growth and full employment.

Mr Glinne (S/B) presented the view of the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education that unemployment and inflation were not natural phenomena and that active measures should be taken to deal with them, particularly when they were caused by structural shortcomings. Purely short-term measures, he warned, could not solve the problems of the underprivileged regions; for this a sound forward-looking policy for Europe would be necessary. To find a way out of the present crisis and to avoid further crises, the Committee put forward a list of specific measures, among which Mr Glinne stressed the need for improved coordination of the activities of the European funds (Social and Regional Funds and the EAGGF) and special short- and medium-term measures for particularly hard-hit social groups such as migrant workers, women, the disabled, the self-employed, elderly workers and workers without any proper training.

In the course of the debate, the spokesman for the Socialist Group, Mr Espersen (DK), fully supported the viewpoint of the Committee on Social Affairs that purely economic measures, such as an expansionary economic policy, were not the answer to these problems. He accused the Commission of failing to include any constructive social policy measures in its working paper preparing for the Tripartite Conference. It was not a matter of increasing the size of the cake to be shared out, instruments would have to be created which would prevent such crises ever arising.

Mr Härzschel (C-D/D), on the other hand, insisted that social policy must be closely coordinated with economic and financial policy and warned against making new demands without considering how they were to be paid for. In the coming years economic growth had priority, he said.

#### Social policy

Equal opportunity and status for women (17 June)

2406. Answering a question by members of the Social Group Lady Fisher of Rednal (UK), Mr Albers (NL), Mrs Dunwoody (UK), Mr Albertsen (DK) and Mr Dondelinger (L), Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission, reviewed measures so far taken, or planned for the near future, to improve the position of women in the Community. He agreed with the questioners that though International Woman's Year had created a more favourable atmosphere, this did not mean that nothing needed doing at Community level.

In moving the question, Lady Fisher of Rednal stressed the consequences of the economic crisis for the 35 million working women in the Community. She called on the Commission to remove all the discriminatory stipulations still existing in Community legislation.

Dr Hillery referred to the principle, set out in Article 119 of the EEC Treaty, that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work, and the recent judgment of the Court of Justice that any women could plead this right in court. He also cited the Community Directive of December last year<sup>1</sup> which lays down that Member

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2215.

States must ensure that by 1978 women have equal job opportunities. The Commission's next steps in this connection would be connected with social security, vocational training and job advisory services and the provision of information. He remarked that the Commission had recently decided to set up a special office for women's questions.

#### Competition

Warning against protectionist tendencies (17 June)

2407. Member States should grant State aid only in so far as this did not affect the competitiveness of the individual national economies, which had the task of providing jobs and a suitable standard of living. This view was put forward by Mr *Thomson*, Member of the Commission, who also referred to the Commission's extensive annual report on competition policy.

Mr Thomson was replying to a question put by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, which warned of the dangers of returning to a protectionist economic policy and called on the Commission to intensify its efforts to achieve a more effective competition policy.

#### **Industrial policy**

Mastering industrial problems jointly (17 June)

2408. In reply to a question from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Mr Simonet, Commission Vice-President, said that European initiatives aimed at solving problems connected with industrial policy were seldom backed up by the Member States. He expressed regret that even Member States which had themselves taken national measures to reorganize their industries, often lacked the readiness to do so at European level.

The question had been concerned with the progress made by the Commission in bringing closer together Member States' positions on industrial policy. Particular mention was made of difficulties in the paper industry, printing, shipbuilding, the iron and steel industry and the data processing industry.

#### **Budgets**

The 1977 budget estimates for the European Parliament (15 and 18 June)

2409. Parliament discussed estimates for its own 1977 budget for inclusion in the preliminary draft general budget of the Community.

These were computed as 55 274 994 u.a. in revenue and expenditure. The estimates comprise expenditure for Parliament's members and staff (38 396 080 u.a. as compared with 36 932 620 u.a. in the previous year), for buildings, equipment and materials (11 029 335 u.a. as compared with 9 787 535 u.a.), for specific tasks such as, for example, organizing the activities of interparliamentary bodies (2 287 079 u.a. as compared with 1 944 553 u.a.), for grants and other allocations (671 000 u.a. as compared with 650 001 u.a.) and for funds not earmarked for a specific purpose (2 891 500 u.a. as compared with 2 806 500 u.a.).

The rapporteur of the Committee on Budgets, Miss Flesch (L/L), said that the estimates were in line with efforts to achieve stability. Any increases were the result of the heavier workload of various departments and of rising costs.

Improving parliamentary budget control (15 June)

2410. Starting from the statement that responsibilities for the approval and control of revenue and expenditure are complementary and inseparably interlinked and that the kind of control so

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far exercised in the Community is 'notoriously inadequate', Parliament proposed improvements aimed at more efficient budget control. It advocated that powers of control be delegated to the apropriate subcommittee (subcommittee of control) of the Committee on Budgets pointing out at the same time that legal and procedural questions still have to be sorted out with the Council and the Commission. Parliament took the view that it should have access to information and powers of investigation as follows:

- (i) all documents concerning Community spending by Community bodies and national administrations should be made available to it:
- (ii) it should be able to question responsible persons or experts of the Community bodies of the Member States concerned with Community spending;
- (iii) it should be able to carry out on-the-spot inspections in Community and national bodies involved in activities related to Community spending.

Parliament demands immediate implementation of the 1976 budget (16 June)

2411. Parliament passed two Resolutions in which it called for immediate use of the funds allocated for the non-associated developing countries in the 1976 budget. It said that a legally adopted budget must be implemented, even though new actions were initiated. The danger that Parliament's budgetary powers might be circumvented—as in the abovementioned case—was also brought up in two oral questions to the Council by Mr Aigner (C-D/D) and Mr Artzinger (C-D/D).

Mr Thorn, President of the Council, suggested that Parliament try, in cooperation with the Council, to track down and clear up possible difficulties in implementing the budget. A political conflict between the two budgetary authorities would help nobody.

60 million u.a. for Friuli (18 June)

2412. Parliament voted aid measures totalling 60 million u.a. for the earthquake-stricken area of Friuli by adopting the first supplementary budget for 1976.

In a joint question supported by all the Groups, Mr Fellermaier (S/D), Mr Bertrand (C-D/B), Mr Bangemann (L/D), Mr de la Malène (EPD/F), Lord Bessborough (C/UK) and Mr Fabbrini (COM/I) had asked the Commission on 15 June whether the emergency aid for Friuli announced by Mr Ortoli in a statement to the House on 12 May had arrived and what additional measures were being considered. Lord Bessborough, a Vice-President of Parliament, had been sent by Parliament's Bureau to visit the stricken area on 16 and 17 May to obtain first-hand information about the needs of the local population.

Mr Ortoli assured Parliament that the Community had come promptly to the aid of the disaster area. On 17 May, an initial sum of 500 000 u.a. had been paid into the special account for Friuli and had been available on the spot on the same day. Further measures, which had resulted in the supplementary budget now before Parliament, had been drawn up after his visit to Friuli.

#### **External relations**

Results of Nairobi (16 June)

2413. Council President Thorn described the work done by UNCTAD IV in Nairobi as constructive. Despite press reports to the contrary, the part played in it by the Community had been a major one. The Community had confirmed its readiness to negotiate raw material agreements and, where appropriate, a fund to finance stocks of raw materials. A timetable for these negotia-

tions had also been drawn up. The compromise finally achieved left the door open for futher solutions. Mr Thorn made no secret of the fact that only six Member States had been prepared to make solid commitments, while the others had expressed reservations.

Mr Cheysson, Member of the Commission, confirmed Mr Thorn's analysis and was likewise critical of unduly pessimistic accounts of the outcome of the Conference, which, he said, might be attributed to exaggerated expectations.

In the debate that followed, Mr Blumenfeld (C-D/D) emphasized that in the forthcoming negotiations the negotiators should not lose sight of the danger of a fatal spiral of inflation, unemployment and recession being triggered by the Third World's demand for a fund to finance stocks held by raw material producers.

Mr Lagorce (F), on the other hand, speaking for the Socialist Group, described the Conference as disappointing and called on the industrial nations to make the efforts needed to make possible a balanced development of the rich and poor countries.

The Community's external relations (16 June)

2414. Council President Thorn and Commission Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames were subjected to strong criticism in a debate touched off by a question from the Liberal and Allies Group, which had asked how the Community's extensive economic relations with the rest of the world fitted into the broad design of external policy.

Mr Thorn described the Community's external policy record as largely positive. He referred to the statements made at the summit conferences in Paris in 1972 and in Copenhagen in 1973 defining the Community's position in the world. The procedure jointly elaborated by the Council and Parliament guaranteed that the Community's

actions were democratically controlled. Sir Christopher Soames outlined the principles of the Community's external policy, pointing out that the
Community's dependence on world trade was the
decisive factor in this field. External policy options were conditioned, on the one hand, by
Community interests and the basic political and
social values of the Member States and the international environment in which we live and, on
the other, by the situation existing at any given
time.

This led Mr Schmidt (S/D) to describe the policies of the individual Member States as an undignified scramble for more favourable conditions in their relations with their trading partners. The result was a lack of uniformity in Community trading policy. Mr Schmidt described Mr Thorn's remarks as over-optimistic and noted that neither those remarks nor the statement made by Sir Christopher Soames provided a comprehensive conception. Similar, though more qualified, criticism was voiced by Mr Lücker (C-D/D), who described Mr Thorn's statement as 'idyllic'. He said that what had been done up to now was far from doing justice to the hopes placed in Europe by the peoples outside the Community and the challenges they had issued it.

Help for Palestinian refugees (18 June)

2415. Parliament approved the renewal of the food aid agreement between the EEC and UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency).

Lack of agreement among the Nine on the Lebanese question criticized (15 June)

2416. The Community has once again proved incapable of taking practical steps to achieve a ceasefire and peace in a crisis area. This criticism

was levelled by Parliament at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the nine Member States, the Council and the Commission with respect to Community policy on the Lebanese question. It urged them to coordinate their positions and actions forthwith in order to help restore a peaceful dialogue between the warring factions by means of appropriate joint measures.

#### **Energy**

Community coal policy (17 June)

2417. Parliament regards the Community's energy supplies as no more secure now than immediately after the energy crisis. Blame was laid on the Council of Energy Ministers, which, through lack of determination, had failed to put together a concrete political programme going beyond the few declarations of principle made by the Heads of Government. Despite official statements, the will to make the Community less dependent on imports, i.e. to give priority to promotion of Community-owned and reliable sources of energy, appeared to be fading into the background. Parliament reaffirmed its conviction that Community coal would continue to be a mainstay of the Community's energy supply plans, particularly since nuclear energy was unlikely to fulfil all the expectations placed in it by 1985.

#### Agriculture

Potato market regulation: first discussion (18 June)

2418. After an initial discussion, the proposed regulation on the common organization of the market in potatoes was referred back to the Committee on Agriculture for further examination. The potato sector is one of the last farm sectors where no market organization yet exists.

Agricultural alcohol (18 June)

2419. Mr Lardinois, Commission Member, does not regard an emergency regulation for the agricultural alcohol sector as urgent, since work on a market regulation for this product is already well advanced. This was the reply he gave to an oral question put by Mr Früh, Mr Artzinger, Mr Memmel, Mr Klepsch and Mr Mursch (all C-D/D).

The questioners claimed that the absence of a Community regulation was to blame for the fact that the alcohol industry in the Federal Republic of Germany was practically being put out of business by extensive imports of alcohol from other Community countries, while these were deriving advantages from it.

New hop market regulation approved (18 June)

2420. The Regulation organizing the market in hops, which has existed since 1971, is to be amended to deal with difficulties on the Community and world markets. The aim is to stabilize production, provide fair returns and balance supply and demand. Specifically, the aim is to improve quality, simplify the list of varieties and strengthen the producers' association. Parliament approved the Commission proposal with the provision that a number of amendments be made.

## Question Time (16 June)

2421. A total of 27 questions were submitted. They were addressed to the Conference of Foreign Ministers, the Council and the Commission and were concerned with the infringement of UN sanctions against Rhodesia, relations between the

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Community and China, representation of the Member States at Council meetings, budget funds for financial cooperation with non-Community States, the lack of jobs for school-leavers and university graduates, agreements by oil companies in Marseilles, introduction of a uniform identity card, freedom of movement, the European Investment Bank, the Regional Fund, the EAGGF, the common agricultural policy, costs related to plenary sessions, the meat sector, economic and social forecasts, old age pensions, pollution of the sea by crude oil, public procurement and peach surpluses.

#### European moves to promote adult education

Referring to a proposal by the European Bureau for Adult Education, Mr Früh (C-D/D) in a question to the Commission, advocated that courses for young workers and farmers be promoted by the Community in residential adult education establishments. Mr Guido Brunner, Commission Member, was generally speaking in favour of the suggestion, pointing out that it was being examined, particularly as regards its financial aspects.

#### Economic summit without Community participation

There was a sharp exchange over the question of Community representation at the Puerto Rico Summit Conference at the end of June to which US President Ford had invited a number of Western industrialized nations. It was triggered by two questions put by Mr Albertsen (S/DK) and Mr Berkhouwer (L/NL). President Ford's invitation had included Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Japan but not the smaller Member States or the Community as such. Several Members supported the questioners in their demand that the Community be represented. Council President Thorn could only state that the Council had not yet dealt with this question. He said he could no more than urge his eight colleagues to place the matter on their agenda.

#### Council

In June the Council held two meetings on agriculture and foreign affairs.

398th meeting — Agriculture (Luxembourg, 21 and 22 June)

2422. President: Mr Hamilius, Luxembourg Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Lardinois, Member.

Friuli: As an act of Community solidarity, the Council adopted a set of measures to contribute to the reconstruction of the Friuli region after the earthquake in May. These measures include two Regulations on the contribution to be made by the Community towards repairing damage to the region's infrastructures and agriculture, together with a Decision assimilating the stricken towns and villages to the areas covered by the Community Directive on mountain and hill-farming.

New Zealand butter: The Council agreed to extend the validity of the exceptional arrangements for imports of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom.<sup>1</sup>

Cereals: Supplementing the decisions on cereals taken at its meeting from 2 to 6 March, the Council adopted the Regulation fixing the threshold prices for cereals for the 1976/77 marketing year.<sup>2</sup>

Beaf and veal: The Council reviewed the situation in this sector, having particular regard to the drought prevailing in certain regions of the Community.<sup>3</sup>

Advance fixing of export refunds: The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation

Point 2367.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Point 2236.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Point 2242.

(EEC) 557/76 on the exchange rates to be applied in agriculture.<sup>1</sup>

Protein products: The Council adopted the Regulation introducing a temporary system of aid for private stocks of certain protein products.<sup>2</sup>

Skimmed-milk powder: The Council amended the Regulation laying down general rules for granting aid for skimmed milk and skimmed-milk powder for use as feedingstuffs, in order to provide for the payment of certain aid by the exporting countries.<sup>3</sup>

Sugar: The Council adopted a series of measures relating to sugar.<sup>4</sup>

The other items discussed by the Council were hops,<sup>5</sup> processed fruit and vegetables and eggs.

## 399th meeting — Foreign affairs (Luxembourg, 29 and 30 June)

2423. President: Mr Thorn, Luxembourg Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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

Elimination of technical barriers: The Council approved eighteen Directives on the elimination of technical barriers to trade in industrial products.<sup>6</sup>

Election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage: In anticipation of the forthcoming discussion of this subject by the European Council, there was a final exchange of views in the Council on the number and allocation of seats in the Parliament to be elected in 1978.<sup>7</sup>

Canada: The Council adopted the decision on the signing of a framework agreement for commercial and economic cooperation between Canada and the Community.8

Law of the Sea: The Council discussed preparations for the third United Nations Conference on

the Law of the Sea and on the problems involved in establishing 200-mile maritime economic zones.<sup>9</sup>

Conference on international economic cooperation: The Council held an exchange of views in preparation for the meeting of Senior Officials in Paris from 8 to 10 July. 10

*OCT*: The Council adopted the Decision on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the EEC.<sup>11</sup>

Relations with Greece and Turkey: The Council continued its discussions on the financial commitments to be entered into in respect of the various eastern Mediterranean countries and reached conclusions regarding the amounts to be allocated to the various countries or groups of countries concerned.

Cyprus Sherry: The Council agreed to extend for one year the arrangements now applicable to Cyprus Sherry.<sup>12</sup>

#### Commission

#### Mr Spinelli resigns

2424. Following his election to the Italian Parliament on 20 and 21 June, Mr Altiero Spinelli has resigned his post as a Member of the Commission. After he had been declared officially elected, Mr Spinelli addressed his letters of resignation to the nine governments, which had appointed

Point 2235.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Point 2238.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Point 2241.

Point 2237.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Point 2240.

<sup>6</sup> Point 2118.

Point 2502.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Points 1201 to 1206.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Point 2332.

<sup>7</sup> FULL 2332

Point 2310.
 Point 2355.

<sup>12</sup> Point 2338.

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him, and to the President of the Commission. The resignation took effect from 5 July, when the new Italian Parliament was convened and when it became incompatible for Mr Spinelli to hold a seat in the national Parliament and to continue as a Member of the Commission.

#### Activities

2425. The Commission held five meetings in June. Attention focused on the motion of censure tabled in the European Parliament,<sup>1</sup> the Tripartite Conference<sup>2</sup> and the effects of the drought affecting a large part of the Community and the harm done to European agriculture in particular.<sup>3</sup>

Friuli: Continuing its work of organizing the Community effort to aid the Friuli region, the Commission adopted a set of proposals and Decisions.<sup>4</sup> It was decided to put an initial proposal before the Council for a Community contribution towards repairing the damage to agriculture caused by the Friuli earthquake. The proposal is to be dealt with by expedited procedure. The Community contribution under this head will amount to 45 million u.a.

A second proposal is for Community aid to repair damage to infrastructures (roads, bridges, electric power networks, etc.). The sum involved is 15 million u.a.

A special supplementary budget of 60 million u.a. of new appropriations was adopted by the Commission and presented to the Council together with the other two proposals.<sup>5</sup>

A third proposal is for the stricken area to be brought within the scope of the Directive on hill-farming, thus qualifying it for a Community contribution to the cost of modernizing and adapting farming structures.

In exercising its own powers under the ECSC Treaty, the Commission took a Decision approving a special housing aid programme for steelworkers hit by the earthquake. An appropriation

of 6 million u.a. has been taken out of ECSC funds for the purpose. It will enable long-term (20 to 25 years) loans to be granted at a token interest of 1%.

Another Decision, also taken under the ECSC Treaty, approves a special ECSC assistance programme to rebuild steelworks damaged by the earthquake. It will enable low-interest loans to be granted to the companies concerned.

Puerto Rico: The Commission noted that the Member States were unable to reach agreement on whether the Community as such should take part in the Puerto Rico Conference. The Commission regretted that it had not been possible to ensure that the Community attended, when issues involving the Community's interests would be brought up. The Commission stressed that the Member States should endeavour to see that the results of the Conference were in line with the Community's interests and that no decision could be taken in areas of Community competence.<sup>6</sup>

Economic policy recommendations for 1977: The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council on the policy to be followed in the Community in preparing the national budgets for 1977.

The Communication analyses the present trends of the economic situation: a strong recovery is under way but inflation is running too high, while the employment outlook is improving only slowly, and the situations of the individual countries vary excessively. For 1977, the Commission recommends a cautions policy to ease the strains on prices and costs and to introduce an all-embracing incomes policy, the objective being to reduce unemployment rapidly while maintaining

Points 2402 and 2501.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Points 1101 to 1105.

<sup>3</sup> Point 2242.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bull. EC 5-1976, points 1501 to 1507.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Point 2478.

<sup>6</sup> Point 2201.

stability. The Commission also recommends detailed guidelines for each of the Member States.<sup>1</sup>

ERDF: The Commission adopted the first report on the European Regional Development Fund. Covering 1975, the report relates how, although the Fund did not begin operating until part way through the year, all the appropriations available for 1975 (300 000 000 u.a.) were actually committed. It discusses the volume of appropriations earmarked for the Fund and also specifies a number of major objectives the Commission has set itself for the further activities of the Fund.<sup>2</sup>

Generalized preferences: The Commission adopted its proposals to the Council for the 1977 generalized preferences scheme for the developing countries. It proposes further improvements to the Community's scheme, particularly by substantially increasing the volume of trade (by about 50%) in industrial products qualifying for these facilities.<sup>3</sup>

Law of the Sea: The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council in preparation for the next session of the Conference on the Law of the Sea to be held in New York from August onwards. The Commission intends that the Community as such should be party to the agreements under negotiation concerning all issues within its field of competence (fisheries, for example) and that the Nine should adopt a united position on the other questions.<sup>4</sup>

New Zealand butter: The Commission adopted a new proposal to the Council defining the arrangements for New Zealand butter for 1978, 1979 and 1980. Bearing in mind the points made on the subject by the Ministers of Agriculture at a number of meetings, the Commission amended its original proposals of July 1975 to limit sales of New Zealand butter for direct consumption to 25 % of the United Kingdom's total direct consumption. As regards the arrangements to apply after 1980, the proposal indicates that the Council will take a decision by 31 December 1978 on the basis of a report from the Commission.<sup>5</sup>

Milk products: The Commission tentatively discussed action which must be taken to deal with structural surpluses in the milk sector.<sup>6</sup>

Transport: The Commission adopted a report and proposals to the Council concerning Community action on transport infrastructure. First, it proposes to strengthen the current consultation and concertation procedures for all Member States' major transport projects. Then the Commission suggests that the Community might provide financial assistance for major projects of European interest when these cannot be implemented at national level or satisfy a Community rather than a national priority.<sup>7</sup>

Abuse of dominant position: The Commission adopted a Decision against the firm Hoffmann-La Roche for abuse of a dominant position. This Swiss company, with branches in most Community countries, is a leading world pharmaceutical manufacturer. The Commission investigated the Company's activities on the vitamin market and ordered it to remove certain terms from its sales contracts which are incompatible with the competition rules (Article 86 of the EEC Treaty). The Decision also imposes a fine of 300 00 u.a. against the company.8

Thermonuclear fusion: The Commission sent the Council a new report on the JET project. This paper confirms the scientific and technical value of the project and the possibilities for siting it at Ispra.<sup>9</sup>

Point 2203.

Point 1301.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Points 1501 to 1507.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Point 2332.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Points 2233 and 2367.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Supplement 10/76 — Bull. EC.

Points 1401 to 1403.

<sup>8</sup> Point 2124.

<sup>9</sup> Point 2259.

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#### Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2426. In June, the Commission arranged meetings with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) to prepare various positions and action programmes: trade union cooperation within the Lomé Convention, direct taxes, company law relating to groups, multinationals and regional policy.

The European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) was consulted on the Commission's proposal concerning shipbuilding and the green paper on employee participation was also discussed at a meeting between Mr Gundelach and the Federation.

#### Court of Justice

New cases

Case 46/76 — Mr W.J.G. Bauhuis, Aalten, v Nederlandse Staat (Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserii)

2427. In a case relating to the payment of charges in respect of animal health inspections. the Arrondissementsrechtbank of The Hague requested the Court of Justice on 2 June to give a preliminary ruling on whether such charges, which are levied on exports of cattle to another Member State, were charges having an effect equivalent to customs duties within the meaning of Article 16 of the EEC Treaty, in view of the fact that inspections were carried out pursuant to Directive 64/4321 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine or in order to ascertain whether animals satisfied the specific requirements laid down by the importing Member State.

Case 47/76 — (1) Mr A. De Norre, Geeraardsbergen, and (2) Mrs M. De Clercq (De Norre) v Brouwerij Concordia NV, Geeraardsbergen

2428. In an action relating to a contract for the exclusive supply of brewery products, the Hof van Beroep of Ghent, requested the Court of Justice on 4 June to give a number of preliminary rulings on Community provisions relating to competition applicable to such contracts between undertakings in a single Member State; on whether a national court was under an obligation to stay proceedings where the existence of an exemption under Article 85(3) of the EEC Treaty was possible; on the status to be attributed to a new agreement, the treatment of which was not determined directly by the national court; and finally, on whether the Belgian Royal Decree2 of 25 September 1964 moderating the onerous terms imposed by brewery contracts was compatible with Community law.

Case 48/76 — Commission official v (1) the Commission and (2) the Council

A former Commission official brought an *2429*. action before the Court of Justice on 8 June for the annulment of the last subparagraph of Article 3(3) of Regulation 2530/72<sup>3</sup> introducing special and temporary measures applicable to the recruitment of officials of the European Communities in consequence of the accession of new Member States, and for the termination of service of officials of those Communities, where that article lays down the terms under which allowances in respect of voluntary termination of service are converted into foreign currencies.

Case 49/76 — Gesellschaft für Überseehandel mbH, Hamburg, v Handelskammer Hamburg

2430. The Verwaltungsgericht Hamburg requested the Court of Justice on 8 June to give a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 5 of Regulation 802/684 on the common definition of the concept of the origin of goods, parti-

OJ 121 of 29.7.1964.

Moniteur belge of 21.10.1964, p. 11127.

OJ L 272 of 5.12.1972. OJ L 148 of 28.6.1968.

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cularly in relation to crude casein acquired in a non-member country but ground in a Member State to render it fit for use.

Case 50/76 — Amsterdam Bulb B.V., Amsterdam, v Produktschap voor Siergewassen

2431. The College van Beroep voor het Bedrijfsleven requested the Court of Justice on 17 June to give a preliminary ruling on whether the fact that the Netherlands authorities had fixed minimum prices in respect of flowering bulbs for export was compatible with Community agricultural rules.

Case 51/76 — Verbond van Nederlandse Ondernemingen, The Hague, v Inspecteur der Invoerrechten

2432. In a case relating to the levying of turnover taxes on purchases of goods by way of capital investment, the Hoge Raad der Nederlanden requested the Court of Justice on 18 June to give a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of the words 'capital goods' in Article 17 of the Second Council Directive on the harmonization of legislation of Member States concerning turnover taxes, where that article governs the transition from systems of turnover taxes to the common system of value added tax.

Case 52/76 — Rag. L. Benedetti v Ditta Munari F.Ili, Sas

2433. The Pretura di Cittadella requested the Court of Justice on 25 June to give a number of preliminary rulings on, *inter alia*, whether an agricultural intervention agency could, under Article 40 of the EEC Treaty and the rules on competition, buy wheat on terms other than those laid down in Community agricultural regulations and subsequently resell it at prices lower than those laid down in those regulations.

Case 53/76 — M. le Procureur de la République, Besançon, v Mr C. Bouhelier, Villers-le-Lac, et al.

2434. In the context of criminal proceedings relating to the forgery of customs documents accompanying exported watches, the Tribunal de grande instance de Besançon requested the Court of Justice on 28 June to give a preliminary ruling on whether the words 'quantitative restrictions on exports and any measures having equivalent effect' in Article 34 of the EEC Treaty should be interpreted as applying also to regulations in a Member State requiring a licence or similar certificate in place thereof in respect of exports of certain goods, where that certificate did not give rise to the levying of a charge and where it could be refused if the quality did not meet certain conditions laid down by the authority issuing the certificate in place of the licence.

Cases 54 to 60/76 — Compagnie industrielle et agricole du comté de Lohéac, Saint-Rose (Guadeloupe), v (1) the Council and (2) the Commission

2435. Seven sugar producers established in Guadeloupe and Martinique brought actions for damages before the Court of Justice on 29 June in respect of the loss which they claim to have suffered as a result of the fact that Community regulations relating to sugar (basic regulation and those laying down prices for each sugar marketing year) did not take account of the time-lag between the harvest and sales periods in the French departments referred to above and the harvest and sales periods in the European territory of the Community.

Case 61/76 and 61/76 R — Commission official v the Commission

2436. A Commission official brought an action before the Court of Justice on 30 June to annul the Commission decision of 10 December 1975 officially transferring him from Petten to Ispra. This action was accompanied by a request for in-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OJ 71 of 14.4.1967.

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terim measures to stay the applicant's transfer until the Court had decided the case on its merits.

#### **Judgments**

Joined cases 56 to 60/74 — Firma K. Kampffmeyer Mühlenvereinigung KG, Hamburg, et al, v (1) the Council and (2) the Commission

2437. Five German milling concerns engaged in processing durum wheat had brought actions befor the Court of Justice on the basis of the second paragraph of Article 215 of the EEC Treaty for damages in respect of losses which they claim to have suffered as a result of the prices and aids in respect of durum wheat fixed for the 1974/75 marketing year.

The Court dismissed this action in its judgment of 2 June.

Case 74/74 — Comptoir national technique agricole (CNTA) SA, Paris v the Commission

2438. An action had been brought before the Court of Justice on 1 October 1974 for damages in respect of losses suffered by the applicant as a result of the adoption by the Commission of Regulation 189/72<sup>1</sup> abolishing the compensatory amounts applicable in the oils and fats sector following temporary widening of the margins of fluctuation of the currencies of certain Member States without adopting transitional measures in respect of current operations.

In an interlocutory judgment given on 14 May 1975, the Court held that the Commission should pay damages in respect of the loss suffered by the applicant in carrying out export operations as a result of the abolition of the compensatory amounts. Since the parties had not agreed on the amount of compensation, further proceedings had been commenced before the Court to enable it to determine the amount of compensation to be paid.<sup>2</sup>

The Court dismissed this action in its judgment of 15 June.

Joined cases 51, 86 and 96/75 — EMI Records Limited v CBS United Kingdom Limited et al.

2439. The High Court of Justice, London, the Sø- og Handelsret, Copenhagen, and the Landgericht Köln had requested the Court of Justice in June, July and September 1975, to give a preliminary ruling on whether exercising certain trade mark rights was compatible with the rules laid down in the EEC Treaty on the free movement of goods and on competition.

In its judgment of 15 June, the Court held that those rules did not prohibit the proprietor of a single trade mark which was the same in all the Member States of the Community from exercising his rights under that trade mark as recognized under the national law of each Member State in order to prevent the sale in the Community by third parties of products bearing an identical trade mark of which the third parties were proprietors in a non-member country, in so far as the use of such rights did not appear to have the effect of a restrictive agreement or concerted practice for the purpose, or having the effect, of isolating or partitioning the common market. Provided that this condition was fulfilled, it was one of the acceptable consequences of the protection afforded the proprietor of a trade mark by the laws of each Member State against imports of products from non-member countries bearing an identical or similar trade mark that such third parties should be required to obliterate the trade mark on the products concerned, and if necessary fix a different trade mark.

Case 56/75 — Commission official v the Commission

2440. A Commission official had brought an action requesting the Court of Justice to annul the

OJ No L 24 of 28.1.1972.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2443.

decision of the Commission whereby it refused to pay the applicant's remuneration to a Luxembourg bank.

The Court dismissed this action in its judgment of 24 June.

Case 97/75 — Commission official v the Commission

2441. A former Commission official had brought an action against the Commission on 5 September 1975 for the annulment of the decision of the Commission whereby the allowance for voluntary termination of service was calculated taking account of the income received by the applicant in his new position.

The Court annulled the decision of the Commission in its judgment of 24 June.

Case 113/75 — Mr G. Fracassetti, Calusco d'Adda, v Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato

2442. The Tribunale di Genova had requested the Court of Justice on 25 November 1975 to give a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of the expression 'date of import' for fixing the levy applicable to cereals.

In its judgment of 15 June, the Court held that the 'date of import' was the day during which the declaration of the goods was accepted by the customs authorities. the Commission Recommendation¹ of 25 May 1962 relating to the date to be taken into consideration in fixing the rate of customs duties applicable to goods declared for consumption could not therefore be applied to levies.

Case 119/75 — Terrapin (Overseas) Ltd, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, v Terranova Industrie C.A. Kapferer & Co., Freihung/Opf.

2443. The Bundesgerichtshof had requested the Court of Justice to give a preliminary ruling on

whether it was compatible with the principle of the free movement of goods (Articles 30 and 36 of the EEC Treaty) for an undertaking established in Member State A to prevent, by virtue of a trade mark owned in that country, the importation of similar products manufactured by another undertaking established in Member State B where those products were covered in country B, quite legally, by a trade mark capable of being confused with that owned by the undertaking in country A.

The Court held in its judgment of 22 June that it was compatible with the principle of the free movement of goods to prevent such imports, provided there was no agreement between the undertaking concerned restricting competition nor any relationship of dependence, either legal or economic, and that their respective rights had been created independently of one another.

Case 120/75 — Firma W.J. Riemer, Hamburg, v Hauptzollamt Lübeck-West

2444. The Finanzgericht Hamburg had requested the Court of Justice to give a preliminary ruling on whether tariffs could be charged on cranberries as though they were fresh cranberries within the meaning of Heading No 08.08 B of the Common Customs Tariff if they had been frozen for a short period while being transported.

The Court replied in the negative in its judgment of 15 June.

Case 121/75 — Firma Alra-Schallplatten-Zentrale, Herzogenrath, v Firma Alpha-Schallplatten-Trading GmbH & Co. KG, Erding

2445. The Court of Justice had been requested by the Oberlandesgericht Köln to give a preliminary ruling on whether it was an infringement of the principle of the free movement of goods<sup>2</sup> and

OJ 51 of 29.6.1962.

Article 36 of the EEC Treaty.

the rules of competition<sup>1</sup> for a manufacturer of records to exercise his exclusive copyright, which he enjoyed under national law,<sup>2</sup> to prevent the sale in the territory for which the right had been granted of similar products manufactured in another Member State where they were not subject to restrictions on their sale.

Since the parties have reached an out-of-court settlement on the main issue, the case was removed from the Court register by Order of 2 June.

Case 125/75 — Firma Milch-, Fett- und Eierkontor GmbH, Hamburg, v Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Jonas

2446. The Finanzgericht Hamburg, in an action relating to the export of butter, bound in fact for Czechoslovakia, but sent first to Morocco, where it was unloaded, and then to Poland, merely in order to obtain a higher refund, had requested the Court of Justice to give a preliminary ruling on whether merely transporting the goods via a country was sufficient to give rise to the right to the corresponding refund, even though the product was sold in another country.

The Court held in its judgment of 2 June that export refunds provided for in respect of specific importing countries were granted only in so far as the goods exported had actually reached the market of the importing country concerned. They were not granted where the goods were merely transported via a particular country.

Case 127/75 — Bobie Getränkevertrieb GmbH, Gelsenkirchen, v Hauptzollamt Aachen-Nord

2447. The Finanzgericht Düsseldorf had requested the Court of Justice to give a preliminary ruling on whether the method of taxing beer imported into Germany during 1968 and 1969 was compatible with Article 95 of the EEC Treaty, taking account of the system of taxing German beer (on a scale according to the quality of beer produced).

The Court held in its judgment of 22 June that this method was incompatible with the relevant articles if the national product was charged at a lower rate, even if only in certain cases. However, where a Member State had elected to apply a progressive tax to nationally produced beer which was calculated according to the quantity produced by each brewery in the course of a year, the Court held that there was no infringement of Article 95(1) where beer produced abroad was subject to a rate of taxation which was equivalent or less and which was also applied to quantities of beer produced by each brewery in the course of a year.

Case 1/76 — Commission official v the Commission

2448. A Commission official had requested the Court of Justice to annul the decision of the Commission whereby she was refused payment of expatriation allowance.

The Court, in its judgment of 15 June, dismissed this action as inadmissible.

#### **Economic and Social Committee**

#### 140th plenary session

2449. The Economic and Social Committee held its 140th plenary session in Brussels on 30 June and 1 July, with Mr Henri Canonge, the Committee Chairman, in the chair. A signal feature of the session was the presence of Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, who spoke to the Committee. Eleven Opinions were adopted.

Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Articles 75, 78 and 85 of the German Law on copyright.

#### **Opinions**

Admission of securities to the stock exchange

2450. In general terms the Committee's Opinion welcomes the proposal for a Directive coordinating the conditions governing admission of securities to official stock exchange quotation, since it is closely bound up with the harmonization of the provisions concerning the prospectus for admission to the stock exchange. The Committee also considered that it was another way for the Member States to advance gradually towards a European capital market.

#### Indemnity insurance

2451. In its Opinion on the proposal for a second Directive coordinating the provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action concerning direct insurance other than life insurance and determining provisions to facilitate effective exercise of the freedom to offer services, the Committee notes that the proposed Directive constitutes an initial effort towards coordination. The Committee emphasized, however, that the Commission should promptly do all it could to secure coordination in other vital areas. The proposed Directive was to be only temporary and a deadline should be set for obtaining the coordination essential to achieving full freedom to supply services.

#### Common organization of the potato market

2452. The Committee approved the proposal for a Regulation on the common organization of the market in potatoes. It acknowledged that by helping to stabilize the potato market and to achieve a more balanced relationship between production, distribution and industry, the proposal offered a number of advantages for producers and consumers alike. It was pointed out, however, that there

was not necessarily a very close connection between the degree of flexibility in a market organization and cyclical price fluctuations. The Committee opted, in principle, for a fairly flexible common organization of the market.

#### Elimination of technical barriers

2453. The Committee delivered Opinions on a set of proposals for Directives concerning the use of fuel oils with the aim of reducing sulphurous emissions, permissible sound levels and the exhaust systems of motorcycles and the marketing of ammonium nitrate fertilizers with a high nitrogen content.

#### Protection of livestock

2454. The Committee approved the proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the European Convention for the protection of animals on stock farms. The Committee made a number of observations on the form and substance of the Convention. It considered, in particular, that the Convention must ensure adequate consultation with non-governmental bodies involved and that it should not hamper the efforts to improve existing national and Community standards.

#### Sulphur health standards

2455. In its Opinion on the proposal for a Resolution on establishing criteria for sulphur dioxide and suspended particles in the urban atmosphere and on the proposed Directive concerning health protection standards for sulphur dioxide and suspended particles in the urban atmosphere, the Committee recognized the value of the Commission's proposals and hoped that the health standards laid down in the Directives would be introduced in the Member States as quickly as possible.

#### **ECSC Consultative Committee**

#### 177th meeting

2456. The ECSC Consultative Committee held its 177th meeting (ordinary) in Luxembourg on 10 June, with Mr Alberto Capanna, the Committee Chairman, in the chair. Mr Simonet, Vice-President and Mr Thomson, Member of the Commission, were also present.

#### Activities under the ECSC Treaty

- 2457. In his introductory statement on ECSC activities, Mr Simonet stressed the need to learn from the most serious cyclical crisis to hit the steel industry since the common market was established. This crisis had brought out two essential problems:
- (i) each cyclical crisis reveals more clearly the structural weaknesses in the industrial and social fabric of the Community steel sector;
- (ii) if the Community really wants to face up to international competition in its strongest formation, it cannot afford to be split into compartments. This could trigger off a clash between the 'strong' and the 'weak' and would thus erase the reality of the common market as such.

Developing his ideas Mr Simonet recalled the basic provisions of the ECSC Treaty and instruments available to the Commission to facilitate company financing, foster technical and medical research, and also the resources which could be called upon to assist social projects, particularly retraining if the number of jobs had to be reduced.

But the cumbersome procedures required to mobilize the direct resources of the Treaty had something to do with the formation of the international economic grouping by the German steel companies together with ESTEL (combining Hoesch and Hoogovens) and ARBED (which con-

trols Roechling). This grouping was apparently to be placed over the existing national associations although in theory it would not affect the existence of the steelmakers' club.

Article 48 of the Treaty of Paris explicitly sanctions the right to form such associations as long as membership is voluntary and their activities are not contrary to the provisions of the Treaty. In particular, therefore, they could not be used as a basis for agreements or concerted practices between undertakings as prohibited by Article 65.

The new association groups companies which between them control nearly half the steel production of the common market. According to the promoters, it was formed because an organization was needed which was better able to defend the interests of its members and solve their current problems. They felt that after the recent crisis, from which the steel industry was emerging much weakened, the structure of the industry needed to be strengthened so that it could adapt more easily to the ups-and-downs of the economic cycle.

This held true for the whole of the Community steel industry which had suffered heavily and was concerned about whether it could pull through a further difficult situation.

The Commission had to keep an eye on the methods chosen to solve the problems if there was a danger of clashes occurring between major regional groupings contrary to the very principle of the unity of the common market, or of situations arising where one group was so powerful that normal conditions of competition could not be maintained.

The Commission was not yet in possession of all the authorization requests required by the Treaty provisions and particularly by Article 65. Regardless of the formal and legal aspects of this matter, the Commission, as guardian of the Treaty, intended very shortly to examine all the proposals in the light of the basic aims of the Treaty—i.e. maintaining normal conditions of competition, and above all attaining the social objectives.

For the Commission, this meant finding an alternative answer for the European steel industry which was now taking a hard look at its future and its place in world steel.

This required answers to the following questions:

- (a) how to coordinate investments;
- (b) how to present, when a crisis arises, a mechanism for adjusting production which is sufficiently binding to be respected;
- (c) how to introduce, if required and with the necessary flexibility, a system of monitored prices;
- (d) what criteria to apply in tackling the problem of merger authorizations;
- (e) how to fit the European steel industry into the international scene;
- (f) lastly and especially, how to work out a way in which we could mobilize Community financial resources to cushion the impact of a crisis on the workers.

The members of the Committee listened to Mr Simonet's statement with great interest. They were pleased that the question of groupings was considered in general terms and that the crisis had made the authorities aware of the inadequacy of the present structures in the steel industry.

In his comments, Mr Ferry (France, steel producers' group) welcomed Mr Simonet's clear and wide-ranging statements which would have to be debated more fully later. Speaking of the economic interest grouping involving Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, Mr Ferry did not question the good faith or good intentions of those who had formed it, but feared that this move could have dangerous consequences for other Community producers and for the Community itself. Mr Ferry said he was glad the Commission had shown it was determined to reject anything which might lead to a partitioning of the Community. Mr Ferry hoped that the Commission's own proposals would win general acceptance from all Community producers so that their practical effects would be felt over a very

wide area. It was pointed out on behalf of the workers that the new steel grouping raised many problems and that the workers were expecting answers and reassurance from the Commission on the social aspects.

Employment problems in the steel industry

2458. The Committee went on to tackle the employment problems and their social consequences. Mr *Thomson* recalled that this issue was being discussed as a result of the initiative taken by the workers' group of the Committee in sending the Commission a memorandum on the serious threat of unemployment in the steel industry.

Mr Thomson said that the Community's biggest efforts to combat unemployment were centred on the Tripartite Conference to be held in Luxembourg on 24 June. What was said and agreed at the Conference would shape the overall strategy in the battle against unemployment. Mr Thomson said in substance that when this recession had passed, we would certainly not automatically alight on a privileged period of full employment; the Community would be faced with problems of structural and technological unemployment of different proportions from those we had experienced before.

Mr Thomson then reviewed the document presented by the workers' group and announced that the Commission intended to follow the suggestions voiced by the workers concerning studies, employment policy, the possibilities offered by Articles 56 and 95 of the ECSC Treaty and assistance from the Social Fund and the Regional Development Fund.

The Committee thanked Mr Thomson for his constructive attitude towards the concern of the workers' representatives. Finally, the draft Resolution—with an amendment requesting the Commission to provide similar measures for the coal industries—was passed by 38 votes against 0 with 10 abstentions.

In this Resolution the Consultative Committee proposes that the Commission should:

- 1. undertake the necessary studies with a view to forecasting the extent of unemployment and to taking steps for the redevelopment of those iron and steel regions which are structurally affected;
- 2. pursue an unemployment policy in the affected regions in cooperation with the government authorities and both sides of industry, and having recourse where appropriate to those institutions specializing in the study and location of new industries which could be economically established in the regions affected;
- 3. consider the optimal utilization of the possibilities offered by Articles 56 and 95 of the ECSC Treaty in order to counter social and economic difficulties:
- 4. release part of the funds allocated to the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund to solve the problems which exist;
- 5. as appropriate take similar action in regard to the Community's coal industries.<sup>1</sup>

#### International railway tariffs

The Commission representative reminded the Committee that the draft of the new agreement on establishing through international railway tariffs for the carriage of coal and steel had been drawn up by the Commission in response to a request from the Member States made in January 1974 through the Transport Questions Subcommittee. Most of the speakers commenting on this item contended that whatever the legal and formal arguments any step backwards from the present position would be particularly deplorable as instances of European integration were few and far between. On points of detail it was noted that in the new tariff proposals three items were particularly open to criticism, namely the increase in the terminal charge, its application to distances covered in transit and the railway companies' right to refuse to apply through international tariffs on certain routes.

The draft report by Mr de la Vallée Poussin on this question was unanimously adopted. By 40 votes against 0 and one abstention, the Committee also adopted the slightly amended draft Resolution presented by the coal and steel producers' groups.<sup>1</sup>

#### Medium-term guidelines for coal

2460. The Committee discussed at length the medium-term guidelines for coal on the basis of the draft report by Mr Reintges (coal producers' group). The discussion dwelt primarily on the need for the coal industry to command adequate investment resources and to be sure that it could dispose of production at acceptable prices. Mr Picard (coal users' group) felt that this would require a certain organization of the market, involving either arbitrary restrictions on imports or aid for other coal similar to that granted for coking coal. The Reintges report was adopted on the understanding that the comments made at the meeting would be annexed to the report.

#### Forward programme for steel

2461. The Committee felt that the forward steel programme for the third quarter of 1976 was optimistic, especially in regard to the motor industry and products of first-stage processing. The Committee expressed its concern about the situation of the steel market at international level.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OJ C 151 of 3.7.1976.

#### Research

2462. The Committee finally approved a number of steel research projects and the third medical research programme.

#### European Investment Bank

#### Annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the European Investment Bank

2463. The Board of Governors of the European Investment Bank, composed of the Finance Ministers of the nine Member States of the European Economic Community, met in Luxembourg on 23 June under the chairmanship of Mr Denis Healey, Governor for the United Kingdom.

It approved the Bank's annual report for 1975 and renewed the Management Committee.

#### Annual report for 1975

2464. The Board approved the Bank's annual report for 1975 comprising the balance sheet and the profit and loss account, presented on behalf of the Board of Directors by Mr Yves *Le Portz*, the Bank's President. It shows that for the first time the EIB's lending activities in a single year rose above 1 000 million European units of account.

During the year, 77 loan contracts were signed for a total of 1 006.5 million EUA, contributing to investments amounting to 4 400 million EUA.

This continued high level of lending, which compares with 996.4 million EUA in 1974, was maintained, says the report, 'despite the scale of the worldwide economic recession'.

The year saw the amount of ordinary loans and guarantees outstanding rise by almost 23 % from 3 759.6 million EUA to 4 616.6 million EUA.

#### Lending

Three-quarters of loans in member countries went to less-favoured regions

2465. Over 90% of the Bank's lending last year—64 loans totalling 917.5 million EUA—went to investments within the Community.

Nearly three-quarters of this sum, 670.6 million EUA, was provided for projects in less-favoured areas, mainly in Italy, the United Kingdom and Ireland, where regional problems are the most acute.

This figure includes a number of operations accounting for 195.5 million EUA, chiefly in the energy sector, which not only helped to alleviate regional problems but also fulfilled another criterion for the granting of an EIB loan, as laid down in Article 130 of the Treaty of Rome, by serving a common interest of several Member States or of the Community as a whole.

Energy supply

2466. For such investments of common interest the Bank provided a total amount of 438.8 million EUA, of which the major share, 338 million EUA, went to projects which will help to im-

1 European unit of account = DM 3.05382 Bfrs 46.0606 £ 0.575973 Lfrs 46.0606 FF 5.21981 Dkr 7.19697 797.769 0.575039 Lit. £ Ir 3.13120 1.16528

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The following conversion rates were used for drawing up the balance sheet at 31 December 1975:

prove and diversify the Community's energy supplies and reduce its dependence on oil imports. In this connection, 126.3 million EUA was granted for construction and equipment of nuclear power stations in the United Kingdom, Italy and France; 104.8 million EUA for the laying of natural gas pipelines in the United Kingdom, Italy and Belgium; 82.4 million EUA for various investments in oil and natural gas development in Italy, the United Kingdom, Denmark and France and 24.5 million EUA for coalmining in the United Kingdom.

Projects aimed at improving road and telecommunications links between different Member States, thus also serving a common interest, attracted loans totalling 100.8 million EUA.

Lending for industry included finance for 129 smaller ventures

2467. With firms tending to hold back from investment in the economic recession, the total of new loans within the Community which went towards industrial projects fell from the levels reached in previous years—304 million EUA in 1974, 277.9 million EUA in 1973—to 138.2 million EUA.

However, a marked feature was the amount provided for small and medium scale industrial ventures under the Bank's global loan system, through which it grants loans to intermediary financial institutions which then allocate sums to help projects of smaller size than the Bank could normally deal with directly.

Four new global loans worth 10.2 million EUA were granted. Partly from these loans, but mainly from global loans signed the previous year, allocations totalling 63.1 million u.a. were drawn down to help finance 129 ventures.

These allocations together with direct loans to industry brought the amount of finance from the EIB for industrial projects to 191 million EUA, the allocations in favour of small and medium-sized industries making up 33 %.<sup>1</sup>

The annual report stresses that the Bank views the global loan system as a 'particularly effective form of financing regional development, conductive to industrial diversification, largely in labourintensive sectors'.

Infrastructure projects

2468. While the economic situation limited the possibility of aiding industrial development to the same degree as in previous years, the Bank was on the other hand able to give strong support to large-scale infrastructure schemes carried out by public authorities in many member countries, thus sustaining economic activity.

Apart from energy, transport and telecommunications projects it provided loans for water supply schemes in north-east England, Brittany and the Italian Mezzogiorno, and it also helped to finance part of a major anti-pollution scheme in the Bay of Naples.

The construction of these infrastructure projects is expected to give work to around 80 000 people, which is in addition to 12 000 permanent jobs which should be created and 4 000 safeguarded by the industrial projects (including the smaller ventures) which the Bank helped to finance.

More loans in Italy and the United Kingdom

2469. Of all finance provided by the Bank within the Community last year, 39.1% went to investments in Italy and 36.5% in the United Kingdom. Loans in France accounted for 17.2% of the total, and the remaining 7.2% provided for projects in Ireland, Denmark and Belgium. Rel-

The figures given for the Bank's global loan operations relate not to final beneficiaries but to contracts signed. Consequently, 52.9 million EUA, the difference between the amount of global loans granted in 1975 (10.2 million EUA) and the amounts allocated from global loans outstanding (63.1 million EUA), is deducted from the total amount of finance for industrial projects.

atively low interest rates obtaining in Germany, the Netherlands and Luxembourg effectively prevented the granting of any loans in these countries.

In *Italy*, 26 loans were granted for a total of 358.8 million EUA (Lit. 289 800 million) compared with 278 million EUA (Lit. 227 000 million) in 1974, a rise of 29 %.

About two thirds of the loans were for investments of regional benefit, chiefly in the mainland Mezzogiorno and Sicily.

The Bank also helped to finance major infrastructure projects in northern Italy, telephone installations and a number of industrial projects.

Loans in the *United Kingdom* more than doubled, reaching 334.5 million EUA (£186.5 million) compared with around 150 million EUA (£79.9 million) in 1974 and 67 million EUA (£32.9 million) in 1973

Fifteen projects were financed, all located in regions facing development and conversion problems.

About 70% of the total went to projects to improve energy supply. The Bank helped to finance improvements to water supplies in north-east England, the modernization and extension of the Welsh telephone network and a number of industrial projects.

In *France*, the Bank granted 158 million EUA (FF 845.7 million) as against 193.7 million EUA (FF 1081 million) in 1974, mainly for infrastructure projects.

In *Ireland*, two loans worth 37.7 million EUA (£ Ir. 22 million) were granted for extensions to the country's telephone network and for the construction of a cement works at Platin.

In *Denmark*, 17.7 million EUA (Dkr 125.4 million) was provided to finance two production platforms for a North Sea oil field and a number of industrial projects.

In Belgium, a loan of 10.8 million EUA (Bfrs 500

million) was made for a pipeline to convey natural gas from fields in the North Sea and the Netherlands to southern Belgium and northern France.

Operations outside the Community

2470. Last year was one of transition for the EIB's lending outside the Community. Operations were restricted by the gradual depletion of funds available under the second Financial Protocol with Turkey, and the expiry of the second Yaoundé Convention between the Community and the Associated African States, Madagascar and Mauritius, although the resumption of operations in Greece permitted commitment of the entire \$55.8 million (47.2 million EUA) balance of the amount provided for under the first EEC-Greece Financial Protocol.

The Bank's operations outside the Community totalled 89 million EUA of which 48.9 million EUA came from the Bank's own resources and 40.1 million EUA from special funds made available by Member States (for Turkey) or from the resources of the European Development Fund.

A year of preparation

2471. The year 1975 was one of advance preparation for a large extension of the EIB's role outside the Community, principally in connection with the coming into effect of the Lomé Convention. This will involve the Bank in lending up to 390 million u.a. in loans from its own resources, normally attracting interest subsidies for which 100 million u.a. has been set aside from the resources of the European Development Fund; in addition the Bank will be making available 95 million u.a. in the form of contributions to the formation of risk capital, this sum also to be drawn from EDF resources.

In October, the Bank was called upon to provide up to 150 million u.a. in loans from its own re-

sources as 'exceptional emergency aid' for Portugal; two loans totalling 50 million EUA have already been granted. At the end of 1975 and in January this year, negotiations between the Community and Malta, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco led to financial cooperation agreements with these countries which will involve up to 183 million EUA in loans from the EIB's own resources.

Negotiations have begun or will soon begin on new Financial Protocols with Greece and Turkey and it is expected that a Financial Protocol with Portugal will follow on from the emergency aid to that country.

#### Resources

2472. The Bank raised most of the funds required to carry out its ordinary operations by borrowing on the financial markets a total of 830.7 million EUA, of which 813.7 million EUA was raised by the launching of 26 public or private issues on capital markets in Member States, Switzerland and on the international market: a particular feature was that for the first time since the abolition in 1974 of the interest equalization tax, in force since 1963, the Bank was able to make a bond issue on the United States domestic market, in November 1975, raising \$75 million for 7 years. The Bank's bonds are rated AAA, the highest possible, by the two leading rating agencies in the United States.

In keeping with the trends in borrowing conditions on these markets, the Bank's lending rates have changed several times. At the beginning of 1975 the rate was 10.5%: the present rates, decided by the Board of Directors at their meeting on 10 February 1976, are 9% for loans of up to 8 years and 9.5% for loans of longer duration.

On 10 July 1975, the EIB's Board of Governors decided to increase the Bank's subscribed capital by 75%, from 2025 million EUA to 3543.75 million EUA. The paid-up capital will be increased in stages from 405 to 557 million EUA.

#### **Appointment of the Management Committee**

2473. At its annual meeting on 23 June the Board of Governors appointed the Management Committee for the next statutory period of six years.

On a proposal from the Board of Directors, the appointments of Mr Yves Le Portz, President, and of Mr Sjoerd Boomstra, Mr Horst-Otto Steffe and Sir Raymond Bell, Vice-Presidents, were all renewed. Mr Giorgio Bombassei Frascani de Vettor was appointed Vice-President replacing Prof. Luca Rosania. Mr Bombassei was the Italian Permanent Representative to the European Communities from 1967 until April this year.

On the Board of Directors, Mr Raymond *Denucé*, a Director of the bank since its beginning, has been obliged to submit his resignation for health reasons. Replacing him is Mr Maurits *Esselens*, Director-General (Treasury), Ministry of Finance, Belgium, and previously the Alternate for Mr Denucé.

The Board of Governors reappointed Mr Jørgen *Bredsdorff*, Auditor-General, Audit Department, Copenhagen, as a Member of the Bank's Audit Committee.

From 24 June 1976, it is the Governor for Belgium, Mr Willy *de Clercq*, Minister of Finance, who takes the chairmanship of the Board of Governors for one year, until the next annual meeting.

#### Loans issued

2474. The European Investment Bank has floated a DM 120 million bond issue on the German capital market.

Carrying a coupon of 8% (payable on 1 July each year) and with a life of seven years, the bonds will be offered to the public at par. They will be redeemable at par after three years in four equal annual instalments.

This issue raises to DM 1 630 million the total of public issues in German marks so far made by the European Investment Bank. Private issues made by the EIB in the same currency total DM 1 340 million.

#### Loans granted

#### France

2475. A loan equivalent to FF 8 million (1.5 million EUA) has been granted by the Bank for improved telecommunications in Finistère (Brittany).

It will go towards strengthening the network in the most rural areas, where the population is relatively sparse, and will help to finance long-line subscriber connections, mainly to farms.

The loan has been provided for 7 years at an interest rate of 9% to the Département du Finistère, which will on-lend the proceeds to the Administration des Postes et Télécommunications (PTT).

This is the third EIB intervention to help development of telecommunications in Brittany. In 1971 and 1975 the Bank granted two loans totalling FF 244.5 million to the Caisse Nationale des Télécommunications for other works in the region.

#### Portugal

2476. Within the framework of the 'exceptional emergency aid' of up to 150 million EUA offered to Portugal by the EEC in the form of long-term credit from the EIB, a third loan contract has now been signed.

The equivalent of 20 million EUA has been granted for 10 years to Companhia Uniao Fabril (CUF), one of Portugal's largest industrial companies and the major producer of chemicals, metallurgical products and fertilizers. It will be used to help finance the construction of a pelletizing

plant, the modernization of copper metallurgy installations and the necessary auxiliary utility systems (water, power, etc.) at the company's industrial complex at Barreiro on the left bank of the Tage, facing Lisbon. The project will cost about 50 million EUA and it involves the creation of some 160 new jobs.

The pelletizing plant will produce 340 000 tonnes per annum of Fe-pellets, which will be used by Siderurgia Nacional, the Portuguese steel producers. The pellets will be manufactured from pyrite cinders, a by-product presently unused of CUF's sulphuric acid plants. The project therefore has the important economic benefit of permitting the use of mineral resources which would otherwise be wasted.

This new loan brings to 70 million EUA the amount of the Bank's interventions to date in Portugal.<sup>1</sup>

All the loans granted benefit from a 3% interest rebate, paid directly from the Community budget, which has brought down the interest rate from 9.5%, the Bank's present rate for loan of over eight years, to a net rate of 6.5%.

#### Gabon

2477. The Commission of the European Communities and the European Investment Bank have concluded a contract with the Republic of Gabon for the granting of a loan on special conditions equivalent to 7 000 000 EUA (approx. CFAF 1 994 million). The EIB, entrusted with management of the loan, is acting as agent of the EEC.

This loan represents the Community's contribution towards financing construction of a 330 km section of the standard-gauge Transgabon railway (between the port of Owendo and the town of Booué) which will help Gabon to open up and better exploit its rich forest areas.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2446.

The loan is drawn from the resources of the Third European Development Fund and the terms are 40 years (including a 10-year grace period) with an interest rate of 2% per annum.

A large part of the finance required for the project is coming from Gabon's own budgetary resources as well as via a number of bilateral aid agreements.

#### Financing Community activities

#### General budget

#### First supplementary budget 1976

2478. The Commission forwarded to the Council on 4 June the preliminary draft of a supplementary budget for the financial year 1976 to finance Community aid to the disaster area of Friuli.<sup>1</sup>

As the current 1976 budget does not contain any appropriate heading to cover the expenditure arising from this financial aid, the Commission saw that a supplementary budget would be necessary, and because of the urgent nature of the matter, the request could not be included in the supplementary budget that will soon have to be submitted for the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF and for food aid.

This supplementary budget in favour of Friuli amounts to 61 026 185 u.a. and may be broken down as follows:

- 45 000 000 u.a. intended for aid in support of agricultural structures;
- 15 000 000 u.a. intended for aid in support of infrastructures;
- 1 026 185 u.a. to cover the effects the supplementary budget will have on Chaper 29 of the budget (lump sum repayment to the Member States of costs incurred in collecting own resources).

The Commission proposes that this supplementary budget should contain an *ad hoc* chapter—Chapter 58—divided into two articles: the first article will contain the appropriations for aid in the agricultural sector and the second article will contain the appropriations intended for the infrastructures.

Along with the preliminary draft of the supplementary budget, the Commission forwarded to the Council two proposals for regulations intended to permit the utilization of the appropriations in question.<sup>2</sup>

On 11 June the Council, using the preliminary draft forwarded by the Commission, drew up the draft supplementary budget which the European Parliament approved on 18 June. On the same

<sup>2</sup> Point 2425.

Table 2 — Community expenditure in 1976 (including the first supplementary budget)

ın u.a. First supplementary budget 1976 New total financial year 1976 Budget 1976 SECTION I : European Parliament 52 121 209 52 121 209 SECTION II: Council 64 450 658 64 450 658 7 449 103 901 7 510 130 086 SECTION III: Commission +61 026 185 SECTION IV: Court of Justice 11 183 380 11 183 380 7 637 885 333 7 576 859 148 +61 026 185 Total

97

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 5-1976, points 1501 to 1507.

date the President of the European Parliament confirmed that the first supplementary budget for 1976 had been finally adopted.

#### Triennial financial forecasts 1977-78-79

2479. On 21 April 1970<sup>1</sup> the Council decided to place the Budget of the Communities within a framework of forward planning for several years.

At its meeting in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975<sup>2</sup> the Council again stressed the importance of such forecasts. The Commission expressed the hope in its Communication to the Joint Council of 5 April 1976 that the triennial forecasts would henceforward be fully discussed by the Council and the European Parliament.

To set the 1977 budget in the context of this forward planning, Part III of the general introduction of the preliminary draft budget consists of 'triennial forecasts', which provide the perspective necessary for assessing the proposed appropriations.<sup>3</sup>

The outcome is that the requirements to be financed by the Community budget will increase by about 9% between 1977 and 1979 at constant prices. In view of the smaller increase in customs duties and levies, the financing of this expenditure will require an increase in the amounts from VAT, the Community rate moving up from 0.58% in 1977 to 0.71% in 1979.4

#### Proposed amendment to Regulation No 2/71

2480. The rules for implementing the Decision of 21 April 1970¹ on the replacement of financial contributions from the Member States by the Communities' own resources were adopted on 2 January 1971 in Regulation No 2/71.⁵ Since then this Regulation has been applied without amendment except that the time allowed for making own resources available was reduced from sixty to forty-five days by the Regulation of 2 April

1973.6 On 2 June the Commission approved and forwarded to the Council a proposal for a Council Regulation modifying Regulation No 2/71 implementing the Decision of 21 April 1970.

As the final stage of the own resources system approaches—the period during which the Community will have full disposal of the resources it is then paid without any dynamic brake being applied, i.e., according to the normal rate of the establishment of amounts—it has proved necessary to adapt or amend Regulation No 2/71.

#### Thus:

- (i) from the financial year 1978 the principle of financial independence for the Communities should be in operation, as has been affirmed several times during negotiations on the Decision of 21 April 1970 and repeated during debates in the European Parliament and in national parliaments;
- (ii) the new European unit of account should be introduced, along with the technical financial provisions already laid down in the Decision of 21 April 1970, such as that providing for placing at the disposal of the Community any surplus from a financial year.

It should also be borne in mind that Article 131 of the Act of Accession provides that, for the new Member States the transitional period will run for two more years. For this reason it has been necessary to introduce special provisions for applying this Article in respect of the new Member States, and account has also had to be taken of the amendments contained in the proposal to amend the Financial Regulation of 25 April 1973.7

OJ L 94 of 28.4.1970.

Bull. EC 11-1975, point 1104.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 5-1976, points 2466 to 2468.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Theoretical rate calculated on the assumption that the proportion of expenditure not covered by agricultural levies and customs duties will be covered from VAT.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> OJ L 3 of 5.1.1971.

OJ L 89 of 5.4.1973.
 OJ L 116 of 1.5.1973.

#### Loans raised

2481. The Commission has made various private placings in French francs, Swiss francs and German marks, totalling 47 million European units of account. These placings were made at rates of between 6.25 % and 10.50 % and for periods of five to ten years.

These operations bring the total of loans contracted by the ECSC as at 30 June to the equivalent of 3 620 million European units of account.

Loans granted

- 2482. Under Articles 54 and 56 of the ECSC Treaty the Commission granted loans totalling 66.26 million EUA in June. Three categories of loans were granted:
- (a) Industrial loans (Article 54), this time made to the steel industry, total 48.23 million EUA. Five firms received loans for financing the following programmes:
- (i) Rationalization of production of cast iron and rolled products, Acciaierie di Piombina Spa, Piombino:
- (ii) Rationalization of steel production, Cockerill, Rehon-Haumont works; Fiat Spa, steel division, Turin; Dalmine Spa, Milan;
- (iii) Extension of steel-producing capacity, Kloeckner-Werke, Duisburg, Bremen works.
- (b) Conversion loans (Article 56), granted to facilitate the creation of new activities to provide jobs for workers made redundant, total 14.93 million EUA.
- (c) Loans for the construction of low-cost housing, generally granted at particularly favourable interest rates, total 3.10 million EUA.
- 2483. In addition, between 1 and 30 June the Commission took four decisions granting indus-

trial loans totalling 96.13 million EUA—36.71 million EUA to the coal industry and 59.42 million EUA to the steel industry. The payments will be made later.

The loans are for the following companies: Coal industry
National Coal Board, London,
Saarbergwerke AG, Saarbrücken.
Steel industry
Hainaut-Sambre SA, Couillet,
USINOR, Paris.

# 5. Institutional questions — European policy

#### Motion of censure

2501. The motion of censure tabled by the European Conservative Group on 13 May was rejected by the European Parliament at the 16 June sitting by 109 votes to 18 with 4 abstentions. This was the first time that Parliament had had to vote on a motion of censure since the Communities were formed. Another one tabled in 1972 was withdrawn before a division. The ECSC Authority was twice threatened with censure motions during the fifties; however, neither of these was formally tabled.

# Election of European Parliament by direct universal suffrage

2502. At a second 'private' meeting in Senningen (Luxembourg) on 11 and 12 June, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs again examined the question of the distribution among the Member States of the seats in the European Parliament to be elected in 1978. No agreement was reached, but positions appear to have moved closer together and so the Heads of Government should be able to reach the decision which they have undertaken to take at their next European Council meeting.

Further confirmation of this came on 29 June in Luxembourg when the Foreign Ministers again discussed the matter at a Council meeting.<sup>4</sup>

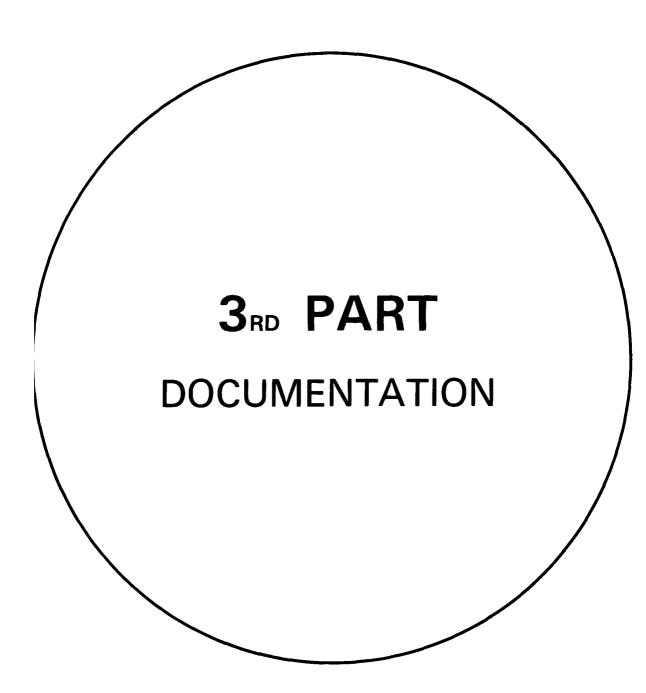
At the 16 June sitting, the European Parliament appealed to the European Council to take the decision so that the first elections can take place on the scheduled dates.

Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2403.

For the debate in Parliament, see point 2402.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 11-1972, Part Two, point 118 and 12-1972, Part Two, point 126.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The European Council meeting in Brussels on 12 and 13 July reached agreement on the number and distribution of seats; see Introductory Chapter.



# The Puerto Rico declaration

Puerto Rico declaration

Although the Community was not directly involved in the Puerto Rico meeting, it was felt that the final declaration would interest readers. The full text is reproduced below.

The interdependence of our destinies makes it necessary for us to approach common economic problems with a sense of common purpose and to work toward mutually consistent economic strategies through better cooperation.

We consider it essential to take into account the interests of other nations. And this is most particularly true with respect to the developing countries of the world.

It was for these purposes that we held a broad and productive exchange of views on a wide range of issues. This meeting provided a welcome opportunity to improve our mutual understanding and to intensify our cooperation in a number of areas. Those among us whose countries are members of the European Economic Community intend to make their efforts within its framework.

At Rambouillet, economic recovery was established as a primary goal and it was agreed that the desired stability depends upon the underlying economic and financial conditions in each of our countries.

Significant progress has been achieved since Rambouillet. During the recession there was widespread concern regarding the longer run vitality of our economies. These concerns have proved to be unwarranted. Renewed confidence in the future has replaced doubts about the economic and financial outlook. Economic recovery is well under way and in many of our countries there has been substantial progress in combating inflation and reducing unemployment. This has improved the situation in those countries where economic recovery is still relatively weak.

Our determination in recent months to avoid excessive stimulation of our economies and new impediments to trade and capital movements has contributed to the soundness and breadth of this recovery. As a result, restoration of balanced growth is within our grasp. We do not intend to lose this opportunity.

Our objective now is to manage effectively a transition to expansion which will be sustainable, which will reduce the high level of unemployment which perists in many countries and will not jeopardize our common aim of avoiding a new wave of inflation. That will call for an increase in productive investment and for partnership among all groups within our societies. This will involve acceptance, in accordance with our individual needs and circumstances, of a restoration of better balance in public finance, as well as of disciplined measures in the fiscal area and in the field of monetary policy and in

some cases supplementary policies, including incomes policy.

The formulation of such policies, in the context of growing interdependence, is not possible without taking into account the course of economic activity in other countries. With the right combination of policies we believe that we can achieve our objectives of orderly and sustained expansion, reducing unemployment and renewed progress toward our common goal of eliminating the problem of inflation. Sustained economic expansion and the resultant increase in individual wellbeing cannot be achieved in the context of high rates of inflation.

At the meeting last November, we resolved differences on structural reform of the international monetary system and agreed to promote a stable system of exchange rates which emphasized the prerequisite of developing stable underlying economic financial conditions.

With those objectives in mind, we reached specific understandings, which made a substantial contribution to the IMF meeting in Jamaica. Early legislative ratification of these agreements by all concerned is desirable. We agreed to improve cooperation in order to further our ability to counter disorderly market conditions and increase our understanding of economic problems and the corrective policies that are needed. We will continue to build on this structure of consultations.

Since November, the relationship between the dollar and most of the main currencies has been remarkably stable. However, some currencies have suffered substantial fluctuations.

The needed stability in underlying economic and financial conditions clearly has not yet been restored. Our commitment to deliberate, orderly and sustained expansion, and to the indispensable companion goal of defeating inflation provides the basis for increased stability.

Our objective of monetary stability must not be undermined by the strains of financing international payments imbalances. We thus recognize the importance of each nation managing its economy and its international monetary affairs so as to correct or avoid persistent or structural international payments imbalances. Accordingly, each of us affirms his intention to work toward a more stable and durable payments structure through the application of appropriate internal and external policies.

Imbalances in world payments may continue in the period ahead. We recognize that problems may arise for a few de-

<sup>1</sup> Point 2201.

Puerto Rico declaration

veloped countries which have special needs, which have not yet restored domestic economic stability, and which face major payments deficits.

We agree to continue to cooperate with others in the appropriate bodies on further analysis of these problems with a view to their resolution. If assistance in financing transitory balance of payments deficits is necessary to avoid general disruptions in economic growth, then it can best be provided by multilateral means coupled with a firm programme for restoring underlying equilibrium.

In the trade area, despite the recent recession, we have been generally successful in maintaining an open trade system. At the OECD we reaffirmed our pledge to avoid the imposition of new trade barriers.

Countries yielding to the temptation to resort to commercial protectionism would leave themselves open to a subsequent deterioration in their competitive standing, the vigour of their economies would be affected while at the same time chain reaction would be set in motion and the volume of world trade would shrink, hurting all countries.

Wherever departures from the policy set forth in the recently renewed OECD Trade Pledge occur, elimination of the restrictions involved is essential and urgent. Also, it is important to avoid deliberate exchange rate policies which would create severe distortions in trade and lead to a resurgence of protectionism.

We have all set ourselves the objective of completing the multilateral trade negotiations by the end of 1977. We hereby reaffirm that objective and commit ourselves to make every effort through the appropriate bodies to achieve it in accordance with the Tokyo Declaration.

Beyond the conclusion of the trade negotiations we recognize the desirability of intensifying and strengthening relationships among the major trading areas with a view to the long-term goal of a maximum expansion of trade.

We discussed East-West economic relations. We welcomed in this context the steady growth of East/West trade, and expressed the hope that economic relations between East and West would develop their full potential on a sound financial and reciprocal commercial basis. We agreed that this process warrants our careful examination, as well as efforts on our part to ensure that these economic ties enhance overall East/West relationships.

We welcome the adoption, by the participating countries, of coverging guidelines with regard to export credits. We hope that these guidelines will be adopted as soon as possible by as many countries as possible.

In the pursuit of our goal of sustained expansion, the flow of capital facilitates the efficient allocation of resources and thereby enhances our economic well-being. We, therefore, agree on the importance of a liberal climate for international investment flows. In this regard, we view as a constructive development the declaration which was announced last week when the OECD Council met at ministerial level.

In the field of energy, we intend to make efforts to develop, conserve and use rationally the various energy resources and to assist the energy development objectives of developing countries.

We support the aspirations of the developing nations to improve the lives of their peoples. Cooperation between the two groups must be based on mutual respect, take into consideration the interests of all parties and reject unproductive confrontation in favour of sustained and concerted efforts to find constructive solutions to the problems of development.

The industrialized democracies can be most successful in helping the developing countries meet their aspirations by agreeing on, and cooperating to implement, sound solutions to their problems which enhance the efficient operation of the international economy. Close collaboration and better coordination are necessary among the industrialized democracies. Our efforts must be mutually supportive, not competitive. Our efforts for international economic cooperation must be considered as complementary to the policies of the developing countries themselves to achieve sustainable growth and rising standards of living.

At Rambouillet, the importance of a cooperative relationship between the developed and developing nations was affirmed, particular attention was directed to following up the results of the seventh special session of the UN General Assembly, and especially to redressing the balance of payments problems of some developing countries. Since then, substantial progress has been made. We welcome the constructive spirit which prevails in the work carried out in the framework of the Conference on Interational Economic Cooperation, and also by the positive results achieved in some areas at UNCTAD IV in Nairobi. New measures taken in the IMF have made a substantial constribution to stabilizing the export earnings of the developing countries and to helping them finance their deficits.

We attach the greatest importance to the dialogue between developed and developing nations in the expectation that it will achieve concrete results in areas of mutual interest. And we reaffirm our countries' determination to participate in this process in the competent bodies, with a political will to succeed, looking toward negotiations, in appropriate cases. Our common goal is to find practical solutions which contribute to an equitable and productive relationship among all peoples.

# Public opinion in spring 1976

In recent years the Commission has been stepping up its surveys of public opinion and behaviour.

The sample surveys carried out in the six original Member States in 1962, 1970 and 1971 were followed in September 1973 by a major survey of 13 500 citizens of the nine countries of the enlarged Community, dealing with the public's main focuses of interest, information levels and attitudes to the unification of Europe, as well as with satisfaction or dissatisfaction with society and living conditions.

Since autumn 1974 the Commission has been providing itself with a new source of knowledge and action. Every six months—spring and autumn—it has periodical surveys, called 'Eurobarometer', carried out by specialized organizations in all the nine Community countries, to which persons aged 15 or over are asked to reply. The sample is roughly 1 000 per country, except in the United Kingdom where it is 1 300 (of which 300 are in Northern Ireland) and Luxembourg, where the sample for the moment is only 300.

There are generally ten or so questions, dealing with what the public is concerned about, and interested in, and what it thinks of the Common Market, the European Community and European unification; these take up some thirty punch-card columns. Some of the questions are asked every time,

others from time to time only, while still others are tried out and repeated only if the answers are relevant. Furthermore, whenever necessary, in other words when Commission departments so request and funds happen to be available, a specific list of questions is added to those of Eurobarometer.

The opinion polls which serve as the basis for the present Eurobarometer were carried out in May 1976 by eight research institutions, with the same criteria throughout the Community.

# Poles of interest and principal matters of concern to the public

Two questions were asked on this subject: the first, coming at the beginning of the questionnaire and without reference to the Community, concerned the importance attached to twelve problems affecting society in general; the second related solely to the two major socio-economic problems causing concern to the public: rising prices and unemployment.

Table 1 — Importance attached to different problems (in the Community as a whole)

Question: 'Here is a list of problems the people of (your country) are more or less interested in. Could you please tell me for each problem whether you personally consider it a very important problem, important, of little importance or not at all important?'

	Very important	Important	Of little importance	Not at all important	No reply	Index <sup>1</sup>
Fighting unemployment <sup>2</sup>	72 %	23 %	3%	1%	1%	2.71
Fighting rising prices	71	24	3	1	1	2.68
Protecting nature and fighting pollution	57	34	6	1	2	2.49
Protection of the public against fraudulent selling and misleading advertising Provide for sufficient housing	54 45	35 40	7 10	2 3	2 2	2.43 2.30

<sup>1</sup> Table 1.

Eurobarometer Eurobarometer

Table 1 (continued)

	Very important	Important	Of little importance	Not at all important	No reply	Index <sup>1</sup>
Modernize education to meet today's						
needs	35	41	13	5	6	2.14
To try and reduce the number both of very rich and very poor people	37	35	17	7	4	2.06
Defend our interests against the super powers (United States, Soviet Union, etc.)	32	39	16	5	8	1.95
Controlling activities of the multinational and international firms	26	30	18	8	18	1.90
Reducing the differences between regions of the country by helping the less-developed regions	22	46	18	7	7	1.90
Strengthen our military defence against possible enemies	18	31	25	19	7	1.51
More self-government for the regions	13	31	25	16	15	1.48

<sup>1 &#</sup>x27;Very important' = 3, 'important' = 2, 'of little importance' = 1, 'not at all important' = 0. The totals for each possible reply, weighted according to the above scale, were divided for each item by the percentage actually giving a reply for the item concerned. The maximum is 3.00, the minimum 0.00 and the central point 1.50. All the calculations were done by computer, using percentages expressed to the first decimal place. Differences of less than 0.10 between scores can be considered negligible.

The survey carried out in May this year revealed that the two main problems—to which almost equal importance was attached—are fighting unemployment and fighting rising prices: seven out of ten people (72 and 71 % respectively) consider each of these to be 'very important'

#### Next come:

protecting nature and fighting pollution ('very important': 57%), protection of the public against fraudulent selling and misleading advertising ('very important': 54%).

The two problems at the bottom of the list are:

strengthen our military defence against possible enemies ('very important': 18%),

more self-government for the regions ('very important': 13%).

Differences between the nine countries of the Community are not very marked; this once again confirms that a European public does exist; affected by the same current issues, it is concerned by the same major problems and ranks them in much the same order of importance.

In nearly every country the fight against unemployment, the fight against rising prices and the protection of nature rank as the most important problems. The last of these seems to be of slightly less interest to the British, the Italians and the Irish who are more concerned with improvement of the housing situation.

The spread of average national scores is limited overall, but a little more pronounced in the case of problems in which ideologies probably have some influence: 'strengthen our military defence against possible enemies' (higher scores in the United Kingdom and Ireland) and 'to try and reduce the number both of very rich people and of very poor people' (higher scores in Italy and France).

A second question was asked, in order to find out from people interviewed which for them was the more important, rising prices or unemployment.

In the Community as a whole, unemployment (50%) comes out ahead of inflation (42%), both among the general public and among opinion leaders. But differences exist from country to country: in the United Kingdom and Luxembourg the majority of people interviewed believe that their government should give priority to fighting inflation; in the other countries, particularly the Netherlands, Ireland and France, the

<sup>2</sup> Not including Italy, where the question was asked wrongly.

Eurobarometer Eurobarometer

fight against unemployment is most often viewed as the priority objective.

## Attitudes towards the Community

In almost all the countries, the European Community was held in lower esteem in May than in the previous poll. On average for the Community as a whole, the difference amounts to ten points.

Favourable opinions are fewer virtually everywhere: -17 points in Ireland, -13 in Germany, -12 in Italy and Luxembourg, -11 in the United Kingdom and -10 in France. Only in the Netherlands (+8 points) and in Belgium do favourable opinions increase or remain steady.

About half of those formerly in favour were this time probably uncertain ('neither good nor bad') or did not reply. But in three countries the increase in negative replies ('a bad thing') is significant: +14 points in Ireland, +11 in the United Kingdom and even +6 in one of the six founder members of the Community, the Federal Republic of Germany.<sup>2</sup>

This general drop in approval of the European Community as it operates at present ('Common Market') should be read as a warning. The replies were most probably influenced by events in April, which was considered a bad month for Europe by all the European press; it is not surprising to find fall-out from the press reports in the answers given by the public. The next survey will confirm or infirm this trend depending on what events occur and what decisions are taken in the meantime.

Table 2 — The European Community: A good thing or a bad thing by country!

Question: 'Generally speaking, do you think that (your country's) membership of the European Community (Common Market) is a good thing, a bad thing, or neither good nor bad?'

	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither good nor bad	No reply	Total
Nederland					
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	63 % 64 67 75	4 % 3 3 4	20 % 18 12 15	13 % 15 18 6	100 % 100 100 100
Luxembourg September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	67 65 78 66	3 7 4 5	22 19 12 21	8 9 6 8	100 100 100 100
Italia September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	69 71 75 63	2 3 4 6	15 21 16 20	14 5 5 11	100 100 100 100
Belgique/België September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	57 57 59 62	5 3 3 5	19 21 21 17	19 19 17 16	100 100 100 100

Replies to all the questions concerning Europe followed the same pattern in the Netherlands: the proportion of those giving no reply fell and favourable replies increased. 2 Table 2.

Table 2 (continued)

	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither good nor bad	No reply	Total
France					
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	61 64 67 57	5 4 4 7	22 25 24 30	12 7 5 6	100 100 100 100
Ireland					
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	56 50 67 50	15 20 12 16	21 25 17 18	8 5 4 6	100 100 100 100
Deutschland					
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	63 56 61 48	4 8 6 12	22 28 27 30	11 8 6 10	100 100 100 100
United Kingdom September 1973 <sup>2</sup> May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	31 47 50 39	34 21 24 35	22 19 18 18	13 13 8 8	100 100 100 100
Danmark					
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	42 36 41 36	30 25 27 29	19 28 24 22	9 11 8 13	100 100 100 100
COMMUNITY <sup>3</sup>					
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	56 59 63 53	11 9 9 14	20 23 21 24	13 9 7 9	100 100 100 100

Countries are listed in descending order of frequency of the reply 'a good thing' in May 1976. Not including Northern Ireland in 1973. Weighted average.

# European union

The rapid movement of the Community towards 'European Union' still attracts the interest and support of a large majority of the European public, even though the governments of the Member States have shown no urgency in examining the

There were three questions on this subject:

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Report on European Union' that Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, presented at the end of 1975 as requested by his colleagues in December 1974. There has been no reduction either in frequency or in intensity of favourable attitudes towards European union.

Movement towards European unification—speeded up, slowed down or continued as at present.1

In the Community as a whole, four out of ten people (40%) still think that the movement towards the unification of Europe should be speeded up, compared with three out of ten (33%) who would prefer it to be 'continued as at present', one out of ten (11%) who would like it to be slowed down, and nearly two out of ten (16%) 'don't knows'.

Significant differences between replies in October-November 1975 and in May 1976 are evident in only three countries: Germany (-8 points),

Netherlands (+11 points),

United Kingdom, where, while the frequency of positive replies changes little, negative replies are seven points up.<sup>2</sup>

Italy and Luxembourg still head the list, while the Netherlands, France and Belgium have overtaken Germany. However, only in Italy and Luxembourg is there a large majority of favourable replies; in the Netherlands, France and Belgium, there are roughly as many unfavourable and neutral replies as favourable ones. In the three new member countries, unfavourable or neutral replies are once again more frequent, and this is also true of Germany, for the first time.<sup>3</sup>

Table 3 — Should the unification of Europe be speeded up, slowed down or continued as at present?

Question: 'Some people consider the European Community—the Common Market—as being a first step towards a more close union betweet the Member States. Personally, do you think the movement towards the unification of Europe should be speeded up, slowed down or continued as it is at present?'

	Speeded up	Continued as at present	Slowed down	No reply	Total
Italia					
September 1973 October-November 1975 May 1976	55 % 61 58	18 % 17 16	2 % 4 4	25 % 18 22	100 % 100 100
Luxembourg					
September 1973 October-November 1975 May 1976	56 52 55	29 33 20	1 4 9	14 11 16	100 100 100
Nederland					
September 1973 October-November 1975 May 1976	32 33 44	47 38 36	6 4 7	15 25 13	100 100 100
France					
September 1973 October-November 1975 May 1976	36 45 43	40 36 37	3 6 7	21 13 13	100 100 100
Belgique/België					
September 1973 October-November 1975 May 1976	33 39 40	43 28 32	3 3 5	21 30 23	100 100 100

<sup>1</sup> Table 3

<sup>2 &#</sup>x27;Neutral' replies ('continued as it is at present') and 'don't knows' are less frequent.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> A distinction should be made, however, between Denmark, where three out of ten people said 'continued as it is at present' and three out of ten 'slowed down', and the UK and Ireland, where the modal reply was 'continued as it is at present'.

Eurobarometer

Eurobarometer

Table 3 (continued)

	Speeded up	Continued as at present	Slowed down	No reply	Total
Deutschland					
September 1973 October-November 1975 May 1976	49 47 39	34 36 34	4 6 10	13 11 17	100 100 100
Ireland September 1973 October-November 1975 May 1976	25 35 31	45 40 40	12 12 14	18 13 15	100 100 100
United Kingdom September: 1973 <sup>1</sup> October-November 1975 May 1976	17 24 23	40 45 42	24 17 24	19 14 11	100 100 100
Danmark September 1973 October-November 1975 May 1976	12 13 13	44 33 33	36 37 32	8 17 22	100 100 100
COMMUNITY <sup>2</sup> September 1973 October-November 1975 May 1976	38 43 40	34 34 33	9 8 11	19 15 16	100 100 100

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Not including Northern Ireland in 1973.

As was to be expected, there is a strong correlation between the replies to this question and the replies to the preceding one, on the European Community seen as the 'Common Market'. Among those who consider the Community a 'good thing' (about 60% of replies given) an average of two out of three think that the movement towards European union should be speeded up. Of those who consider the Community a 'bad thing' (less than two out of ten of those replying), a majority thinks that the movement towards unification should be 'slowed down' (57%) or 'continued as at present' (26%); some would even like to see the movement speeded up, which implies that a minority of those hostile to the Community or sceptical about its current policies and achievements, are not apposed to the political unification of Europe. Finally those who are neutral in their attitude towards the Community (a quar-

ter of those expressing an opinion) tend to favour continuing as at present (57 %) or speeding up (30 %), which would confirm the above observation.

# For or against European Union by 1980

In the Community as a whole, six out of ten people interviewed (57%) still say they 'totally approve' (24%) or 'approve on the whole' (33%) of the plan for European political union. These results tend to indicate that replies to the preceding question ('speed up or slow down') reflect disenchantment rather than hostility, at least in the six original countries of the Community.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Weighted average.

<sup>1</sup> Table 4.

Table 4 — For or against European political union by 1980 (Community as a whole)

Question: 'There is a proposal to create a European political union among the member countries of the Community by 1980, with a European government which would decide on major issues and a European Parliament to monitor its activities. Do you approve or disapprove of this plan for European political union?'

	September 1973	May 1975	October-November 1975	May 1976
	%	%	%	%
Totally approve Approve on the whole Disapprove on the whole Totally disapprove Deliberately and explicitly re- fuse to reply	24 30 13 11	24 35 12 9	23 36 13 8	24 33 12 11
Do not know, are not interest-				18
Total	100	100	100	100

¹ These two kinds of non-reply were experimentally distinguished in May, so as to measure how many non-replies were motivated by downright negative attitudes ('I won' answer') and how many by simple lack of interest. The results are conclusive: in most cases people do not reply because they do not feel concerned, are not interested in politics, and so on. The proportion of 'abstentions' (20% on average) is no higher than the percentage of non-voters in national elections in most countries where voting is not compulsory.

Once again there is a strong positive correlation between favourable replies to the question about European political union and favourable attitudes to the Community. Out of 100 people who think the Community is a good thing, 85 are equally divided between total approval and approval on the whole of European political union. Moreover, and this confirms the earlier analysis, two thirds of those who are neutral towards the Community are in favour of political union, but tend to 'approve on the whole' rather than 'totally approve'. Among those who express an unfavourable opinion of the Community, nearly one third are nevertheless not opposed to political union.

### Differences in individual countries1

Italy still leads in total favourable opinions, with 71 %. However, this is six points less than in the last survey, with an increase in the number of people not answering.

Luxembourg is equal first with Italy, with a negligible drop of four points since the last survey. There were fewer people replying 'approve on the whole', but more replying 'totally approve'.

The Netherlands gained sixteen points from 52 to  $68\,\%$ , with far fewer people not answering.<sup>2</sup>

Germany fell from 67% to 64%, a negligible, but perhaps indicative, drop. The reduction is more pronounced among those who 'approve on the whole'.

France fell back eight points, from 66% to 58%: those totally approving were down three points and those approving on the whole down five points.

Belgium advanced three points, from 52% to 55%.

Ireland lost five points, from 49 % to 44 %, but still has a majority in favour among those who express an opinion.

In the United Kingdom the percentage of those totally approving and approving on the whole remained unchanged (34% in all), but there was an increase of nine points in the percentage of people who 'totally disapprove', and the majority of opinions expressed were unfavourable.

In Denmark there was a slight increase in favourable replies, (+ three points), a decrease in fairly unfavourable replies ('disapprove on the whole') (- four points) and an increase in very unfavourable replies (+ five points). Most Danes are still hostile, but there is a very slight improvement in the ratio of supporters to opponents of European political union.

<sup>1</sup> Table 5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See p. 106 note 1.

Table 5 — For or against European political union by 1980, by countries1

Question: 'There is a proposal to create a European political union among the member countries of the Community by 1980, with a European government which would decide on major issues and a European Parliament to monitor its activities. Do you approve or disapprove of this plan for European political union?'

	Totally approve	Approve on the whole	Disapprove on the whole	Totally disapprove	No answer or don't know	Total
Italie						1
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	33 % 32 41 38	32 % 39 36 33	8 % 8 6 5	4 % 3 3 3	23 % 18 14 21	100 % 100 100 100
Luxembourg September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	38 36 31 36	31 35 44 35	8 8 6 6	5 3 2 1	18 18 17 22	100 100 100 100
Nederland September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	21 25 26 37	34 29 26 31	14 8 8 10	9 7 6 8	22 31 34 14	100 100 100 100
Deutschland September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	31 25 22 23	39 45 45 41	8 9 11	4 4 4 5	18 17 18 22	100 100 100 100
France September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	25 30 24 21	*32 36 42 37	11 11 10 12	5 6 5 8	27 17 19 22	100 100 100 100
Belgique/België September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	25 23 25 29	33 28 27 26	7 6 6 5	5 3 5 5	30 40 37 35	100 100 100 100
Ireland September 1973 <sup>2</sup> May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	11 11 15 16	24 26 34 28	19 19 20	22 19 8 12	24 25 23 25	100 100 100 100
United Kingdom September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	8 14 10 10	18 22 24 24	23 23 25 21	31 23 20 29	20 18 21 16	100 100 100 100

Table 5 (continued)

	Totally approve	Approve on the whole	Disapprove on the whole	Totally disapprove	No answer or don't know	Total
Danmark						
September 1973	11	17	26	32	14	100
May 1975	7	14	22	32	25	100
October-November 1975	7	14	23	28	28	100
May 1976	8	16	19	33	24	100

<sup>1</sup> Countries are listed in descending order of positive replies ('totally approve' and 'approve on the whole') in May 1976.

<sup>2</sup> Not including Northern Ireland in 1973.

The following relationship is observed between opinions on the Community and attitudes to European political union:

- 1. In most countries there are more in favour of European political union ('totally approve' or 'approve on the whole') than consider the Community a 'good thing'. The only exceptions are Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, but even there the difference is slight. This lends support to the hypothesis that some of the people who are disappointed with the Community as it is at present are none the less in favour of European political union.
- 2. An overwhelming majority of those who think the Community a good thing are also in favour of European political union. However, in France, Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom a fairly large proportion of the public is unenthusiastic about, or even hostile to, European political union, in spite of a favourable attitude towards the Community.
- 3. Those who think the Community a bad thing should, a priori, be unfavourable to European political union; the results bear this out almost everywhere.
- 4. Among those who are neutral towards the Community, there is a tendency to support European political union except in Denmark. This confirms the importance which must be accorded to the evolution of attitudes towards the European Community (Common Market), but it also shows that attitudes to the plan for political union are a distinct, although related, aspect of attitudes to the reality of the Community.

### Powers to be accorded to the European union

In the Community as a whole and in seven of the nine member countries, the majority of those interviewed supported the creation of European union by 1980, with a European government and Parliament. What does this idea conjure up in the minds of the public by way of form and content? It is not easy to give a comprehensive reply to this question. However the survey did try to get people to define their conception of European union, or more precisely, to say what they would or would not accept in the plan for European union that Mr Leo Tindemans has presented to the Heads of Government.

Four important items of the Tindemans Report were turned into questions about: foreign policy; economic and monetary policy; regional and social policy to eliminate inequalities; the protection of fundamental rights of citizens.<sup>1</sup>

The first finding is that throughout the Community, there are fewer than 20% 'don't knows', which shows that, however well or badly informed people may be, and whatever their personal attitudes may be, they are no more likely to refuse to reply to difficult but precise questions than to a general question about the principle of European political union.

Secondly, favourable replies to the four precise questions—foreign policy, economic and monetary policy, regional and social policy, protection of fundamental rights—are on average more frequent than favourable replies to the more general question on political union with the European government and Parliament: 57%, as we have seen, for the latter

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Table 6. The four aspects were mentioned in the order in which the results are set out.

Table 6 — Main aspects of European political union (Community as a whole)

Question: 'Here is a list of important aspects of the idea of European political union, which is at present being discussed. Could you please tell me, for each one of these aspects, whether you agree totally, agree on the whole, disagree on the whole or disagree totally?'

	Agree totally	Agree on the whole	Disagree totally	Disagree on the whole	Don't know	Total
The member countries of the European union would have a common foreign	29 %	36 %	11 %	7%	17%	100 %
The member countries would have a	29 %	30 %	11 %	/ 70	1 / 70	100 %
common economic and monetary policy	34	34	10	7	15	100
The member countries would have a common regional and social policy which would aim to level out the differences in favour of the less favoured regions and social categories  All fundamental rights of the citizens of all member countries would be re-	30	38	10	5	17	100
cognized and protected by the same laws in all countries. Every citizen would thus be able to appeal directly to the European Court of Justice	35	34	8	7	16	100

question and 65 to 69% for the other four. This means that some Europeans disapprove on the whole of the general principle, or are not sure (or perhaps the words 'government' and 'European Parliament' put them off), but would still be prepared to accept the common policies without understanding clearly what this would mean.

Although the percentages in favour are much the same for each item, the items can be ranked using an index which takes account of the degree of support for each one:

	Index2
Protection of fundamental rights	0.874
Economic and monetary policy	0.809
Regional and social policy	0.737
Foreign policy	0.629

### Differences in individual countries

The order of countries by average percentage of positive replies to the four items<sup>3</sup> is approximately the same as by pos-

itive replies to the question on European union.<sup>4</sup> It is in fact logical that those who give a positive reply to the first question should do likewise for the second. But once again, in all the countries without exception, the phenomenon described

$$\frac{(2f+f')^2 - [(2f+f')(u+2u)]}{10\,000}$$

$$(u'+2u)^2 - [(2f+f')(u'+2u)]$$

 $\frac{(u'+2u)^2-[(2f+f')(u'+2u)]}{10\ 000}$ 

depending on whether the weighted total of favourable replies (2f+2) is greater or smaller than the weighted total of unfavourable replies (u'+2u). Scores vary between +4 and -4; the central point 0 corresponds to a situation where favourable and unfavourable tendencies cancel each other out.

3 Table 6

This apparent contradiction is of course not confined to opinions about Europe Political theory and social psychology are now wary of the 'implicit model' of the 'rational' elector, and prefer to study people's observed attitudes and behaviour. This approach does not turn its back on the ideal of rationality, nor on the concern for critical education, but it does enable us to look at reality as it is and not as we would like it to be. See for example B. Berelson: 'Democratic Theory and Public Opinion', Public Opinion Quarterly, No 16, 1952, pp. 313 to 330.

The following formulas are used to calculate the coefficient of imbalance:

<sup>4</sup> Table 5.

above occurs: the public seems even more favourably disposed to the concrete aspects of European union than to the principle of the union. The difference is particularly significant in the three new member countries.

This phenomenon can perhaps be explained by the existence of *a priori* support for the *objectives* of European political union, and of some prejudice against a global plan which is still unfamiliar, or which seems unlikely to be realized in the near future.

Although the average ranks of the four objectives are as expected for the Community as a whole (fundamental rights in lirst place, followed by economic and monetary policy, regional and social policy, and finally foreign policy), there are some differences for individual countries:

- (i) economic and monetary policy ranks first in Belgium and Denmark;
- (ii) regional and social policies rank first in Italy and France;
- (iii) foreign policy is in second place in Germany and the United Kingdom.

There is no apparent relationship between the extent of favourable opinions in a given country and the ranking of objectives.

# Election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage

Although at the time of the survey the governments of the nine member countries had not come to an agreement on the number of seats to be attributed to the various countries in a directly elected European Parliament, the subject had still been in the limelight. It has been discussed in the press and political party-leaders have begun their preparations. The public takes and interest (fewer than 20% 'don't-knows') but is not usually passionately committed; in seven of the nine countries, attitudes are generally favourable.

In May three questions were asked. One of them, repeated every six months, concerns the principle of the election, and the other two, exploratory questions, were about the kind of powers the Parliament should have, and the probable behaviour of the political groups represented.

## The principle of the election<sup>1</sup>

As in October, and November 1975, and in May 1975, more than six out of ten people throughout the Community are in favour of the European Parliament being elected. The percentage of people who 'completely favour' the proposal rose by

Table 7 — For or against the election of the European Parliament by universal suffrage (Community as a whole)

Question: 'One of the proposals is to elect a European Parliament in 1978—in other words within two years—by the direct vote of all citizens in the member countries of the European Community (Common Market). Are you, yourself, for or against this proposal? How strongly do you feel about it?'

	September 1973	May 1975	October-November 1975	May 1976	
	%	%	%	%	
Completely favour	24	27	25	28	
Favour on the whole	30	36	39	34	
Disagree to some extent	12	9	10	11	
Disagree completely	11	9	8	10	
Don't know	23	19	18	17	
Total	100	100	100	100	

<sup>1</sup> Weighted average.

<sup>1</sup> Table 7.

three points, from 25 to  $28\,\%$ , between the end of 1975 and the middle of 1976, and the percentage of people who 'favour on the whole' dropped by five points, from 39 to  $34\,\%$ . The change is thus negligible. The public seems to be waiting for a decision (for or against) to change its opinion.

There is a positive correlation between attitudes to the election of the European Parliament and opinions on the Community as it is at present. Of 100 people who think the Community a 'good thing', 86 support the proposal for a directly elected European Parliament, almost equally divided between the replies 'completely favour' and 'favour on the whole'. Two thirds of those giving a neutral reply to the question about the Community support direct elections, and even among those who are most critical of the Community, 40 % favour direct elections.

However, attitudes to European Parliamentary elections seem

to be less dependent on opinions on the Community than are attitudes to European union.

# Differences and developments in individual countries1

The Netherlands has now joined Italy and Luxembourg to rank among the countries most in favour of elections to the European Parliament. The United Kingdom and Denmark are still the most reticent.

Between October-November 1975 and May 1976, there was a significant increase in favourable replies in the Netherlands (+14 points), and in Denmark (+8); there was also a slight increase in Belgium (+6) and a slight decrease in Germany (-6).

Table 8 — For or against the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, results in individual countries<sup>1</sup>

Question: 'One of the proposals is to elect a European Parliament in 1978—in other words within two years—by the direct vote of all citizens in the member countries of the European Community (Common Market). Are you, yourself, for or against this proposal? How strongly do you feel about it?'

	Completely favour	Favour on the whole	Disagree to some extent	Disagree completely	Don't know	Total
Italia						
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	34 % 37 38 42	30 % 40 40 32	8 % 6 5 6	4 % 2 3 2	24 % 15 14 18	100 % 100 100 100
Nederland						
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	32 28 27 43	30 29 32 30	11 7 6 8	5 7 5 6	22 29 30 13	100 100 100 100
Luxembourg						
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	40 36 31 36	27 33 44 35	8 7 6 5	4 3 1 4	21 21 18 20	100 100 100 100
Deutschland				ļ		
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	29 28 23 25	40 48 50 42	9 6 9 10	3 2 2 5	19 16 16 18	100 100 100 100

<sup>1</sup> Table 8.

Table 8 (continued)

	Completely favour	Favour on the whole	Disagree to some extent	Disagree completely	Don't know	Total
France						
September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	22 33 26 28	29 35 43 38	11 9 9 10	7 6 4 7	31 17 18 17	100 100 100 100
Belgique/België September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	23 23 20 31	29 32 33 28	8 6 5 7	6 3 4 4	34 36 38 30	100 100 100 100
<i>Ireland</i> September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	15 20 19 24	30 35 37 33	17 13 15 17	14 9 8 8	24 23 21 18	100 100 100 100
United Kingdom September 1973 <sup>2</sup> May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	11 16 13 14	22 25 28 26	19 16 18 19	30 27 24 29	18 16 17 12	100 100 100 100
Danmark September 1973 May 1975 October-November 1975 May 1976	20 15 13 18	16 20 19 22	18 12 18 17	25 21 25 25	21 32 25 18	100 100 100 100

<sup>1</sup> Countries are listed in descending order of favourable replies ('completely favour' and 'favour on the whole').

### Powers of the European Parliament

One argument used by some opponents of the direct election of the European Parliament is that people interviewed in surveys do not clearly understand what is involved, and in particular do not consider that their 'national members' might be in a minority against a majority of 'foreign members'. Hence the question asked about the readiness to accept 'supranational' voting in the European Parliament.1

Most people seem prepared to accept a majority vote in the European Parliament on matters of public works (68 %), labour law (63%) and foreign relations (56%). The percentage is lower where taxation matters are concerned (44 %), but here

taxation itself is perhaps the reason for the public's hesitation rather than procedures for adopting tax laws.

### Differences in individual countries

In general average percentages of positive replies to the four items of this question were much the same as with the replies to the question on the principle of European Parliamentary elections.2 (The only exception is Italy, where the average

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Not including Northern Ireland in 1973.

Table 9. Table 8.

Table 9 — Readiness to accept 'supranational' voting in the European Parliament (Community as a whole)1

'In the European Parliament the Members of Parliament (for your country) would not have the majority, even if they were all in agreement. Would you, or would you not, accept that the European Parliament passes laws in the fields that I am going to list, which would be applicable to all countries of the European Community, including (your country)?

As far as taxation matters are concerned (e.g. create a European tax)

As far as employment legislation is concerned (e.g. European regulations about professional training)

As far as public works are concerned (e.g. a European programme on motorways, rivers and canals)

As far as foreign relations are concerned (e.g. the signing of a commercial treaty with a foreign country).

	Would accept	Would not	Don't know	Total
European legislation on public works	68%	16 %	16%	100 %
European legislation on employment	63	19	18	100
European legislation on foreign relations	56	20	24	100
European legislation on taxation	44	34	22	100

<sup>1</sup> Weighted average.

here is 62%, compared with 74% of those interviewed who said they were in favour of direct elections to the European Parliament; this difference is due to the fact that more people replied 'don't know' to the second, more difficult, question.)

This seems to prove that Europeans give coherent replies to the question about the principle of election to the European Parliament and to the ancillary question about the risk of their own country's representatives being in a minority. The second question reveals practically the same support for the election, although generally speaking taxation laws, European or other, seem less popular than laws in other fields, including foreign relations.

# Likely voting practice of the political groups represented in the European Parliament

The other exploratory question asked about a directly-elected Parliament concerned the manner in which the directly-elected members would—or should—vote in the European Parliament.<sup>1</sup>

In the Community as a whole, the most frequent reply was 'the members will form groups along political lines'. This corresponds, in fact, to current European parliamentary prac-

tice; 45 % of persons questioned, and six out of ten who actually replied, gave this answer.

The various countries fall into three broad groups:

- France and the Netherlands, where the 'European' reply was given by an absolute majority of those questioned;
- Italy, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and Belgium, where this reply was given by a relative majority;
- Germany and Luxembourg, where the 'national' reply was more frequent than the 'European' one.<sup>2</sup>

# Conclusion

In spring 1976, the principal poles of interest of the public are unemployment and rising prices. Only in Luxembourg and in the United Kingdom does the public seem more concerned by rising prices than by unemployment.

Table 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Since both these countries are strongly in favour of elections to the European Parliament and of political union, this result should be interpreted with caution. It is probably connected with motives and situations that cannot be analysed in the light of available data, such as ethnocentrism, the conception of the role of political parties, the ideological distance between parties and so on.

Table 10 — How would European members of Parliament vote: By nationality or by political allegiance?

Question: 'In a European Parliament made up of MPs from all the countries of the Common Market, what do you think is most likely to happen:

The MPs from each country will form a group and all vote the same way?

The deputies from different countries will form groups along political lines such as a Socialist or Conservative group drawn from many countries?'

Out of 100 persons questioned					Out of 100 persons giving a reply			
MPs will form national groups	MPs will form groups along political lines		Total	Country	MPs will form national groups	MPs will form groups along political lines	Total	
29 %	32 %	39 %	100 %	Belgique/België	48 %	52 %	100 %	
26	37	37	100	Danmark	41	59	100	
40	34	26	100	Deutschland	54	46	100	
23	54	23	100	France	30	70	100	
29	40	31	100	Ireland	42	58	100	
28	49	23	100	Italia	36	64	100	
46	20	34	100	Luxembourg	70	30	100	
38	54	8	100	Nederland	41	59	100	
23	47	30	100	United Kingdom	33	67	100	
30	45	25	100	COMMUNITY	40	60	100	

For the first time since the end of 1973, the date of the first opinion poll in the nine countries of the enlarged Community, there was a drop in the proportion of attitudes favourable towards the Community—down by an average of ten points. This is not surprising in a poll carried out the month after the meeting of the European Council in Luxembourg at the beginning of April which was unanimously qualified a failure in the press. Opinion leaders reacted in the same way as the general public—an indication that this change in attitude was influenced by events of the moment and that press reports of a European success would immediately re-enhance the creditrating that the Community enjoys in the eyes of the public in most of the member countries.

Although the governments of the Member States have shown no urgency in examining the Tindemans report on European Union, a large majority of the European public still expresses interest in and support for a rapid movement towards a political union of Europe. About four persons in ten, in 1976 as in 1975 and 1973, would like to see the unification movement speeded up; in Italy and Luxembourg the majority of the public takes this view; in the Netherlands, France and Belgium,

more called for it to be speeded up than preferred to see it continued as at present; this was also the case in Germany, but advocates of a slower pace gained a little ground; in the three new Member States, the neutral—or cautious—answer ('continued as at present') attracted most votes.

Among those who consider the common market a good thing, almost two-thirds are in favour of stepping up the pace. Governments therefore appear to have the go-ahead to advance in the direction indicated by the Tindemans report.

This goodwill is confirmed by answers to the question on the creation by 1980 of a European political union with a government which would decide on major issues and a European Parliament to monitor its activities. In most of the Member States at least six out of ten people are in favour and one or two are hostile; only in the United Kingdom and in Denmark is the majority still hostile or reticent. On average answers have hardly changed since autumn 1975, an indication that this attitude—which probably tends to be influenced by emotional or ideological factors, even among opinion leaders (among whom seven out of ten are in favour)—is different in

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nature from attitudes on the common market. Here the plans for the future appear more attractive than present achievements, but nevertheless a favourable attitude towards the present situation is a predominant factor in bringing people to approve of the future design.

European union, as seen by the public, does have form and content. Four important objectives of European union, as proposed by the Tindemans report—the European protection of fundamental rights of citizens, the establishment of a common economic and monetary policy, the implementation of a regional policy and a common foreign policy—are supported in varying degrees by seven out of ten people, on average, but only six out of ten in the United Kingdom and four out of ten in Denmark. It could not of course be claimed that the people questioned always had a clear idea of the precise implications of these options, but what citizen really has a clear idea of what is being proposed to him by his government or his representatives? A point to note is that opinion leaders are three and a half times more favourable towards these common policies than non-leaders.

The election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage was already—or still—a topical issue in May, although no decision had then been taken. The public continues to be largely in favour: six people out of ten on average, with variations ranging from around seven out of ten in Italy, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany and France to four out of ten in the United Kingdom and Denmark. The proportion of favourable answers is seven out of ten, on average, among opinion leaders.

The majority of people questioned in the Community as a whole would willingly give this elected Parliament 'supranational' powers—i.e. where this might mean the members

from their own country being in a minority—to make laws on public works, the labour matters and even in the field of foreign relations. (The public is more hesitant on taxation matters, but voting for taxation has never been very popular, even at national or local level.)

Finally, in seven of the nine countries, a majority of those replying would expect members of a European Parliament elected by direct universal suffrage, to vote according to their political allegiance and not according to their nationality.

To sum up, in spite of the drop in the proportion of attitudes favourable to the European Community seen as the Common Market—as it is at present—a large majority of the European public in most Member States is quite prepared to accept or to support progressive decisions, such as the election of the Europian Parliament or the creation of a European political union.

The results of this poll bear out what the Commission said in the report sent to Mr Tindemans in June 1975:

'European union will never be achieved unless vigorous action is taken to convince social and political forces of its necessity and of the benefits it will bring. The first priority must be to restore credibility and relevance to the common venture. The election of the ... Parliament by direct universal suffrage..., by enhancing the democratic legitimacy of the Community venture, would also prepare the way for further progress... An election campaign which should be brought forward as much as possible, and the activities of the elected European Parliament would spark off a continuing debate between political, economic and social forces, national governments and the European institutions to define the basic objectives and content of European union.'

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Irsk
In irischer Sprache
In Irish
Langue irlandaise
Lingua irlandese

### DK

Dansk
In dänischer Sprache
In Danish
Langue danoise
Lingua danese
Deens

# D

Tysk In deutscher Sprache In German Langue allemande Lingua tedesca Duits

# Е

Engelsk
In englischer Sprache
In English
Langue anglaise
Lingua inglese
Engels

### F

Fransk
In französischer Sprache
In French
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Lingua francese
Frans

### I

Italiensk
In italienischer Sprache
In Italian
Langue italienne
Lingua italiana
Italiaans

### NL

Nederlandsk
In niederländischer Sprache
In Dutch
Langue néerlandaise
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1975. 307 p. (F)

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### 8716(4)

Étude sur l'évolution de la concentration dans l'industrie du textile en France. Coton (NICE 233) Laine (NICE 232). Par Guirec Delanoë, Société d'études économiques et financières Dafsa Analyse, Paris. Novembre 1975. 1976. 201 p. (F)

### 8741 (4)

Étude sur l'évolution de la concentration dans l'industrie pharmaceutique en France.

Par Katherine Blunden, Société d'études économiques et financières Dafsa Analyse, Paris. Novembre 1975.

1976. 126 p. (F)

FB 235,-

### 8742 (3)

A study of the evolution of concentration in the pharmaceutical industry in the Netherlands, by H. W. de Jong and R. de Lange. November 1975.

1975. 115 p. (E)

FB 165.-

### 8743 (5)

Studio sull'evoluzione della concentrazione nell'industria cotoniera italiana (NICE 233). Di Piera Balliano, Giovanni Bertone, Filippo Mosini, SORIS S.p.a. Studi e ricerche di economia e marketing. Novembre 1975.

1975. 149 p. (I)

FB 200,-

### **BRD/B/20**

Bibliographie sur les marches publics.

Dokumentationsbulletin

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Tillæg · Beilage · Supplement · Supplement · Supplemento · Supplement. B/20, 21.5.1976. Gratuit 1976. 36 p. (mult.)

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FB 150,-

### 8455 (E)

Study on the possible part played by certain primary nonemployment incomes in the inflationary process in Belgium. By Dr. G. Vandewalle, Professor at the State University Center of Antwerp. Series: Medium-term economic policy Volume 4.

(1976). 177 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)

FB 200.-

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### **BRD/B/19**

1976. 139 p. (mult.)

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