

COMMUNITIES

Commission

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

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

BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Commission of the European Communities General Secretariat Brussels

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^{*} In preparation

Homage to Jean Monnet

Resolution by the Heads of State or Government meeting in Luxembourg on 1 and 2 April 1976 as the European Council 1

'The European Community, which is now more than 25 years old, is already, notwithstanding its shortcomings and its imperfections, a remarkable achievement at a time when hopes of deepening the prospects of European Union are beginning to take shape.

For the positive balance sheet at the end of this first stage and on the eve of progress towards political union, we are heavily indebted to the boldness and breadth of vision of a handful of men. Amongst these, Jean Monnet has played a major part, whether as the instigator of the Schuman Plan, as first President of the High Authority or as founder of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe. In all these roles, Jean Monnet has resolutely attacked the forces of inertia in the political and economic structures of Europe in an endeavour to establish a new type of relationship between States, bringing out the solidarity already existing between European States and translating it into institutional terms.

Monnet was a realist, and although he first concentrated on economic interests, he never abandoned his vision of achieving a wider understanding between the individuals and peoples of Europe which would extend to all fields of activity. There has sometimes been a tendency to lose sight of this objective amongst the vicissitudes of European construction, but it is an objective which has never been disavowed. Now more than ever it should guide us in lifting us above our task of daily management which will then acquire its true perspective and consistency.

Jean Monnet recently retired from public life. Having devoted the greater part of his talents to the European cause, he deserves from Europe a very special mark of gratitude and admiration.

It is for these reasons that the Heads of State or Government, meeting in Luxembourg as the European Council, have decided to confer on him the title of Honorary Citizen of Europe.'

The other deliberations of the European Council will appear in Bull. EC 4-1976.

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1_{ST} PART **EVENTS AND STUDIES**

1. Entry into force of the Lomé Convention

Lomé Convention

1101. A new and important step in relations between the Community and forty-six African, Caribbean and Pacific countries was taken during the night of 31 March/1 April.

The entry into force of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé (signed on 28 February 1975¹ and since ratified by the fifty-five States concerned) is an event the historical importance of which has already been emphasized. Between January 1958 and February 1976 three forms of cooperation were founded between the Community and countries in close contact with it.

A new form of cooperation

1102. The Implementing Convention of the Treaty of Rome, which entered into force on 1 January 1958, laid down the special relations between the EEC and dependent countries and territories overseas. The independence, between 1960 and 1962, of many African countries led to the signing of the Convention of Yaoundé between the Community of the Six and eighteen States and Madagascar Associated African (AASM). It came into effect on 1 June 1964 for a five-year period and was renewed in July 1969; the second Yaoundé Convention, to which one new State (Mauritius) had acceded in 1973, expired on 31 January 1975.

The enlargement of the Community was to lend a new dimension to relations between the Community of the Nine and the Third World. In Protocol No 22 to the Act of Accession, the Community offered twenty Commonwealth countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific the chance to negotiate on their future relations which would be within the framework of association or accession agreements. Negotiations were formally opened in July 1973 in Brussels² — the discussions proper started in October of the same year³ — and after several months' negotiations, finally led to the signing4 of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé. The quality and number of the parties make this Convention unique (forty-six countries, including the whole of independent black Africa, presented Europe with a united front), as does its very nature; it is an agreement setting up a system of equally-based cooperation and pointing the way to a new formula for relations between industrialized and non-industrialized countries.

The principal feature is the combination and joint use of all the instruments of development aid. In this respect, the Lomé Convention is a continuation of what the Community and its partners achieved under previous Conventions although it also includes fundamental innovations reflecting the changes in the situation of the Third World and the Community's desire, as far as it is able, to remedy this.

Features of the new Convention

1103. According to the preamble, the Lomé Convention, concluded between the EEC and the ACP for a five-year period, aims 'to establish, on the basis of complete equality between partners, close and continuing cooperation, in a spirit of international solidarity'. In spite of any change of title this spirit of cooperation and equality should of course lead quite naturally to preserving the institutional structure of preceding conventions, that is to say a structure involving permanent dialogue.

Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2324. Bull. EC 7/8-1973, points 1101 to 1106. Bull. EC 10-1973, points 2310 and 2311.

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

⁵ OJ L 25 of 30.1.1976.

Lomé Convention Lomé Convention

Structure of the institutions

1104. This structure involves, at the top, a Council of Ministers composed of Members of the Council of the European Communities, Members of the Commission and a Member of the Government of each ACP State. The Council is assisted by a Committee of Ambassadors which supervises the work of other bodies and standing or ad hoc working parties. The Convention also provides for a Consultative Assembly composed, on a basis of equal representation, of Members of the European Parliament and Representative appointed by the ACP States.

This structure for dialogue must make joint application of the texts possible and turn cooperation, of which the various aspects are described below, into a continuous act of creation.

Trade cooperation

1105. Nearly all ACP products (99.2%) will have access to the Community market free of duties or charges having equivalent effect and without any restrictions on quantity. This principle of free and unlimited access could not, however, be applied to certain products that are covered directly or indirectly by the common agricultural policy but these products do none the less receive preferential treatment as compared with similar products from non-member countries.

The Community has also considerably relaxed the rules on origin, particularly in agreeing to consider the ACP States as being one territory for customs purposes (which means that successive working and processing operations can be carried out in a number of different States), and in being prepared to consider requests for temporary exemption if justified by the requirements of industrial development in those States.

Also the principle of the non-reciprocity of trade obligations is one of the chief innovations of the Convention. It is justified by the fact that the

levels of development are different and means that the ACP States will not have to assume corresponding obligations in respect of imports from the Community as the Community has to for imports from the ACP.

The ACP States, however, are bound not to discriminate between the Member States and to grant to the Community treatment no less favourable than the most-favoured-nation treatment, except in their relations with other developing countries.

Stabilization of export earnings (Stabex)

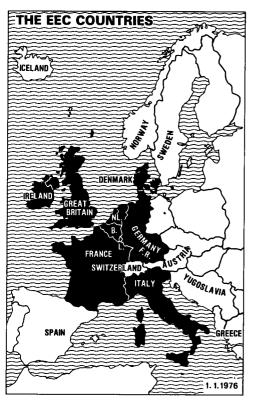
1106. The system of stabilization of export earnings was proposed by the Commission as early as April 1973 — in its Memorandum on the future relations between the Community, the present AASM and the independent developing Commonwealth countries situated in Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean¹ — as part of the Community's commitment under Protocol No 22: 'The Community will have as its firm purpose the safeguarding of the interests of all the countries referred to in this Protocol whose economies depend to a considerable extent on the export of primary products, and particularly of sugar'.

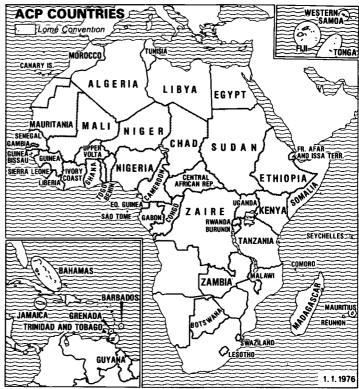
This commitment has been honoured: for the first time, industrialized countries and developing countries exporting raw materials have agreed to set up a system that guarantees the latter a certain level of export earnings by protecting them from the normal fluctuations caused by market forces and the uncertainties of production.

By insuring against bad years those producing countries which are particularly dependent on exports of one or two products, this mechanism fits perfectly into the overall design of the new Convention, and more generally that of the Commu-

Bull. EC 3-1976

¹ Bull. EC 4-1973, point 2308 and Supplement 1/73 — Bull. EC.





nity's cooperation and development policy, a design which, by combining various instruments and taking into account the diversity of situations, aims at providing the developing countries with the means to develop their potential.

The list of products covered was drawn up in the light of:

- (i) the importance of the product for the level of employment in the exporting country, the deterioration in the terms of trade between the Community and the ACP State in question and the level of development of the various ACP States;
- (ii) the traditionally unstable character of income from the product due to fluctuation of prices or of quantities produced.

The list includes twelve principal products (groundnuts, cocoa, coffee, cotton, coconuts, palm and palm kernel products, hides and skins, wood products, bananas, tea, raw sisal and iron ore) and certain subproducts, making a total of twenty-nine products with an individual guarantee for each.

Special arrangements for sugar

1107. The protocol on sugar annexed to the Convention, in the context of policy on raw materials, is quite as remarkable an innovation as Stabex. The Community has gone one step further for this product, which is so important for the

Lomé Convention Lomé Convention

economies of many ACP countries: the measures do not consist only of stabilization but they also mean that the prices guaranteed to the producing countries are practically indexed to the prices guaranteed to the Community producers.

The Community undertakes to buy, and the ACP States to supply, given amounts of sugar. These quantities, amounting to a maximum of 1 400 000 tonnes, will be expressed as quotas for each producing country.

The guaranteed price is a minimum price, that is to say that it only comes into play when sellers have been unable to obtain an equivalent or higher price through free negotiation with the buyers. It is negotiated annually, within the range of prices obtained within the Community. In addition, it is agreed that the Community will consult the ACP before making its proposals on Community prices.

The Protocol on sugar, contrary to the Convention proper which lasts for five years, is valid for an indeterminate period. However, a clause provides the possibility of termination after expiry of the Convention (i.e. in five years at the earliest) provided two years' notification is given. Any undertakings will therefore be for a minimum of seven years. A unanimous decision by the Council would be required for termination by the Community.

Financial and technical cooperation

1108. In the light of the experience of previous Conventions and any changes in the situation and needs of the partner countries, financial and technical cooperation has been given new means and a new style.

On the basis of the dual principle of the AASM keeping advantages already acquired and equal treatment for new partners, the financial aspects are as shown in Table 1 (for the ACP States alone, it being understood that 160 million u.a.

Table 1 — Financial aid

(million u.a.)

The Lomé Convention	-	Figures for the previous Convention
Global amount	3 390	918
of which EDF - grants - loans on special terms - risk capital - Stabex	3 000 2 100 430 95 375	828 ¹ 748 80
Ordinary loans from the European Investment Bank	390	90

¹ A further 5 million u.a. was added after the accession of Mauritius.

have been provided, in addition, for the Overseas Countries and Territories).

The total funds available are therefore 3.7 times greater (3.6 for the EDF and 4.3 for the Bank). On an annual average, they represent 20% of current aid provided by the Community and the Member States for developing countries as a whole.

Industrial cooperation

1109. The fact that the ACP presented a memorandum on industrial cooperation at the EEC-ACP Ministerial Conference in Kingston in July 1975,¹ plus the fact that a special Title of the Convention is devoted to this topic, illustrate that there are changes under way in international economic relations whereby developing countries play an increasingly important part in industrial production and in the world trade in processed products.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1974, points 2332 to 2338.

Lomé Convention

Social policy:Achievements and prospects

The Convention first of all confirms the existence of a joint aim and a joint conviction in this respect. The fields for action are listed on the basis of this: the development of infrastructure linked to industrialization; assistance with setting up manufacturing industries, particularly for the processing of raw materials; industrial training schemes both in Europe and the ACP States; schemes to transfer technological know-how and adapt the technology involved; information schemes and the promotion of industrial studies; accompanying measures in the sector of trade promotion.

The implementation of industrial cooperation will, of course, be based on the available means of financial and technical cooperation some forms of which have been specifically provided for this (risk capital, EIB loans, aid for small and medium-sized farms). It will be organized, moreover, by two special bodies — the Industrial Cooperation Board, the driving force, and, under the guidance of that Board, a Centre for Industrial Development, an original and strictly functional instrument which will be run on a joint basis by the ACP States and the Community and will have to organize industrial information, set up contacts and fulfil other industrial promotion functions. It is mainly due to the existence of such a Centre that it is possible to envisage generating the interest of Community firms in industrial cooperation with the ACP and to involve them in active participation.

Introduction to the 1975 Social Report¹

1201. The general economic and social situation of 1975 was characterized by rising unemployment and a level of inflation in nearly all Member States that, although lower than in 1974, continued to give rise to serious concern. By the end of 1975 total unemployment in the countries of the European Communities had reached a level of about five and a half million and consumer prices by the autumn of 1975 were rising on average by about 12.5 % compared with 16 % in the previous year.

1202. The difficulties in the employment market were made more serious by the fact that specific groups of people such as young workers or migrant workers were primarily affected. It is estimated that one and a half million of the Community unemployed were young workers, many of whom were school leavers and university graduates seeking employment for the first time. As for migrants, the poor economic situation forced many to return to their countries of origin although it was encouraging to note that such emigration did not assume the proportions that might have been expected in view of the overall deterioration in employment opportunities.

1203. Whilst the solution to the problems of unemployment and inflation are matters more effectively dealt with by actions taken by Member States themselves, the *Community*, despite all the difficulties and financial constraints, continued to make a significant contribution towards social progress. During 1975 much was achieved in the social field to ensure lasting improvements in living and working conditions for many of the Community's citizens. In particular, and of fun-

¹ Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the Community in 1975 published in conjunction with the Ninth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities (in accordance with Article 122 of the EEC Treaty).

damental importance to the millions of women in the Community, one notes the adoption during the year of a Directive aimed at the equality of treatment of men and women workers as regards employment, training and promotion, and in the case of migrant workers the adoption of a positive Council Resolution providing for progressive development of specific actions to improve the situation of migrant workers and their families.

1204. The specific measures outlined above were among the priorities set out in the Council's own Resolution for a social action programme adopted on 21 January 1974 and for which the Commission had undertaken in 1975 to put forward proposals concerning the last of these priorities. In this connection a number of specific proposals were adopted by the Council at meetings of Social and Labour Ministers in June and December.

1205. At its meeting on 17 June 1975 the Council gave its approval to:

- (a) a Decision concerning the programme of pilot schemes and studies to combat poverty,
- (b) a Recommendation regarding the application of the principle of the forty-hour week and four weeks' annual paid holiday,
- (c) the Decision on intervention of the European Social Fund to promote employment and the geographical and vocational mobility of young people under 25 years who are unemployed or seeking employment for the first time.

1206. Concerning the programme to combat poverty, the Council earmarked 2 500 000 u.a. and 2 875 000 u.a. for 1975 and 1976 respectively. It was agreed that the selection of projects would be left to the Commission in accordance with the following criteria: they must test out new methods of combating existing or potential poverty; they must, where possible, be drawn up and implemented in collaboration with persons served by the schemes themselves; and finally they must be of interest to the Community as a whole

and have an experimental aspect which could serve to guide the Community in its future policy.

Improving the conditions in which people work was the objective of the Recommendation regarding the application of the principle of the fortyhour week and four weeks annual paid holiday. The Commission had originally proposed that the forty-hour week could be achieved by the end of 1975 and four weeks' holiday by the end of 1976. The Council, however, decided that the deadline for both objectives should be 31 December 1978. Although the timetable is slower than that envisaged by the Commission, the adoption of the Recommendation does underline that there is a political will to establish the forty-hour week and four weeks' annual paid holiday as minimum standards throughout the Community during the second half of the 1970s.

1207. The Council gave the green light to the Commission's work programme in the field of employment which should see further coordination at Community level of national employment policies and research and forecasting in the employment field. The purpose is to prepare for the implementation, as and when appropriate, of an effective Community-wide employment policy.

The Commission also presented a practical proposal aimed at improving the opportunities for employment of people affected by the deterioration in the economic situation. It proposed that Article 4 of the European Social Fund should be extended to schemes to facilitate not only the geographical and vocational mobility of people who are or have been employed in industries and regions particularly affected by the recession but also any young workers under the age of twenty-five who, because of inadequate vocational training, are unable to obtain suitable employment.

Although the Council agreed that the Social Fund would be extended to cover training schemes for young workers and particularly young people seeking employment for the first time, it was unable to decide on how the Social

Bull. EC 3-1976

Fund could be used to meet the problems of regions and industries affected by the recession. This matter was taken up again by the Council in December.

- 1208. At its meeting on 18 December 1975 the Council adopted a further group of Commission proposals, the most important of which were:
- (a) A Directive on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion and working conditions.
- (b) A Resolution concerning an action programme for migrant workers and their families.
- (c) A Decision on action by the European Social Fund to help those employed in the textile and clothing industries.

1209. The vitally important provisions of the Directive on the equality of treatment are that sex discrimination in both national laws and regulations as well as collective and indidividual agreements must be eliminated as regards employment and working conditions. Furthermore in order to ensure that women are able to obtain these rights in practice, means are provided for a woman who considers that she has been the object of discrimination based on sex, matrimonial or family status to enforce her rights in national courts and, where necessary, the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

Whilst this Directive can be considered as the Community's contribution to 'International Women's Year', it is in fact one of a series of measures envisaged in the Community's social action programme aimed at establishing real equality for women throughout the Community. Thus it complements the *Directive on equal pay* adopted by the Council in 1974.

Principles of equal treatment were also taken up on behalf of migrant workers and their families when the Council adopted a positive Resolution expressing the political will to ensure, by progres-

sive stages, specific actions to improve their situation.

One of these measures was, in fact, adopted by the Council in December, namely a Community Regulation providing for freedom of trade union rights throughout the Community for citizens of the Member States. But others envisaged in the course of 1976 include steps to eliminate illegal immigration and abuses by employers of the employment rights of migrants, coordination of Member States' migration policies and facilities that will promote their social and occupational well-being, irrespective of whether they are Community citizens or nationals of non-member countries.

1210. The Council took up again the whole question of how the Social Fund would intervene to assist both the crisis-hit industries and regions affected by high unemployment. The Commission's amended proposal, however, failed to bridge the wide divergences of approach expressed by Member States. The Council did nevertheless agree to prolong the period of validity of the Council Decision concerning Social Fund assistance for workers in the textile industry and to extend this Decision to cover the clothing industry which is experiencing difficulties of structural adaptation.

1211. Since questions concerning employment continued to be the focal point of interest during 1975, it was only natural that the Standing Committee on Employment, which was reactivated by the Tripartite Conference of December 1974, should be convened several times during the year.

Meetings were held in February, June and December at which major social policy proposals drawn up by the Commission were discussed. A number of these, as previously mentioned, were subsequently adopted by the Council whilst

Social Report 1974, point 4.

others will form the basis of concrete proposals during 1976.

1212. As the economic situation throughout the Community continued to worsen it became clear that positive efforts in the social field would not by themselves provide solutions. It has always been the Commission's view that social policy should not be limited solely to those areas that are specifically social but should include the social aspects of other Community policies. In a similar way, Member States in their search for solutions to the present economic difficulties must recognize the need for concerted action by those responsible for social and economic policy.

This idea was taken up repeatedly by the representatives of European trade unions at the Tripartite Conference in December 1974 in the call for a joint *economic and social conference* at which both sides of industry could discuss the problems of unemployment with Ministers of Labour and Economic and Financial Affairs and with the Commission.

1213. The idea of holding such a conference was agreed by the European Council in July 1975 and a meeting took place in Brussels on 18 November 1975. This meeting, the first of its kind, provided a full exchange of views between Governments—represented by Economic and Finance Ministers as well as Employment Ministers—the Commission and both sides of industry on the economic and social situation.

From this conference emerged a great convergence of opinions regarding the measures to be taken to combat the crisis. It was agreed that the Commission would examine the views expressed and that another similar conference should be organized in 1976.

1214. During 1976 the Commission will complete the *remaining tasks* envisaged by the *social action programme* and as appropriate draw up complementary measures designed to expand areas of social progress. These measures include:

(a) In the field of *employment*: the Commission will continue to collect and develop current data and analyse problems occurring in the present economic situation, particularly in the context of the programme of labour market studies. The cooperation between employment services will be developed, mainly as regards regular meetings of the Directors-General for Employment. In this context, the Commission's support action to national services will continue, particularly for problems of retraining and employment prospects for migrant workers. Lastly, a report will be drawn up by a group of independent experts to pinpoint the main problems of employment over the next few vears to assist the Commission in planning future action.

As regards vocational training: the Commission intends to present in 1976 recommendations aimed at encouraging the development of further practical vocational training for young people looking for work and on vocational training for women workers.

(b) As regards freedom of movement for workers: the Commission will propose measures to be adopted to combat illegal immigration. Other proposals expected to be brought forward this year in implementation of the action programme for migrants will be the concertation of Member States' migration policies and the participation of migrants in local community life.

The question of social security for Turkish workers will continue to occupy the Commission's attention this year. The Commission has also begun the necessary work preparatory to the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol to the Association Agreement with Turkey relating to freedom of movement of migrant workers.

(c) The Social Fund will continue—where appropriate in close cooperation with the other Community financial instruments and particularly with the Regional Fund—to help promote training and mobility of workers in all the fields which have been opened to it: unemployment and under-employment in developing regions;

farmers leaving the land; workers in the textile and cloting industry requiring retraining; persons affected by difficulties in certain groups of undertakings; adjustment of workers to technical progress; migrant workers; the handicapped; unemployed persons aged under twenty-five. The latter action for young people started in the closing months of 1975, will be consolidated and organized on a more selective basis. Furthermore, the Commission intends to begin immediately the preparatory work necessary for the revision by the Council of the Decision of 1 February 1971 on the reform of the European Social Fund.

- (d) As regards worker participation in the decision-making process of the undertaking, the Commission will pursue its work this year on the European Company statute and the harmonization of the structures of limited companies. The Commission is currently examining the possibility of requiring all multinational companies to inform regularly all representatives of workers in their subsidiaries of the economic and social situation of the company.
- (e) In the field of *living and working conditions*, the Commission plans to take new specific action in the following sectors:
- (i) It will prepare a survey on the existing systems of encouragement of personal asset formation by workers. A study on the lowest salaries in the Community will also be drawn up.
- (ii) Furthermore, the Commission will consider the extension of *social protection*, particularly in the context of social security, to categories of persons not covered or insufficiently covered, and will present proposals aimed at the gradual achievement of equality of treatment between men and women in social security.
- (iii) The first European social budget (1970-75), presented to the Council in December 1974 and revised at the latter's request, will be available early in 1976; preparatory work for a second budget will begin.
- (iv) During this year, the Commission will also be assessing the progress of the poverty pro-

gramme and considering future developments in this field.

(f) The conclusions of a report on the situation of *individual* workers made *redundant* will be examined with the representatives of both sides of industry, with a view to submitting proposals to the Council in this field.

In the course of the year, the Commission will also draw up a long-term programme for the social rehabilitation of the *handicapped*, which will be forwarded to the Council.

The Commission report on the humanization of work will be sent to the Council early in 1976. The problem will then be studied in conjunction with the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

(g) As regards health protection the Commission has undertaken a study on the radiological effect of nuclear expansion, paying particular attention to radioactive pollution of the Rhine, the Meuse and coastal waters, and the risks to which the population could be exposed.

In addition, a number of studies and proposals are in hand on the drawing up of common criteria for harmfulness and also for health protection standards where the major environmental pollutants are concerned.

The Commission will also propose an action programme on safety, hygiene and health protection at work on the basis of guidelines drawn up in 1975. Following work started at the time of the setting up of the Advisory Committee with responsibility in these fields, it will propose measures to remove the dangers inherent in some manufacturing processes in the chemical industry.

(h) Pursuant to the conclusions of the 1972 Paris Summit, the Commission intends to develop the active participation of both sides of industry in the formulation of Community policies. In this respect, it envisages aid to worker organizations with a view to the creation of a European Trade Union Institute and, at the same time, it plans to develop its relations with both sides of industry in

1975 Social Report

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Second action programme on the environment

various sectors with a view to joint consultations on common and Community policies and to a greater number of joint meetings in the major economic sectors.

1215. The events of 1974 and 1975 have shown the importance of a reciprocal coordination of Community measures in the various sectors. Only via the best possible coordination of the instruments and financial means available to the Community will it be possible to achieve effective and successful implementation of the objectives of social policy which the Commission set itself in the social action programme and which the Council approved by its Resolution of 21 January 1974.

Proposal from the Commission

1301. On 24 March the Commission presented to the Council the second European Community action programme on the environment.1

The first programme was sent to the Council on 17 April 1973,² and on 22 November of that year³ the Council approved the objectives, principles and main priority measures contained in it. The second takes up where the first leaves off, both extending and, in certain respects, strengthening

Since the Council approved the first programme, it has adopted—at three meetings held in 1974 and 19754—directives and decisions stemming from the programme and designed to supplement and strengthen it and to outline fresh measures for the coming years.5

Why we need an environment policy

The environment policy adopted by the Community in November 1973 is designed to 'help to bring expansion into the service of man by procuring for him an environment providing the best conditions of life and to reconcile this expansion with the increasingly imperative need to preserve the natural environment'.

This policy springs from the finding that the industrial and population growth which has enabled Western countries to meet their essential requirements within a few decades has now come up against two obstacles.

On the input side there is the limit of natural resources. Nature pays a heavy price for economic (pollution expansion and nuisances,

Supplement 6/76 — Bull. EC. Supplement 3/73 — Bull. EC.

OJ C 112 of 20.12.1973.

Bull. EC 11-1974, points 1201 to 1206, and Bull. EC 10-1975, points 1301 to 1309 and 12-1975, points 1501 to 1504. Bull. EC 10-1975, point 1302.

thoughtless exploitation of resources and space, destruction of habitats and so on). As a result, production possibilities are reduced while production costs, burdened with the expenditure required for the reconstitution of natural resources (measures to counteract pollution; recycling), increase.

The figures in the Meadows report may be open to criticism, but they have made people aware of a fundamental question which can no longer be sidestepped; material growth has physical limits; an effort should be made to shift them but at the same time institute progressively and as expeditiously as possible a growth model based more firmly on considerations of quality.

The second obstacle is a change in the nature of consumption. Growing sections of the population are rejecting the ideal and the scale of values implicit in the consumer society, and signs of saturation are appearing.

For these reasons, as stated in the Council Declaration of 22 November 1973, the promotion throughout the Community of the harmonious development of economic activities and continuous, balanced expansion—which constitute the paramount purpose of the EEC (Article 2 of the EEC Treaty)—'cannot now be imagined in the absence of an effective campaign to combat pollution and nuisances or of an improvement in the quality of life and the protection of the environment'. The Declaration adds that these objectives 'are among the fundamental tasks of the Community and it is therefore necessary to implement a Community environment policy'.

The programme approved by the Council on the same date, 22 November 1973, has since given rise to many implementing texts (thirty-five proposals transmitted by the Commission, of which fifteen have been adopted by the Council). At the same time, many environmental measures have been taken by the Member States: 111 draft regulations and nine international agreements have been sent to the Commission and to all the

Member States under the 'information agreement' of 5 March 1973.

This effort should be continued in the coming years despite the uncertainties of the current economic situation, some of which indeed spring from the phenomena referred to above.

That was the conclusion of the debate on future Community action regarding the environment held by the Council on 16 October 1975, and it is the leitmotiv of the second programme presented by the Commission.

Features of the proposal for a second programme

1303. The programme has five main features:

- (i) It seeks to ensure that the policy followed since November 1973 is continued. The objectives and principles defined then still hold good and are therefore reaffirmed. Work will continue on measures which have not yet been brought to fruition and they are reiterated or referred to throughout the programme.
- (ii) Special emphasis is laid on measures for setting up the machinery for preventive action, particularly as regards pollution, physical planning and the generation of wastes. The programme provides for a study of procedures for environmental impact assessment, an ecological mapping system for the Community to enable economic demand to be compared with ecological supply, a study of ways of avoiding the generation of waste-which is sometimes very close to outright squandering of resources. A more comprehensive environment policy is thus taking shape—one which will be more closely tied in with economic planning and with whose framing and implementation the individual will have a greater part to play.
- (iii) Special attention is given to the non-damaging use and rational management of space, the environment and natural resources, and particular account is taken of the suggestions on this sub-

¹ Bull. EC 10-1975, point 1302.

Environment: Second action programme

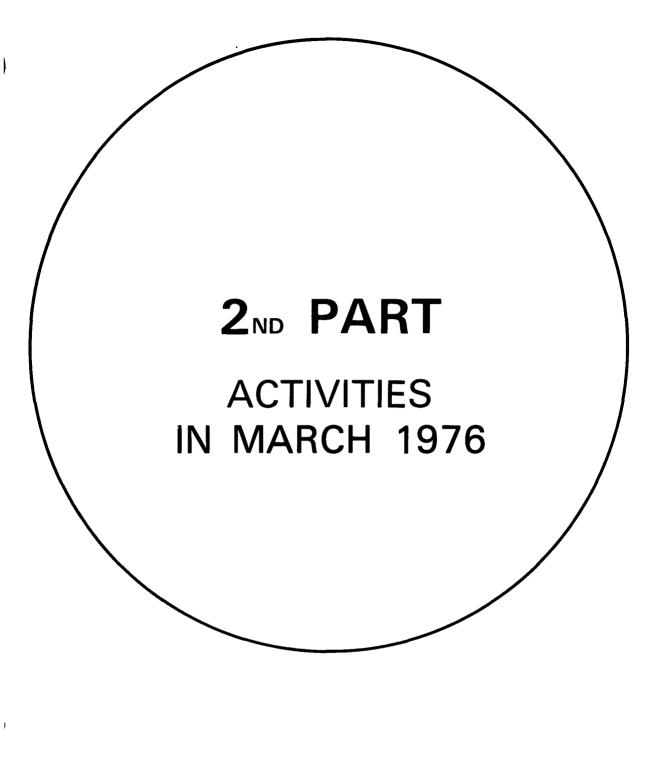
ject from the Italian and German authorities.

- (iv) For the reduction of pollution and nuisances, priority is given to measures for the protection of fresh water and sea water while new steps are proposed for noise abatement.
- (v) Finally, the Community's international activity is reaffirmed and it is proposed that an 'environmental' dimension be added to the Community's policy for cooperation with the developing countries.

The programme covers a period of five years (1977-81), and may be revised and expanded on a proposal from the Commission in the course of implementation in response to changes in the situation and in the light of experience.

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1. Functioning of the common market

Customs union

Customs union

Customs Ouestions Committee

2101. The Customs Questions Committee which brings together the heads of the national customs administrations of the nine Member States met in Brussels on 25 March with Mr Gundelach in the chair. The Committee assessed what progress had already been made towards attaining the objectives set out in the programmes for simplifying and approximating customs legislation.

Mr Gundelach stressed the Commission's concern to achieve, as quickly as possible, satisfactory results in the simplification of customs procedures and formalities, notwithstanding the Community's current economic difficulties. The Committee shared this point of view.

In the field of the approximation of legislation, the Committee noted with satisfaction that the Council had recently approved a number of important Commission proposals, namely the harmonization of outward processing provisions,1 mutual assistance for the recovery of claims² and the treatment applicable to goods returned to the Community.3

The Committee reaffirmed the need for public opinion to be more aware of the Customs Union.

Tariff measures

Suspensions

2102. On 25 March,4 the Council decided to extend the total suspension of CCT duties until 15 April in respect of new potatoes falling within subheading 07.01 A II a) and until 30 April in respect of ware potatoes falling within subheading 07.01 A III b), since the serious supply difficulties which originally prompted the measures are still facing the Community.

Harmonization of customs legislation

Mutual assistance for the recovery of claims

2103. On 15 March the Council adopted a Directive on mutual assistance for the recovery of claims⁵ resulting from operations forming part of the system of financing the EAGGF and of agricultural levies and customs duties.

Adoption of this Directive represents not only a significant step in the evolution of the customs union but will in time make a major contribution towards strengthening the means of protection of Community funds, whether these be in the form of unpaid customs duties or levies, or EAGGF overpayments.

Although of course financial claims of this kind may at present be recoverable within the Member State where they are established, they cannot be recovered in another Member State, where, for example, the debtor might reside and hold seisable assets. Such a situation, where the uniform and equitable application of Community law is hampered by the constraints imposed by the strict territoriality of recovery instruments, is scarcely compatible with the notion of a Community based on uniformly implemented rules.

Neither is it appropriate in the customs union, where, by virtue of Community law, the nine Member States already constitute a single Community customs territory.

The Directive therefore lavs down common rules for mutual assistance which the Member States must incorporate into their national provisions by 1 January 1978 to ensure the recovery in each Member State of claims arising in another Member State. These claims will include overpayments of refunds, intervention or other EAGGF

Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2113.

Point 2103.

Point 2104.

OJ L 81 of 27.3.1976. OJ L 73 of 19.3.1976.

Customs union Customs union

measures, unpaid customs duties and agricultural levies, as well as any interests and costs.

Goods returned to the customs territory of the Community

2104. On 25 March,¹ the Council adopted a Regulation on the customs treatment applicable to goods returned to the customs territory of the Community after being exported from that territory.

The effect of these arrangements will be to harmonize the national rules in force, which currently vary widely, and to put an end to the present situation whereby Community goods exported by a Member State cannot benefit from duty-free entry when they are reintroduced into the Community by another Member State.

Origin and methods of administrative cooperation

2105. On 25 March, the Commission presented to the Council a draft Decision of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees supplementing the lists (A and B) annexed to the Protocol concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation.

These amendments proposed by the Commission as a joint Community position were agreed in discussions with the customs experts of the Member States. They relate in particular to the chemicals industry and to various specific products, including rubber sheets, furs, paper pulp, skid chains, sewing machines and lighters. Developments in manufacturing techniques and in the economic conditions connected with international trade in certain products prompted the Member States, the EFTA countries and the Commission to study the possibility of amending the specific rules of origin relating to these products.

Customs arrangements based on economic considerations

Inward processing

2106. On 25 March, ¹ the Council adopted a Directive implementing the Directive of 4 March 1969² (governing inward processing arrangements) as regards the repair of goods under such arrangements.

Under this new Directive, repair work can be considered as contributing towards providing the most favourable conditions for the export of the goods resulting from this processing without conflicting with the essential interests of Community producers. There is no point in requiring the relevant authorities to assess the effects of these operations in each individual case.

2107. The European Parliament³ and the Economic and Social Committee⁴ delivered Opinions—on 12 March and at the meeting on 31 March and 1 April respectively—on a Commission proposal to the Council to amend the Directives of 1969 relating to customs warehousing procedure and free zones and the Directive of 1971 relating to the usual forms of handling which may be carried out in customs warehouses and free zones.

Bull. EC 3-1976

23

OJ L 89 of 2.4.1976.

OJ L 58 of 8.3.1969.

Point 2417.

Point 2454.

Competition policy

Restrictive agreements, mergers and dominant positions: specific cases

Termination of a market sharing agreement based on trademarks

2108. The Commission has terminated its proceeding under Article 85 of the EEC Treaty against two leading knitting yarn firms in the United Kingdom and France following the formal termination of a 1964 agreement between them.

In 1964 Sirdar Ltd, Wakefield, Yorkshire, and Les Fils de Louis Mulliez SA, Roubaix, agreed that the former would not market its knitting yarns in France under its Sirdar trademark while the latter would refrain from marketing its yarns in the United Kingdom under its Phildar trademark.

After a preliminary decision issued in March 1975¹ in which the Commission took the view that territorial market sharing was not justified even if the Sirdar and Phildar trademarks could be regarded as confusingly similar, the Commission opened formal proceedings against the two firms under Article 85 of the EEC Treaty with the aim of replacing the provisional decision by a final decision under Regulation No 17. After receiving the Commission's statement of objections, the firms began discussions which, on 28 January, culminated in the total abandonment of the 1964 agreement and in the withdrawal of the English firm's opposition to the registration of the Phildar trademark in the United Kingdom.

In answer to the argument that the 1964 agreement prevented neither party from exporting to the other's territory under trademarks other than Phildar and Sirdar, the Commission emphasized the practical and commercial difficulties of establishing a new mark, particularly where the existing trademarks are already well established.

It also noted that, in a number of Member and

non-member States other than France and the United Kingdom, the Sirdar and Phildar trademarks existed side by side and knitting yarns were sold under them without apparent difficulties. The 1964 agreement expressly accepted and even encouraged this; the Commission concluded that the purpose of the restrictive clauses relating to France and the United Kingdom was not to avoid confusion between the marks but rather to protect the home market of each of the two firms.

Termination of private measures to regulate imports

2109. Commission action in response to a complaint from the governments of four Member States has led the *Union interprofessionelle des semences fourragères* (UISF), Paris, to abandon its restrictive measures in relation to herbage seed imports from the other Member States. These measures infringed Article 85 of the EEC Treaty.

There was an agreement between UISF, its five member associations and five other French trade associations representing producers, breeders, distributors and importers of herbage seed to charge levies on imports into France of the main varieties of herbage seed. The levies broadly corresponded to the difference between the higher home market prices and the substantially lower prices charged by producers in other Member States. The agreement set up a scheme of minimum guaranteed prices for breeders, threshold prices for imports of each variety and a range of levies in amounts varying according to variety. Imports from the other Member States, and particularly from Denmark, were substantially hampered.

At the Commission's request, UISF has undertaken to put an end to the infringement at once, that is before the start of the next sowing season, and to pay back in full the levies already collected.

Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2111.

Competition policy

Mergers in the steel industry

2110. Acting under Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission authorized Deutsche Erz und Metall-Union GmbH (DEUMU), scrap dealer of Hannover and a member of the Salzgitter group, to acquire 50% of the capital of Schrott-Weiss GmbH & Co KG and Karl Weiss GmbH, scrap dealers of Nürnberg. After the merger these firms will together account for about 8% of the German scrap retrieval market.

2111. By another decision under Article 66 the Commission authorized the *British Steel Corporation* (BSC) to acquire 75% of the capital of the German firm *Walter Blume GmbH* (Blume), steel stockholder of Stuttgart.¹

Following this takeover BSC, whose steel sales in Germany were hitherto negligible, will have access to the Blume distribution network with fifteen sales offices operating mainly in the Ruhr and the south-west and accounting for 2.5% of German stockholder sales. The arrival of BSC products on the German market, where it is to all intents and purposes a new market entrant, will strengthen competition.

Authorization of a joint selling agreement

2112. On 12 March the Commission decided² to extend for a further year, up to 31 December 1976, its decision of 4 November 1959 authorizing the joint sale of solid fuels from Houillères du Bassin de Lorraine and Saarbergwerke AG by Saarlor, a Franco-German joint stock company. The decision had already been extended in 1961, 1966, 1969, 1972 and 1974.

The Commission considered that the reasoning behind the original ECSC High Authority authorization of this joint selling agreement in 1959 still held good and that the agreement was not contrary to Article 65 of the ECSC Treaty, which deals with inter-firm agreements and concerted practices which may distort competition. Saarlor's

sales in 1975 accounted for 16.5% of Saarbergwerke's output and 3.6% of Bassin Lorrain's output.

State aids

General schemes

Germany

2113. On 15 March the Commission decided not to object to the implementation of a draft law amending an existing German law to promote the use of Community coal in electricity generating stations (Drittes Verstromungsgesetz).

When considering this law in 1974 the Commission concluded³ that it would not place firms generating electricity from coal on a better economic footing than those using fuel oil. It did not therefore raise objections.

The changes which the German Government is now planning to make to the Drittes Verstromungsgesetz are as follows:

- (i) the reference period for calculating assistance to offset cost differences will be shorter;
- (ii) the annual output capacity above which electricity supply companies pay the equalization tax will be raised from 250 kW to 1 MW;
- (iii) the annual output capacity above which Federal Government authorization must be sought before plant can be built or extended will be reduced from 10 MW to 1 MW;
- (iv) the period during which the subsidy of DM 150 per kW installed capacity can be granted to assist the building of new coal-fired power stations will be extended by two years to 31 December 1979;

¹ OJ L 94 of 9.4.1976.

OJ L 78 of 25.3.1976.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1974, point 2131.

(v) in individual cases the Federal Government may cover specific expenditure incurred by the use of coal.

The Commission has considered these amendments in the light of the EEC and ECSC Treaties and has no additional comments to make beyond those which it made in 1974.

Industry schemes

United Kingdom

2114. On 17 March the Commission decided to raise no objections to the implementation of a planned scheme of assistance for the machine tools industry in the United Kingdom. Under the scheme seven-year loans at an interest rate of 8.5% may be granted to cover not more than 50% of the cost of projects for the development of new products. Modernization and restructuring operations will entitle firms to a grant of 20% of investment in plant and machinery and 15% of investment in new buildings.

Initially, there was also to be assistance in the form of seven-year loans at an interest rate of 8.5% to cover up to 50% of the cost of stockbuilding. However, the UK Government decided to withdraw this plan to assist stockbuilding, and the Commission's decision on this point simply records that fact.

Denmark

2115. The Commission will not be objecting to the implementation by the Danish Government of a draft law to assist the hotel industry. The assistance will be given to investments for fire prevention, environmental protection and the modernization, extension and construction of hotels and organized camping sites. The Commission took into consideration the fact that the planned assistance will facilitate the development of a specific economic activity without adversely

affecting trading conditions to an extent contrary to the common interest.

Export aids

Italy

2116. On 9 March the Commission decided to initiate the procedure of Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty in respect of assistance granted by the Italian Government for the promotion of exports of *Italian toys* to the *French market*.

The assistance, paid through the ICE (Istituto nazionale per il commercio estero), would take the form of a grant of Lit 720 million spread over three years (1975-77) for the financing of a sales promotion campaign (TV, radio, press, posters) launched by the Italian toy industry to boost its French sales. The State assistance would be in addition to the Lit 480 million contributed by the firms themselves.

The Commission noted two facts:

- (i) By not notifying the Commission, the Italian Government had failed to fulfil its obligations under Article 93 (3) and so the assistance did not comply with Community law and had to be immediately terminated by the Italian Government;
- (ii) Italian Government finance given through the ICE would affect trade between Member States and distort competition within the meaning of Article 92 (1). By financing a major proportion of the advertising campaign launched in France to step up toy sales, the Italian State was bearing costs which in normal circumstances should be borne by the firms themselves; these firms were thus given a definite competitive advantage over their competitors from other States selling toys on the French market without the same sort of advertising budget facilities. The assistance thus constituted an aid to the export of Italian toys and, as the Commission has always stated, the grant of export aids in intra-Community trade is incompatible with the general prin-

2. Economic and montary union

Competition policy

ciples of a common market, particularly as regards the free movement of goods. No exceptions may be allowed in such cases.¹

The Commission therefore concluded that it had to open proceedings under Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty. It also published a notice in the Official Journal of the Communities² calling on interested parties other than the Member States to present their comments.

Corrigendum

Bull EC 2-1976, point 2117 (France – Manufactured tobacco)

The final sentence should read: 'Lastly, it points out that sales on the French market of British, Danish and Irish products, which amounted to some 13 million units (cigars, cigarettes and pipe tobacco) in 1972 and 1973, rose to 176 million units in 1974 and 675 million units in 1975.'

Economic, monetary and financial policy

Community loans to Ireland and Italy

2201. At its meeting in Brussels on 15 March, at which Mr Vouël, Luxembourg Finance Minister, took the chair, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, formally adopted a decision to grant Community loans to Ireland and Italy of \$300 million and \$1000 million respectively. In the case of Ireland, this was the formal adoption of a decision already approved by the Council on 16 February 1976, while, in the case of Italy, the loan was the outcome of intense negotiations started by the Commission on the basis of the decision taken by the Council at that same meeting, with a view to floating on the international market a Community issue equal to the size of the loan.

The granting of the loans to Ireland and Italy is associated with economic policy conditions to be observed by each of the two countries and laid down in Council Decisions,² namely:

Ireland

- (i) Growth in the central government borrowing requirement, expressed as a percentage of gross national product, should be halted in 1976 and should be reduced in subsequent years;
- (ii) Every effort is to be made to finance the largest possible proportion of public sector borrowing requirements outside the money market, for example by placing long-term securities directly with the public;
- (iii) The Irish authorities are to exercise the utmost caution to avoid the danger that would arise from providing easy accommodation for both

See, for instance, Judgment of the Court of Justice given on 10.12.1969 in Joined Cases 6 and 11/69 (French rediscount rate).

OJ C 68 of 23.3.1976.

Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2201.

OJ L 77 of 24.3.1976.

the borrowing requirement of the exchequer and the demand for credit of the private sector, were this to expand more rapidly than presently envisaged.

Italy

During 1976:

- (i) Total central government expenditure must be limited to Lit 39 700 000 million in the 1976 calendar year;
- (ii) The deficit on Treasury transactions, as defined in the Directive of 17 December 1974 granting medium-term financial assistance to Italy, must not exceed Lit 13 800 000 million, even if compliance with this stipulation should entail an increase in taxation;
- (iii) The financing of the deficit on Treasury transactions by the monetary authorities must be limited, if necessary, by legislative means, to Lit 5 700 000 million in the 1976 calendar year;
- (iv) The growth in total lending, as defined in the Directive of 17 December 1974, must not exceed Lit 29 500 000 million in the 1976 calendar vear.

The conditions to be observed for the subsequent years of the loan period will be fixed in good time by the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission. In addition, the Italian Government will make all possible efforts to keep the rise in incomes within limits compatible with the internal and external equilibrium of the economy.

Financial aspects

As provided by the Regulation of 17 February 1975 concerning Community loans,² the loans granted to Ireland and Italy are made on the same financial terms as the counterpart borrowing operations. The main features of these operations were laid down in a Council Decision of 15 March,³ which authorizes the Commission

to conclude, on behalf of the Community, four loan contracts forming a package in a total amount equivalent to \$1,300 million. Including requirements in the clauses contained in the contracts relating to three of these operations which were concluded on 22 March in Brussels between the Commission, represented by Vice-President Haferkamp, and the banks concerned, the main features of the Community loan are as follows:

- A public issue of bonds totalling \$300 million for six years, carrying an interest rate of 84%, to be issued at 99.00, with a value date of 31 March 1976. This issue has been underwritten by an international banking syndicate, lead-managed by the Deutsche Bank AG. The loan will be floated on the Luxembourg stock exchange;
- (ii) A public issue of bonds totalling DM 500 million for seven years, carrying an interest rate of 7\%\%, issued at 99.50, with a value date of 1 April 1976. The bonds will be placed by an international banking consortium lead-managed by the Deutsche Bank AG. The issue will be floated on the Frankfurt, Berlin, Düsseldorf, Hamburg and Munich stock exchanges;
- An agreement for a loan totalling \$300 million for five years, with a variable rate of interest calculated at one point over the average London inter-bank rate for dollar deposits for the same term using steps of three months or six months at the Community's option. The loan is callable, in three equal tranches, within four weeks of the signing of the contract. The banking syndicate consists of forty European, North American and Japanese banks, led by the European Banking Co Ltd, the Orion Bank Ltd, the Banque de la Société Financière Européenne, Europartners Bank (Nederland) NV and Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. of New York;
- (iv) A private agreement for a loan of \$500 million with a syndicate of banks, with redemption

OJ L 341 of 20.12.1974.
 OJ L 46 of 20.2.1975; Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2201, and 7/8-1975, point 2211.
 OJ L 77 of 24.3.1976.

at three years and seven months at the earliest and at the latest four years. The interest rate and the issue price will be fixed on the date of issue, which will be some time in April.

The sums raised by each of the above borrowing transactions will be paid, in the same currencies and on the same terms, to the Central Bank of Ireland and to the Banca d'Italia in proportions of three-thirteenths and ten-thirteenths respectively. All the financial operations relating to the issues and loans will be carried out by the European Monetary Cooperation Fund.

Statements by Mr Haferkamp

2203. On 15 March, Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, made the following statement:

'The Council decision to grant Ireland and Italy a total of \$1 300 million in the form of Community loans constitutes an important practical expression of the concept of Community solidarity.

The economic and financial policy conditions for these two Member States agreed at the same time are of vital importance for the improvement and stabilization of their economic and financial positions.

The lending operation itself is the result of close and fruitful cooperation between the Commission and large international banking consortia.'

2204. When the three loan operations were signed on 22 March, Mr Haferkamp said: 'Shortly after the outbreak of the oil crisis, the Commission proposed that the Community should be empowered to raise loans. We did this at that time because:

- (i) it was to be foreseen that the increases in oil prices would generate heavy payments balance deficits;
- (ii) we wanted to promote order on the capital markets, to avoid a scramble for credit.

But the main reason why we made this proposal was that we wished to create an instrument that would constitute a practical expression of Community solidarity, an instrument to help Member States which had run into difficulties. But in doing this we also agreed on the principle that aid provided as an expression of Community solidarity should be afforded on the condition that those who were helped would make every effort to help themselves.

The onlending of funds yielded by the loans is therefore associated with economic and finance policy conditions with which the beneficiary States will comply.

The goal is to achieve a stable order on the basis of a common effort.

The developments of the last few days have highlighted the importance of these conditions:

- (i) as a useful contribution to the difficult decisions the Governments have to take;
- (ii) as an important protection against disturbances of the common market.

This has happened during a period of monetary upheaval. Even before the loans have been signed, the Community loan instrument has thus acted as a stabilization factor and a factor in improving confidence.

... I take this opportunity to thank warmly all those who have made all the extensive and complex arrangements in such a short time. We have before us the results of a major effort of imagination, considerable technical skill, a courageous spirit of enterprise but most of all, the unstinting cooperation of all concerned, based on mutual confidence.

The rewarding work we have thus carried out on preparing our great venture — work which has been for me a source of great personal satisfaction as well — leaves no doubt in my mind that we shall also bring to a completely successful conclusion one of the greatest capital market operations ever, this concrete expression of Com-

Bull. EC 3-1976

munity solidarity, the first Community loan. This serves not only the interests of the European Communities, nor is it only in the interests of those participating, about two hundred banks. For we are all providing today, in the midst of uncertainty and doubt, a ringing demonstration of our confidence in the future.

Exchange markets

2205. Following the disturbances on the exchanges at the beginning of the year — growing speculative pressure on the lira resulting, on 21 January 1976, in the suspension of official quotations of foreign currencies on the exchanges in Italy, and the weakness of the French franc, particularly in the second half of January — the exchanges remained unsettled in the following weeks. Thus, as a result of the combined impact of the 11 % devaluation of the Spanish peseta on 9 February and the uncertainty concerning the future of the lira, pressure on the French franc mounted strongly again while the relative appreciation of the German mark gathered momentum. Some degree of calm, however, returned to the exchanges towards mid-February thanks to the coordinated intervention of the Banque de France and the Bundesbank. The lira, however, continued its irregular downward course in February, its value against the dollar having fallen by the end of the month by about 10% compared with 20 January, in spite of a slight recovery.

The French franc leaves the 'snake'

2206. At the beginning of March, a few days after the resumption of official foreign exchange quotations in Italy, sterling weakened sharply, and this was followed by renewed attacks on the French franc, which, in the space of only a few days, fell to the 'snake's' lower limit. Faced with major difficulties, the French Government asked that a meeting of the Finance Ministers of the countries — including the non-Community

countries — participating in the 'snake' be called for the afternoon of 14 March to discuss the monetary situation. At the end of that meeting, the French Government decided to withdraw from the Community exchange rate scheme, which the franc had rejoined on 10 July 1975.2

On 15 March, the Commission released the following statement:

'The Commission has examined the decision taken last night by the French Government to suspend its participation in the Community exchange rate system. The Commission notes that this decision is further evidence of the fact that the Community exchange rate system will remain vulnerable until Member States give tangible proof of their political will to press ahead with economic and monetary integration, which is indispensable if the achievements of the Community to date are to be safeguarded.

The Commission will make the necessary proposals and expects the next European Council to lay down guidelines to safeguard the cohesion of the Community.'

Against this background the Benelux countries³ decided to suspend, with effect from 15 March, their special agreement ('mini-snake') of August 1971, under which they were keeping the exchange rates of the guilder and the Belgian and Luxembourg francs within a margin of fluctuation of 1.50 % by intervention in the currencies in question backed by mutual credit arrangements between the two central banks. The margin of fluctuation to be observed between these currencies is now 2.25%, the same as for the other 'snake' currencies.

Measures taken by Italy

2207. In spite of the resumption of intervention by the Banca d'Italia, the lira continued to depre-

Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2201. Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2207.

Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands.

ciate more rapidly, its value against the dollar falling by around 22% compared with the level on 20 January 1976. On 18 March, the Italian Government adopted a set of measures designed to stem the fall in the lira and to improve the public finance situation.

In particular, the restrictive monetary policy was tightened, notably by raising the discount rate and the rate on advances against securities from 8 to 12%. In the field of taxation, the rates of value added tax on a wide range of products were increased: motor vehicles (from 12 to 18 % and from 30 to 35 % depending on engine capacity), wine, sugar, mineral waters, products sold in cafés and restaurants, entertainments, etc.; a number of excise duties were also raised; the price of petrol was increased from Lit. 350 to Lit. 400 per litre; the tax on bank deposit interest, registration taxes and the charge for TV licences also rose. Taken together, these tax measures will probably raise some Lit. 1 000 000 million additional revenue in a full year, with almost half coming from the increase in the price of petrol.

On 18 March, the Commission Spokesman announced that the Commission, which had been in constant touch with the Italian Government the previous day, had been informed of the measures taken in Rome in the night. The Commission, he went on, took the view that these measures were in accordance with the Community rules in force and with the undertakings entered into jointly. In addition, the measures, which represented an appreciable effort on the part of the Italian authorities and people, would effectively contribute, in the framework of Community solidarity, to the indispensable work being carried out to get the Italian economy back onto a sound footing.

2208. During the last ten days of March, the exchanges were free from serious disturbance. Thanks to the measures taken by the Italian au-

thorities, the slide in the value of the lira was halted. The French franc, which had depreciated by about 5% after 15 March, managed to hold its value at around this level against the 'snake' currencies while sterling remained somewhat weak. The Belgian franc strengthened as a result of the measures taken by the monetary authorities in Belgium, notably the raising of the discount rate. Towards the end of the month, the upward pressure on the mark kept it at a distinctly higher rate than that of the other currencies in the 'snake', which tended to cluster just above the lower limit of the margin of fluctuation.

Adjustment of the economic policy guidelines for 1976

2209. At its meeting on 15 March 1976, the Council, in accordance with its Decision of 18 February 1974, carried out the first quarterly examination of the economic situation in the Community on the basis of two documents presented by the Commission: a Communication concerning the adjustment of the 1976 economic policy guidelines, which had been laid down in the Annual Report adopted by the Council on 17 November 1975,2 to the new requirements of the economic situation, and a document containing, in accordance with Articles 2 and 12 of the Decision of 18 February 1974, a summary account of the economic policies pursued in 1975 and a report on the application of that decision and the conformity of the policies pursued with the objectives set. The Council also had before it an Opinion on the Commission Communication delivered by the Economic Policy Committee.3

At the close of this examination, the Council approved the text of a decision whereby Member States would pursue economic policies in conformity with the guidelines set out in the Community Communication. The Commission took the

OJ L 52 of 28.2.1974.

Bull. EC 11-1975, point 2201.

Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2204.

view that the trends observed in recent months and the latest business surveys substantially confirm the outlook for 1976 set out in the 'Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community' and that the general pattern of the economic policy guidelines contained in that Report is still valid. The main task is to consolidate the upturn by:

- (i) ensuring strict and prompt implementation of the measures already decided upon to stimulate economic activity and, where necessary, prolonging the application of certain measures so as to avoid interruptions to the economic recovery;
- (ii) making further progress in combating inflation and curbing the rise in wage costs, an essential move particularly in those Member States with little room for manœuvre in the field of balance-of-payments and budgetary policy, i.e. Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom.

The Commission's view is that, in spite of the good prospects for a gradual economic upturn in the Community, uncertainty and concern about economic policies will continue in all Member States in 1976. The most important task will be to set the stage for as rapid an improvement as possible in the employment situation and for sustained economic growth without generating renewed bouts of inflation.

Given the continuing uncertainty as to the strength of the economic upturn, budgetary policy should go on sustaining economic activity, by ensuring that the budget deficits are not reduced at an unduly rapid rate and that the expansion in public-sector investment continues. Monetary policy should also encourage sustained economic recovery. However, given that there is so far no reason to question the forecasts of continuing inflation, the expansion of liquidity in the Member States should be kept within narrowly defined limits.

If there is to be steady economic growth and a high level of employment, job-creating investment must be stepped up considerably. In this connection, it is essential that firms' profitability

improve. Rather than through price increases, this should be achieved by productivity gains resulting from economic growth and from a more moderate rate of growth of costs of production. In this connection, the upward movement in consumer prices must be slowed down further to prevent the moderation in the rise in money wages from exerting a contractionary effect on consumer demand in real terms. This means that the upward tendency of prices must be strictly controlled. The planned increase in indirect taxes in a number of Member States should, where possible, be disregarded in any wage settlements so as to prevent chain reactions. Furthermore, a narrowing of the difference in price trends between member countries would prevent disturbances between the 'snake' currencies and would facilitate the coordination of monetary policies. If the external values of the Community currencies were kept as strong as possible, this would make an effective contribution to preventing rising import prices and world commodity prices from jeopardizing the progress made with difficulty on the price stabilization front.

Overall management of the economy should be supplemented by measures under employment and social policy. Selective measures in the fields of basic and further training should in particular help to reduce the high level of unemployment, particularly among young people, which is giving cause for concern; for this purpose, increased use should also be made of the Community resources available under regional, social and structural policy. In the current economic situation and also in the medium-term view, it would seem essential to achieve greater consensus between managements and unions on income targets and the economic policy conditions for achieving these targets so as to overcome as quickly as possible the effects of the deep recession which has just ended, to resolve the resulting adjustment problems and to put an end to the disputes concerning the distribution of income. It is only by joint

OJ C 297 of 29.12.1975.

efforts to promote confidence that the expansionary factors leading to the creation of new jobs can be strengthened and the upward movement in prices slowed down further.

The continuation of the dialogue between the two sides of industry, which was launched at the Tripartite Conference¹ in 1975 between representatives of the employers' and workers' organizations, Member States' Ministers of Economic and Social Affairs and the Commission, could make an important contribution to strengthening the economic situation and restoring the confidence of firms and consumers in the Community's economic future.

Monetary Committee

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2210. The Monetary Committee held its 215th meeting in Brussels on 31 March with Mr Pöhl in the chair. After its customary reviews of the monetary policy measures recently adopted by the member countries, it discussed the work of the Financial Affairs Commission of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation. Finally, it examined the methods used in Member States to determine quotations on the exchange markets.

In the middle of March, the Committee also adopted, by written procedure, a Report on its activities during 1975, the seventeenth annual Report. This document, which has been forwarded to the Commission and to the Council, will be published in the Official Journal of the Communities.

In addition, the Working Party on Securities Markets met in Brussels on 1 and 2 March. It first reviewed the situation on the international bond markets and the national capital markets (fourth quarter of 1975), and then discussed, on the basis of a document prepared by the Commission's departments, the progress made in liberalizing transactions in securities.

Economic Policy Committee

2211. The Economic Policy Committee held its 28th and 29th meetings in Brussels in March.

On 8 March, in its reduced budgets composition and with Mr Middelhoek in the chair, the Committee discussed the maximum rate of increase in the non-compulsory expenditure under the Communities' budget for 1977 and adopted on this subject an Opinion to be delivered to the Commission. It also took note of the revised three-yearly financial forecasts for the budget. Finally, it agreed to hold a seminar in Copenhagen in September at which the methods of mediumterm budgetary forecasting used in Member States would be examined.

On 16 and 17 March, in its reduced mediumterm composition and with Mr Maldague in the chair, the Committee adopted, on the basis of a document prepared by the Commission's departments, the general layout and detailed contents of the chapters of the preliminary draft of the fourth medium-term economic policy programme to be adopted before the summer.

In addition, the Working Party on Public Finance met in Brussels on 26 March. It pursued its work on the effectiveness of budgetary measures and on the formulation of structural budget benchmarks.

Working Party on the Comparison of Budgets

2212. The Working Party on the Comparison of Budgets met in Brussels on 9 March to discuss the situation with regard to the replies received to a questionnaire supplementing an ESA² questionnaire designed to elicit statistics on public finance in Member States presented according to a layout the Working Party had devised. It then examined the IMF and UN drafts on the preparation at international level of comparable statis-

¹ Bull. EC 11-1975, points 1201 to 1205.

² European System of Integrated Economic Accounts.

tical frameworks for public finance which will be discussed at the two meetings to be held by the two organizations during 1976.

At its session from 8 to 12 March, the *2213*. Parliament passed a Resolution on the 'Community of stability and growth' and delivered its Opinion on the Commission proposal concerning the establishment of a European Communities Institute for Economic Analysis and Research. The Economic and Social Committee² also delivered an Opinion on this proposal at its meeting on 31 March and 1 April.

Regional policy

Regional Policy Committee

Meeting of the Committee

The Regional Policy Committee held its fourth meeting on 29 and 30 March.

It discussed the types of infrastructure eligible for Community assistance under Article 4(1)(b) of the Council Regulation of 18 March 1975 estab-Development European Regional Fund,3 namely infrastructures directly linked with the development of industrial, handicraft or service activities.

The Committee also began examination of the problem of border regions along the Community's internal frontiers, which will also be on the agenda of the next meeting, to be held on 29 and 30 June. The Committee then adopted a decision on a third batch of infrastructure investment projects of ten million units of account or more, and embarked on the task of assessing the cost of regional aids in Member States.

During the first quarter of the year, the Chairman of the Committee met the representative of workers' and employers' organizations in Europe.

Outline for regional development programmes

The outline for regional development programmes provided for in the Council Regulation of 18 March 1975³ establishing a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) has been published in the Official Journal.4 In October 1975,5 the Regional Policy Committee had adopted an outline for the regional development programmes as required by the above Regulation.

Under this Regulation, the Fund can grant assistance only where development programmes have been drawn up for all regions.

The regional development programmes must have five chapters:

- 1. A detailed economic and social analysis together with a description, based on past experience, of probable economic and social developments until 1979-80;
- 2. Development targets should be specified, with emphasis being placed on the level of employment, the level of income, the infrastructure and the various economic activities of the region:
- The development measures envisaged in order to attain the targets indicated should also be specified:
- The financial resources to be allocated to the development programmes (resources and types of financing);
- An implementation schedule.

The first development programmes will be ready in 1976.

Point 2415.

Point 2450.

OJ L 73 of 21.3.1975. OJ C 69 of 24.3.1976.

Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2209.

2216. At its meeting on 31 March and 1 April, the Economic and Social Committee delivered an Opinion on the regional policy.¹

Social policy

'Social report' 1975

2217. On 16 March the Commission approved the Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the Community in 1975, published in conjunction with the Ninth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities (in accordance with Article 122 of the EEC Treaty). This year as in the past this report sums up achievements to date and outlines future developments in the Community social policy.2

Freedom of movement and social security for migrant workers

The Advisory Committee on Freedom of *2218*. Movement for Workers met in Brussels on 16 March. Most of the meeting was devoted to discussing a preliminary draft Commission proposal on the protection of migrant workers and coordination of preventive and punitive measures against illegal immigration.³

As regards choice of the legal instrument to be used, there was a majority in favour of a recommendation. Discussion centred on the possibility of establishing adequate control of immigration from outside the Community, setting up a procedure of appeal against expulsion decisions and in certain cases adopting measures to legalize de facto situations.

In considering the application of Community provisions, the Commission stressed the need for national authorities to take without delay the measures needed to conform with Court judgments on equality of treatment in the field of study grants and other social benefits.4

2219. On 9 and 10 March the Audit Board attached to the Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers considered the results of meetings held in December 19755 with the representatives of the original Member States to settle outstanding claims between social security institutions of the Member States and concerning the application of repealed Community Regulations Nos 3 and 4. It seems that it will be possible to observe the deadlines set and the Commission staff are doing their best to find answers to problems still to be solved by the Member States.

The meeting also dealt with questions in abeyance (of a financial or technical nature) regarding the application of Community regulations, particularly the conclusion of agreements between Member States pursuant to these regulations, and certain methodological problems connected with fixing the amounts to be reimbursed.

Social Fund, re-employment and retraining

The Social Fund Advisory Committee met *2220.* ¹ on 26 March in Brussels and examined over fifty applications for assistance submitted by the Member States. The applications concerned the retraining of agricultural and textile workers, migrant workers and young people under twentyfive (Article 4), unemployed or underemployed workers in less-developed regions of the Community (Article 5), and the training of workers to meet the requirements created by technical and industrial progress and rehabilitation of the handicapped.

Point 2451.

Points 1201 to 1215.

Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2210 and 12-1975, point 2218. Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2242 and 12-1975, point 2218. Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2219.

2221. On 3 March, the Commission decided to aid a number of 'pilot projects' in the field of vocational training as a preliminary to Social Fund intervention.

Social security and social action

2222. On 4 and 5 March a fact-finding and consultative meeting was held with the two sides of industry on problems connected with the adjustment of social security benefits to income trends.

2223. To implement the campaign against poverty, a first consultative meeting was held on 18 and 19 March with government and independent experts and representatives of labour and management. Reports outlining the programme to be carried out in connection with the pilot projects were presented to them.

European social budget

2224. The group of experts responsible for working out forecasting methods for social expenditure and its financing met on 18 March. The group reviewed methods used in the various countries to estimate the trend of benefits in kind; it was further decided to extend research to unemployment benefits and old age pensions.

2225. At its meeting on 31 March and 1 April the *Economic and Social Committee*² gave its Opinion on the Commission's Communication to the Council of December 1975³ on the European social budget.

Living and working conditions

Road transport

2226. The Commission presented to the Council a proposal for a regulation on the harmonization of certain social provisions in the field of road transport. The new text, proposed after consultation with the two sides of industry, is intended to replace the Regulation of 25 March 1969⁴ and will in particular introduce a number of improvements in the working conditions of coach and lorry drivers.⁵

Housing

2227. Under the fifth and sixth programmes of financial aid for low-cost housing for workers in the ECSC industries, the Commission has approved the following projects: Belgium (iron and steel): 38 dwellings (Bfrs 11 970 000); France (iron and steel): 58 dwellings (FF 696 000). The Commission has also approved the following projects: Luxembourg (iron and steel): 71 dwellings (Lfrs 43 937 000); Italy (iron and steel): 72 dwellings (Lit. 580 000 000) as part of the first and second instalments of the seventh programme. Lastly, as part of the first instalment of the eighth programme, the Commission decided to grant a loan to the Netherlands (iron and steel) of Fl. 2 000 000 for the construction of 400 dwellings.

2228. Pursuant to the social action programme for the vocational readaptation of handicapped persons — elimination of architectural obstacles to mobility — the Commission has approved a commitment of 450 000 u.a. This Community financial contribution should make it possible to carry out pilot projects intended to make existing normal accommodation accessible to physically handicapped persons and five pilot studies on

¹ Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2217 and 7/8-1975, point 2231.

² Point 2448.

³ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2225.

⁴ OJ L 77 of 29.3.1969.

⁵ Point 2296.

certain specific technical problems concerning accommodation for handicapped persons.

Industrial relations

2229. At the plenary meeting of the Joint Committee on Social Problems in Sea Fishing held in Brussels on 24 March, the representative of Dr Hillery recalled the original measures proposed by the Commission to resolve the structural crisis in the sea fishing industry and stressed the need for associated social measures prepared in close collaboration with the representatives of shipowners and fishermen in order to achieve a modernized Community fishing industry under reasonable social conditions.

The representatives of shipowners and fishermen were unanimous in their view that it was a matter of urgency to adopt social and economic measures to alleviate the immediate consequences of the economic crisis. They insisted on the need for top-level concerted action between the Commission and the industry.

Further, the shipowners' and fishermen's organizations decided to set up a 'European Sea Fisheries Training Office' which should reinforce cooperation in this field at Community level and increase the effectiveness of individual national efforts.

Health protection

2230. The Commission decided to grant aid amounting to 205 050 EUA to finance four research projects in the campaign against pollution in the iron and steel industry. Further, following the favourable opinion of the ECSC Consultative Committee and the Council's assent — it granted aid of 585 635 EUA to finance five, research projects on safety in the coalmining industry.

- 2231. Seventy-one miners from the member countries attended information sessions on Community action on safety and health in coalmining, organized by the Mines Safety and Health Commission and the joint Italian trade union of chemical workers and miners in Follonica, Italy on 16 to 18 March. The main conclusions reached were as follows:
- (i) a systematic study needed to be made urgently on the structures that would enable trade union organizations to assist in preventing industrial diseases and injury and to have available common methods to assess the local factors:
- (ii) the Community should be more concerned with the prevention problem in iron-ore mines.

2232. On 15 and 16 March there was a meeting in Luxembourg of about forty heads of radiation protection departments in the main nuclear power stations in the Member States, Austria and Switzerland. Most of the meeting was devoted to examining plant structure and the organization of personnel carrying out inspection, maintenance and repair work in the controlled area of nuclear power stations. The meeting also considered, in the light of experience gained in nuclear power stations already in service, the requirements which must be met, as regards construction and equipment, by approaches to the controlled area.

Environment and protection of consumers

Second action programme on the environment

2233. On 24 March the Commission presented a new European Community action programme on the environment to the Council.¹ (This is the second of its kind: the first was adopted by the

Points 1301 to 1303.

Council in November 1973.) It is accompanied by a draft resolution on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment.

The Community and the Conference of Environment Ministers of the member countries of the Council of Europe

2234. The Community was represented at the meeting of Environment Ministers of the member countries of the Council of Europe held in Brussels on 23 and 24 March. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, stressed the Community's concern about environmental matters, pointing out, in particular, that the Commission had just presented the second Community action programme in this field to the Council. He emphasized the need for an ecological mapping system to integrate environmental data with physical planning of space usage in order to prevent regional imbalance between urban and rural areas caused by changes arising from the growth of industrial and agricultural production.

Disposal of waste oils

2235. A European Congress on waste oils (the first of its kind) was held in Brussels on 18 and 19 March. Discussions centred on national legislation on waste oils, their reclamation in the various Member States, the technical and economic aspects of reclamation and the swift application of the measures laid down in the Community directive adopted by the Council on 16 June 1975.

This was the first Directive adopted under the first programme of action of the European Communities on the environment and is designed to prevent environmental pollution resulting from the uncontrolled disposal of waste oils and to ensure that as much of this valuable raw material as possible is recycled as part of the efficient

management of waste and of a Community energy supply policy.

Consumer protection

Members of parliament hold talks in Brussels

2236. Some twenty members of national parliaments (from all nine Community countries) with a special interest in consumer affairs met in Brussels on 15 and 16 March on the initiative of Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission. He briefed them on the objectives of the Community consumer protection programme and what the Community had already done to implement it. The group then discussed legislation—both in force and in the pipeline—on consumer protection in the Member States before holding talks with a delegation from the Community Consumers' Consultative Committee.

Consumers' Consultative Committee

2237. The Consumers' Consultative Committee met in Brussels on 19 March. It decided to set up a working party to prepare its positions by coordinating with the consumer representatives on the various Advisory Committees, to put it in a better position to act when agricultural prices are decided and the outcome of the common agricultural policy reviewed.

In conjunction with Commission departments the Committee examined possible follow-up action on its opinion on the preliminary draft proposal for a Directive on *product liability*. It continued its work on *consumer prices* and asked that the Statistical Office's price survey be supplemented by price comparisons for border regions.

As to doorstep selling, the Committee came out in favour of regulating it to provide the best possible protection for consumers. Finally, it was decided to set up a working party to prepare the Committee's contribution to the work of Commission staff relating to correspondence courses.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2237.

Labelling of foodstuffs

2238. The Commission has forwarded to the Council a proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the final consumer.

The adoption of this proposal, which was drawn up in close collaboration with experts from the Member States and with the trade and social organizations concerned, should bring about an appreciable improvement in consumer protection throughout the Community. Harmonized legislation in this field will also help to ensure the free movement of goods in the best possible way. The Council had twice highlighted the importance of improving the labelling of foodstuffs, in its Resolution of December 19731 on industrial policy and in its preliminary programme for a consumer protection and information policy adopted in April 1975.²

Under the consumer protection section of the proposal it is forbidden to mislead the buyer and the most serious cases of deception are more accurately defined.

In the consumer information section the proposal lists certain information which must be given on the label. This information will tell consumers exactly what they are about to buy and enable them to use it correctly. The following information is required:

- (1) the composition of the product (list of ingredients);
- (2) if a particular ingredient is emphasized, its percentage:
- (3) the 'use by' date must be given 'in clear', i.e., the date, in uncoded form, until when foodstuff can be safely consumed and keeps its specific properties.

The Commission proposes to limit the scope of the Directive initially to foodstuffs (prepackaged or otherwise) for sale unaltered to the final consumer. Intermediate products will be dealt with by a future proposal.

Agricultural policy

Agricultural prices for 1976/77

An average price rise of 7.7%, an end to the Franco-Italian wine war and measures to reduce structural surpluses in the milk and wine sectors are the main points of the 1976/77 farm price package. The package, agreed by the Council early in the morning of 6 March after a fourday meeting, also contains a series of cuts in monetary compensatory amounts.

The outcome of the price fixing was close to the Commission's original proposal, made on 10 December 1975: the average price rise for the Community of Nine awarded in units of account was 7.7% compared with the proposal of approximately 7.5%. But the devaluation of the green lira and the Irish green pound raised the average in national currencies from 5.8% to 7.9% with a consequent increase in the effect on the cost of living from 0.6 % to 0.8 %. The economic background to the Council's discussions was one of continued inflation in several Member States, of both wages and the cost of agricultural imputs. and renewed disturbances for the pound and the lira on foreign exchange markets. In the three months that the price proposals were before the Council, the value of the lira fell by 15%; the value of the pound fell by 4% in the first two weeks of March. In addition to these economic factors, there were steadily rising stocks of skimmed-milk powder (1.2 million tonnes at the beginning of March) and increasingly serious confrontations between the French authorities and French wine growers.

OJ C 117 of 31.12.1973.

Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2234 and OJ C 92 of 25.4.1975. Bull. EC 12-1975, points 1401 to 1409.

Application in the first weeks of 1976 of the improved 'objective method' of calculation—the Commission's indicator of the need for farm price rises—showed that inflation was proceeding unevenly in the Member States. On the eve of the price fixing, the need for an average price rise ranged from 4.1% to 9.5%. The upper figure was obtained by excluding Italy from the calculation because of the prise rises already received through devaluations of the green lira.

Following the Council decisions the range of average price rises received in national currencies extended from 4.9% for Germany to 13.0% for Italy, after allowing for monetary measures (see Table 2).

The price package (see Table 3) will not require a supplementary budget. Finance will, however, be needed to pay for the extra food aid (145 000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder) agreed in the

Table 2 — Effect on farmers and consumers of the 1976/77 farm price rises

Member State	Increase in price to farmers in national currencies (%)	Effect on consumer prices (%)
Belgium	+ 7.2	+ 0.8
Denmark	+ 7.9	+ 0.9
France 1	+ 6.3	+ 0.6
FR Germany	+ 4.9	+ 0.5
Ireland	+10.0	+ 1.8
Italy	+13.0	+ 2.0
Luxembourg	+ 7.1	+ 1.1
Netherlands	+ 7.3	+ 0.6
United Kingdom	+ 8.0	+ 0.9
	[

 $^{^1}$ Taking account of the devaluation of the French franc, the figures would be 7.8 % and 0.7 % .

package and also for the monetary compensatory amounts resulting from the fall of the lira and sterling. Another possible reason for extra finance could be changes in markets due to cyclical movements.

Besides prices for 1976/77, the package contains a number of new regulations—and commitments to future action—aimed at restoring market equilibrium in certain sectors. They are mainly concerned with areas of structural surplus, such as milk and wine, but the Council has also agreed to make important changes in the cereals markets.

Compulsory purchases of skimmed-milk powder

2240. Part of the package aimed at increasing the demand for skimmed-milk powder is the scheme for the compulsory purchase of 400 000 tonnes of powder for use in animal feeding-stuffs—other than for calves. The scheme¹ will last until 31 October and, during its seven months of operation, importers and producers of vegetable protein will pay a deposit which can be redeemed only after the purchase of denatured skimmed-milk powder from intervention stocks. At the same time the Council has approved private storage aid for 250 000 tonnes of vegetable protein, the storage costs to be met by the EAGGF.

In addition, the quantity of skimmed-milk powder to be supplied to the food aid programme in 1976 will be 200 000 tonnes instead of 55 000 tonnes as initially planned.

Also aimed at increasing the demand for dairy produce is the decision to promote school milk schemes, increase the permitted levels of EAGGF contributions to the consumer subsidy for butter and raise the authorized level of this subsidy, and increase payments to encourage the use of liquid and powdered skimmed milk as feed.

OJ L 67 of 15.3.1976.

The Council has undertaken to decide this summer on measures to reduce surpluses of milk products: before 31 July it will decide on a non-marketing premium for milk and before 1 September on a system by which milk producers participate in the cost of organizing the milk and milk products market. Further, the Commission will look into the question of continuing sales of butter at reduced prices to certain categories of consumers, as well as the question of butter subsidies; if necessary, proposals on the matter will be submitted before 1 May 1976.

The Council did, however, decide as part of the package to reduce the rise in the skimmed-milk powder intervention price with a consequent effect on the rise in the support price for milk. The Council increased the target price for milk by 7.5% (against the Commission proposal of 6.5%) but the support price will rise by only 5.8%.

Also agreed in the package was the Commission proposal of November 1975¹ on the fat content of whole milk intended for consumption as liquid, which will be 3.5 % from 1 October 1976. At the same time the Council undertook to issue regulations on the quality and marketing of milk, and on health and hygiene, before 1 April 1977. These three groups of regulations will be a considerable step towards extending the common organization of the markets to liquid milk.

End of the wine war

2241. The 'wine war' between France and Italy² was ended as part of the package. The French border tax of 12% on Italian wine imports will end on 1 April and a special four-month distillation scheme aimed at withdrawing 4 million hectolitres of wine from the market (2.8% of a year's production in the Community) at a price of 1.4 u.a. per degree/hl will start from the same date.³ This special distillation is intended to raise the market price of wine, in particular in Italy, by offering an incentive for a certain quantity to be

distilled rather than offered on the market. Furthermore the French government has been authorized⁴ to pay a national subsidy for three years to certain full-time wine producers (the amount of the subsidy not to exceed FF 1 per degree/hl).

Optional preventive distillation operations will be organized, as from the 1976/77 harvest year, to provide a voluntary market regulator at the beginning of each harvest year (September). The buying-in price will be fixed on a sliding scale ranging from 68% of the guide price for table wines of type A I in 1976 to 55% for the 1979 harvest. This measure will be backed up by a further obligatory distillation of wine by-products—the price again fixed on a sliding scale—which will have the double effect of reducing the supply of wine and improving its quality. Another measure will reduce the market risks involved in signing long-term storage contracts.

Two other measures, aimed at reducing the supply of wine in the long-term, were also approved by the Council. The first is a two-year ban on the planting of new vines from 1 December 1976, except in certain clearly defined cases. The second⁵ is a premium of 1 000 u.a./ha or 1 500 u.a./ha for the grubbing up of vines on condition that replacement vines are not planted on the same land within a given number of years. Other measures aimed at improving wine quality will also have the effect of reducing supplies.

Changes in the cereals market

2242. The Commission had proposed that 1976/77 should be a transition year leading to considerable changes in the organization of the

¹ Bull. EC 11-1975, point 2231.

² Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2220.

OJ L 67 and L 69 of 15.3.1976.

⁴ OJ L 72 of 18.3.1976.

⁵ Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2233.

cereals market. The proposal was to fix a single intervention price for all feed grains and a common target price for maize and barley from the start of the 1977/78 crop year. For 1976/77, it was proposed to make a start on the alignment of prices.

The Council accepted that the market system proposed by the Commission would become effective from the start of 1977/78, but changed several details for the transition year 1976/77. One of the changes was that the intervention price for wheat should reflect its value for breadmaking (131 u.a. per tonne) but that the price for fodder wheat should be reduced by 15 u.a. per tonne (a reduction of 11% for 1976/77).

In addition to these changes regionalized intervention prices for wheat will be abolished with effect from the start of 1976/77. The Council also decided to amend the system of aid to producers of durum wheat; this aid will henceforth be granted on the basis of areas sown and will vary from region to region.

Decisions concerning other vegetable products

2243. In the sugar sector, the Commission proposals for reducing the size of the supplementary quota, raising the levy on the supplementary quota to 30% of the intervention price and for taking over the cost relating to the minimum stock to be held by producers were approved.

2244. In the fruit and vegetable sector, the Council—to modernize fruit production—supported the Commission proposal for a grubbing up premium for certain varieties of apples and pears as a way to reduce supply in the long term.

The deadline for submitting grubbing up applications was fixed at 1 November 1976. With respect to citrus fruit, the Council fixed financial compensation for oranges, mandarins and clementines at 8% (instead of the proposed 4%); for lemons, the financial compensation in the

1976/77 marketing year was maintained and is 8 % higher than that fixed for 1975/76.

Beef and veal

2245. The Council decided¹ on conditions for the suspension of permanent intervention for beef and veal in the 1976/77 marketing year. Buying-in of beef in some regions of the Community can now be suspended totally or partially when the market price in the regions concerned rises to or exceeds 95% of the guide price for a certain period (perhaps two consecutive weeks). The Council also widened slightly the gap between the guide price and the intervention price.

The Commission proposal that beef and calf premium schemes should end at the close of the 1975/76 year was amended. The Council renewed, for a further year, permission for the premium on fat cattle ready for slaughter and for calves² but, in the case of the premium for fat cattle, it introduced stricter controls.

Monetary package

2246. New 'green' exchange rates were adopted in six Member States as part of the price package and, as a result, monetary compensatory amounts were reduced.³

In Germany, monetary compensatory amounts were reduced by 2.5 points, in Benelux by 0.6 points, in Italy by 0.6 points and in Ireland by 2 points. The new rates became applicable from 15 March for beef, pigmeat and milk and milk products and from the beginning of their crop years for other products. In Italy and Ireland the effect of the monetary changes will be to increase further the prices received by producers (see Table 2) whereas it will have the opposite effect in Germany and the Benelux.

OJ L 67 of 15.3.1976.

OJ L 74 of 20.3.1976.

OJ L 67 and L 68 of 15.3.1976.

			Amounts fixed in	March 1976	
Product	Nature of prices or amounts	1975/76 amounts u.a./tonne	u.a./tonne	Variation % change 1976/77 on 1975/76	Period of application of prices fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6
Durum wheat	Target price Single intervention price Minimum guaranteed producer	207.33 190.53	218.80 202.00	5.5 6.0	1.8.76 - 31.7.77
	price (wholesale) Aid	215.45 24.92	0-21-50 u.a./ha	=	
Common wheat	Target price Basic intervention price Single intervention price for common	139.44 125.93	152.00	9.0 —	1.8.76 - 31.7.77
	wheat of bread-making quality	_	131.00	_	
Barley	Target price Single intervention price	126.99 110.96	137.80 116.00	8.5 4.5	1.8.76 - 31.7.77
Rye	Target price Single intervention price	138.74 119.76	149.15 124.00	7.5 3.5	1.8.76 - 31.7.77
Maize	Target price Single intervention price	126.41 103.43	137.80 112.20	9.0 8.5	1.8.76 - 31.7.77
Rice	Target price for husked rice Intervention price for paddy rice	261.03 154.87	284.52 164.16	9.0 6.0	1.9.76 - 31.8.77
Sugar	Minimum price for sugar beet Target price for white sugar Intervention price for white sugar	22.75 320.50 304.50	24.57 348.70 331.40	8.0 8.0 8.0	1.7.76 - 30.6.77
Olive oil	Producer target price Market guide price	1 850.00 1 499.60	1 850.00 1 448.90	0.0^{1} -3.4	1.11.76 - 31.10.77
Oilseeds	Intervention price Norm price for soya beans	1 427.10 261.10	1 376.40	-3.5 9.0	1.11.76 - 31.10.77
O II SOOLIS	Target price Colza and rape seed Sunflower seed	255.30 265.10	275.70 286.30	8.0 8.0	1.7.76 - 30.6.77 1.9.76 - 31.8.77
	Basic intervention price Colza and rape seed Sunflower seed	247.90 257.40	267.70 278.00	8.0 8.0	1.7.76 - 30.6.77 1.9.76 - 31.8.77

Bull. EC 3-1976

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			Amounts fixed i	n March 1976	1
Product	Nature of prices or amounts	1975/76 amounts u.a./tonne	u.a /tonne	Variation % change 1976/77 on 1975/76	Period of application of prices fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6
Dehydrated fodder	Fixed aid	8.00	9.00	_	1.4.76 - 31.3.77 dehydrated potatoes 1.7.76 - 30.6.77
Cotton seed	Fixed aid (per ha)	96.00	103.20	_	1.8.76 - 31.7.77
Flax and hemp ⁷	Norm price for linseed Fixed aid (per ha)	_	290.00	_	1.8.76 - 31.7.77
	• Flax • Hemp	188.15 ² 161.90	188.15 ² 174.04	_	
Seeds	Aid (per 100 kg) • Monoecious hemp • Fibre flax • Grasses • Legumes	7.00 12.00 11 to 31 5 to 25	8.00 13.00 10 to 31 4 to 25	_ _ _ _	1.7.76 - 30.6.77
Table wine: Type R I Type R II Type R III Type A I Type A II Type A III		1.84 1.84 28.71 1.73 38.26 43.69	1.96 1.96 30.58 1.84 40.75 46.53	6.5 6.5 6.5 6.5 6.5 6.5	16.12.76 - 15.12.77
Raw tobacco	Norm price Intervention price	3	3	±5.0 (average)	1.1.76 - 31.12.76
Fruit and vegetables	Basic price Buying-in price	4	4	8.0 except apples and pears 4.0 4	1976 - 1977 4
Milk ⁵	Target price for milk Intervention price • for butter 6,7 • For skimmed-milk powder • For cheese:	149.20 155.90 1 946.30 2 095.80 887.00	162.90 167.60 2 180.80 2 238.00 901.60 913.70	4.5 7.5 4.1 6.8 1.6 3.0	15.3.76 - 31.3.77
	 Grana padano 30 - 60 days Grana padano 6 months Parmigiano-Reggiano 6 months 	1 958.50 2 014.50 2 308.30 2 367.40 2 500.30 2 559.40	2 089.10 2 137.90 2 506.90 2 558.40 2 718.10 2 769.60	3.7 6.1 5.9 8.1 6.2 8.2	

Amounts fixed in March 1976

			Amounts fixed	in March 1976	
Product	Nature of prices or amounts	1975/76 amounts u.a./tonne	u.a./tonne	Variation % change 1976/77 on 1975/76	Period of application of prices fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6
Beef and veal	Guide price for adult bovine animals (live weight)	1 099.40	1 187.40	8.0	15.3.76 - 3.4.77
	Guide price for calves (live weight)	1 287.40	1 390.40	8.0	
Pigmeat	Basic price (carcasses)	1 060.00	1 144.80	8.0	15.3.76 - 31.10.77
Silkworms,	Aid per box of silkworms' eggs	36.50	40.00	_	1.4.76 - 31.3.77
	Aid for recognized producer groups (per box)	_	15.00	_	

¹ Owing to the devaluation of the agricultural lira, for Italy there is an increase of about 6% in the producer target price, about 2% in the market target price and intervention price and 21% in production aid.

⁴ Products listed in Annex II to the Council Regulation of 18 May 1972 and different periods according to product.

Cauliflowers	:	1.5.1976 to 30.4.1977	Lemons	:	1.6.1976 to 31.5.1977	Apples	:	1.8.1976 to 31.5.1977
Tomatoes	:	1.6.1976 to 30.11.1976	Pears	:	1.7.1976 to 30 4.1977	Mandarins		16.11.1976 to 28.2.1977
Peaches	:	1.6.1976 to 30.9.1976	Table grapes	;	1.8.1976 to 31.10.1976	Sweet oranges	:	1.12.1976 to 30.4.1977

Financial compensation, intended to promote the disposal of the Community production of citrus fruits on the importing Community markets, is increased by 8% over 1975/76 for oranges, mandarins, clementines and lemons.

- In this sector in 1975/76, except for skimmed-milk powder, two periods of application from 3.3.1975 to 15.9.1975 and from 16.9.1975 to 14.3.1976; in 1976/77 two periods for all products from 15.3.1976 and from 16.9.1976. The 1976/77 increase is calculated by reference to the second period of the 1975/76 marketing year.
- Consumer subsidy for butter of 45 u.a./100 kg (including 9.25 u.a. borne by the EAGGF) in 1975/76 until 30 April 1976; in 1976/77 maximum 50 u.a./100 kg (including a maximum of 16.25 u.a. borne by the EAGGF). In 1976/77 subsidies will be maintained for skimmed-milk powder for animal feed (between 33 and 43 u.a./100 kg) and for liquid skimmed milk for animal feed.
- ⁷ Differentiated prices and amounts for the new Member States:

Calves guide price u.a./tonne

Flax aid u.a./ha — United Kingdom 1975/76: 128.20; 1976/77: 143.20.

		3.3.1975	16.9.1975	15.3.1975	16.9.1975
Butter intervention price u.a./tonne	United Kingdom:	1 369.90	1 475 40	1 723.60	1 766.20
•	Ireland :	i 841.40	1 983.20	2 103.50	2 160.30
Adult bovine animals guide price u.a.	tonne United Kingd	lom and Ireland 1975/76	975.50; 1976/77:	1 098 10	

NB. The aid for the 1974 hop harvest ranged from 100 to 750 u.a./ha depending on the variety.

For the fishery sector, prices differ for each product listed in the Council Regulation of 20 October 1970. In December 1975, (guide) prices were fixed for the products listed in Annex I A and C to that Regulation, (guide) prices for the products listed in Annex II to that Regulation; intervention prices and Community producer prices were also fixed for the 1976 marketing year. Intervention prices for sardines and anchovies are automatically 45% of the guide prices.

United Kingdom and Ireland 1975/76: 1 142.10; 1976/77: 1 285.70.

² Until 1975/76 aid was fixed for seed flax and fibre flax. From 1976/77, aid will be fixed solely for fibre flax. However, a transitional aid measure for seed flax was decided on for the 1976/77 marketing year.

³ Nineteen varieties of tobacco the prices for which apply to the harvest in the calendar year.

Measures linked with the monetary situation

The major events in March were the *2247*. entry into force of the new Council Regulation on the exchange rates to be applied in agriculture, the withdrawal of the French franc from the Community snake and the considerable speculation during the week from 15 to 19 March.

2248. The new representative rates will apply from the beginning of the marketing years,² except for eggs and poultry and ovalbumin and lactalbumin, for which the rates will apply from 1 August 1976. They have applied since 15 March for products not listed in Annex II to the Treaty and for products for which no marketing vear is fixed.

The Council Regulation on the exchange rates to be applied in agriculture also lays down that, for the countries whose currencies are floating, the average of the percentages used to calculate the monetary compensatory amounts must be reduced by 1.50 instead of 1.25 as was previously the case.

Finally, to prevent the amounts fixed in units of account and not linked to the fixing of prices from resulting in a reduction in terms of the national currency in the countries which have revalued their representative rate, the Council increased these amounts by 2.81%.

The detailed rules of application adopted 3 by the Commission concern in particular the 2.81 % increase referred to above, which relates solely to the amounts connected with the agricultural structures policy, and the reintroduction of monetary compensatory amounts in trade between the United Kingdom and Ireland for products to which the new rates apply.

The withdrawal of the French franc from the Community snake on 15 March made it necessary to fix a new representative rate for that currency—equal to that applicable prior to 15 March—and to fix monetary compensatory amounts for France.4 Both measures came into effect on 25 March. The first increased common agricultural policy prices in France by 1.4%.

2250. Owing to the variations in the rates of the currencies on the exchange markets, the monetary compensatory amounts had to be altered four times in March.

Common market organization

2251. The Council adopted measures concerning olive oil and potatoes. The Commission implemented the price decisions for milk and milk products and beef and veal and the distillation measures for table wine.

2252. Pending the general revision of the common organization of the market in olive oil, to be completed before 1 November 1976, the Council laid down⁵ special measures on 15 March, in particular for the determination of offers on the world market and on the Greek market. The system of import levies has been changed; in certain cases, these levies will be fixed by tendering procedure.

2253. On 12 March, pursuant to the Council Decisions of 29 October 19737 concerning special measures for soya beans for the 1975/76 marketing year, the Commission fixed the average world market price for soya beans for that marketing year and a target yield for soya beans harvested in the Community. These prices and yield result in aid for soya beans of 10.921 u.a./100 kg,

OJ L 67 of 15.3.1976 and point 2246.

See Table 3.

OJ L 68 of 15.3.1976.

OJ L 79 of 25.3.1976. OJ L 72 of 18.3.1976. OJ L 65 of 13.3.1976.

OJ L 280 of 31.10.1975.

which applies to less than 3 000 tonnes of beans harvested during the 1975/76 marketing year.

In the sector of processed fruit and vegetables, the Commission adopted two regulations on the restriction of imports.

On 2 March¹ a protective measure for tomato concentrates originating in Greece came into force. A system of minimum prices will from now on be applicable to products from Greece as has been the case for products from other countries since 1 September 1975.² There are large stocks in the Community and prices for Greek products—under the preferential system provided for in the Association Agreement—were 60 % to 70 % of the minimum price to be observed by non-member countries. By contrast, the restriction imposed by a protective measure in August 1974 concerning imports of preserved mushrooms was eased.3 with effect from 1 April.

2255. On 25 March, 4 the Council decided to extend—until 15 April and 30 April 1976 respectively—the total suspension of the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties applicable to new and main-crop (ware) potatoes.

2256. Following the Council's decisions on prices, the Commission has adopted several implementing regulations in respect of milk and milk products, and in particular those:

- laying down detailed rules for the application of the system for compulsory purchase of skimmed-milk powder held by intervention agencies for use in feedingstuffs;5
- (ii) fixing aid for skimmed-milk powder intended for use as animal feed (38 u.a./100 kg);
- (iii) fixing at 60% the minimum skimmed-milk powder content of feed for calves. This measure is intended to increase the use of skimmed-milk powder and to halt the present tendency towards reducing this product in the food ration of calves:
- (iv) fixing private storage aid for butter;

- for casein (from (v) fixing aid 5.3 u.a./100 kg);
- (vi) determining the last deliveries to developing countries of skimmed-milk powder held in public storage and sold at 25% of the intervention price. This operation, applied since May 1975 until the end of March 1976, will have involved a total of 21 000 tonnes.

2257. In the beef and veal sector too, several measures implementing Council price decisions have been adopted6 by the Commission, in particular the coefficients for calculating the intervention buying-in prices (the coefficients fixed for comparable categories of animals have been brought closer together) and the buying-in prices valid from 15 March 1976.

Structural policy

2258. The Commission has sent to the Council a report on the application of the three Council Directives of 17 April 19727 on the modernization of farms, measures to encourage the cessation of farming and the provision of socio-economic guidance for and the acquisition of occupational skills by persons engaged in agriculture. The Commission found that there has been a delay in the application of the three Directives in some Member States. As, furthermore, all the applications for reimbursement have not yet been submitted, the information at present available on the initial results of the application of the Directives is sparse and incomplete and sometimes refers to different periods. It is therefore impos-

OJ L 53 of 28.2.1976.

Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2240.

OJ L 80 of 26.3.1976 and L 218 of 9.8.1974.

OJ L 81 of 27.3.1976.

OJ L 81 of 27.3.1976, L 86 and L 88 of 1.4.1976 and Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2230. 6 OJ L 69 of 15.3.1976.

Bull. EC 4-1972, Part One, Chapter I.

sible at present to give a detailed assessment of the effect of the Directives.

Consequently, after briefly analysing the social and structural state of European agriculture and describing the national policies on agricultural structures pursued before the entry into force of the Community policy, the report contains an analysis of the national measures hitherto taken to implement the three Directives. On the basis of the information available, the Commission concludes that the Community framework set up in April 1972 is sufficiently flexible to be adapted to national and regional requirements. It suggests that certain amounts granted pursuant to the three Directives should be increased to take into account economic events outside the agricultural sphere and, in particular, monetary variations.

2259. In March, the Commission adopted four Decisions and delivered four Opinions concerning the implementation of the reform of agricultural structures¹ in Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark, after examining the legal instruments communicated by those Member States.

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

Guarantee Section

2260. On 25 March,2 the Council amended its Regulation of 28 December 1972 on general rules for the financing of intervention measures by the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF, in order to extend by two years, i.e., until 1 January 1978, the present rules for the financing of intervention measures comprising buying-in, storage and selling operations.

Guidance Section

2261. The related measures adopted by the Council, at the same time as the prices for the

1976/77 marketing year, include three which relate more particularly to the Guidance Section of the EAGGF. The Council Directive of 28 April 1975³ on mountain and hill farming in certain less-favoured areas was amended.

The reimbursement rate of the compensatory allowance provided for in this Directive was increased to 35% for Italy and Ireland, whereas it remained at 25% for the other Member States. The Commission had proposed that this rate should be increased to 40 % for all the countries. The proposals for regulations introducing new measures to improve fruit production in the Community and the granting of a conversion premium in the wine-growing sector provide for the reimbursement to the Member States of 50 % of expenditure. The estimated cost to the Guidance Section of the EAGGF of these two measures is 8.55 million u.a. and 76 million u.a. respectively.

Harmonization of legislation

2262. With regard to seeds and propagating material, on 20 March4 the Commission published the second complete edition of the Common Catalogue of Varieties of Agricultural Plant Species; this edition includes, for the first time, the varieties in all the Member States of which the seeds and seedlings are no longer subject to any marketing restriction. This provides persons interested with a complete catalogue of the varieties of seeds which were freely marketed throughout the Community at 31 December 1975.

In its Directive of 15 March 1976,5 the Council also extended the final dates for determining, at national level, the equivalence of certain controls

OJ L 102 of 15.4.1976.

OJ L 84 of 31.3.1976.

Bull. EC 5-1975, points 2223 to 2225.

OJ C 65 of 20.3.1976. OJ L 72 of 18.3.1976.

of vegetable seed and potato seedlings effected in non-member countries.

2263. The Commission has presented to the Council a proposal relating to the harmonization of Member States' laws concerning the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the final consumer.1

Agricultural report 1975

2264. As announced last December, the report on the state of agriculture² has just come out in printed form. The 1975 report is the first volume of an annual set of documents on agriculture in the Community. It takes a broad look at trade in individual products, agricultural markets, structures, incomes and the financial aspects of a common agricultural policy and national policies, and also contains detailed articles and statistics.

2265. At its 8 to 12 March part-session, the European Parliament delivered Opinions on a number of proposals concerning the common agricultural policy, one of which relates to the granting of a conversion premium in the wine-growing sector.³ At its meeting on 31 March and 1 April, the Economic and Social Committee gave its Opinion on the Commission proposal to the Council concerning the transitional common organization of the market in sheepmeat.4

Industrial and technological policy

Industry

Transnational corporations

The Community was represented as an observer at the meeting of the United Nations Commission on Transnational Corporations in Lima from 1 to 12 March.⁵ The programme of work adopted by the Commission includes preliminary work on drafting a code of conduct for transnational corporations, research into the political, economic and social effects of their operations and practices, and to produce a definition of transnational corporations.

Iron and steel

Forward programme for steel - April-June 1976

2267. In its forward programme for steel for the second quarter of 19766 — which was sent on 12 March to the ECSC Consultative Committee⁷ the Commission suggests that a production level of 32.9 million tonnes is necessary to maintain equilibrium in the Community steel market (see Table 4). This figure represents an increase of 3.5% over the second quarter of 1975 but is still some 17% below the levels attained in the boom year of 1974. It represents a capacity utilization of some 65% which, although a modest improvement on the results of the latter part of 1975, is far from satisfactory.

The increase in production is a reflection of the improvement in the market situation. It is now clear that the late summer of 1975 marked the

Point 2238.

Bull. EC 12-1975, points 1410 to 1415.

Point 2424.
 Point 2452.

⁵ Point 2331.

OJ C 77 of 2.4.1976.

Point 2456.

end of the recession in general economic activity in the Community and that we have now entered a phase of slow and gradual recovery from the worst of the recession. This phenomenon has been marked by a certain time-lag in the upturn in new orders booked by the Community steel industry in the latter months of 1975 and the first months of 1976.

There are, however, a number of reasons for regarding the situation in the Community steel market with some caution. These are:

- (i) the relatively narrow base of the upturn in economic activity, which is generally confined to consumer durables;
- (ii) the depressed level of investment in most Member States and the fact that this recession is forecast to continue through to the end of 1976. (Some 65% of steel demand originates in normal times from producers of plant and machinery);
- (iii) the low level of steel exports (both in new orders and deliveries) during recent months;

(iv) the lack of any clear indication of a replenishment of stocks, so heavily depleted during 1975, by dealers and consumers and, further, the poor structure of existing stocks in relation to current demand in many countries.

On the other side of the coin there are a number of more positive elements in report, namely:

- (i) imports have stabilized at a level below two million tonnes per quarter, reflecting the impact of the consultations undertaken by the Commission during the latter half of 1975;
- (ii) steel prices have risen considerably since the low of October 1975, but are probably still below the levels needed to ensure the future financing of investment in the industry in view of the increases in production costs over the last year;
- (iii) short-time working in the Community steel industry has been considerably reduced since the peak month of December 1975 and is expected to be further reduced by about 50 % during the second quarter of 1976.

Table 4 — Real consumption and crude steel production in the period April to June 1976

(in million tonnes of crude steel)

	April to June	FR Germany	France	Italy	Netherlands	BLEU	United Kingdom	Denmark and Ireland	Commu- nity
Real consumption	1974	10.60	6.64	7.11	1.18	1.75	6.42	0.67	34.37
	1975	9.80	6.05	5.31	0.96	1.26	5.60	0.52	29.50
	1976	9.95	6.15	5.24	0.96	1.30	5.60	0.50	29.70
Production	1974	12.90	6.62	6.02	1.39	6.00	5.96	0.16	39.04
	1975	10.23	5.44	5.63	1.16	4.42	4.74	0.17	31.79
	1976	10.40	5.75	5.50	1.15	4.40	5.45	0.25	32.90

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

Science, research and development

Energy research

2268. The Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPMs) for the two energy research sectors — geothermal energy and energy economy — met on 16 and 31 March and on 25 and 26 March respectively.

The ACPM for geothermal energy studied the ninety research proposals received in response to the notice which it had decided to publish in October 1975,¹ and it devoted its discussions to the general lines for implementing the programme of action to be undertaken.

The ACPM for research on energy economy studied in particular the second part² of the research proposals received after the notice had been published at the end of 1975; these proposals concern the development of methods of accumulating secondary energy, materials recycling, the improvement of insulation in buildings and the production of energy from waste.

The two ACPMs commenced their work on the revision that has to be done before the end of 1976 as regards the Community energy research programme.

Scientific and Technical Research Committee

2269. At its meeting on 11 March, the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) expressed a favourable opinion regarding the scientific and technical content of the proposals from the Commission concerning back-up studies in

respect of the use of data-processing systems. It also approved the organization of training courses in the field of data processing for 1976; these courses will receive a certain amount of financial support from the Commission.

In addition, the Committee took note of the report of its subcommittee on statistics concerning public research and development expenditure in the Member States in 1975. These statistical data should be included in the third report of the subcommittee, scheduled for the end of 1976 and covering the period 1974-76.

Finally, the Committee had a discussion on the final report of the feasibility study 'Europe + 30'3 which is currently being analysed by the Commission staff.

European Research and Development Committee

2270. At its meeting on 24 March, the European Research and Development Committee (CERD) discussed in detail the various aspects to be considered as part of a study undertaken under its auspices, and with the participation of several of its members, for the purpose of drawing up a plan for European scientific research and technological development, including in particular the definition of a European identity for research.⁴

The Committee reviewed the work concerning a low-energy-consumption society, on which subject the detailed study is to be preceded by a feasibility study.

The Committee also took note of the results of the meetings held on 24 and 25 February⁵ on the plan for a 'European Year of Science'; it will resume this discussion when the feasibility study

¹ Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2250 and OJ C 243 of 23.10.1975.

² Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2247.

³ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2243.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2266.

⁵ Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2249.

assigned to one of its members has been concluded.

Finally, CERD discussed the work programme for the meeting which is to be organized by the Commission and held in Milan from 24 to 26 May to formulate the guidelines for a common research and development policy.

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

2271. The Committee of Senior Officials in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) met on 15 March. It examined an initial draft memorandum of understanding that did not require ratification by the national Parliaments and would be applicable to the project relating to electronic traffic aids on major roads (COST 30). The same legal form could be adopted for a new project, relating to techniques for reducing video-phone service redundancy (COST 211).

The Committee also took note of the report of the Chairman of the Technical Committee for 'COST 72', relating to the development and standardization of *meteorological equipment*, and adopted the guidelines on which future activities in this field will be based.

The Committee discussed in detail Swedish proposals relating to *food technology*, in which it had been agreed to place the main emphasis on the physical properties of these foodstuffs.¹ The Committee requested that the Commission staff draw up a proposal for a project based on the report of the appropriate *ad hoc* working party, together with a working document on the procedure for implementing such a project in a Community framework. The other two schemes presented by Sweden will be examined in depth by the *ad hoc* working party as soon as possible.

Finally, the Committee decided to establish two ad hoc working parties to be assigned the task of drawing up detailed draft texts for research pro-

jects for two of the six themes proposed by Yugoslavia in the field of agricultural research.

Symposium on prospective studies in Europe

2272. The Berlin Centre for prospective research organized, jointly with the Commission, a symposium in Berlin on 25 and 26 March; this symposium was entitled 'Europe + 30: the problems of prospective studies in Europe'.

Politicians and scientists from a variety of countries participated in this meeting, during which the following main themes were dealt with: economic development, raw materials, energy and the environment, social values and structures and research and technology.

The discussions bore out the need to have a comprehensive view of developments that were foreseeable or possible in the long term and likely to condition the future of Europe, with the aim of giving better guidance on the decisions to be taken.

It was considered advisable for the work being carried out at national level in the Community to be harmonized so that the conclusions to which these results pointed could be applied to the various Community policies.

Joint Research Centre

General Advisory Committee

2273. The draft multiannual programme of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) for 1977-80, presented by its Director-General, was examined by the General Advisory Committee (GAC) during the meeting that it held in Brussels from 16 to 18 March.

¹ Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2238.

In the opinion delivered at the conclusion of its work, the GAC¹ gave the proposal a generally favourable reception and expressed its satisfaction that the programme was concentrated on a small number of subjects, concerning practical projects.

The programme presented to the GAC was based on guidelines which had been the subject of a Commission Communication to the Council.²

The proposed programme provides for the concentration of 70% of the available funds on the energy and environment sectors, the remaining 30% being allotted mainly to research activities of a public service nature.

The draft programme presented provides for research projects in ten fields: reactor safety, research on plutonium fuels and actinides, management of nuclear materials and radioactive waste, solar energy, production and use of hydrogen, design studies on thermonuclear fusion, hightemperature materials, environment and resources, measurements and reference standards and techniques. A number of services and support activities are also included.

The GAC studied all these subjects separately, paying particular attention to the problems of nuclear safety, the most important sector of the activities proposed (48% of the total work), which covers reactor safety, research on plutonium and actinides, and the management of nuclear materials and radioactive waste.

This draft programme should be submitted in early May to the Commission, which would then present the programme formally to the Council for adoption.

Multiannual programme

Formal adoption of the four new indirect-action multiannual programmes

2274. On 15 March,³ the Council formally adopted the Decisions to which it had arrived at the meeting held by the research ministers on 24 February 1976:4 These Decisions concern the multiannual research programmes implemented by means of indirect action in the following fields:

- (i) biology and health protection, for the period from 1976 to 1980;
- (ii) environment, for the same five-year period:
- (iii) reference materials and methods (Community Bureau of References - CBR), for the period from 1976 to 1978.

In addition, the Council formally adopted on 25 March,⁵ the Decision concerning the multiannual programme in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion and plasma physics, also discussed on 24 February.4

Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM)

The ACPM for environmental research performed by means of direct and indirect action met in Brussels on 4 and 5 March. It recommended the principles that will govern the implementation of concerted action in this field and expressed a favourable opinion on the continuation of COST Project 68, 'sewage sludge processing and use', considered as a model of such concerted action.

With regard to the five-year indirect action programme for 1976-1980,6 the ACPM adopted the guidelines for invitations to tender which would apply to the contracting bodies from which the research would be commissioned.

Bull. EC 10-1975, points 1501 to 1503.

OJ L 74 of 20.3.1976.

Bull. EC 2-1976, point 1401. OJ L 90 of 3.4.1976.

Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 1504 and 2-1976, point 1401.

The GAC was established at the beginning of 1971 by the Commission when the Joint Research Centre (JRC) was reorganized. The Committee, which is attached to the Director-General, is composed of members appointed in a personal capacity by the Governments of the Community Member States. Each State appoints three members, the first from a government department, the second from scientific circles and the third from the economic and industrial sector.

Education

Education Committee

2276. The Education Committee met on 8 and 25-26 March. The Committee agreed upon the main actions to be undertaken in the first phase of the action programme in the field of education, resulting from the resolution of the Council, and of the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council, of 9 February 1976. Agreement was also reached on arrangements for the Member States to report on action in progress in respect of those measures included in the programme to be undertaken by the Member States themselves.

At Community level, a limited number of pilot schemes will be established involving the initial reception arrangements for migrant children, the teaching of their mother tongue and culture, and the training of their teachers. A seminar on the linguistic problems of migrant children will be held in Ghent, Belgium, in May 1976.

A meeting of regional and local policy-makers in education will be held in Denmark in November 1976, to discuss questions of the structure of the upper level of secondary education in the Member States.

In the higher education field, the Committee considered a scheme drafted by the competent departments of the Commission for the support of joint programmes of study between institutions in different Member States. This will now be the subject of consultation with experts from higher education institutions.

Scientific and technical information and information management

2777. Under an agreement concluded with the Commission in December 1975 for setting up and managing EURONET, the first European

data network, the consortium of national postal and telecommunications administrations in the Community² held its second meeting in Paris; this meeting was devoted to the appointment of the Director of the team running the EURONET project and to the study and approval of the specifications drawn up for this project.

2778. In addition, the representatives of the Committee on Data for Science and Technolgy (CODATA), of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and the Commission together examined, during a meeting that took place in Luxembourg, how the project for a world centre of reference to the CODATA data and the information source detection activities of the EU-SIDIC (European Association of Scientific Information Dissemination Centres) organization could contribute to the construction of EURO-NET. Since Europe does not yet have an adequate number of data banks, the collaboration that has developed between the various organizations represented should rapidly bear fruit.

2279. On 15 and 16 March the Commission held a round table discussion in Luxembourg, on the techniques of machine translation; in addition to the competent departments of the Commission, the authorities and the universities of the Member States, independent experts and representatives of other European institutions took part. The demonstrations that the participants were given and the subsequent discussions provided evidence that there already existed methods capable of easing the work of translators considerably. Active measures are being taken to improve these methods and to make them more effective and less expensive; their application could be of assistance to the Commission, and also the EURONET project, in enabling all those who require information to obtain it in their own language.

¹ OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976 and Bull. EC 12-1975, points 1101

² Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2255.

2280. The Committee on Information and Documentation in Science and Technology (CIDST) studied the budgetary and technical aspects of the various projects to be implemented during 1976 as part of the first three-year action plan for scientific and technical information and documentation. It also expressed its opinion on the work programme and on the 1977 preliminary draft budget for the action plan. Following its discussions, the CIDST unanimously adopted a resolution on the work programme for 1977 and the budgetary proposals put forward by the Commission, which deal in particular with the funds necessary to solve the problems of machine translation.

The CIDST also expressed an opinion on the proposals that the Commission has presented to the Council in respect of Community data-processing policy. It approved the terms of reference of the working party for specialist training and of the working party responsible for documentation on energy. Its next meeting will be devoted to the study of the data bases which should be connected up to EURONET as soon as it has been inaugurated in 1977.

Energy policy

2281. The Council of Energy Ministers met on 25 March for the first time since June 1975. They declared their desire for a common energy policy and reiterated their intention of meeting more often, agreeing to meet again on 10 June.

They did not, however, manage to agree on the policy matters submitted to the Council. True, certain proposals on sectoral matters were adopted but they do not constitute the key elements of an energy policy. To that extent the outcome of the Council meeting is disappointing, for it falls short of the guidelines set by the European Council held in Rome, which called for effective solidarity among the Member States in the event of oil supply difficulties and measures to con-

serve and promote the development of energy resources.

The Community also took part in the second session of the North-South Dialogue.¹

Formulation and implementation of a Community energy policy

The Council meeting and its results

At its meeting on 25 March the Council discussed the following points submitted to it by the Commission:

Implementation of the energy policy guidelines

2282. Despite the intensive discussions, no agreement was reached on the draft Resolution proposed by the Commission to implement the energy policy guidelines set by the European Council on 1 and 2 December 1975. The Permanent Representatives Committee has been instructed to continue the final formulation of the draft resolution in the light of these discussions and to report to the Council when it meets on 10 June.

Arrangements in the event of the oil supply difficulties

2283. The Council studied in depth the proposals for a Community mechansim which will operate should difficulties arise in the supply of crude oil and oil products. Agreement was reached on all aspects of the mechanism except for certain decision-making procedures. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue, in the light of its discussions, the attempt to settle this matter.

55

Bull. EC 3-1976

Point 2313.

Energy objectives for 1985

2284. The Council discussed generally the achievement of the Community's energy policy objectives for 1985 using the Commission's report as a basis. Particular attention was paid to reducing the Community's dependence on imported oil. It emerged from the discussions that certain objectives might have to be adjusted, particularly the nuclear objective corresponding to 40% energy dependence.

Rational utilization of energy

2285. The Council took note of the Commission's first periodical report on the action programme for the rational utilization of energy.

It approved the five recommendations for the adoption of practical steps to use energy more efficiently in the following areas:

- (1) thermal insulation and improvement of heating systems;
- (2) improvement in driver behaviour;
- (3) promotion of public transport;
- (4) information to users on nuclear energy consumption;
- (5) harmonization of standards.

Community procedure for information and consultation on oil prices

2286. The Council agreed on a Directive on a Community information and consultation procedure on the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the Community.

Support for Community projects in the oil and gas sector

2287. The Council agreed on a Decision on the granting of measures of support for Community

projects in the oil and gas sector under the Regulation of 9 February 1973. This decision grants financial support up to a total of 38 448 635 u.a. for thirty-four Community projects during the years 1976-77.

Notification of investment projects

2288. The Council approved the amendment of the Regulation of 18 May 1972 on notifying the Commission of investment projects of interest to the Community in the petroleum, natural gas and electricity sectors.

Euratom loans

2289. The Council reaffirmed the line taken at the Council meeting on 16 March which dealt with economic and financial affairs. It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to pursue the matter further to enable the Council to take a decision as soon as possible.

Problems in individual sectors

Coal

Coal market situation in the Community in 1975 and forecasts for 1976

2290. The Commission presented its annual report on the coal market situation in the Community in 1975 and forecasts for 1976, for discussion by the ECSC Consultative Committee on 12 March.¹ The coal industry passed through a difficult period of low demand in 1975. With Community production at about 237 million tce

Point 2458.

(tonnes of coal equivalent) and imports at 40 million tce, total quantities of coal available, excluding stocks carried over, exceeded consumption and exports to third countries by about 20 million tce which were put to stock. In addition, coke stocks increased by some 9 million tonnes.

The overall picture for 1976 is one of production and imports again exceeding demand, though to a lesser extent than in 1975. An expected rise in coke consumption of 11% and of power station coal consumption of 7% are likely to raise total consumption and exports to 261 million tce. Production is expected to be about 237 million tce again, with imports reduced to 35-36 million tonnes.

Another improvement expected for 1976 is a return to rising productivity in the coal industry, ranging from 3% upwards.

Technical coal research

2291. ♠ After consulting the ECSC Consultative Committee and securing the assent of the Council, the Commission decided on 9 March to grant 14 281 000 EUA under Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty for the implementation of research projects in the field of mine operation, coking and coal treatment and to sign corresponding research agreements subject to the availability of funds in the 1976 budget.

Oil and gas

Support for Community projects in the oil and gas sector

2292. The Commission sent to the Council on 3 September 1975 a proposal for a decision for the granting of financial support of 44 683 758 u.a. for thirty-eight technological development projects in the oil and gas sector during the years 1975-77.

In order to keep within the budgetary limits (28 million u.a. instead of the 40 million anticipated), the Commission reduced the 44.6 million u.a. initially proposed to 38.4 million. Three of the original projects were dropped. This amended proposal was adopted by the Council on 25 March 1976.

Transport policy

Organization of markets

2293. The negotiation of an agreement between the Community and certain non-member countries on arrangements for international passenger transport services by bus and coach, in respect of which directives were given to the Commission by the Council on 15 October 1975,² opened in Paris on 11 March.

The opening session, with the head of the Commission delegation in the chair, was attended by delegates from Austria, Greece, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia; Turkey and Finland were represented by observers.

The meeting was held in order to decide on an approach to the problems arising in the negotiations and produced broad agreement in principle both on the points to be negotiated and on procedural matters. It was agreed that a preliminary draft agreement would be drawn up for the next meeting, which would be held in December 1976.

2294. On 5 March the Commission approved its fifth report on market trends in the international carriage of goods by road in the Community covering 1974. It was prepared by the Committee of Experts set up by the Regulation of 30 July 1968

Point 2287.

Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2268.

on the introduction of a system of bracket tariffs for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.¹ The report has been sent to the Council and the Member States.

2295. As part of its action on the organization of transport markets, the Commission has maintained contacts with organizations representing the business interests concerned. Meetings were held in this connection on 9 March with the European Centre for Public Enterprise (CEEP), on 17 March with the International Road Transport Union (IRU) Liaison Committee, on 26 March with the Permanent Conference of Chambers of Commerce of the Community and on 31 March with transport users' organizations.

Approximation of structures

2296. On 9 March the Commission sent to the Council a proposal for a regulation on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport.

The new provisions include:

- (i) the introduction of the concept of spreadover (period between the beginning and end of work) which in general must not exceed twelve hours per day and sixty hours per week for each crew member:
- (ii) the partial abrogation of the 450 km clause, which prohibits an unaccompanied driver from driving more than 450 km per day, in vehicles fitted with mechanical recording equipment (tachograph);
- (iii) the fixing of the maximum driving period, for all vehicles, at eight hours (with the possibility of extending this exceptionally to nine hours twice a week) and of a minimum break of thirty minutes:
- (iv) a working week averaging five spreadovers, each to be followed by a rest period;

- (v) a weekly uninterrupted rest period of forty hours;
- (vi) twenty-eight days' annual leave.

The Commission intends to present a proposal for a regulation on the normal length of spreadover for crews consisting of two drivers before the end of the year. At the same time it will study the question of overtime.

2297. Pursuant to Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty, the French Government informed the Commission in November 1975 that it was granting aid, in the form of interest-free repayable advances, to self-employed crews of boats registered in France who had been over fifteen days on the roster of a chartering office awaiting hiring; this was due to the serious economic situation in this sector since the end of 1974. In an Opinion adopted on 1 March, the Commission stated that as the aid is limited, temporary and repayable, it is not liable to distort competition or affect trade between Member States.

On 16 March² the Commission decided to address to the Danish Government a Recommendation on a draft law on the carriage of passengers by road. In its Recommendation the Commission notes that several articles of the draft law contain measures which the Danish Government proposes to adopt pursuant to the Council Directive of 12 November 1974 (on admission to the occupation of road passenger transport operator in national and international transport operations) and reserves the right to comment later on these measures. As regards the other provisions of the draft law, the Commission recommends the Danish Government to align as far as possible the national provisions which it intends to adopt on those already adopted at Community level, to define the precise scope of the intended measures and to amend certain articles.

OJ L 194 of 6.8.1968.

² OJ L 84 of 31.3.1976.

3. External relations

Transport policy

Infrastructures

2299. A briefing session on the programmes for developing transport infrastructures was held in Brussels on 19 March. This meeting was the occasion for a review of progress made by the Member States in *formulating their programmes* and for an exchange of views on certain projects of Community interest.

The information supplied at the meeting will be supplemented by contributions to be submitted later by the national authorities so that each Member State will gradually be brought up to date on its partners' infrastructure policies. What is done at, and through, these meetings (which were instituted by the Commission in April 1975¹) is intended to supplement action under the consultation procedure introduced by the Council Decision of 28 February 1966.²

Multilateral negotiations

Trade Negotiations Committee

2301. One Group and one Sub-Group set up under the Committee met in Geneva in March. The most important discussions were concerned with formulas for reducing customs tariffs.

Customs matters

2302. The Sub-Group on Customs Matters met from 16 to 19 March. The discussions dealt mainly with customs valuation and it was agreed that the GATT Secretariat would prepare for mid-June a paper setting out points that might be of use in drafting international rules on customs valuation.

Tariffs

2303. The Tariffs Group met in Geneva from 23 to 25 March. This meeting was of some importance.

The US Delegation described the United States' position on the formula for reducing customs duties. This formula, which is rather algebraic in form, has a harmonization element proportional to the level of the original duty and a maximum reduction of 60% of that level (the limit of the powers provided for in the Trade Act); this formula is applicable to all products.

As an initial reaction, the Community—which shares the United States' desire for tariffs to be reduced significantly and harmonized—took the line that in the American formula the element of harmonization is distinctly insufficient (operating only up to the duty level of 6.7%) and that in addition this formula does not really attack the high-duty tariffs, the reductions in those duties not being proportionally higher than for lower duties.

¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2279.

OJ 42 of 8.3.1966.

Japan, the Scandinavian countries and Switzerland were largely in agreement with this initial analysis. Moreover, the Community, Japan, the Scandinavian countries and Austria maintained once again that agricultural products came within the province of the Agriculture Group, while Canada, Australia and New Zealand took the opposite view.

The Community also defended its working hypothesis and stated that it would be continuing developing its position in greater detail.

In another field, progress was achieved as regards the special and more favourable treatment for the developing countries and the special procedures relating to negotiations between developed countries. Both the United States and the Community put forward proposals which were considered by the developing countries to be an important step towards solving the problems posed by their participation in the negotiations.

Commercial policy

Preparing and implementing the common commercial policy

Trade protection

2304. The Commission has published a notice of initiation of anti-dumping/anti-subsidy procedure concerning hard building board of vegetable fibre, whether or not bonded with natural or artificial resins or with similar binders, originating in Brazil.¹

2305. In March the Commission continued its investigations under the anti-dumping procedures initiated in December 1975 concerning imports of polyethylene sacks and bags originating in Hungary and trichlorethylene from Poland and the

German Democratic Republic.² It heard Hungarian and Polish exporters in an attempt to clarify various points concerning these producers' price practices.

2306. On 2 March the Council decided³ to maintain until 30 June 1976 the rules requiring prior authorization for imports into Italy of malleable cast-iron tube and pipe fittings originating in *Taiwan*. This confirmed the safeguard measures adopted by the Commission on 23 January 1976.⁴

2307. On 2 March⁵ the Council adopted a regulation concerning quantitative limits during 1976 and 1977 for certain textile products originating in *Hong Kong*. These measures form part of the Agreement negotiated between the Community and Hong Kong under the Arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles and make it possible to apply this Agreement before the procedures necessary for its entry into force have been completed, without risk of disrupting the market.

Specific measures of commercial policy

Textiles

Romania

2308. On 15 March the Council authorized the Commission to open *negotiations* with Romania⁶ for the conclusion of an agreement on trade in textiles. These negotiations, the first round of which took place on 31 March and 1 April, are

¹ OJ C 48 of 3.3.1976.

OJ C 285 of 13.12.1975 and Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2307.

³ OJ L 56 of 4.3.1976.

⁴ Bull. EC1-1976, point 2303 and OJ L 18 of 27 January 1976.

⁵ OJ L 59 of 6.3.1976.

⁶ Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2304 and 2-1976, point 2310.

based on Article 4 of the Arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles.

Yugoslavia

2309. At the first round of negotiations on 26 March between the Community and Yugoslavia for the conclusion of an agreement on trade in textile products, the Commission representative stated the guidelines on which the Commission hoped the agreement would be based. It was agreed to hold a further round of talks in May. An agreement on textile products had already been concluded with Yugoslavia for a period of two years (1973 and 1974); on its expiry the Community and Yugoslavia had agreed to continue applying it de facto pending the conclusion of a new agreement.

Brazil

2310. Agreement has been reached in the negotiations between the Community and Brazil under Article 4 of the GATT Arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles (Multifibre Arrangement). The agreement, which was initialled on 1 April, covers bilateral trade in textiles in 1976 and 1977. It establishes a Community ceiling for four categories of cotton: yarn, grey cloth, finished fabrics and household linens.

Scrap

2311. The Representatives of the Governments of the ECSC Member States decided at the end of March to extend for the second quarter of 1976 the period of application of the rules, with some minor amendments, on scrap exports in force in the first quarter. The figure of 350 000 tonnes fixed for the first three months has been reduced to 310 000 tonnes for the Community as a whole; the proportion of good-quality scrap will not exceed 10 %.

Non-férrous metals

2312. On 15 March¹ the Council adopted a regulation fixing for 1976 a Community quantitative export quota for certain types of *lead* waste and scrap.

Development and cooperation

Development cooperation policy

Conference on International Economic Cooperation

2313. The Commissions of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (North-South Dialogue) held their second session in Paris from 18 to 26 March; Community representatives took part.

The favourable climate and open-mindedness that had been a feature of the first meeting of the four Commissions² again prevailed, on the whole, throughout this session. The work of each Commission and the approach adopted remain different. The work of the Energy Commission progressed slowly but steadily, whereas the Development Commission stepped up the pace of its work and broadened its scope. The Raw Materials Commission's work was oriented towards the coming UNCTAD session in Nairobi; a dialogue started up within the Financial Affairs Commission.

Trade promotion

2314. A number of ACP States and other developing countries took part in the Brussels

OJ L 71 of 17.3.1976.

² Bull. EC 2-1976, points 1301 to 1307.

tourism exhibition, with assistance from the Commission, and a meeting was held on the possibility of creating a professional tourism unit to assist in developing the tourist industry in the ACP States.

A Bangladesh trade mission has just completed a visit to Europe and, financially, it appears to have been a considerable success.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2315. The Trade and Development Board, which met in Geneva from 8 to 21 March to prepare for the fourth session of UNCTAD, was not able to arrive at generally accepted conclusions on the main points on its agenda.¹

Generalized preferences

2316. As part of the efforts to inform developing countries of the Community's generalized system of preferences, a Commission delegation visited a number of Latin American countries from 16 February to 9 March.

In Venezuela, where they stayed from 16 to 18 February, the Commission representatives organized a seminar on the subject which was attended mainly by national officials and exporters. The principle had been agreed during the official visit by Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, to Caracas in September 1975.²

The Commission delegation then moved on to Costa Rica from 20 to 24 February. The seminar organized there was attended not only by Costa Rican officials and exporters but also by representatives of four other member countries of the Central American Common Market: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

On 26 February a fact-finding visit for officials of

the Ministries concerned was organized in *Panama*.

Finally, three seminars were held between 1 and 9 March in three separate cities in Mexico: Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey. It had been agreed at the first meeting of the EEC-Mexico Joint Committee in December 1975 to organize these seminars so that the economic realities of the country could be considered in the light of generalized preferences. The Commission's efforts to promote trade were also discussed at these seminars.

Contacts made at these various meetings and the discussions which took place demonstrated the importance which the Latin American countries attach to the problems of their relations with the Community, and more particularly to the generalized preferences scheme. These meetings with the authorities of the countries and businessmen concerned with promoting trade should help to increase Latin American exports to the Community from their present low level.

Food aid and emergency aid

Cereals programme 1975/76

2317. On 25 March the Council drew up the 1975/76 implementation plan concerning the commitments entered into by the Community and the Member States under the Food Aid Convention. These commitments were for a total of 1 287 000 tonnes of cereals per year, of which 708 000 tonnes (55 %) would be granted as Community aid, and the remainder under bilateral projects.

The Community aid and the aid from the Member States is intended for thirty-eight countries

Point 2329.

² Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2342.

and six international organizations. It is to be allocated as shown in Table 5.

1976 Butteroil programme

2318. Also on 25 March the Council adopted the general rules relating to the 1976 milk products aid programme (to be supplied in the form of butteroil).

The supplies, totalling 45 000 tonnes, are intended for nineteen countries and five international organizations and are to be allocated as shown in Table 6.

Emergency aid

2319. Following the tragic events which have taken place in Angola and the worsening of the food situation for Angolan refugees in Zaire:

(i) The Commission decided on 15 March to supply emergency food aid in the form of 100 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder for the population of Angola through the International Committee of the Red Cross under the terms of the agreement concluded with that body in February 1975. In view of the extremely urgent need, 30 tonnes have been dispatched by air.

(ii) The Council decided on 25 March, on a proposal from the Commission, to supply: (a) to the International Committee of the Red Cross a further 100 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder for the population of Angola, to be delivered cif; (b) to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 2 000 tonnes of cereals, 150 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder¹ and 100 tonnes of butteroil,¹ to be distributed, free of charge, to Angola refugees in Zaire, to be delivered cif, with the exception of some 50 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder to be delivered by air.

The total cost of these operations will be approximately 700 000 u.a.

2320. Following the earthquake in Guatemala, the Commission decided on 31 March to grant 500 000 u.a. in Community aid through the League of Red Cross Societies to help with recon-

Table 5 — 1975/76 Implementation plan—cereals

(thousand tonnes)

63

Recipient countries or organizations	Total	Community projects	National projects
Latin America Bolivia Haiti Honduras Peru	12 7 3.5	token entry 9 7 2.5	3 - 1
Sahel Senegal Mali Mauritania Chad Niger Upper Volta Gambia Special reserve			5 10

Bull. EC 3-1976

¹ OJ L 83 of 30.3.1976.

Table 5 (continued)

(thousand tonnes)

Recipient countries or organizations	Total	Community projects	National projects
East Africa Ethiopia Kenya Mauritius Somalia Sudan Tanzania Rwanda	21 2.5 8 46 7 2 2.5	2.5 5 25 7 2	21
Central and West Africa Sao Tome and Principe Benin Guinea-Bissau Cape Verde (Islands) Zaire Central African Republic	1.5 1 5 6.5	1.5 1 5 5 token entry 1.5	1.5 —
Middle East Egypt (Arab Rep.) Jordan Lebanon Yemen (Arab Rep.) Syria	64 14 8 12 5.5	24 14 — 6 2.5	40
Asia Bangladesh India Indonesia Pakistan Sri Lanka Philippines	228.2 231 18 55 32 6.5	150 175 35 15 2.5	78.2 56 18 20 17 4
Other countries Malta Tunisia Portugal	6.5 20 5.59	<u>-</u>	6.5 20 5.59
Organizations WFP UNICEF UNRWA ICRC League of Red Cross Societies UNHCR	123 17.5 31.5 10 5 5	50 15 25 10 5	84 2.5 6.5 — — 5
Reserve	206.71	75	131.71

Total: Community aid + aid from Member States = 1 287 000 tonnes

struction work (construction of housing and aid distribution centres).

This aid comes in addition to the initial emergency aid of 200 000 u.a. already granted by the Commission in February.¹

Table 6 — Butteroil aid programme

Countries or organizations	Tonnes
atin America	
laiti	1 500
Ionduras	1 000
eru	500
st Africa	
enya	100
auritius	200
anzania	500
malia	1 100
niopia	1 500
est Africa	
ape Verde	100
oper Volta	750
uritania	350
inea-Bissau	350
ddle East	2 000
ypt	2 000 1 000
dan men	700
	/00
ia ghanistan	250
ingladesh	4 300
kistan	3 500
Lanka	160
FP	16 000
NICEF	2 000
NRWA	3 000
ague of Red Cross Societies	500
eserve	3 640
Grand total	45 000

Commodities and world agreements

Tin

2321. The Community took part in the meeting of the *International Tin Council* held in London from 8 to 12 March. This meeting had been preceded, from 1 to 5 March, by the first meeting of the Interim Committee for the Fifth Agreement² whose task it is to study the general problems which will arise when the Fifth Agreement enters into force on 1 July.

The main questions dealt with in this context were the procedure for appointing the officials for the new Agreement (Executive Chairman, Manager of the Buffer Stock, Secretary), the liquidation of the buffer stock of the Fourth Agreement, and the establishment of the buffer stock of the Fifth Agreement and its financing by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and/or the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

At its meeting, the Tin Council decided to alter the price scale governing action by the Buffer Stock Manager; the floor price was raised from M\$900 per pikul to M\$950 per pikul (i.e., one Malaysian dollar per 60.48 kg), the ceiling price being maintained at M\$1 100 per pikul. Export controls currently in force will be maintained during the second quarter of 1976, but the quantity of tin metal that can be exported has been increased from 32 000 tonnes for the first quarter to 35 000 tonnes for the second quarter.

The new Agreement, which is open for signing until 30 April, has already been signed by four Member States, while the procedure for the signing by the Community as such is under way.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2322.

² Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2321.

Copper

2322. A consultation meeting on copper, called under the aegis of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) was held in Geneva from 23 to 26 March with the Commission taking part.

During this consultation meeting a list was drawn up of the various aspects of the economic position of and market for copper on which sufficient data is available. A critical inventory of these data and studies will be made and detailed proposals will be formulated with a view to setting up a standing intergovernmental consultative body for copper, the mandate and organization of which will have to be specified.

This work, which will be prepared by a working party set up by the consultation meeting, will be completed at a further meeting which should be held before the end of the year.

Cocoa

2323. The Commission represented the Community at the meetings of the Committee and Council of the *International Cocoa Organization* which were held in London from 8 to 19 March. The problem of the entry into force of the new International Agreement¹ on 1 October 1976 was raised. The Community and the Member States announced that they intended to sign the Agreement by 31 August, the final date set. One important exporter country, the Ivory Coast, still does not intend to sign this Agreement.

International organizations

Council of Europe

2324. The Community was represented at the Conference of the Environment Ministers of the

eighteen Member States of the Council of Europe held in Brussels on 23 and 24 March.²

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Special Executive Committee

2325. The Special Executive Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) met in Paris on 12 March. It discussed the first session of the Commissions³ set up by the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (North-South Dialogue).

The work undertaken up to now was considered satisfactory and the Committee stressed that its role was to make a periodical assessment of the progress achieved, as part of an evolving overall process, taking into account any changes which might occur in the general economic situation.

Relations with the developing countries

2326. The high-level group on economic relations with the developing countries, which met in Paris on 17 and 18 March, also discussed the first session of the Commissions set up under the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC). It further considered the main problems which will soon have to be discussed in various international bodies, and its future programme of work.

The group decided in particular to meet one or two days before each session of the CIEC to enable the participants to inform one another of the positions they would adopt at the session and to hear the point of view of the OECD members not taking part in the Conference.

¹ Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2321.

Point 2234.

³ Bull. EC 2-1976, points 1301 to 1306.

Commodities

2327. The high-level group on commodities met in Paris on 10 and 11 March. It examined the possible need for measures to stabilize export earnings in addition to the compensatory financing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Different viewpoints were expressed on this subject. The Community representatives stated that the Community had not yet adopted a final position on this point. The OECD group also held an exchange of views on the attitude to be adopted in the international negotiations on certain specific commodities: bauxite, bananas, manganese, phosphates, wood, vegetable oils and oil-seeds.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

2328. A meeting of the Panel on the American fiscal legislation for the DISC (Domestic International Sales Corporation) was held in Geneva on 16 and 17 March. Under Article XXIII of the General Agreement—relating to the protection of concessions and advantages—the Community had called for the opening of an investigation procedure to examine this fiscal legislation which entered into force on 1 January and is of benefit solely to export companies.

The Community maintained before the Panel appointed by the GATT Council that the unlimited partial postponement of taxation enjoyed by these companies was equivalent to tax exemption. As a result, the DISC legislation gave these companies a substantial advantage which would enable them to reduce their export prices below comparable domestic prices, or enable them to avoid price increases without reducing their profits.

The DISC legislation therefore created a distortion in the conditions of international competition since these were tax advantages which were incompatible with the United States' commitments under GATT in the field of export subsidies.

For its part, the United States voiced criticism before three other panels—legally distinct but made up of the same members—of certain tax measures in force in three Community countries: Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

United Nations

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2329. The Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD held a special session in Geneva from 8 to 21 March to prepare for the fourth UNCTAD session to be held in Nairobi in May. No agreement was reached in Geneva, but there was a useful debate on most of the points raised by the Group of 77 in their programme of action.

The Community played an active part in drafting a paper on commodities. This paper reiterates the commitment of the Community to strive towards more stable conditions in trade in certain commodities by, where appropriate, improving market structures, by seeking to avoid excessive price fluctuations while maintaining prices at levels remunerative to producers and fair to consumers. by stabilizing export earnings and increasing the foreign currency reserves of developing countries and by taking steps to encourage and to diversify production. The Community believes that it is only by attacking commodity problems on all these fronts that long-term and lasting solutions to the problems of the developing countries can be achieved. In this context the Community attaches importance to measures to ensure the security of supplies of raw materials and to encourage investment.

The Community spokesman stated that the Community will be continuing its work on commodities in the weeks before the Nairobi Confermation.

ence within the framework of an overall integrated approach. The Community welcomes the undertaking to invite the fourth UNCTAD session to decide on a number of procedures within which consumer-producer discussions can be arranged, as a matter of urgency and in a manner taking full account of existing or planned commodity agreements, arrangements and measures. With its partners, the Community has indicated an openness of mind on the list of commodities to be covered, and it looks forward to taking further steps at and after the Conference towards defining those commodities which might be regarded as a priority, and the measures that might be appropriate to them.

Conference on the Law of the Sea

2330. The United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea opened in New York on 15 March and will continue until 7 May. This is in fact a new session of the Conference, the last meeting held in Geneva from 17 March to 9 May 1975¹ having ended with the drafting of single negotiating texts—prepared by the chairmen of the three major committees of the Conference. These texts constitute a procedural instrument and a basis for the negotiations. The New York session is bound to concentrate on the question of the creation, outside territorial waters, of economic zones extending up to 200 miles from the coast.

Commission on Transnational Corporations

2331. The Community was an observer at the meeting of the United Nations Commission on Transnational Corporations which took place in Lima from 1 to 12 March.

The programme of work approved at the end of the meeting includes preliminary work on drafting a code of conduct for transnational corporations, research into the political, economic and social efforts of their operations and practices and work to produce a definition of such corporations. The President of the Council of the European Communities, speaking on behalf of the delegations of the Member States of the Community present at the meeting (France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and the United Kingdom), stressed that the Community and its Member States would give their full support in the execution of this programme of work.

In addition, the European Community will gladly make available to the United Nations Research and Information Centre the results of certain work already carried out in this field in Brussels. Lastly, the Spokesman for the Nine declared that the Community delegation would show a constructive spirit in the session of the North-South Dialogue which will take place in Paris in June and at which the developing countries wish the question of multinational companies to be tackled.

Mediterranean countries

2332. There was fairly intense activity during March in the field of relations between the Community and the Mediterranean countries—meetings of the EEC-Turkey and EEC-Greece Association Councils, signing of two Protocols with Malta, initialling (by Morocco and Tunisia) of the Agreements negotiated with the Community, negotiations with Portugal, visits by the President of the Commission to Portugal and to Israel.

Greece

2333. The EEC-Greece Association Council met at Ambassador level in Brussels on 24 March. It discussed the measures recently adopted by the Community in respect of Greek exports of tomato concentrates. The discussions also covered the arrangements for imports into the Community of fresh fruit and vegetables from Greece and the preparation of the second financial protocol.

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2328.

The Council decided to have the examination of these first two questions continued within the Association Committee in preparation for its next meeting at ministerial level.

2334. The third meeting on agricultural harmonization between Greek and Commission experts was held in Brussels on 18 and 19 March. For the fruit and vegetables and wine sectors, the Greek authorities presented detailed proposals which are being examined jointly in the context of the Association.

2335. On 10 March the European Parliament debated the question of Greece's accession to the Community. It came out in favour of the Greek application and called for the opening of negotiations in the near future.¹

Turkey

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The EEC-Turkey Association Council met in Brussels on 1 and 2 March at ministerial level. After considering in detail the state of the Association, the Council examined social, financial and agricultural questions. The Turkish delegation laid particular stress on the increasing imbalance in trade between the Community and Turkey, the effect of which on the normal and regular functioning of the Association was a cause for concern. The Community delegation stated that as far as the agricultural questions were concerned it was prepared to facilitate the access for Turkish products to the Community market when these were of export interest to Turkey. This Association Council meeting, which, in the opinion of the Turkish Foreign Minister, constituted a decisive step, showed the importance for the two parties of fresh progress in the Association and of an improvement in its operation.

2337. During its part-session from 8 to 12 March, the European Parliament² raised the prob-

lem of relations between the Community and Turkey, and also adopted a resolution on the recommendations of the EEC-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee which were adopted in Ankara on 19 September last year.³

Malta

Signing of the EEC-Malta Protocols

2338. A Protocol laying down certain provisions relating to the Association Agreement between the European Economic Community and Malta and the Financial Protocol were signed in Brussels on 4 March.

The objective of the first of these Protocols is to adapt the Association Agreement to the changed situation resulting from the enlargement of the Community and to extend it to take in agriculture and cooperation. In the agricultural sector, the Community grants tariff reductions on the products traditionally exported by Malta to the Community market, such as cut flowers, certain vegetables and wine. A review will be carried out in 1978 and will provide an opportunity of making any improvements in these arrangements which are necessary in the light of the experience and the objectives laid down.

The main purpose of the cooperation between the Community and Malta is to promote participation by the Community in developing Malta's production and economic infrastructure, the marketing and sales promotion of Maltese exports, industrial cooperation, cooperation in science, technology and environmental protection, the encouragement and promotion of private investment, to the mutual benefit of the parties, and an exchange of information on the economic and financial situation.

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Point 2408.

Points 2408 and 2409.

Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2324.

The Financial Protocol provides for the granting of financial aid amounting to 26 million u.a., which will enable the Community to participate in financing projects likely to help in Malta's economic and social development.

Extension of the first stage of the EEC-Malta Association Agreement

2339. The provisions governing the first stage of the EEC-Malta Association Agreement—which expired on 31 March—have been extended by common accord until 30 June 1977 at the latest pending the entry into force of the second stage which still has to be negotiated. The exchange of the instruments of notification of the procedures necessary for this extension took place in Brussels on 30 March. The European Parliament² voted in favour of this extension on 12 March.

Maghreb

2340. In Brussels on 1 March, the heads of the delegations of the Community and of Morocco and Tunisia initialled the draft cooperation agreements resulting from the negotiations between the Community and those countries, which were completed on 7 and 8 January.³ Mr Cheysson, the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for cooperation and development, presented a memorandum on this subject to the Council at its meeting on 2 March.

Portugal

Visit of the President of the Commission to Lisbon

2341. At the invitation of the Portuguese Government, Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, visited Lisbon from 5 to 7 March. During his stay in Portugal, Mr Ortoli had talks with the President of the Republic, the

Prime Minister and the Ministers of Foreign Trade, Finance and Social Affairs.

The state of relations between the Community and Portugal was discussed in depth, and the desire to strengthen EEC-Portugal links and the Community's solidarity with the Portuguese democratic process were reaffirmed. The President of the Commission and the representatives of the Portuguese Government recognized the importance of the current negotiations and the need for rapid progress in these negotiations and for satisfactory solutions in the various areas covered.

During his stay in Lisbon, Mr Ortoli received representatives of the unions and of the Confederation of Portuguese Industry and had talks with the Ambassadors of the Member States of the European Communities accredited to Portugal.

Continuation of the negotiations

2342. The negotiations between the Community and Portugal, which began on 13 February, continued in Brussels on 15 March. During this meeting, the two delegations examined all the questions raised, as well as a preliminary draft text. The two delegations agreed to resume the negotiations as soon as possible with a view to concluding them in April.

Exceptional aid

2343. The Commission examined, in close contact with the European Investment Bank, the initial Portuguese projects that might be eligible for loans under the exceptional emergency aid made available to Portugal by the Council of the European Communities in October last year.

OJ L 86 of 1.4.1976.

Point 2412.

³ Bull. EC 1-1976, point 1301 to 1311 and 2323.

Israel

Official visit of the President of the Commission

2344. Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, paid an official visit to Israel from 13 to 17 March at the invitation of the Israeli Government. During his visit, Mr Ortoli had discussions with the Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Yigal Allon, the Minister of Finance, Mr Yehoshua Rabinowitz and the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr Haim Bar-Lev. Mr Ortoli also met representatives of industry, commerce and the trade unions. His discussions with the members of the Government dealt mainly with the implementation of the EEC-Israel Agreement of 20 May 1975.

Mashrek

2345. On 18 March, the Commission forwarded to the Council a communication on the problems raised by the first stage of the negotiations held in January with Egypt¹ and in February with Jordan and Syria.² These problems mainly concern the inclusion in the agreements of a section on technical and financial cooperation, the Community's offer in the agricultural sector and certain arrangements relating to the implementation of the Community concessions in the industrial sector.

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé

Entry into force of the Convention

2346. The ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé, signed on 28 February 1975, entered into force on 1 April 1976, having been ratified by the nine Member States of the Community and by the forty-six African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in time for this date to be respected, as had been planned for some three months.3 A number of Agreements, Regulations and Decisions entered into force on the same date: Agreement on ECSC products, Internal Agreements on the implementation of the Convention and on financing, Regulation on the safeguard measures and various other instruments.4

The last ratifications

2347. During March, the three ACP States (Equatorial Guinea, Zambia and Tonga) which had not hitherto completed all the necessary procedures deposited their instruments of ratification of the Convention with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities. The Convention therefore applies ipso facto to all the forty-six signatory ACP States from the moment of its entry into force.

ACP-EEC Interim Committee: final meeting

2348. The Interim Committee (the body which was set up pending the entry into force of the Convention and which will be replaced by the

Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2328.
 Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2337.

³ Points 1101 to 1109.

⁴ OJ L18 of 27.1.1976, L25 of 30.1.1976 and L85 of 31.3.1976.

Committee of Ambassadors provided for in the Convention) held its final meeting on 29 March.

In particular, it approved the rules of procedure of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and Committee of Ambassadors, some points of which had still to be settled.

Apart from the above, the Interim Committee merely noted the conclusions of the recent work carried out by the various subcommittees. It will present the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers with a report on this work. It was agreed that the subcommittees would continue to meet, as required under the authority of the Committee of Ambassadors.

The question of the date for the first meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, which was to meet (at the invitation of the ACP) in Fiji on 14 and 15 June, was left open.

Industrial cooperation

2349. Following the completion of discussions between the Commission and the Member States concerning the *Industrial Development Centre* to be established under the Lomé Convention, discussions on this institution were initiated with the ACP States with the aim of reaching agreement prior to the first meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers.

2350. On 10 March, the European Parliament¹ adopted a Resolution on the Community's African policy, and also delivered an Opinion on 12 March on a Commission proposal to the Council on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the ACP or the OCT.

Yaoundé Convention

European Development Fund

New financing decisions

2351. After receiving a favourable opinion from the EDF Committee, the Commission adopted on 19 March a new financing decision under the third EDF to grant a further 5 441 000 u.a.² for the improvement of the road from Bafoussam to Bamenda in Cameroon.

Other countries

Industrialized countries

United States

2352. The main development in trade relations with the United States during March was the holding of the bilateral consultations requested by the United States Government under Article XXIII(1) of GATT concerning the Community arrangements for imports from third countries of products processed from fruit and vegetables. These arrangements provide for a system of import certificates with the lodging of a security, and a minimum import price for tomato concentrates.³

The United States Delegation took the view that these arrangements were contrary to the provi-

Point 2407.

 $^{^2}$ 1 u.a. = approximately \$1.19.

Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2245.

sions of GATT. The Commission delegation contended that they were in accordance with the Community's international commitments. It is now for the United States Government to decide whether to take this matter before GATT.

2353. On the other hand, developments on two other fronts threaten to prejudice Community exports to the United States.

The Commission has protested against the measures recommended to President Ford by the United States International Trade Commission as a result of the situation in the American footwear industry. These proposals range from a tripling of customs duties for one year with an annual reduction of 3% thereafter for a period of five years (measure recommended by three of the members of the ITC) to an increase in the customs duties on the imports into the United States in excess of the total imported in 1974 (proposed by two members), the sixth member recommending aid measures for the workers and firms concerned. In the Commission's opinion, the proposed measures are contrary both to GATT and to the Trade Pledge.

2354. There was also a major new development on the important question of special steels. The Community reacted to the threat that import quotas would be introduced for the American market after 14 June unless it agreed before that date to restrict its exports, and the Commission expressed its profound regret at 'the decision of the United States Government to take import relief measures to protect the United States specialty steel industry. The Community has maintained from the outset that such measures were without any justification as far as Community exports to the United States were concerned. The Community's views in this respect were conveyed to the President of the United States as recently as 24 February by the President of the Commission. The Commission will immediately review with the Council all aspects of what is now a new situation.'

Canada

Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation

2355. Negotiations were formally opened on 11 March between the European Communities and Canada for the conclusion of a Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation.

In their opening statements, the head of the Commission delegation and the Canadian Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Department for External Affairs found themselves in broad harmony on the essential objectives of the negotiations and on the overall shape of the final agreement. Both sides agreed that the Cooperation Agreement should be non-preferential and evolutionary in character and should contain provisions for commercial and economic cooperation and consultation procedures. A joint Cooperation Committee should be set up, and cooperation activities under the Agreement would be complementary and additional to those taking place between Canada and the individual Member States of the European Communities.

Both sides affirmed the importance of proceeding speedily with these negotiations, so that an Agreement could be signed during 1976. Accordingly, the two delegations met again on 24 and 25 March for a second round of negotiations. Good progress was made on that occasion and a further round of talks is expected to take place during May.

Industrial cooperation between the EEC and Canada

2356. From 23 January to 4 March, an official Canadian mission consisting of Government officials and senior representatives of *forest-based industries* paid a visit to Europe, during which it had important meetings with Sir Christopher Soames and Mr Altiero Spinelli and with government and industry in Britain, France, Italy and

Bull. EC 3-1976

Other countries Other countries

Germany, as well as with the European federations representing the industry throughout the Community.

The discussions were exploratory in nature and dealt mainly with the ways and means for future cooperation between European and Canadian forest-based industries, in particular such forms of cooperation as long-term contracts, joint ventures, technological cooperation, exchange of know-how, statistics and other information.

While the European participants underlined their interest in the stable supply of raw materials and semi-finished products, the Canadian side for its part confirmed Canada's intention to continue to be a supplier of these products on a long-term basis but expressed its wish to participate to a greater extent in supplying the future growth of the European market for finished products.

On taking leave of the European hosts, the Canadian mission's spokesman said that the tour had been most useful and had laid a good foundation for further fruitful cooperation between Europe and Canada. A number of interesting possibilities had been identified which members of the mission would be examining in detail with their European colleagues over the next few months.

Developing countries in Asia and Latin America

Iran

2357. On completion of the exploratory talks held in Brussels and Tehran during 1975, the Commission forwarded a Communication to the Council on 9 March in which it recommends the opening of negotiations with Iran for the conclusion of an outline trade and economic cooperation agreement. The objective of the agreement would be to establish wide-ranging dynamic cooperation between Iran and the Community, which would reflect the traditional, historical and economic

links between the Member States of the Community and Iran, the political will of the two parties to strengthen relations between them, the complementarity and interdependence of the respective economies and their determination to develop trade.

It is envisaged that the two parties should grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment in the tariff field. The agreement would also create a framework for the examination of any economic and trade problems which might arise in future.

The agreement should add a Community dimension to the bilateral economic cooperation which already exists and will continue between the Member States and Iran. In accordance with the objectives of the proposed agreement, the scale of this cooperation would increase in step with the development of the policies of Iran and the Community.

2358. The 1963 Trade Agreement expired in 1973 and since that time talks have been taking place on the future direction of relations between the Community and Iran.

In November 1974,¹ the Council discussed this subject. The most recent series of exploratory talks was held as a follow-up to the visit by Sir Christopher Soames to Tehran in May 1975, when he met the Prime Minister, Mr Hoveida, and the Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs, Mr Ansari.

Pakistan

2359. Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, paid an official visit to Pakistan from 14 to 19 March at the invitation of the Government of that country.

He was received by Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, with whom he had a wide-ranging discussion on current world political

¹ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2420.

and economic issues, and in particular on the prospects for the successful outcome of the North-South Dialogue.

Sir Christopher also held discussions with Rana Mohammad Hanif Khan, Minister of Finance. Planning and Development, Mr Mir Afzal Khan, Minister of Commerce and Tourism, and Mr Aziz Ahmad, Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs. In the course of these talks, he informed the Ministers of recent developments in the continuing evolution of the European Economic Community, with particular reference to the maturing of its commercial policy and the growth in the range of instruments available to it in the field of aid, and he assured them of the Community's intention to continue, in the spirit of the Joint Declaration of Intent annexed to the Treaty of Accession, to take full account of Pakistan's interests in the future application of its policies in these fields. For their part, the Ministers outlined to Sir Christopher the economic situation and needs of Pakistan, and welcomed the prospects of closer relations between their country and the Community. They informed him that the Government of Pakistan had decided to approve the outcome of the recent negotiations for a Commercial Cooperation Agreement with the Community.

Malaysia

2360. Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, received Datuk Musa Hitam, Malaysia's *Minister for Primary Industries* on 23 March. The main purpose of these talks was to give Sir Christopher a first hand report on the recent meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers, in which the Minister had himself participated. This meeting was a follow-up to the ASEAN Summit Conference the previous month and had agreed on a number of specific projects for economic and industrial cooperation between the member countries of ASEAN.

There was also an exchange of views between Sir

Christopher and the Minister on the arrangements for and development of cooperation between the Commission and ASEAN with a view to the next meeting of the Joint Commission/ASEAN Study Group, which is due to take place in Manila in the first week of May.

Diplomatic relations

2361. On 1 March, the President of the Council and the President of the Commission received Their Excellencies Mr Harry E. Dyett (Guyana), Mr Dean R. Hinton (United States), Mr Georg Seyffertitz (Austria) and Mr Eliphas A. Odeke (Uganda) who presented their letters of credence in their capacity as heads of the missions of their countries to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC).

The new Ambassadors of Guyana and the United States succeed Mr Laurence E. Mann and Mr Joseph A. Greenwald respectively who have been called to other duties. The new Ambassador of Austria replaces Mr Rudolf Reiterer who has retired.

The new Ambassador of Uganda is the first Head of Mission of his country accredited to the three European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC). As Ambassador to the European Economic Community, he succeeds Mr Daniel Owino who from 1968 to 1970 had been the representative to the EEC of Uganda and of two other East African countries.

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Bull. EC 3-1976

OJ C 58 of 12.3.1976.

4. Institutions and organs of the Communities

European Parliament

European Parliament

Part-session in Strasbourg from 8 to 12 March

2401. The dominant topics of the first sittings of the 1976/77 session were the Community's attitude towards the Angola question, the different lines taken by the Council and Commission in respect of Greece's application for membership and the direct elections to the European Parliament. The House strongly criticized the Council's decision-making procedures. Other prominent matters were the need for common cultural activities, the defence aspect of foreign policy, the economic situation, the problems of an associate—Turkey, the Channel Tunnel and questions of human rights in the German Democratic Republic. Agricultural matters, including conversion premiums in the wine sector, and consumer affairs were also debated.

On 9 March, the new session started off with the election of the President and Vice-Presidents.¹

Opening of the 1976/77 session (9 March)

2402. The 1976/77 session of the European Parliament was opened by the oldest representative, Mr Roger Houdet (L/F), who, in his opening address, outlined the tasks facing the House in the year ahead. He dwelt on the question of direct elections on which the European Council is to take a decision on 1 and 2 April. He appealed to Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the Council, not to dash Parliament's hopes. Mr Houdet also spoke of the role of the national assemblies. To expand Europe's democratic identity, much closer links had to be forged with those parliaments.

Mr Spénale re-elected President

2403. To prolonged applause, Mr Georges Spénale (S/F) was re-elected President of the House. There was no need for a secret ballot since no other candidate was nominated. Mr Spénale has been President of the European Parliament since 11 March 1975.²

In his address, Mr Spénale said that his unanimous re-election had come at a difficult but exciting moment; difficult at home, with unemployment, inflation and currency fluctuations with their effects on the common agricultural policy, and abroad (Africa, Latin America, Portugal); but exciting since difficulties often worked as a stimulus (the North-South Dialogue, the charter on the rights and economic duties of nations, the Lomé Convention). The end of the tunnel, albeit still a long way off, was in sight. At this stage Parliament had a major job to do which it would not shirk. On the institutional side, Mr Spénale pointed the way: ratification of new agreements on Parliament's budgetary powers and proposals for its integration into the legislative process. The final decision on direct elections must be taken in 1976. In 1977 the Member States must decide on the implementing arrangements so that the elections could be held in 1978.

The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 79 of 5.4.1976 and the verbatim report is contained in OJ Annexes 200 and 201.

¹ This report was prepared from the German edition of 'Information' published by Parliament's Secretariat. The political group and nationality of members are indicated

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, EDP = 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.

Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2402.

2404. When the President had been elected, the twelve Vice-Presidents, who with the President make up Parliament's Bureau, were also re-elected by acclamation.

They are:

Mr Giovanni Bersani (C-D/I)

Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer (L/NL)

Lord Bessborough (C/UK)

Mr Michael B. Yeats (DEP/IRL)

Mr Gerard Bordu (COM/F)

Mr Walter Behrendt (S/D)

Mr Hans-August Lücker (C-D/D)

Mr Ove Guldberg (L/DK)

Mr Lucien Martens (C-D/B)

Mr Achille Corona (S/I)

Mr Jacques Santer (C-D/L)

Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (S/UK)

At the beginning of the new session the members of the twelve Parliamentary Committees¹ were also appointed and subsequently elected their Chairmen and deputy Chairmen.

Parliament calls for a prompt decision on direct elections

(11 March)

2405. On the basis of the draft Convention² presented by Parliament, the European Council is to take the final decision on direct elections when it meets in Luxembourg on 1 and 2 April. The House strongly urged the European Council to do so. After Mr de la Malène (DEP/F) had withdrawn his group's motion which made no explicit reference to Parliament's draft, the Resolution was supported by five groups. Only the Communists took a different view. In the division several United Kingdom members and one Danish member of the Liberal group abstained.

The rapporteur for the Political Affairs Committee on the draft Convention, Mr Patijn (S/NL), reiterated the criteria which the House wanted to see used in settling the controversial issue of seat allocation: optimum proportional representation,

no country to have fewer seats than in the present Parliament; the House must be able to function normally without becoming too large.

Alongside Parliament's draft were French, Italian and Irish proposals (see Table 7).

In talks with the Council, Parliament had made it clear that it could accept any solution which matched these criteria with a complement of between 300 and 400 members. Mr Patijn could therefore see no reason to put off the decision. A 'no' on 1 and 2 April would be regarded as a 'no' to parliamentary democracy in Europe.

Mr Bertrand (C-D/B) felt that all the arguments put forward in the public debate did not justify the rejection of the proposals by the Council. This applied both to the condition of a uniform election procedure and to the basis in law (Articles 138 or 236 of the EEC Treaty). The uniform procedure, which according to the Patijn draft could not be worked out until after 1978, was formerly, when the 1960 Dehousse proposal was under discussion, the reason why the opponents of direct elections rejected them.

Lord Gladwyn (L/UK) warned against considering the preparation of a new draft. This would be putting off the elections to the Greek calends. Sir Peter Kirk (C/UK) saw nothing in the controversial question of the number of members to warrant postponing the decision.

Mr Sandri (COM/I) supported the direct elections, not on behalf of his group but in the name of the Italian Communists. But, he said, they were not to be overestimated as a panacea for all ills. They represented only one phase in the struggle for far-reaching democratization. Thereupon, Mr Fellermaier (S/D) urged the French Communists, who in the public debate had rejected direct elections out of hand, to make their position clear in the House. Mrs Goutmann (COM/F) confirmed that her party wanted an independent, democratic Europe but not supranational institutions.

Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2422.

² Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2501.

Table 7 — Representation of the Member States in the European Parliament

	Proportion of total EEC pop.	represe	esent entation EP	dr	ment's aft ention	Free prop		Irish proposal		Italian proposal	
	%	Seats	% share	Seats	% share	Seats	% share	Seats	% share	Seats	%
Belgium	3.81	14	7.17	23	6.48	13	4.60	26	6.77	22	6.0
Denmark	1.96	10	5.05	17	4.79	8	2.80	20	5.21	18	4.9
FR Germany	24.21	36	18.18	71	20.00	65	22.90	74	19.28	74	20.4
France	20.29	36	18.18	65	18.31	55	19.36	68	17.70	64	17.7
Ireland	1.18	10	5.05	13	3.66	6	2.11	18	4.68	16	4.4
Italy	21.31	36	18.18	66	18.59	58	20.40	69	17.97	67	18.5
Luxembourg	0.14	6	3.03	6	1.69	3	1.05	9	2.34	6	1.6
Netherlands	5.22	14	7.07	27	7.61	17	5.98	30	7.81	26	7.2
United Kingdom	21.90	36	18.18	67	18.87	59	20.77	70	18.23	68	18.8
Total		198		355		284		384		361	

The Council's decision-making procedure sharply criticized (10 March)

2406. In two Oral Questions to the Council and Commission, Mr Broeksz (S/NL), Mr Behrendt (S/D) and Mr Espersen (S/DK) criticized the Council's decision-making procedure. Despite the positive resolutions of the Paris Summit Conference in 1972, nothing much had changed; the Council still had a massive backlog of proposals to deal with. The questioners and Mr Burgbacher (C-D/D) pointed to the adverse effect on integration of Council decisions still outstanding. Lurking behind this 'decision gap' was the danger of postponed decisions being taken in the end at quite different levels.

In his reply, the President of the Council, Mr *Thorn*, stressed that unfortunately decisions did not hinge on the goodwill of individual Council members but were tied to the unanimity rule. He

recommended that firm dates be set in advance for European Council and government meetings and that the activities of the specialized Council meetings be more effectively coordinated. Some progress could be noted in the efforts to improve the Council's working methods, but it must be borne in mind that differences of opinion as to substance could not be overcome simply by improving the procedure.

The President of the Commission, Mr Ortoli, also advocated more effective coordination of the Council's work.

External relations

Urgent debate on Angola
— Resolution on the Community's African policy
(10 March)

2407. An emergency debate on Angola was arranged following a question put by Mr Blumen-

feld (C-D/D) to the Foreign Ministers' Conference on the lack of uniformity among the Member States on the matter of the recognition of Angola, a question which most speakers felt Mr Thorn had failed to answer satisfactorily.

Mr Thorn, speaking only in his capacity as Luxembourg's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. since the Question Time procedure did not yet apply to political cooperation, summarized the views of the Nine, as stated in February, in the following points: 1. Angola's problems would be considered together with the problems of the whole South-West African region. 2. The Nine had expressed their concern over the military conflict and had urged the belligerents to restore national unity. 3. The Angolan people, alone, should determine their own destiny. 4. The Community supported the efforts of the African States in the OAU (Organization for African Unity) to establish peaceful cooperation. South Africa's policy of apartheid was condemned. This was a good start for the Community towards speaking with one voice in future.

At the end of the debate, the House passed a Resolution on the Community's African policy which expressed the wish that African policy should transcend the economic aspects and be guided by general political considerations. Interference by other States in Africa was condemned and rejection of racist policies was reaffirmed.

Greece's membership of the Community approved (10 March)

2408. In a debate arising from two questions to the Commission by Mr Scott-Hopkins (C/UK) and Mr de la Malène (DEP/F), a number of members broadly supported Greece's application for membership. Unlike the Council which had unreservedly approved the application, the Commission had been more guarded in its Opinion and seeing the extent of the necessary structural

changes in the Greek economy, had recommended a transitional period during which the objectives of the Association should first be completely attained by means of a comprehensive economic programme.²

Mr Klepsch (C-D/D) called for an early start to accession negotiations, which should, however, proceed with the greatest care so that all conceivable difficulties could be cleared out of the way. Mr Corterier (S/D) spoke of Greece's moral right and entitlement under the Treaty of Rome to belong to the Community and without overlooking the problems he was convinced that Greece would be a dynamic element in the process of European unification. Sounding a more cautious note, Mr Scott-Hopkins, (C/UK) endorsed the Commission's view. Mr Krieg (DEP/F) and Mr De Clercq (L/B) were pleased with the Council's decision. They stressed that Greece was the Community's first Association partner.

Council President *Thorn* pointed out that, with its application Greece was accepting all of the obligations inherent in the Treaty and would therefore gain all the corresponding privileges. In principle, enlargement of the Community must be accompanied by an internal reinforcement.

On the question of relations with Turkey, Mr Thorn said that the Association Agreement must be fully exploited; there must be no room for doubt that the Community did not set great store by these relations.

Further development of the Association with Turkey (8 March)

2409. Parliament endorsed the recommendations of the EEC-Treaty Joint Parliamentary Committee which met in Ankara from 15 to 20 September 1975. They concerned the need for political consultation, the state and further dev-

Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2502.

² Bull. EC 1-1976, points 1101 to 1111.

elopment of the Association and the problems of Turkish migrant workers (especially the education of their children). The Council and Commission were urged to show more understanding for Turkey's economic and social needs. Greece's accession should neither adversely affect further development of the Association with Turkey nor impair Turkey's prospects for eventual membership. On the Cyprus question, the House was disappointed that no tangible results were yet to be seen. The rapporteur, Mr Klepsch (C-D/D) confirmed that in admitting Greece, no one in the Community was intending to dissolve the link with Turkey. He praised Turkey as one of the most faithful and reliable association partners who deserved our full support. This had also been conveyed to the Turkish delegation which had attended Parliament's January sittings.

Mr Brunner of the Commission reported that at the meeting of the EEC-Association Council a week earlier, the Community had partly succeeded in dispelling Turkish misgivings over the Agreements with Israel and the Maghreb countries and Turkish agricultural exports.

Denial of parental rights by the German Democratic Republic (10 March)

2410. In a question to the Conference of the Member States' Foreign Ministers, fifteen members (Mr Klepsch (C-D/D), Mr Lücker (C-D/D), Mr Blumenfeld (C-D/D), Mrs Walz (C-D/D), Mr Artzinger (C-D/D), Mr Scholten (C-D/NL), Mr Vernaschi (C-D/I), Mr Martens (C-D/B), Mr Deschamps (C-D/B), Mr Vandewiele (C-D/B), Mr Dykes (C/UK), Lord Reay (C/UK), Mr Normanton (C/UK), Mr Broeksz (S/NL) and Mr Pintat (L/F) brought up the problem of denial of parental rights by the German Democratic Republic to persons who left the country. It was reported that children whose parents had fled the GDR were offered for adoption by citizens loyal to the regime. The questioners called on the Foreign Min-

isters to take every opportunity they had to get the GDR to respect the humanitarian principles of the Helsinki Declaration.

Supported by Mr Vandewiele (C-D/B), Mr Klepsch (C-D/D) stressed that this involved the whole question of human rights which must also be respected by the GDR. Mr Seefeld (S/D), however, stated that in five known cases, under different circumstances, parental rights had been withdrawn from former GDR citizens now living in the Federal Republic of Germany. It was indeed a shocking state of affairs, but the interests of all concerned were better served if the problem was resolved bilaterally. This was also the view of the responsible Bundestag Committee.

Acting for the Chairman of the Conference of Foreign Ministers, the Netherlands State Secretary, Mr Brinkhorst highlighted the attitude of the Community Foreign Ministers who believed that direct aid was more effective than public talk. Successful results had so far borne this out.

European foreign policy and defence (10 March)

2411. Lord Gladwyn (L/UK), Mr Scott-Hopkins (C/UK), Mr Achenbach (L/D), Mr Aigner (C-D/D)and Mr Klepsch (C-D/D) asked the Conference of Foreign Ministers what positive steps it had taken to follow up Parliament's Resolution of 15 December 1975 on the consequences of a European foreign policy for the defence sector.1 The House had regretted the disparity between the advances in harmonizing the foreign policies of the Member States of the Community and the lack of progress in harmonizing defence policies. It had called upon the Governments of the Nine to examine means of achieving the objectives of rationalizing arms production, logistics and military infrastructure in the context of political cooperation and had approved the creation of an agency for the joint development of weaponry.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2406.

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The questioners pointed out that the Tindemans Report also contained recommendations for defence policy.

Representing the Chairman of the Foreign Ministers' Conference, the Netherlands State Secretary, Mr Brinkhorst followed by Mr Stewart (S/UK) felt that these questions fell within the province of other bodies such as NATO rather than within the Community competence.

Agreement with Malta (12 March)

2412. Parliament approved the agreement extending the provisions of the first stage of Malta's association. The first stage, due to terminate on 31 March 1976, would now be extended for about twelve months.

Economic affairs

The European Community — a Community of stability and growth? (11 March)

2413. Parliament urgently called on the Council and Commission for proposals for economic and monetary policy measures to relaunch and organize economic and monetary union. It adopted a Resolution on a motion tabled by Mr Brugger (C-D/I) in November 1975 and pointed out with concern that the goal of a Community of stability and growth set by the Treaty had been called into question by the Council's indecision since 1974.

The reason Mr Brugger gave for this move, which met with all-round approval, was that in 21 months when direct elections to Parliament were to take place, the European electorate could hold the European MPs responsible for the proposals and decisions 'mouldering in the archives of the Council'. The aim of the Resolution was to remind the Council of its responsibility.

Report on the economic situation rejected (11 March)

2414. A majority rejected Mr Artzinger's (C-D/D) report on the economic situation in the Community. The Socialist group, in particular, justified its rejection on the grounds that in the face of the alarming unemployment figures the report offered no firm footholds for solutions. The report contained the Opinion of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs on the statement concerning the economic situation of the Community which Vice-President Haferkamp of the Commission presented to the House on 12 February.¹

European Communities Institute for Economic Analysis and Research (11 March)

2415. Parliament approved the Commission's proposal to found an Institute for Economic Analysis and Research. It should study economic, monetary, industrial and social questions arising from the process of European integration and engage in longer-term projections. In so doing it should collaborate as closely as possible with existing national bodies. The location of the Institute is still to be decided. The House recommended that it be established in a city where the necessary data-processing and other facilities are available.

Convergence of national policies (10 March)

2416. In two questions to the Council and Commission, Mr de la Malène (DEP/F) suggested a 'devolution of the Community's services' so that in the present recession citizens could be brought into closer touch with the Community. The increasingly scant regard for the Community

Bull. EC 2-1976, points 2202 and 2403.

interest with which the economic, social and sectoral policies of the Member States were conceived and implemented had deepened the malaise felt by all Europeans and 'smacked of protectionism'.

Customs warehouses and free zones (12 March)

2417. Parliament approved a Commission proposal for a Directive on extending the competence of the Committee for Customs Processing Arrangements to cover customs warehousing and free zone procedures. It should ensure more effective cooperation between the Member States and the Commission.

European cultural policy (8 March)

2418. Parliament welcomed a Commission working paper on cultural activities; cultural exchanges of every type were an excellent way of fostering the citizen's awareness of a European identity. The House called for substantial increases in the funds available for cultural exchanges for young workers. The Commission should also promote other activities designed to make the culture of other Community countries available to broader sections of the population by encouraging the translation of literary and other works and promoting cultural events, representations and performances on radio and television. The Commission should investigate ways and areas in which Member States' cultural policies could be included in the European Union.

The rapporteur, Mr Broeksz (S/NL) who opened the debate, stressed that economic and social cooperation between the Community countries must be consolidated by cooperation in the cultural sphere.

The group spokesmen, Mr Deschamps (C-D/B), Mr Nyborg (DEP/DK), Mrs Kellett-Bowman

(C/UK) and Mr Ellis (S/UK) all endorsed the comments of the rapporteur and Chairman of the Committee on Cultural Affairs and Youth. They were also of one mind in insisting that the Community's role must simply be to harmonize cultural policies since it was the very variety of its culture which enriched the Community. Greater knowledge and the consequent understanding of the respective cultural backgrounds of the Member States was, however, generally regarded as a requisite for political cooperation. Cultural identity alone gave the Community the cohesion it needed. But the cultural values of minorities must not be lost. In this connection, Mr Ellis (S/UK) highlighted the problems of the Welshspeaking minority in Britain.

For the Commission, Mr Brunner thanked the Committee on Cultural Affairs and Youth for its work in the cultural sphere and the longstanding support it had given the Commission. He was glad that the House had broached these questions but warned against overoptimism. He concurred with those members who wanted to promote cultural variety. In conclusion, he indicated that the Commission would present its cultural policy proposals in the form of a detailed programme after many studies now under way had been completed.

Youth (8 March)

European education for young workers

2419. Parliament thought that one of the major problems facing the Community today stemmed from the fact that the public mind was not totally committed to the efforts for political union. It was urged that the hitherto inadequate initiation in European cooperation, especially for young workers, should therefore be considerably strengthened.

The idea was to develop the exchange programmes and the information role of the planned

but still not yet established Youth Forum and promote educational leave, and home-study courses. Financial resources should be provided by boosting the appropriations for the Kreyssig Fund (Bfrs 15 million in the Commission's budget earmarked for informing the public, and particularly young people about the Community) and should be used first to assist young workers.

The rapporteur, Mr Laban (S/NL) highlighted the problems of young workers who wished to take further education courses. As long as sufficient educational leave was not forthcoming, education for them was synonymous with loss of income. Parliament was therefore calling for leave periods of four or five weeks.

The own-initiative report of the Committee on Cultural Affairs and Youth was supported by Mr Walkhoff (S/D) and Mr Schulz (C-D/D) who both opposed short courses in the form of week-end seminars. Mr Walkhoff stressed that the course must be educationally effective. He emphasized that any lack of European commitment could not be attributed solely to inadequate information facilities. Mr Schulz reminded the Commission of the unsettled question of convening a European Youth Forum which had been pending for a long time.

Mr Nyborg (DEP/DK) felt that one of the aims of the courses should be to convince the younger generation that the Community was not a paradise for bureaucrats. Mrs Kellett-Bowman (C/UK) was opposed to giving preference to any one group of the population. Education for older people was just as important.

Mr Brunner, Member of the Commission, felt that possibilities for keeping young people in touch with the Community even after they have left school were to be found in the new guidelines for a Community vocational training policy now before the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training; similar scope was offered by Article 50 of the EEC Treaty as the basis for a second Commission programme for the exchange of young workers. Mr Brunner also believed that

the tripartite social conferences involving the Ministers of Labour and of Economic Affairs and the two sides of industry could well discuss such aspects as the information and education of young workers. He told the House that as the Council had given its approval, a European Youth Forum could now at last be set up.

European Youth Orchestra (8 March)

2420. Parliament unanimously approved the formation of a Youth Orchestra sponsored by the Community. It would be no burden on the Community budget since the necessary funds were available from private sources. The orchestra would consist of one hundred and eight amateur musicians aged from fourteen to twenty. Each Member State would put forward twenty-five candidates, from whom twelve would be selected in each case. After two weeks' practice in Aberdeen, the orchestra would play first in the Community capitals and the towns where Parliament was sitting. The project had been initiated by the International Festival of Youth Orchestras Foundation. Lady Fisher of Rednal (S/UK) and Mrs Kellett-Bowman (C/UK) had both called for Community support. This was promised by Mr Brunner who felt the orchestra would be of the greatest value; it would bring young people together and promote culture.

Industry

Parliament assesses the results of the Dragon project (12 March)

2421. The Chairman of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology, Mr Springorum (C-D/D) censured the Council 'for not thinking along European lines in the matter of research'. The Council had not acted on Parlia-

Bull. EC 3-1976

ment's request of 17 December 1975¹ to push ahead with the Dragon High Temperature Project and had not agreed an extension. The Dragon Agreement to which the entire Community was party, would therefore expire on 31 March 1976. The House urgently appealed to the Council to extend the Agreement until at least the end of 1976. It also warned against the negative effects which the closure was bound to have on the exploitation of new sources of energy. It further urged that at least the final report on the evaluation of data obtained must be completed as the basis for any further projects in high-temperature reactor research.

Transport

Summer time (12 March)

2422. In 1976 four countries, France, Italy, Ireland and the United Kingdom would apply summer time. In Ireland and the United Kingdom clocks would be put forward one hour from GMT and in Italy and France two hours; thus clocks would be 60 minutes ahead of the otherwise usual, but variable, time. Moreover, the period of summer time began and ended on different dates. The Commission had therefore proposed that from 1977 at least the length of summer time be gradually standardized, i.e. $6\frac{1}{2}$ months (1977-79: 3/2/1 April to 16/15/14 October).

Parliament welcomed the Commission's proposal as the first step towards standardizing summer time throughout the Community. The House called for a searching investigation into the effects of introducing summer time on international passenger and goods traffic within the Community. It further considered that negotiations should be conducted at the earliest opportunity with non-member countries concerned, particularly Austria and Switzerland.

The Channel Tunnel discussed again (10 March)

2423. Mr Berkhouwer (L/NL) Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (S/UK), Mr Martens (C-D/B), Mr Krieg (DEP/F) and Mr Girardin (C-D/I) asked about the Council's and Commission's plans to examine the possibilities for building a tunnel under the English Channel, Mr Brunner, Member of the Commission, reported that the project, which France and the UK had now dropped was still economically viable according to the latest estimates. It was therefore not altogether ruled out that the Community would take it over. But because of the towering costs (2000 million u.a. plus 1600 million for the approaches) he did not think that this was the right time to present a firm proposal to the Council.

Agriculture

Conversion premiums in the wine sector (12 March)

2424. Parliament felt that the Commission's proposal for granting a conversion premium in respect of wine to help reduce the surplus was not acceptable unless it formed part of an overall reform of the wine market organization. Improvements were needed to many of the points.

Subject to changes in the replanting conditions, deletion of the ban on replanting and a considerable increase in the premium, Parliament approved the proposal.

Question Time (10 March)

2425. Question Time included questions on the following subjects: failure of the Member States to coordinate their positions on the Angola ques-

¹ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2410.

² Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2268.

tion; introduction of a European passport in 1978; the need for a general debate on Community transport policy; work on a new Eurocontrol Convention; relations with Canada; codification of Council items appearing in the Official Journal; the Benguela railway; competition and price policy of multinational companies; shortage of skilled labour; the 'two tier' Community; nuclear safety; mission costs for officials attending Strasbourg meetings; increasing the sugar quota, Community assistance teams for natural and other disasters; alleviation of Community unemployment; a common EEC fishing zone; the trade balance with Japan; the skimmed-milk powder surplus; uneconomic shipping rates in State-trading countries.

Council

In March the Council held four meetings on external affairs, agriculture, economic and financial affairs and energy.

385th meeting — External affairs (Brussels, 1 and 2 March)

2426. President: Mr Thorn, Luxembourg Minister of Foreign Affairs.

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President, Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President, Mr Cheysson, Member,

Election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage: In the light of the conclusions at the European Council meeting of 1 and 2 December 1975, the Council got down to a searching appraisal of the unresolved questions concerning election of Parliament by direct universal suffrage. The Council considered that some of the points, particularly the allocation of seats, would have to go to the European Council. Afterwards

the Council met a delegation from the European Parliament led by President Spénale.

Conference on International Economic Cooperation: The Council noted that the first session of the Commissions had gone ahead in Paris from 11 to 20 February. It was pleased to note that the proceedings had started in a cordial atmosphere and agreed a number of arrangements to follow up preparation of a common and constructive Community position in the Paris dialogue.

Tropical products: The Council examined in detail possible offers on tropical products which the Community might make in the GATT multilateral trade negotiations. It was agreed to take a final decision no latter than the next meeting.

386th meeting — Agriculture (Brussels, 2 to 6 March)

2427. President: Mr Hamilius, Luxembourg Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Lardinois, Member.

At a marathon sitting, the Council fixed the farm prices for 1976/77.1

387th meeting — Economic and financial affairs (Brussels, 15 March)

2428. President: Mr Vouël, Luxembourg Minister of Finance.

From the Commission: Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President.

Community loans: The Council adopted the Decision on Community loans for Italy and Ireland and the Decisions laying down the conditions of economic policy which the two countries are to abide by.²

Euratom loans: The Council set out guidelines on most of the economic and financial aspects of

Points 2239 to 2246.

Points 2201 to 2208.

this draft Decision. It was agreed to refer the draft to the Council meeting on energy on 25 March so that the energy aspects could be added.

Economic situation: The Council carried out its first quarterly review for 1976 of the economic situation in the Community.¹

Budgetary unit of account: Pending proposals on the budgetary unit of account expected shortly from the Commission, the Council tentatively discussed the matter in general terms.

388th meeting — Energy (Brussels, 25 March)

2429. President: Mr Mart, Luxembourg Minister for Economic Affairs.

From the Commission: Mr Simonet, Vice-President.

Energy objectives for 1985 and rational utilization of energy: The Council discussed broadly how to attain the 1985 objectives of the Community energy policy and reduce the Community's degree of dependence on imported oil by measures to cut down consumption and promote the development of Community energy resources.

The Council took note of the Commission's first regular report on the programme for the rational utilization of energy and approved five Recommendations to the Member States containing practical proposals for making efficient use of energy in the building, transport and domestic electrical appliance industries.²

Measures to be taken in the event of oil supply difficulties: The Council looked in detail at key facets of Community arrangements to be put in hand if problems arise in the supply of crude oil and petroleum products.³

Community information and consultation procedure concerning petroleum prices: The Council agreed in principle on a Directive concerning a Community information and consultation procedure concerning the prices for oil and petroleum products within the Community.⁴

Support for Community projects in the oil and gas sector: The Council endorsed the Decision concerning measures to support Community technological projects in the oil and gas sector.⁵

Information on investment projects of Community interest in the petroleum, natural gas and electricity sectors: The Council approved the amendment to Regulation 1056/72 on notifying the Commission of investment projects of Community interest in the petroleum, natural gas and electricity sectors.⁶

Implementing the energy policy guidelines: The Council discussed in depth questions arising in connection with implementing the energy policy guidelines laid down by the European Council on 1 and 2 December 1975.⁷

Euratom loans: Having confirmed the guidelines agreed at the Council meeting of 16 March⁸ on economic and financial affairs concerning the draft Decision authorizing the Commission to issue Euratom loans so that the Community might help to finance nuclear power stations, the Council noted that two delegations had general reservations. It was agreed to deal with these points at the next meeting on energy.⁹

Commission

Activities

2430. The Commission held five meetings in March, which centred on preparations for the European Council meeting on 1 and 2 April, budget matters, the economic and monetary situation

- Point 2209.
- Points 2284 and 2285.
- Point 2283.
- Point 2286.
- Point 2287.
- Point 2288.
- Point 2282.
- Point 2428.
- 9 Point 2289.

Commission

Commission

and employment. President Ortoli reported on his visits to Portugal and Israel.

Employment: The Commission carefully studied a paper on the strategy which the Community should deploy in order to secure full employment while maintaining stability. The Commission will follow the guidelines it has adopted during the intense consultations it is to have with the two sides of industry during the weeks ahead. Towards the middle of May it will set out its final position, with due consideration to the opinions it has heard in a paper to be used as the basis for the Tripartite Conference.

The Commission feels that in view of the serious economic and social situation (continuing high unemployment despite economic recovery), and the prospect of major structural changes over the years ahead the governments and the workers' and employers' organizations must reach broad agreement at the Tripartite Conference on a number of short- and medium-term objectives and on certain lines of immediate action to restore full employment swiftly while maintaining stability, to halt the upsurge in prices and to promote productive investment.

Monetary situation: The Commission appraised developments on the monetary front in the Community. It found that the French Government's decision to withdraw from the snake confirmed once again that the Community exchange rate system would always be vulnerable until the member countries had shown in practical terms that they were determined to press on with economic and monetary integration failing which the Community's achievements could not be preserved.¹

The Commission announced that it would make the necessary proposals and that it was counting on the forthcoming European Council meeting to lay down the guidelines to ensure the Community's cohesion.

Economic policy: The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council assessing the degree of convergence attained by the economic

policies of the Member States in 1975. Here the Commission pointed to the solid results gained during the second half of the year after the Commission's coordination work which strengthened the complementarity of the various national economic policy measures.

At the same time the Commission adopted a report on the economic policy guidelines for 1976 in which it adjusted the forecasts it made last autumn. The Commission finds that recent developments have borne out the value of the guidelines adopted then. A gentle recovery can be expected and this must be backed up by measures to combat rising prices and unemployment.²

Budget guidelines for 1977: The Commission adopted its Communication for the joint Council meeting of 5 April on the main guidelines to be adopted for the 1977 budget. It set out a number of criteria to guide the institutions in selecting projects and action to be financed at Community level:

- (i) action where substantial savings can accrue from a project of European proportions in, for example, research and development;
- (ii) action which fosters or rectifies conditions which affect more than one State (for instance, protection of the environment, education of migrant workers and their children, transport infrastructures, etc);
- (iii) assistance to alleviate the problems of adapting structures, which themselves are caused by the creation of the common market (this covers most of the projects of the Regional Fund, the EAGGF Guidance Section, the Social Fund, ECSC aid etc.);
- (iv) action connected with the development of the Community's external relations, particularly in regard to the development of the Third World and the Community's security and independence, notably safeguarding energy supplies.

On the basis of these criteria, the Commission

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¹ Point 2206.

² Point 2209.

proposes to develop a number of projects already under way, confirms its plans in respect of proposals already made (e.g. the European programme for the aircraft industry) and announces new moves which include a European programme for transport infrastructure.

Budgetary unit of account: The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council on the use of the European unit of account for the Community budget.

The Commission confirmed its intention to replace the present unit of account by the European unit of account as from 1 January 1978; the new unit of account is already used for ECSC, European Investment Bank and European Development Fund operations.

The period up to the end of 1977 will be taken up preparing the inevitably complicated administrative texts which this radical change entails and putting them through the Council and the European Parliament.

Second action programme on the environment: The Commission adopted its second action programme on the environment. It is a composite programme concerned with reducing pollution and nuisances, safeguarding the environment and natural resources and stepping up internationally coordinated action.¹

Harmonization of taxation: The Commission adopted two proposals to the Council under its programme for harmonizing taxation. The first covers initial measures to harmonize taxes on transactions in securities (shares and bonds) with a view to reducing taxes and eventually eliminating them so as to facilitate the movement of capital within the Community. The second would strengthen cooperation between tax authorities to counter tax evasion more effectively.

Steel import restrictions: The Commission deeply regretted the decision taken by the President of the United States to place restrictions on imports with the aim of protecting the US special steels industry; as President Ortoli had indicated per-

sonally to President Ford during his visit to Washington on 24 February, to the Commission's mind, there was no justification whatever for such protectionist measures.

Emergency aid: By urgent procedure, the Commission laid proposals before the Council to aid the refugees following the recent events in Angola.

Departmental organization: The Commission changed the organization plans of the Directorates-General for Social Affairs and Transport. It also formed a task force for the negotiations on Greece's accession to the Community.

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

- 2431. A number of meetings were organized in March for workers' and employers' organizations. The subjects of the meetings were:
- (i) multilateral negotiations under GATT, with the Textile Trade Unions Committee;
- (ii) employee participation and company structure (Green Paper), the multinationals and the harmonization of laws governing company groups, with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC);
- (iii) operation of the freight haulage market, with the Committee of Commercial Organizations in the EEC Countries (COCCEE) and the Union of the Industries of the European Community (UNICE);
- (iv) the Tindemans Report, with the European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF).

Court of Justice

New cases

Case 21/76 — (1) Handelskwekerij G.J. Bier, BV, Nieuwerkerk a/d IJssel, and (2) Stichting 'Rein-

Points 1301 to 1303 and Supplement 6/76 — Bull. EC.

Court of Justice

water', Amsterdam, v Mines de Potasse d'Alsace SA, Mulhouse

Case 24/76 — Estasis Salotti, Snc, Meda, v Firma Rüma Polstereimachinen GmbH, Cologne

Case 25/76 — Galeries Segoura, SPRL, Brussels, v Firma R. Bonakdarian, Hamburg

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

2432. In the short period since the entry into force of the Protocol empowering the Court of Justice to interpret the convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, the Court has been asked on several occasions to give rulings on the scope of that convention, a fact which shows its importance in the day-to-day affairs before the courts. In March, the Court received four further requests for interpretation.

In the first case concerning the compensation of a Dutch horticultural undertaking by a French factory discharging large quantities of chloride into the Rhine, the Gerechtshof Den Haag asked the Court on 2 March for a ruling on whether the phrase 'the place where the damage or injury has occurred' in Article 5 (3) of the abovementioned convention should be interpreted as being the place where the damage has occurred or the place where the act occurred which gave rise to the damage.

In the following two cases, the questions submitted by the Bundesgerichtshof on 11 March concern the interpretation of the first paragraph of Article 17. The point in doubt is whether the stipulation of the competent court on the back of a contract signed by the two parties or of a confirmation of order not disputed by the purchaser constitutes a written agreement within the meaning of this Article.

In the last case, the Oberlandesgericht Düsseldorf

asked the Court on 18 March whether the concept 'civil and commercial matters' in the first paragraph of Article 1 should be interpreted in the light of the law of the State in which judgment has been given in the proceedings or of that in which an action for the grant of an enforcement order has been brought.

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

2433. The Tribunale de Pavia asked the Court of Justice on 5 March for a preliminary ruling on the tariff classification of acoustic devices imitating the sound of laughter, intended for the manufacture of speaking dolls (tariff heading No 97 02 B or 97 03 B).

Case 23/76 — Impresa Pulizia L Pellegrini & C., SaS, Varese, v (1) Commission (JRC Ispra) and (2) Flexon Italia, SpA, Venezia/Mestre

2434. A cleaning company responsible, under contract, for cleaning the JRC at Ispra, brought an action on 9 March against the Commission and, in addition, against another cleaning company.

This action has two objects; the plaintiff requests firstly that the contract clause concerning the period of notice in the event of termination of the contract be respected and secondly that the act by which the Commission awarded to Flexon Italia the contract for cleaning the Centre following an invitation to tender be annulled by reason of the fact that the plaintiff's tender offered more favourable conditions than that of Flexon Italia.

Case 26/76 — Firma Metro-SB-Grossmärkte GmbH & Co. KG, Düsseldorf, v Commission

2435. On 15 December 1975 the Commission adopted a Decision² declaring the provisions of

¹ OJ L 204 of 2.8.1975.

² OJ L 28 of 3.2.1976.

Article 85 (1) of the EEC Treaty to be inapplicable to the conditions of sale for the domestic market used by the SABA undertaking. These conditions govern, among other things, access to the SABA sales network; consideration is given only to specialist undertakings meeting certain conditions, and only those who undertake to achieve a certain sales target are appointed.

In connection with this matter, a German company which claims to meet the qualitative requirements for admission but has not been appointed as a SABA retailer, lodged with the Commission a complaint against the SABA sales system. This complaint was rejected by letter of 14 January 1976.

This German company brought an action before the Court of Justice on 11 March to annul the Commission's decision and rejection of its complaint, on the grounds that they are contrary to Article 85 of the EEC Treaty.

Case 27/76 — (1) United Brands Company, Boston, and (2) United Brands Continentaal BV, Rotterdam, v Commission

2436. On 17 December 1975, the Commission adopted a Decision¹ imposing a fine of one million units of account on United Brands Company, having found that the latter was abusing its dominant position on the banana market by dividing up the market, imposing dissimilar and unfair prices and refusing to continue supplies.

On 15 March, United Brands Company brought an action before the Court of Justice to annul this decision or to reduce the fine should the decision be upheld.

This action is accompanied by a request for a stay of execution of the said decision until the Court has given its judgment on the substance of the case.

Case 28/76 — Firma Milac GmbH, Groß- und Außenhandel, Darmstadt, v Hauptzollamt Freiburg

2437. In a case concerning the calculation of monetary compensatory amounts on imports into Germany of whole-milk powder from France, the Finanzgericht Baden-Württemberg asked the Court of Justice on 15 March for a preliminary ruling on whether the corrective amount applied to skimmed milk should be applied to these imports, thus raising the question of the compatibility of Regulation (EEC) No 725/74 altering the monetary compensatory amounts² with the basic regulations adopted by the Council.

Cases 30 and 31/76 — Officials of European Parliament v European Parliament

2438. These are actions to annul the European Parliament's implied decision to reject claims, one concerning a periodic report and the other an appointment.

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

2439. In a case concerning the payment of family allowances, the Tribunal de travail of Charleroi asked the Court of Justice on 29 March for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 42 (5) of Regulation No 3 on social security for migrant workers³ and of Article 94 (5) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community.⁴

OJ L 95 of 9.4.1976.

² OJ L 89 of 1.4.1974.

³ OJ 30 of 16.12.1958.

OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

Judgments

Joined Cases 67 to 85/75 — Ets. Lesieur-Cotelle et Associés SA, Boulogne-sur-Seine, et al. v Commission

2440. Nineteen French oil mills had brought an action before the Court of Justice against the Commission under the first paragraph of Article 215 of the EEC Treaty for compensation for damages they claimed to have suffered by virtue of the fact that the Commission adopted Regulation (EEC) No 189/72 repealing the compensatory amounts applicable to fats following the temporary widening of the margins of fluctuation of certain Member States' currencies,1 and as a result of the faulty operation of the common organization of the market in fats deriving therefrom. The plaintiffs maintained that in these circumstances the Community aid provided for purchases of colza seeds produced within the Community was now inadequate; they claimed that the aid should have covered the difference between the Community price and the world market price calculated not by reference to the official parity of the dollar, but on the real value of that currency.

In its judgment of 17 March, the Court dismissed the actions as inadmissible in so far as they concern aids pre-set between 1 February 1972 and 31 March 1972, and rejected the remainder as unfounded.

Case 95/75 — Firma Effem GmbH, Verden/Aller, v Hauptzollamt Lüneburg

2441. The Finanzgericht Hamburg had asked the Court of Justice on 3 September 1975 for a preliminary ruling on the validity of Commission Regulations Nos 311, 317, 381, 410 and 427/74² fixing the export levies on cereals, in so far as they fix the total amount of the levy for forage preparations (tariff heading 23.07) without taking account of their starch content.

In its judgment of 9 March, the Court of Justice ruled that these Regulations were invalid.

Case 101/75 — Firma Nordgetreide GmbH & Co. KG, Obersickte bei Braunschweig, v Commission

2442. On 22 September 1975 a German undermanufacturing cereal products brought a claim for damages before the Court of Justice for losses it claimed to have suffered on exports of maize groats, pellets and flaked grains to Denmark and the United Kingdom owing to the fact that the Commission had adopted Regulations Nos 751/75 and 1026/75 altering the monetary compensatory amounts3 without adopting transitional measures for transactions in progress. By order of 5 March, the Court of Justice removed this case from the register.

Case 107/75 — Commission official v Commission

This case concerning the grant of the expatriation allowance was removed from the Court register by order of 18 March.

Case 108/75 — Mr G. Balsamo, Asti, v Institut national d'assurance maladie-invalidité, Woluwe-St.-Pierre

2444. The Brussels Tribunal de travail had asked the Court of Justice on 13 October 1975 for a preliminary ruling on whether Article 56 of the Belgian Law of 9 August 19634 establishing and laying down detailed arrangements for a compulsory sickness and disability insurance scheme was compatible with the provisions of Regulations Nos 3, 4, 1408/71 and 574/725 (social security) concerning the rules for applying for a disability pension.

OJ L 24 of 28.1.1972. OJ L 34 of 7.2.1974, L 35 of 8.2.1974, L 43 of 15.2.1974, L 46 of 19.2.1974, L 49 of 21.2.1974 and L 50 of 22.2.1974.

OJ L 74 of 22.3.1975 and L 101 of 21.4.1975.

Moniteur belge of 1.11.1963. OJ 30 of 16.12.1958, L149 of 5.7.1971 and L74 of 27.3.1972.

In its judgment of 9 March, the Court of Justice ruled that it was not compatible.

Case 115/75 — Firma Gebr. Dietz, Frankfurt/Main, v Commission

2445. On 26 November 1975 a German firm exporting white sugar brought a claim for damages before the Court of Justice to compensate it for the loss it claimed to have suffered as a result of the inadequacy of export refunds to cover risks arising from the devaluation of the dollar and the adjustment to the system of monetary compensatory amounts.

By order of 18 March, the Court removed this case from its register.

Case 116/75 — Commission official v Commission

2446. This action concerning the grading of the plaintiff on appointment was removed from the Court register by order of 2 March.

Economic and Social Committee

138th plenary session

2447. The Economic and Social Committee held its 138th plenary session in Brussels on 31 March and 1 April, with the Committee Chairman, Mr Canonge, in the chair. The Committee prepared ten Opinions. Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, addressed the Committee on the Community's external policies and Mr Henri Mayras, First Advocate-General at the Court of Justice spoke about the role, composition and work of the Court.

Opinions

Commission Communication to the Council on the European social budget

2448. In this Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee approved the broad lines of the Commission's Communication, asked the Commission to continue to press on rapidly with the implementation of the European social budget as a matter of priority and urged that it be afforded appropriate means to this end. The Committee commented on various aspects of the coverage of the European social budget and on the immediate and future objectives which will be set in the light of the Community's economic and social aims and policies and in connection with medium-term economic planning.

Coordination of employment policies

This unanimously adopted Opinion on the coordination of employment policies was prepared by the Committee using its right of initiative. The Opinion embodied various comments and proposals concerning employment policies. the tasks of the national employment departments and the scope for cooperation at Community level. The Committee felt that in the early stages cooperation between national departments should concentrate first and foremost on developing the exchange of information and experience on the organization, operations and the authority of the national departments, action to improve comparability of statistics and concepts used in the Member States, ways of enabling SEDOC, the European international vacancy clearing system, to play its full part and the use of the European Social Fund as a special tool of employment policy.

Establishing a European Communities Institute for Economic Analysis and Research

2450. The Committee approved and supported the Commission's proposal to set up a European institute for research, but suggested that its official title should be: 'European Communities Institute for Economic and Social Analysis and Research'. The Committee wanted the proposed Institute to focus also on the social facets of the problems it will be studying.

Regional policy

The Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion on the Community's regional development problems over the period 1975-77 and on laying down a Community regional policy. It welcomed the Council's decision to set up a Regional Development Fund and a Regional Policy Committee and strongly supported the efforts to establish a Community regional policy. The Committee recommended that assistance from the Regional Fund be granted according to common objective criteria such as income per head. migration and the level of unemployment. The criteria must ensure that aid would be focused on the neediest regions in the Community. The Committee also commended the Commission's efforts to apply the principle whereby Community assistance must complement Member States' regional development activities and should not lead to any slackening of national efforts in this field.

Mutton and lamb

2452. In its Opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the transitional common organization of the market for mutton and lamb, the Committee found that the proposal on hand concerned only three Member States and feared that if it was applied some distortion of trade might well occur.

Tax exemptions

2453. In its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive on tax exemptions applicable within the Community to the temporary importation of certain means of transport, the Committee held that application of the proposed arrangements would be a major step forward. But it remarked that no complete solution to the problems involved in the movement of means of transport could be found until harmonization in taxation, mainly VAT, had been achieved.

In its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive relating to tax exemptions for personal property imported permanently from a Member State by private individuals, the Committee felt that the provisions stipulated in the proposal were a major step towards harmonization of taxation, which would have an appreciable psychological effect on the private citizen.

Warehouses — free zones — usual forms of handling

The Committee approved the proposal for a Directive amending Directive 69/74/EEC on customs warehousing procedure, Directive 69/75/EEC on arrangements for free zones and Directive 71/235/EEC on the usual forms of handling in customs warehouses and free zones. The proposal would extend the powers of the Committee for Customs Processing Arrangements. The Economic and Social Committee hoped that this trend would continue and that a single committee would steadily take in hand all customs procedures with the ultimate aim of finalizing a 'European customs code'.

Buil. EC 3-1976

ECSC Consultative Committee

176th meeting

The ECSC Consultative Committee held its 176th meeting in Luxembourg, with Mr Capanna, the Committee Chairman, in the chair.

Railway tariffs

2455. After the Commission's statement on activities under the ECSC Treaty, the question of the new agreement to establish through international railway tariffs for the carriage of coal and steel was raised. Various speakers called on the Committee to consider the matter and put it on the agenda for the next meeting on 10 June. It was pointed out that this agreement on the carriage of coal and steel was of concern to the Committee as it could well have serious consequences for collieries and steel companies; moreover, there were doubts as to whether it complied completely with Article 70. In the end it was decided that the Markets and Prices Subcommittee would look into the matter on 23 April and that the Committee would discuss it on 10 June.

Forward programme for steel for the second quarter of 1976

2456. Presenting the forward programme for steel for the second quarter of 1976, the Commission representative stressed the valuable services rendered over the last twelve months by the programmes in restoring a certain balance between supply and demand on the steel market.

The steel producers contended that, although they shared the Commission's cautious optimism about developments, the current prices would still be well below the level required to balance the accounts, let alone finance future investments. The delivery estimates for individual products were also considered overoptimistic, particularly the forecast increases of 20% for deliveries of wire rod and 15% for special steels.

General steel objectives for 1980-85

2457. The rapporteur, Mr Dichgans, echoed the unanimous approval expressed by the General Objectives Subcommittee of the Commission's thorough work. The Subcommittee shared the Commission's view, hopeful compared with others, as regards the trend in the Community's share of world steel production. In respect of coking coal, the debate called for a clear statement that the political risks bearing on supply could be reduced by investment decisions which could maximize Community coking coal output. It was also pointed out that the anticipated trend in scrap looked too optimistic and that, from the angle of commercial policy, no allowance had been made for a fresh crisis like the present one.

Concluding the discussion on the Dichgans report, it was decided to send it to the Commission, with the understanding that the Commission would also take into account the ideas expressed at the meeting.

The Committee then considered Mr Møller's report compiled on behalf of the Subcommittee for Labour Problems, which dealt with the social facets of the general objectives.

Speaking on behalf of the workers' group, Mr Doyen thought that the Commission should arm itself to deal with the social problems which would certainly arise between 1980 and 1985. In the same vein, he quoted Mr Thomson's statement that we could expect a constant figure of three million unemployed in Europe. The Commission should also study the possibilities of redeveloping the many regions affected by structural unemployment and initiate a conversion policy for which additional funds would have to be earmarked in the budget. The Committee did

not pursue the matter further but it was decided to resume the discussion later on the basis of a new paper prepared by the Commission.

Forward programme for coal for 1976

2458. The Commission hoped that the Community companies would soon be able to honour the long-term contracts in respect of coking-coal requirements. The Member States had responded fairly well to the Commission's proposal to the Council in January that the present aid scheme for coking coal be extended from 1979 to 1985.

The Commission had also proposed to the Council a system of storage aid to be paid for from Community funds. It was hoped that the proposal would be accepted at the Council's next meeting on energy.

The Commission representative again told the Committee that the Commission was anxious to see that electricity production should continue to be based largely on the use of Community coal.

During the debate various speakers put right details concerning the development of the coal industry in their respective countries. It was also pointed out that coal producers should be encouraged to build up stocks which would be useful when economic activity recovered and that for safety reasons electricity production should continue to be based primarily on conventional resources.

In view of the late hour, the debate had to be cut short and the coal question will be put on the agenda of a forthcoming Committee meeting. The Commission representative assured the Committee that it would be informed in advance of all the measures relating to the coal industry. These measures would be to assist storage and to step up the use of coal in power stations.

Unit of account

2459. The Committee gave a favourable opinion on the draft Decision on the introduction of the European unit of account (EUA) for coking coal.

European Investment Bank

Loans issued

2460. The European Investment Bank has issued \$100 million of eight-year notes on the United States capital market.

Bearing interest at 8.625%, payable half-yearly, the notes were offered to the public at 99.75%, the yield being 8.67%.

Application has been made to list the issue on the New York Stock Exchange.

The issue is the second by the EIB on the United States capital market.¹

Loans granted

Ireland

2461. The Bank has granted a loan equivalent to £ 17.2 million (29.9 million units of account) to Nitrigin Eireann Teoranta for construction of a chemical plant at Marino Point near Cork, Ireland, which will produce ammonia and urea for agricultural uses. The terms of the loan are 8 years with an interest rate of 9%.

The plant will be one of the largest of its kind in the world with an annual production capacity of 435 000 tonnes of ammonia and 310 000 tonnes of urea, a fertilizer with a high nitrogen content derived from ammonia.

Natural gas from the Kinsale Head field discov-

¹ Bull. EC 11-1975, point 2462.

ered three years ago off the coast of Ireland, 50 km south of Cork, will be used as the feed-stock for the ammonia production.

The plant is due to come on stream in 1978 at a total cost (fixed investments) estimated at about £ 62 million.

Italy

2462. The Bank has granted four loans totalling the equivalent of Lit. 43 700 million (54.8 million units of account) to the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno to help finance infrastructure and industrial investments in Southern Italy.

Over half the sum, Lit. 24 000 million, will be used for port development and road links at Taranto. The project which the Bank is helping to finance comprises 11 km of new roads, including a 1.7 km bridge over the Mare Piccolo, and the first phase of a new port to the west of the city. The total cost will be in the region of Lit. 93 000 million, to which the EIB has contributed a loan of Lit. 24 000 million, granted for 10 years.

A loan of Lit. 12 000 million, for 12 years, has been granted by the Bank for investments forming part of a 'Special Project' aimed at reducing pollution in the Bay of Naples. The total scheme involves purification plants and sewers to serve 200 communes and 15 industrial zones all around the Bay: the EIB has already contributed to the financing with a loan of Lit. 24 000 million granted in October last year.¹

Again for the protection of the environment, the Bank has granted a loan of Lit. 5 000 million for 8 years which will be on-lent by the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno to ISVEIMER (Istituto per lo Sviluppo dell'Italia Meridionale) to contribute towards the financing of anti-pollution installations at the Italsider steelworks in Bagnoli (Naples).

The remaining loan of Lit. 700 million, granted for 10 years, will also be on-lent to ISVEIMER to contribute to the financing of an extension to the Uniroyal Manuli SpA rubber tubing factory at

Ascoli Piceno in the Italian Marches. This extension will create 280 new jobs.

2463. The Bank has granted a loan equivalent to Lit. 16 000 million (20 million units of account) for extension of the ANIC SpA petrochemicals complex at Manfredonia (Apulia) in the South of Italy.

The loan has been granted to the parent group, ENI (Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi), for 8 years at an interest rate of 9%.

The project involves the installation of plant to increase ammonia output and a new unit for production of urea, both these products for use in the manufacture of fertilizers. The total cost of the works is estimated at about Lit. 45 000 million.

2464. The Bank has granted two loans totalling the equivalent of Lit. 40 000 million (50.1 million units of account) to the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno for a major irrigation scheme in Basilicata and improvement of the port, road and rail infrastructure serving the industrial zone at Manfredonia (Apulia).

The irrigation scheme will cover about 18 700 hectares of the Alto Metaponto, an area of hills and plateaux in the south of Basilicata. The cost, about Lit. 60 000 million, will be 40 % covered by the EIB's loan which is Lit. 24 000 million, granted for 10 years at an interest rate of 9½%. The scheme forms part of a major programme of works designed to end the water shortage that has long handicapped agriculture and hindered industrial growth in Apulia and Basilicata and for which the EIB had already provided a Lit. 24 000 million loan.¹

The second loan, Lit. 16 000 million, also granted for 10 years at $9\frac{1}{2}\%$, will help to finance infrastructure works which are under way to serve the industrial zone at Manfredonia. They include

¹ Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2459.

construction of a new industrial port, a 10 km diversion of the trunk road No 89 to by-pass the narrow, congested streets of the town, and a new railway link between the industrial zone and the Foggia-Manfredonia line.

United Kingdom

2465. The Bank has granted two loans totalling the equivalent of £13 million (22.6 million units of account) to the National Water Council for major water supply schemes in the North of England.

£9 million, provided for 10 years at an interest rate of 9½%, will be on-lent by the NWC to the North-West Water Authority to help finance a series of works, estimated to cost some £88 million by their completion, which are designed to meet a large part of the region's additional water needs until the middle of the next decade. The works include:

- (i) construction of an additional 20 km aqueduct (the Shap Aqueduct) from the Haweswater Reservoir in the Lake District to a treatment plant on the existing Haweswater Aqueduct which runs southwards to supply the main centres of population and industry in the north-west,
- (ii) two further aqueducts (one 12 km long linking the rivers Lune and Wyre, the other 26 km long between an abstraction point further down the Wyre and a distribution point at Hoghton),
- (iii) a treatment plant, additional boreholes to tap groundwater resources and modification to an existing reservoir.

The combined effect of all the works in the project will be to release an extra 220 000 cubic metres of water per day to help meet growing domestic and industrial requirements of the 7 million people in the NWWA region, which includes the counties of Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria.

The remaining £4 million—granted for 12 years, also at an interest rate of 9½%—will be on-lent

by the National Water Council to the Northumbrian Water Authority as a second contribution by the EIB towards the financing of the Kielder Water Scheme.¹

The works will cost about £100 million and will meet the anticipated increase in water requirements of the region until the beginning of the next century.

New Caledonia

2466. The Bank has granted a loan equivalent to 5 million units of account (about FF 26.1 million) to help finance an expansion in the production capacity of the Société Métallurgique le Nickel—SLN in New Caledonia.

The loan—for 12 years at an interest rate of 9½%—has been provided to the Caisse Centrale de Coopération Economique, a French public body whose principal role is to help finance development of French Overseas Departments and Territories and certain Third World countries with which France has special cooperation links. It will be used to part-finance a FF 150 million loan which this institution is providing for the project.

Second largest nickel producer in the West, the SLN works a mining area of 170 000 ha and operates a plant producing ferro-nickel alloys for use by the iron and steel industry and also mattes (sulphurated mixtures rich in nickel) which are mostly shipped to an SLN plant at Le Havre, France, to be turned into refined products.

The New Caledonia economy depends heavily on the Territory's mineral wealth; the project will help SLN to maintain its production potential in line with the expected growth in demand for nickel between now and 1980.

In 1969 the Bank provided the equivalent of 2.025 million u.a. for earlier investments by SLN in New Caledonia.

¹ Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2460.

Togo, Ivory Coast and Ghana

2467. The European Investment Bank has granted a loan equivalent to 5 925 000 units of account (about CFAF 1 550 million) to help finance construction of a clinker production plant and installations at a limestone quarry at Tabligbo, near Lomé, in Togo.

The loan has been provided to 'Ciments de l'Afrique de l'Ouest – CIMAO', a company created by an international treaty concluded in December 1975 between the Republic of Togo, the Ivory Coast and Ghana, which hold 90 % of its capital in equal shares.

Plant capacity will be around 1 200 000 tonnes per year and the treaty provides that the three countries will buy up all the output to resell it at a single, basic price to local clinker crushing plants.

The total cost of the CIMAO project will be about CFAF 56 100 million (215 million units of account). This includes the industrial investments by the company itself and the cost of railway, port and energy infrastructure which the operation of the plant will call for and which will be met by the Togolese government.

The project will closely integrate the production and marketing of a product which is basic to economic development of these countries and will give rise to new trade flows between them. It is the first industrial project of a regional character in West Africa. The main beneficiary will be Togo, the least developed of the three countries, where the new resources and the effect they will have on the balance of trade and balance of payments will improve the structure of the national economy. Exploitation of this local resource will also enable Togo and its partners to be less dependent on imports of clinker from the industrialized countries.

The second Yaoundé Convention made provision for the Bank to grant loans from its own resources up to a total of 90 million u.a. to help fi-

nance projects contributing to the economic development of the signatory countries. The ceiling has now been reached with the granting of this loan.

Financing Community activities

The unit of account

2468. In its Communication to the Council of 12 December 1974¹ the Commission introduced a new European unit of account linked to a composite basket of the currencies of the Member States the value of which fluctuates in line with the variations in the exchange rates of the component currencies. Since then the European unit of account (EUA) has been adopted by the European Investment Bank and will also be used under the Lomé Convention concluded with the ACP States;² it has also been employed since 1 January 1976 for transactions involving the operational budget of the ECSC.³

On 24 March, the Commission forwarded to the Council a Communication concerning the problems involved in using the unit of account for the Community budget and proposed that the EUA be used for this purpose from 1 January 1978. The Commission has undertaken to make the necessary proposals by 31 July 1976 so that the deadline of 1 January 1978 can be met.

Overall assessment of Community budget problems

2469. The European Council meeting in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975 expressed a wish for

¹ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2203.

Council Decision of 21.4.1975 on the definition and conversion of the European unit of account used for expressing the amounts of aid mentioned in Article 42 of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé, OJ L 104 of 24.4.1975.

³ Commission Decision of 18.12.1975, OJ L 327 of 19.12.1975.

Financing Community activities

an overall assessment of Community budget problems to be carried out at a joint meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Finance¹ to be held on 5 April.

As instructed, the Commission prepared a Communication to be examined at the Joint Council meeting of 5 April on the main budget policy guidelines it proposes for 1977 and on ways and means of improving budget and financial control procedures. This Communication was transmitted to the Member States on 10 March.

ECSC loans

- 2470. In March the Commission carried out the following loan operations:
- (a) A FF 250 million bond issue offered to the public by a syndicate of French banks at par. The loan is for eighteen years and carries an interest rate of 10.20 %. Quotation on the Paris stock exchange has been applied for.
- (b) A \$ (Canadian) 50 million bond issue offered at $100\frac{1}{2}$ %. The loan, which has been underwritten by an international syndicate of banks, is for seven years and carries an interest rate of 9%. Quotation on the Luxembourg stock exchange has been applied for...
- (c) A Fl. 14 million private placement for twenty years at 8.75 %.

These issues bring the total of loans contracted by the ECSC as at 31 March to the equivalent of 3 307 million European units of account.

Institutional questions — European policy

Political cooperation

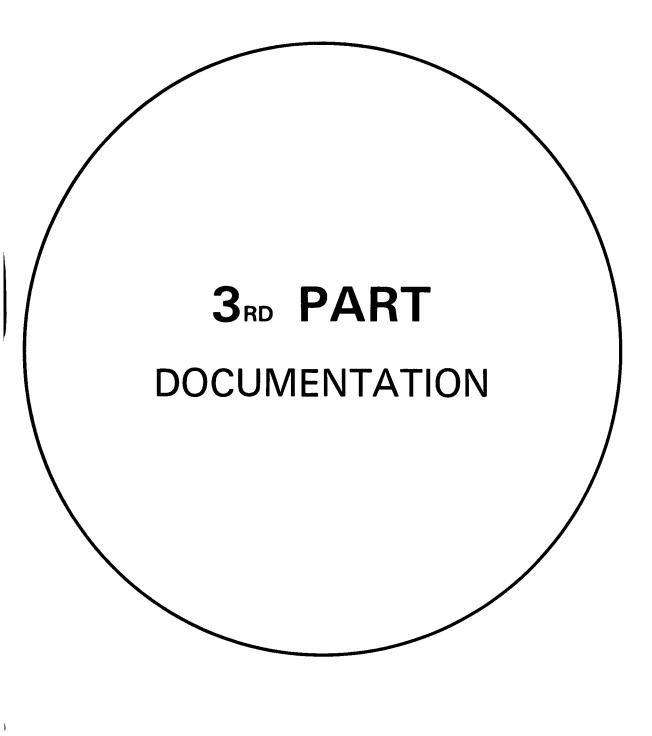
2501. The Political Committee met in Luxembourg on 18 and 19 March to discuss a number of points relating to the Euro-Arab Dialogue, including problems in Africa and matters connected with the CSCE, the United Nations and Cyprus.

Euro-Arab Dialogue

2502. At a meeting in Cairo on 10 and 11 March between the Heads of the European and Arab Delegations, the two sides reached agreement on the date and agenda of the first meeting of the General Commission of the Euro-Arab Dialogue. The ambassadorial meeting of the General Commission is scheduled for 18 to 20 May 1976 in Luxembourg.

Bull. EC 11-1975, point 1104.





Grants for research on European integration 1976-77

The Commission of the European Communities will award 15 research grants, each of a maximum of Bfrs 150 000, during autumn 1976 for research projects dealing with the recent evolution and future development—political, economic, social and legal—of the European Community. Priority will be given to research projects on

The European Parliament and direct elections

REGULATIONS

The research grants of the Commission of the European Communities are intended for young postgraduate researchers and for lecturers and university teachers at the beginning of their career, who are undertaking individual or team research on European integration, within a research institute or faculty.

The application should include:

- a 5 to 10 page typed presentation of the research project;
- an estimate of expenses;
- a completed application form;¹
- a curriculum vitae;
- attestations of university degrees and diplomas;
- a letter of recommendation from an academic authority.

These papers are not returned to applicants.

Grants are not renewable.

The maximum grant awarded is Bfrs 150 000.

It is paid in three parts:

- half upon commencement of study;

- a further quarter midway through the period covered by the grant, and upon presentation of two copies of a detailed progress report;
- the final quarter upon reception of the typed manuscript referred to below.

Recipients of grants who do not complete their research are required to refund the balance of the grant. Employees of the institutions of the European Communities and their spouses and children may not apply.

The study must be written in one of the official languages of the European Communities.

Two copies of the final typewritten text must be submitted before 31 October 1977.

The Commission of the European Communities may also contribute to the publication costs of the study, up to an amount not exceeding Bfrs 30 000.

Decisions to award grants will be taken by 31 October 1976 at the latest.

Applications must be submitted before 30 June 1976 to:

Commission of the European Communities

Directorate-General for Information

Rue de la Loi 200.

1049 Brussels, Belgium. Tel. 735 00 40 – 735 80 40

1 Application forms may be obtained from the Youth, Schools and Universities Division, Directorate-General for Information, Commission of the European Communities, Berlaymont 2/74, Rue de la Loi, 200, B-1049 Brussels, or from any of the Information Offices of the European Communities listed below:

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Bull. EC 3-1976 103

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In Danish
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D

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