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BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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

Commission of the European Communities
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PART ONE

SPECIAL FEATURES

Standardized abbreviations for the designation of certain monetary units in the different languages of the Community:

BFR = Belgische frank / Franc belge

LFR = Franc luxembourgeois

DKR = Dansk krone

FF = Franc français

DM = Deutsche Mark

LIT = Lira italiana

HFL = Nederlandse gulden (Hollandse florijn)

UKL = Pound sterling

IRL = Irish pound

EUC = European unit of account

USD = United States Dollar

1. Technical barriers to trade: One hundred directives in eleven years

Technical barriers to trade

An important contribution to the attainment of the common market

1.1.1. A new milestone was reached on 27 June in the implementation of the general programme for removing technical barriers to trade in industrial products, and thus in the attainment of a single internal market.

For its was on that date, eleven years to the day since adoption of the first directive in the field of the removal of technical barriers (on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances), that the Council adopted the hundredth directive in this area, which by pure coincidence also related to dangerous substances (in this case, pesticides). The importance of this date was underlined by the Council and the Commission, who greeted it as an event of far-reaching significance.¹

Technical barriers and a single internal market

1.1.2. What are 'technical barriers'? Why is it so important for the Community to remove them? How are they removed? The answers are quite straightforward.

There may be nothing very spectacular about the removal of technical barriers, but it is a job which needs to be done, for they are a definite obstacle to the free movement of goods.

Only when they have been removed will producers be able to take advantage of the economies of scale inherent in a market of 250 million inhabitants; only then can producers compete effectively and offer consumers a wide choice of products.

The term 'technical barriers' actually covers a multitude of abstruse, complex and often esoteric regulations with which producers must comply before putting their products onto the markets of Member States.

The differences between these various regulations make things difficult for producers wishing to enter the market, necessitating changes in production lines and causing delays at the inspection stage: this raises costs appreciably and distorts competition to the benefit of local producers, who will also encounter similar difficulties if they wish to expand into the export market.

The continued existence of such obstacles is clearly incompatible with the spirit of the common market and the creation of an industrial policy at Community level. However, this does not mean that we should abolish such regulations, since their aims are often laudable: protection of public health, safety at places of work and on the road, protection of consumers, users and the environment. But they need to be harmonized at Community level, since national measures are very rarely compatible with each other.

The Community therefore has a vital role to play, the legal basis for which is provided by Article 100 of the EEC Treaty, which states that the Council shall act unanimously on Commission proposals for directives designed to improve the functioning of the common market.

This process does not involve the systematic standardization of those national laws, living conditions, customs and tastes which differ from one country to another; the aim has always been to allow goods to move freely and not to restrict their diversity by limiting their variety, which would have led to the disappearance of typically national products.

¹ Point 1.1.3.

It can hardly be claimed that Community measures in this field have reduced consumer choice. The harmonization of regulations on motor-vehicle manufacture, for instance, has not brought about any reduction in the variety and originality of the models available. And yet it is in this sector that Community action has made most progress, so much so that anti-pollution and safety regulations are more closely harmonized within the Community than within the United States of America. The final Community measures on this matter might even be adopted before the end of 1978, if sufficient political will exists.

Adoption of the hundredth directive and its significance

1.1.3. As both the Council and the Commission have pointed out, the fact that the Council adopted one hundred directives on the elimination of technical barriers to trade in industrial products between June 1967 and June 1978 is a considerable achievement in itself, made possible by speeding up work in this field. However, the Commission also drew attention to the slowness of Community procedure.

The press release issued after the Council meeting on 26 and 27 June contained the following statement relating to the adoption of the Directive on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations (pesticides):

'When adopting this Directive, which is the hundredth in the field of the abolition of technical barriers, the President of the Council emphasized the importance of the work accomplished in this area for the achievement of a genuine single internal market.'

The Commission issued the following statement on 27 June:

'The Commission wishes to join the national delegations in welcoming the hundredth Council Directive re-

lating to the removal of technical barriers to trade in industrial products.

This is a fresh achievement in the long enterprise of facilitating the free movement of goods, which is an essential condition for the attainment of a single internal market.

Since the general programme for the removal of technical barriers to trade was adopted in 1969, a vast amount of work has been accomplished, the outcome of which has affected the future conduct of the programme. In certain sectors, for instance motor vehicles or metrology, it is now necessary not only to prepare new harmonization directives but also to adapt existing Community legislation in line with technical and scientific progress.

The preparation of second-generation directives has already begun in these industries, implying new responsibilities for both Council and Commission.

This essential development will gradually extend to all sectors. The Council should bear in mind that the procedure operating at present, which sometimes leads to Commission proposals being studied and discussed by the Council for years, may not be appropriate when it will no longer be possible for the Member States to pass national laws to anticipate long-drawn-out Community procedures.

The Commission undertakes to study this problem closely and transmit proposals in due course.'

Directives adopted: results of eleven years' work

1.1.4. The list of directives in various fields adopted by the Council (on the basis of Commission proposals) provides an overall picture of achievements to date. The achievements are considerable, since one hundred directives on industrial products have been adopted, and forty on foodstuffs. The directives on industrial products may be grouped by sector, as follows:

motor vehicles: 41

agricultural tractors: 13

measuring instruments: 23

2. Regional policy: Council agreement

Technical barriers to trade

textiles: 3
electrical equipment: 4
detergents: 2
dangerous substances: 7
fuel: 1
fertilizers: 1
lifting equipment: 1
pressurized equipment: 1
cosmetics: 1
crystal glass: 1
aerosols: 1

The twelve directives adopted by the Commission adapting previous directives to technical progress are obviously not included in this list, which only covers directives adopted by the Council.

The period between 1967 and the end of June 1978 may be seen as a succession of stages, according to the pace at which directives were adopted:

1967-72: starting-up stage, only twenty-four directives being adopted in five years;

1973-75: 'cruising speed', with thirty-six directives, i.e. an average of twelve per year;

1976-end of June 1978: speeding up: forty directives adopted in two and a half years, including twenty-one in 1976 and sixteen in 1977.

Lastly, forty-one Commission proposals are still pending before the various Council bodies.

While it recognizes the positive results which have been achieved, the Commission considers that current procedures must be reviewed, as it insisted in its statement of 27 June. Unless a review of this kind is carried out, it will take a very long time to reach the figure of 300 directives, which is now regarded as essential to ensure free movement of goods within the Community.

1.2.1. An important step towards a true Community regional policy was made at the Council meeting on 26 and 27 June.

Agreement in principle was reached on a common approach to the guidelines for Community regional policy and to the proposals for amending¹ the Regulation of 18 March 1975² establishing the European Regional Development Fund, which had been the subject of a Communication and three annexes transmitted by the Commission to the Council on 3 June 1977.¹

It has therefore taken the Council just over a year to reach agreement in principle on the subjects under discussion. In the autumn it will formally adopt the necessary acts: a resolution listing the main points of the guidelines proposed by the Commission and a regulation amending the present Regional Fund Regulation.

Guidelines for Community regional policy

1.2.2. The planned resolution—concerning the guidelines for Community regional policy—makes three main points.

Establishing a comprehensive system of analysis and policy formulation

1.2.3. This system should provide a common basis for assessing all the regions of the Community. The Commission will prepare a regular report on the social and economic development of the regions of the Community. This report will be presented to the Council every two and a half years so as to coincide,

¹ OJ C 161 of 9.7.1977 and Supplement 2/77 — Bull. EC.

² OJ L 73 of 21.3.1975.

every other time, with the presentation every five years of the medium-term economic programme for the Community. The Council has undertaken to use this report as a basis for discussing the priorities and guidelines proposed by the Commission.

Regional impact assessment of Community policies

1.2.4. The Commission's objective is to ensure that in planning and implementing the main Community policies, more systematic account is taken of the regional implications of these policies, particularly with regard to employment. The Council has said that it will also take these implications into account when making its own decisions. This will make it possible to consider the interests of the regions concerned and, where necessary, to adopt specific measures designed to help implement these policies and to correct any unfavourable effects they may have at regional level. The new non-quota section¹ of the Regional Fund would be one possibility for implementing these specific measures.

Coordination of national regional policies

1.2.5. The Council called for closer coordination of the regional policies of the individual member countries both with each other and with Community regional policy and so gradually to achieve a balanced distribution of economic activities on Community territory. The regional development programmes will provide the most suitable framework for the practical implementation of a well-ordered coordination system, one of the main elements of which is the coordination of general regional aid schemes.

Amendments to the Regional Fund Regulation

1.2.6. The common approach agreed by the Council on 26 and 27 June—details of which will be transmitted to Parliament under the conciliation procedure—concerns the revision of the Council Regulation of 18 March 1975 establishing the European Regional Development Fund. This revision covers the following main points.

Non-quota section

1.2.7. The Regional Fund has hitherto provided considerable support for the regional policies of the Member States. The most important amendment accepted by the Council is the creation within the Fund of a non-quota section, which should become a valuable instrument of Community regional policy. This section will not be subject to the constraints imposed by the national quota system and will, if necessary, cover areas other than aided areas established at national level. Its aim is to finance specific Community measures designed, on the one hand, to allow better account to be taken of the regional dimension of other Community policies or their regional effects to be mitigated and, on the other, to tackle the structural effects of particularly serious events in certain regions.

The funds available to the non-quota section are fixed at 5% of the Fund's total resources, i.e. some 100 million EUC for the period 1977-80.

Quota section

1.2.8. As regards the quota section, the main amendments are as follows:

¹ Point 1.2.7.



(i) the alteration of the national quotas to increase France's quota by 2% for its overseas departments. The new breakdown is shown in Table 1;

comprehensive and more flexible, will enable Community regional policy to adapt gradually to the changing needs of the regions and therefore make a better contribution towards solving both the traditional problems and the new problems which may arise in the less-favoured regions.

Table 1 — *National quotas*

	New breakdown	Old breakdown
Belgium	1.39%	1.5%
Denmark	1.20%	1.3%
Federal Republic of Germany	6.00%	6.4%
France	16.86%	15.0%
Ireland	6.46%	6.0% ¹
Italy	39.39%	40.0%
Luxembourg	0.09%	0.1%
Netherlands	1.58%	1.7%
United Kingdom	27.03%	28.0%
	100%	100%

¹ Plus 6 million u.a. to be deducted from the quotas of other Member States, with the exception of Italy.

(ii) a more flexible definition of the infrastructures eligible for Fund assistance, to allow better account to be taken of regional needs and regional policy priorities. However, the Fund's contribution to the financing of infrastructure investments may not exceed 70% of the total sum available to it;

(iii) a 40% increase in the maximum rate of assistance which the Fund can provide for infrastructure projects of special importance for the development of the region in question;

(iv) a number of other amendments, in particular to simplify procedures and to provide for accelerated payments to Member States.

1.2.9. The Commission does not claim that these new measures will enable the Community to resolve its serious regional problems immediately. This is a long-term task. It does believe, however, that the new approach adopted by the Council, being more

3. Steel: Further strengthening of the crisis measures

Steel

1.3.1. In order to firm up steel prices further on the Community market and to make producers and dealers observe the rules instituted for this purpose, the Commission adopted in June a number of measures designed to strengthen the crisis plan adopted in December 1977.¹

These new or supplementary measures—adopted, where the Treaty of Paris so required, with the approval of the ECSC Consultative Committee and the assent of the Council—chiefly concern the internal market and to a lesser extent the external aspect of the crisis measures. These decisions, the political significance of which should not be underestimated, were, according to Mr Davignon, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for the internal market and industrial affairs, taken in complete agreement with the Member States.

The inspections and penalties instituted for certain cases should not obscure the basic aim of the Commission, which is to restructure the steel industry so that it can adapt to new market conditions and become competitive again on the world market. The Council recently discussed this matter on the basis of a paper which the Commission put up on 21 June, but this was only a preliminary document as discussions of economic and social problems arising from restructuring are to continue in July.

Organization of the internal market

1.3.2. The Commission considered that in order to cope with the deterioration of the internal market, which had various causes, attention should be directed to three basic matters: arrangements to cut back steel production in the third quarter; the level of minimum prices and guidance prices; and better enforcement of list prices and minimum prices by producers and dealers, by

providing for penalties (fines) and a procedure for flagrant offences involving the lodging of deposits.

As regards the forward programme for steel for the third quarter of 1978, which the Commission adopted on 14 June, after receiving a favourable opinion from the ECSC Consultative Committee on 9 June,² Community production figures were cut to 29 million tonnes, as the level forecast for the second half of the year (32 million tonnes) had been exceeded by a wide margin and, according to Mr Davignon, would reach some 35 to 36 million tonnes. The Community produced 30.73 million tonnes of crude steel in the third quarter of 1977 against 32.40 million tonnes in the previous quarter.

In addition, the guidance prices and minimum prices previously in force have been amended or adjusted with effect from 1 July by the measures adopted by the Commission on 14 June. In both cases the increase is around 5% and is intended to enable firms to cope with their financial difficulties. The new list of guidance prices for certain steel products is already set out in a Commission notice published in the Official Journal.³ The minimum prices laid down by previous decisions for hot-rolled wide strips, merchant bars and concrete reinforcing bars have been adjusted to take account of fluctuations in exchange rates since 1 April 1978; furthermore, the Commission also decided³ to apply a moderate increase to the minimum price—in EUC—for hot-rolled wide strips, a step which was felt to be essential for improving firms' financial positions. The ECSC Consultative Committee gave its opinion on the matter on 9 June. However there was no increase in the EUC prices for concrete rein-

¹ Bull. EC 12-1977, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.4.

² Point 2.3.87.

³ OJ L 176 of 30.6.1978.

forcing bars and merchant bars which remain at their initial April 1977 levels.

In order to ensure stricter observance of minimum prices—previous measures seemed inadequate—the Commission decided on 30 June¹ to introduce a more expeditious system for establishing infringements together with sanctions in the form of a deposit system in cases where there is sufficient evidence to suspect an infringement of the Commission decisions fixing minimum prices. The amount of the deposit is equal to 25% of the value of the transaction, calculated on the basis of minimum prices applicable to the tonnages actually delivered, without prejudice to the amount of any ultimate fine. This decision, whereby the lodging of a deposit may be required for a period of three months, was taken with the Council's unanimous assent² and after consulting the ECSC Consultative Committee.

Another decision, adopted by the Commission on 23 June,³ requires dealers making direct sales of iron and steel products to comply with the pricing rules established on 28 December 1977.⁴ Pursuant to this Commission decision of last year, dealers are required to charge prices which are not lower than the Community producers' list prices for sales of concrete reinforcing bars, merchant bars and hot-rolled wide strips. They are also required to certify, for each sale, that the agreed prices conform with those specified in this decision. This decision however only applies to ex-stock sales made by dealers, which means sales of products already in their possession. The need became apparent to extend the obligations imposed upon dealers in cases of direct sales, i.e. sales where the goods are delivered direct by the producer to the dealer's customer. This new decision was adopted after consulting the ECSC Consultative Committee and with the Council's assent.⁵

External measures

1.3.3. Although a number of decisions were adopted in June regarding the internal organization of the steel market, there was less activity regarding relations with outside.

There was no agreement in June on bilateral arrangements to be negotiated between the Community and a number of steel-exporting non-member countries. Contact was maintained with five countries—Brazil, Australia, South Korea, Bulgaria and Poland—and negotiations already under way continued.

No major changes were made in June to the provisional anti-dumping mechanism based on GATT set up pending the conclusion of arrangements with various non-member countries.

Following the arrangement concluded with Romania,⁶ the Commission, on 2 June,⁷ extended to Romania its Decision of 14 March 1978,⁸ prohibiting alignment on offers of iron and steel products originating in certain third countries. Then, on 8 June,⁹ it suspended the definitive anti-dumping duty established in relation to imports of steel products originating in Romania.

The Commission has also published a notice in the Official Journal¹⁰ amending the basic prices, which represent the lowest production costs in the exporting country or countries where there are normal conditions of competition. The revision of the calculations of the lowest normal costs in supplying countries indicated that there had been some increase

¹ OJ L 178 of 1.7.1978.

² OJ C 170 of 15.7.1978.

³ OJ L 167 of 24.6.1978.

⁴ OJ L 352 of 31.12.1977.

⁵ OJ C 162 of 8.7.1978.

⁶ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.2.41.

⁷ OJ L 147 of 3.6.1978.

⁸ OJ L 73 of 15.3.1978.

⁹ OJ L 153 of 9.6.1978.

¹⁰ OJ L 183 of 5.7.1978.

in production costs, which led the Commission to make certain changes to the table of basic prices which it published at the end of December 1977.¹ Basic prices were also given for certain special steels: alloy wire rod, hot-rolled alloy sheets and some electrical sheets. The basic prices for pig iron, high-carbon ferro-manganese in pieces and semi-finished products remain unchanged, however. The basic prices in the new table are effective from 10 July 1977.²

This communication is accompanied by a Commission recommendation² which enters into force on the same day concerning the collection of anti-dumping duties imposed on certain iron and steel products, which will now take into account the amendments to the table of basic prices.

Lastly it has been agreed that a meeting of customs and steel experts from the nine Member States and the Commission will look into the working of the arrangements concluded with certain non-member countries.

General objectives and the reorganization of the steel industry

1.3.4. The Commission, which on 13 December 1977 presented to the Council a Communication entitled: 'Restructuring of the steel industry: methods and organization',³ continued work on this subject.

It has in fact been working on new general objectives for 1980-85-90, in that they will be the general framework for the restructuring of the Community steel industry. But the memo which the Commission sent to the Council on 21 June last was deliberately limited to providing various items of information on progress in this area, in anticipation of the discussions which did in fact take place on this problem at the meeting of Min-

isters of Foreign Affairs on 26 and 27 June. Coming on top of the 'thoughts and ideas' of December 1977, this document was only felt to be a preliminary document. Without proposing any concrete measures, it broadly identified the problems, the methods to be used, and what contacts are essential with the various parties concerned.

The Commission Communication to the Council reaches the following conclusions:

'The restructuring policy, involving basically cutbacks in crude steel and laminated products capacity, must take account of regional and national social situations and not jeopardize the operation of the most competitive plants. For the system to work, it will be necessary that all concerned, the governments and Member States and the steel firms should adhere to it and that the workers' representatives should be consulted. The Commission, for its part, will deploy the armoury at its disposal, namely its opinions on investment projects, the regulation of aid and the ECSC investment assistance policy.

The Commission is especially alive to the fact that for a restructuring policy to succeed there will need to be launched at the same time a reconversion policy of creating all possible alternative employment. It cannot, however, give any sufficiently clear indication now as to the number of jobs which will be affected, but must wait until the main lines of approach of the restructuring process are known. In this connection, it will draw up for the two sides of ECSC industry an analysis of the social repercussions of the steel crisis and the Community facilities available for tackling them.'

The social side of steel policy conversion and redeployment was also discussed in a working paper⁴ for the ECSC Consultative Committee. Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, mentioned this problem at the Council meeting on social affairs on 29 June.⁴

The Council's reaction after discussions on 26 and 27 June based on the note from the

¹ OJ L 353 of 31.12.1977.

² OJ L 183 of 5.7.1978.

³ Bull. EC 12-1977, point 1.1.4.

⁴ Point 2.1.41.

4. Education and a citizens' Europe

Steel

Commission is given in the following press release issued after the meeting:

'The Council held a policy debate on the problems arising regarding the framing of a Community structural policy in the iron and steel sector.

The debate was introduced by a statement by Commissioner Davignon on the Commission's thinking on this matter and the Council had put before it, as a basis for its discussions, a Commission note on progress made on the general objectives on steel and the reorganization of the Community iron and steel industry, and a draft Commission Decision establishing Community rules for aids and intervention by Member States in favour of the iron and steel industry.

The exchange of views in the Council highlighted the concern felt by all the Member States about the situation in this sector, and produced a broad degree of convergence in the analysis of the current difficulties. It also gave the members of the Council an opportunity to outline their Governments' basic approach to reorganization.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussions on all the problems raised so that the Council could discuss these further at a forthcoming meeting.'

1.4.1. Making the Community's citizens more aware of its role in their daily lives and improving understanding between peoples of different languages and cultures—this is the deeper significance of the proposals contained in two Communications presented to the Council by the Commission on 9 and 20 June, which should be discussed in November by the Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council.

These Communications contain proposals for action programmes designed to achieve two major objectives laid down in the Resolution adopted on 9 February 1976¹ by the Council and the Ministers of Education: to give a European dimension into the experience of pupils and teachers in Community primary and secondary schools and encourage the learning of at least one Community language other than their own, by all pupils.

Study of the Community in schools

1.4.2. The proposed curriculum is intended for all pupils up to the age of 18; the Commission intends to present proposals for higher education at a later stage.

As regards subject matter, it is suggested that, whilst education structures in the various Member States should be taken into account, three main areas should be covered during the full span of the pupil's school career:

(i) *the Community in its European context*: the historical and political background to the creation of the Community; the objectives of its founders; its role in relation to other levels of government (local, regional, national); the Community as a framework for common action, but preserving human, cultural and

¹ OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976; Bull. EC 12-1975, points 1101 and 1102.



national individuality; relations with other countries and regions of Europe;

(ii) *the Community in action*: its powers and decision-making processes; institutional developments (including direct elections to the European Parliament) and their implications; its main achievements and problems; how it affects the lives of its citizens; problems of its future development;

(iii) *the Community in a world context*: relations with the superpowers, other industrial countries and the developing world; its role with regard to the United Nations and other international organizations; comparisons with other regional groupings.

The cost to the Community of the four-year programme (1980-83) proposed by the Commission would be approximately 5 million EUC.

Language teaching

1.4.3. In relation to the teaching of languages, the proposed action programme is designed to strengthen existing provision for foreign language teaching in the Member States' primary and secondary schools and implement three specific projects. The nine points of the programme are:

(i) the establishment of a Community-wide scheme for the exchange of foreign language teaching assistants to work in schools and other educational establishments abroad;

(ii) the creation of a Community scheme of continuing training and refresher training for foreign language teachers, including in particular the exchange of foreign language advisers and inspectors and in-service study visits for teachers;

(iii) a scheme of Community support for existing activities in the field of individual pupil and group exchanges, with a view in particular to overcoming the medical, finan-

cial or geographical problems handicapping some young people;

(iv) a comparative study of experience acquired in introducing a second language at primary school level;

(v) a series of pilot projects in the teaching of foreign languages to less able pupils or those with little interest in languages;

(vi) support for schools teaching through the medium of more than one language, applying the experience gained in the European schools originally set up for the children of Community officials;

(vii) increased opportunities for students in the 16-25 age-group to learn languages in combination with other disciplines;

(viii) a study of the language needs of certain professional groups such as doctors, nurses and architects;

(ix) the inclusion of information on language teaching as a priority theme in the Community information network on education,¹ which will become operational in 1979.

If the programme is approved, the year 1979 will be spent in preparing for its implementation. The Commission estimates the cost of the proposed activities to the Community at 6.5 million EUC in 1980, rising to 8.3 million EUC in 1982.

¹ OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976; Bull. EC 1-1978, point 2.1.69.

5. The results of the European Council in Bremen

European Council, Bremen

Economic and social problems at the centre of the discussions

1.5.1. As had been expected, the discussions at the European Council in Bremen on 6 and 7 July centred on monetary questions. This emerged clearly from the conclusions drawn by the President after the meeting.

The discussions were based on a text put forward by members of the European Council; the text is annexed to the Conclusions of the Presidency.

Conclusions of the Presidency of the European Council

1.5.2. The full text of the 'Conclusions of the Presidency of the European Council on 6 and 7 July 1978' is reproduced below.

I — The economic and social situation

The European Council states that in the face of the dangers resulting from the serious disruptions of the world economy, especially since the end of 1973, the Community has come through a very testing time, proved its cohesion and thereby made a decisive contribution to the stabilization of the world economy.

However, the situation within the Community is not yet satisfactory. Consequently, the European Council, meeting in Copenhagen in April 1978, instructed that a common strategy be evolved to overcome the unsatisfactory tendency of economic and social developments in the Community.

The Community and the Member States will closely coordinate their action with the other major industrial countries which are their partners, since the problems involved will be overcome better by means of close international coordination extending beyond Europe, in which heed must also be paid to the developing countries' interests. The meeting of Heads of State and of Government of the seven major industrial nations in

Bonn on 16 and 17 July 1978, at which the Community is to be represented by the President of the Council and the President of the Commission, will provide a good opportunity for this. The European Council has arrived at the conclusions set out below regarding the action to be taken by the Community and in the Member States.

1. Economic policy

The European Council has decided on a common approach in order to achieve in Europe a considerably higher rate of economic growth and thus reduce the level of unemployment by fighting inflation, establishing a greater measure of monetary stability, expanding international trade, achieving progress in the energy sector, reducing regional disparities and stimulating demand. In pursuing this course no new dangers must arise to threaten the economic balance. In particular, the efforts to reduce inflation and disparities in cost and price trends between the individual countries must be continued.

A common approach by means of complementary measures will help to minimize the internal and external economic policy constraints of individual Member States and increase the effectiveness of such measures.

All Member States will take the necessary measures according to the room for manoeuvre under their respective economic policies. The scope available to individual Member States depends, of course, on their different initial situations, notably the success of their efforts to fight inflation, their balance-of-payments situation, their foreign currency reserves, the size of their public-sector deficits and the extent of their unused production capacities. Countries without inflation and balance-of-payments problems will do more to increase domestic demand, in particular investment demand and rate of economic growth. Countries with steeply rising prices will first concentrate in particular on undesirable inflationary developments.

This coordinated approach in all areas of economic policy should help strengthen the confidence of investors and consumers in longer-term growth perspectives.

2. Monetary policy

Following the discussion at Copenhagen on 7 April 1978 the European Council has discussed the attached

scheme for the creation of a closer monetary cooperation (European monetary system) leading to a zone of monetary stability in Europe, which has been introduced by members of the European Council. The European Council regards such a zone as a highly desirable objective. The European Council envisages a durable and effective scheme. It agreed to instruct the Finance Ministers at their meeting on 24 July 1978 to formulate the necessary guidelines for the competent Community bodies to elaborate by 31 October 1978 the provisions necessary for the functioning of such a scheme—if necessary by amendment. There will be concurrent studies of the action needed to be taken to strengthen the economies of the less prosperous member countries in the context of such a scheme; such measures will be essential if the zone of monetary stability is to succeed. Decisions can then be taken and commitments made at the European Council meeting on 4 and 5 December 1978.

The Heads of Government of Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands state that the 'snake' has not been and is not under discussion. They confirm that it will remain fully intact.

3. *Measures to promote employment*

The European Council confirms its view that improving the employment situation by means of increased growth is a crucial objective of the Community.

It notes that the Community is already providing considerable assistance through the European Social Fund and the European Regional Fund. It calls upon the Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs to decide on measures to combat youth unemployment within the framework of the European Social Fund so that such measures can come into force on 1 January 1979.

4. *Tripartite conference with both sides of industry*

The European Council emphasizes the importance of tripartite conferences with both sides of industry and welcomes the decision to hold another conference with both sides of industry in the autumn to consider, in accordance with the outcome of the previous conference, the relationship between investment, employment and competition, work sharing and employment in the services sector.

5. *Energy*

The European Council emphasizes that efforts to resolve long-term energy problems should be intensified at all levels. The primary objective is for all countries to reduce their dependence on oil imports. In this connection the Community adopts the following objectives for 1985:

- (i) to reduce the Community's dependence on imported energy to 50%;
- (ii) to limit net oil imports by the Community;
- (iii) to reduce to 0.8 the ratio between the rate of increase in energy consumption and the rate of increase in gross domestic production.

The Community emphasizes the need for the other industrialized countries to set themselves similar objectives.

Particular importance is attached to better use of the Community's energy resources, prospection efforts and the development of new sources of energy.

The contribution of nuclear energy alongside other forms of energy is vital and a matter of urgency for the Community. It is also important that work should continue on ecological, safety and protection issues in order to take into account the particular need for some Member States to find a solution to certain specific problems linked with the introduction or implementation of nuclear programmes.

Community measures on energy, particularly in order to promote energy-saving and to exploit all alternative sources of energy are complementary to the Member States' considerable efforts.

Apart from the new measures which it must take, the Community will in future have to give special attention to the joint appraisal and the coordination of the individual Member States' energy programmes.

The European Council lays emphasis on the need for worldwide cooperation on energy and in particular indicates the willingness of the Community and the Member States to assist the developing countries, in cooperation with other industrial countries, in surmounting their energy problems.

6. *Common market*

The European Council is agreed that the safeguarding and development of the common market by further

measures to remove trade barriers and distortions of competition are a permanent task of the Community.

7. *International trade*

The European Council reaffirms its determination to strengthen the open world trading system through joint efforts. It emphasizes the outstanding importance it attaches to substantial and balanced results of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations. It calls upon all trading partners to make a constructive contribution to attaining this objective, in which the Community will play its part. The expansion of world trade, the improvement of the international division of labour and sustained economic growth are closely linked and are mutual prerequisites. The Community will take steps against protectionism in international trade and accordingly calls for increased international cooperation and consultation.

8. *Structural policy*

The European Council concludes that preserving and improving the competitiveness of industry and increasing its innovativeness are important requirements for a higher level of economic growth and the creation of new jobs. Consequently, a greater readiness to undergo structural changes must be induced in firms and industries. Such changes must, however, take place under socially acceptable conditions. The Community is making its contribution to this by means of its financing instruments, which have recently been considerably extended. Where public intervention is justified in exceptional cases on specific economic and social grounds, the assistance provided must be for a limited period and designed, subject to the rules in the Treaties, to facilitate structural adjustment.

9. *Mediterranean agriculture*

The European Council considers that the decisions taken by the Council (Ministers of Agriculture) on 12 May 1978 constitute a contribution to solving the agricultural problems in the Community's Mediterranean regions. It noted with satisfaction that the Council (Agriculture) had decided to take a decision by 30 September 1978 on the Commission proposals still outstanding.

The Council is of the opinion that due consideration must continue to be given to the special agricultural structural and market problems in the Mediterranean regions and in other less-favoured regions.

10. *Relations with the developing countries*

The European Council is of the opinion that progress in the North-South Dialogue is essential for the solving of international economic problems and the safeguarding of world peace and stability. It reaffirms its will to strike a balance of interests between North and South even in difficult times. This requires the industrialized countries' markets to be open to products from the developing countries. Full integration of the developing countries into the world trade system represents a considerable contribution to this extension of world trade.

At the same time the Community and the Member States will continue and step up on a worldwide basis the development assistance which they provide.

Efforts to achieve constructive results in the current negotiations on a common fund and individual commodity agreements are to be continued. In this context, the stabilization of export earnings should receive further study.

The European Council regards the Lomé Convention as an important part of North-South cooperation and looks forward to successful negotiations on its renewal.

The European Council considers that the worldwide inter-connections between the economic activities of all concerned—including the State-trading countries—call for common action on a basis of joint responsibility. It continues to place its trust in a favourable climate of cooperation in the United Nations and emphasizes the Community's firm resolve to render North-South relations mutually advantageous by means of cooperation, partnership and readiness to play a greater part.

II – Safety at sea, prevention and reduction of pollution

The European Council has discussed the subject of safety at sea, prevention and reduction of pollution (Amoco Cadiz) as set out in the report from the Foreign Ministers' Council, dated 29 June 1978.

It deems it necessary to take further measures to increase the safety of maritime traffic, taking into account the proposals of individual Member States and the Commission. The European Council reaffirms the necessity to intensify efforts to prevent and control pollution of the sea, especially by hydrocarbons.

III — The European Council discussed the situation in the Near East and in Africa. Following these discussions, the press was briefed as follows:

1. *Africa*

The European Council discussed the situation in Africa and reaffirmed that the Nine attach great importance to a policy based on encouraging the independence of the countries of Africa and to continuing to make a major contribution to their economic needs. It expressed its support for the principle of peaceful solution of their problems.

The Council recalled the strictly humanitarian character of the actions, limited in space and time, undertaken by certain members of the Nine in Zaire. It noted with satisfaction the intention of the Government of Zaire to take the political and economic measures required to ensure the peaceful progress of all its people.

The Council reaffirmed the need to ensure the early and peaceful accession of Namibia and Zimbabwe to independence on the basis of negotiated and internationally acceptable solutions. It expressed its full support for the efforts which certain Member States are making, with others, towards this end.

The Council reaffirmed its condemnation of apartheid and its determination to continue to press for change in South African policy.

2. *Middle East*

The European Council also examined the present situation in the Middle East.

It expressed regret that, in spite of the efforts being made at present to achieve peace, progress in the negotiations remains very limited.

It reaffirmed the principles set out in the declaration of the European Council dated 29 June 1977 as a basis for a peaceful and just solution to the conflict.

3. The Presidency would point out that on the occasion of the European Council the nine Foreign Ministers agreed to make the following declaration to the press concerning the present situation in Lebanon:

The Nine Governments view with deep concern the increasing gravity and growing dangers of the situation in the Lebanon. The recent fighting and shelling have caused serious losses among the civilian population.

The Nine Governments urge all the parties concerned to exercise the maximum restraint so as to bring this fighting to an immediate end. It endangers not only the existence of the Lebanon but also the stability of the region as a whole. They recognize the great difficulties that confront President Sarkis. The office of the Presidency is the symbol of the sovereignty and unity of the Lebanon. They hope that the President and the Government of Lebanon will persevere in their efforts to restore peace and security throughout the whole of the Lebanon. They express their support for these efforts. They also express the hope that an effective cease-fire will be achieved. This would give time for reflection and negotiations amongst all the parties concerned. Meanwhile they trust that no actions will be taken which might prejudice the integrity of the Lebanon.

IV — Annex

1. In terms of exchange rate management the European monetary system (EMS) will be at least as strict as the 'snake'. In the initial stages of its operation and for a limited period of time member countries currently not participating in the snake may opt for somewhat wider margins around central rates. In principle, interventions will be in the currencies of participating countries. Changes in central rates will be subject to mutual consent. Non-member countries with particularly strong economic and financial ties with the Community may become associate members of the system. The European currency unit (ECU)¹ will be at the centre of the system; in particular, it will be used as a means of settlement between EEC monetary authorities.

2. An initial supply of ECUs (for use among Community central banks) will be created against deposit of US dollars and gold on the one hand (e.g. 20% of the stock currently held by member central banks) and member

¹ The ECU has the same definition as the European unit of account.

currencies on the other hand in an amount of a comparable order of magnitude.

The use of ECUs created against member currencies will be subject to conditions varying with the amount and the maturity; due account will be given to the need for substantial short-term facilities (up to 1 year).

3. Participating countries will coordinate their exchange rate policies *vis-à-vis* third countries. To this end they will intensify the consultations in the appropriate bodies and between central banks participating in the scheme. Ways to coordinate dollar interventions should be sought which avoid simultaneous reverse interventions. Central banks buying dollars will deposit a fraction (say 20%) and receive ECUs in return; likewise, central banks selling dollars will receive a fraction (say 20%) against ECUs.

4. Not later than two years after the start of the scheme, the existing arrangements and institutions will be consolidated in a European Monetary Fund.¹

5. A system of closer monetary cooperation will only be successful if participating countries pursue policies conducive to greater stability at home and abroad; this applies to deficit and surplus countries alike.

Statement by the President of the Commission

1.5.3. The results of the European Council in Bremen were made known at press conferences given jointly by Chancellor Schmidt in his capacity as President and Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission.

Mr Schmidt read out and commented on the Conclusions of the Presidency. Mr Jenkins made the following statement:

'This European Council was much the most significant and worthwhile of the five I have attended. My fears that Bremen might be a mere dress rehearsal for Bonn proved unfounded. The test was bound to be advanced on monetary policy, but the question of concerted growth was also of crucial importance. Vice-President Ortoli's work has laid the foundation for a programme of concerted action, which showed that we can advance better together than alone.

The central subject however was the monetary question, and I feel great satisfaction at the amount of progress made. When I relaunched the idea of monetary union at Florence in October last year I had no idea we should have got as far as we did at Copenhagen; at Copenhagen I doubted that we should be able to move as far and as concretely as we have done here in Bremen.

We have taken no decision or entered into any commitment yet, but we have put forward the clear lines of a major, imaginative but at the same time realistic scheme for the creation of a zone of monetary stability, which would be backed by a fund of a very substantial scale. The total, some 44 billion EUC, would be in excess of the IMF, and on a scale far greater than any other European scheme ever discussed. A very short timescale is involved: by 31 October we should study and fill in the detailed rules of a firm scheme.

I very much hope that all nine members of the Community will join in the scheme. It is much better that all should, but no country should have or would wish to have a veto on the scheme going ahead. At the moment the only commitment is to study the scheme, and I am sure the British will participate fully in this. I believe that something substantial will come of this and I hope the British will go along with it.

This has been not merely a good but an outstanding European Council, which has opened up a further clear prospect for a major advance. I should like to mention briefly three other areas where we have made progress:

- (i) energy policy, where we have adopted clear and coherent objectives for 1985, putting us in a stronger position for the discussions at Bonn;
- (ii) youth unemployment: we agreed to overcome some recent problems in the Commission's proposals, to enable the measures to come into force on 1 January 1979;
- (iii) Mediterranean agriculture: we agreed to take the remaining decisions by the end of September, in order to seek to right the existing imbalance in the Community.'

¹ The EMF will take the place of the EMCF.



PART TWO

**ACTIVITIES
IN JUNE 1978**

1. Building the Community

Economic and monetary policy

Common strategy to deal with the economic and social situation

2.1.1. On 19 June, in the light of the preparatory discussions of the Policy Coordination Group for Short-term Economic and Financial Policies, the Monetary Committee and the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks, the Council drew up its contribution—covering the economic and monetary aspects—to the report on the preparation of a common strategy to deal with the economic and social situation in the Community.

This contribution was incorporated into the overall report finalized by the Council (Foreign Affairs) on 26 and 27 June for transmission, together with the conclusions of the Presidency, to the European Council meeting in Bremen on 6 and 7 July.¹

The report takes account of the work done by the Council in its various compositions in accordance with the conclusions drawn by the Presidency at the end of the European Council meeting in Copenhagen.²

Monetary Committee

2.1.2. The Monetary Committee held its 241st meeting in Brussels on 5 and 6 June, with Mr van Ypersele de Strihou in the chair. After celebrating the twentieth anniversary of its first meeting, the Committee adopted, on the basis of a draft prepared by the Working Party on Securities Markets, an opinion to the Commission on the proposal for a third Directive on capital movements. In accordance with the task assigned to it following the European Council meeting in Copenhagen, the Committee also examined

the possibilities of achieving greater exchange rate stability in the Community.

Following its discussion, it adopted a report to the Council and the Commission.

The Working Party on Securities Markets met in Brussels on 15 June, with Mr Hernandez in the chair, to carry out its regular review of developments on national and international capital markets.

Economic Policy Committee

2.1.3. The Economic Policy Committee held two meetings in Brussels during June:

(i) The 62nd, on 2 June, with Mr Tietmeyer in the chair, was devoted entirely to a discussion, with workers' and employers' representatives, concerning the documents prepared on two of the themes mentioned by Mr Healey at the end of the Tripartite Conference in June 1977:³ investment and employment, and the international situation, growth and sectoral change. Although there were some differences of opinion, broad agreement was reached on the conclusions which were drawn by the Chairman at the end of the meeting and which were transmitted to the Council and the Commission;

(ii) The 63rd, on 13 June, in its reduced 'medium-term' composition, with Mr Leonard in the chair; the Committee considered the possibility of undertaking a detailed study of the systems for promoting investment in Community countries and agreed on its future programme of work in its reduced composition.

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¹ Points 1.5.1 to 1.5.3.

² Bull. EC 4-1978, point 1.2.2.

³ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 1.1.7.

2.1.4. The Economic and Social Committee, meeting in plenary session on 20 and 21 June,¹ delivered its Opinions on the economic situation in the Community and on a Community approach to the present international monetary disorder.

Internal market and industrial affairs

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical barriers to trade

Industrial products: adoption of hundredth directive

2.1.5. The hundredth directive on the removal of technical barriers to trade in industrial products was adopted by the Council on 27 June.² It concerns the classification, packaging and labelling of pesticides.³

Motor vehicles

2.1.6. On 12 June⁴ the Council adopted three Directives on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to motor vehicles:

(i) the first concerns wheel guards and affects the manufacture of vehicles; it will increase the safety of vehicle users and other road users;

(ii) the second concerns heating systems for passenger compartments; it will improve users' comfort and safety;

(iii) the third inserts these two Directives in Community type-approval procedure, amending the outline Directive of 6 February 1970.⁵

Measuring instruments

2.1.7. A Directive adapting to technical progress the Directive of 19 November 1973⁶ on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to material measures of length was adopted by the Council on 20 June.⁷

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2.1.8. In June Parliament⁸ and the Economic and Social Committee⁹ delivered their Opinions on a Commission proposal relating to the making-up by volume of certain pre-packaged liquids.¹⁰

Dangerous substances and preparations

2.1.9. On 27 June the Council adopted a Directive on the classification, packaging and labelling of pesticides.¹¹

Foodstuffs

2.1.10. On 29 June¹² the Council amended its Directive of 24 July 1973¹³ on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption.¹⁴

¹ Points 2.3.78 and 2.3.80.

² Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.4.

³ Point 2.1.9.

⁴ OJ L 168 of 26.6.1978.

⁵ OJ L 42 of 23.2.1970.

⁶ OJ L 335 of 5.12.1973.

⁷ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.1.6.

⁸ OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

⁹ Point 2.3.84.

¹⁰ OJ C 250 of 19.10.1977 and Bull. EC 9-1977, point 2.1.8.

¹¹ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2115.

¹² OJ L 197 of 22.7.1978.

¹³ OJ L 228 of 16.8.1973.

¹⁴ OJ C 8 of 10.9.1978 and Bull. 12-1977, point 2.1.9.

2.1.11. On the same day the Council also amended¹ the Directive it adopted on 18 June 1974² on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners and jelling agents for use in foodstuffs.³

Approximation of laws

Company law

Fourth Directive: annual accounts of limited companies

2.1.12. On 27 June the Council adopted the Fourth Directive on the annual accounts of limited companies.⁴

The Directive fits into the general context of Community work on the coordination of company law; it will ensure that information published by all limited companies throughout the Community is equivalent and comparable. National laws at present lay down widely diverging requirements.

The Directive contains rules on the structure and contents of balance sheets and profit and loss accounts. Standard layouts and valuation rules are also specified. An annual report must also be issued giving details of the company's general development.

As regards the publicity which will have to be given to annual accounts, the Directive lays down different rules according to the size of the company. Only large companies have to comply with all the provisions of the Directive, while a number of derogations concerning drawing-up, publication and checking may be granted to small businesses.

The adoption of this Directive will have a major bearing on the establishment of a capital market in the Community. It will pre-

vent distortions of competition caused by the present differences.

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2.1.13. At its 16 June sitting Parliament⁵ delivered its Opinion on the Commission proposal concerning group accounts.⁶

Free movement of persons and right of establishment

Professions

Dentists

2.1.14. At its meeting on 26 and 27 June the Council approved two Directives, one on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in dentistry including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services, the other on the coordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative provision in respect of the activities of dental surgeons.⁷

The Council also agreed to the setting-up of an Advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Surgeons and to the amendment of its Decision of 16 June 1975⁸ setting up a

¹ OJ L 197 of 22.7.1978.

² OJ L 189 of 12.7.1974.

³ OJ C 235 of 1.10.1977 and Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.1.10.

⁴ Supplements 7/71 and 6/74 — Bull. EC.

⁵ Point 2.3.21 and OJ C 163 of 10.7.1973.

⁶ Supplement 9/76 — Bull. EC.

⁷ OJ C 54 of 28.4.1969.

⁸ OJ L 167 of 30.6.1975 and Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2272.

Committee of Senior Officials on Public Health.

The Council will formally adopt these instruments when the different language versions are finalized. In principle, the Member States will have to take the necessary steps to comply with the Directives within eighteen months. However, Italy will have to create a specific profession of dental surgeon and will be allowed four and a half years to organize the structures of the new profession.

With a view to mutual recognition of diplomas by the Member States a start has been made on the coordination of training: qualitative and quantitative criteria have been fixed and a list of subjects drawn up which must be included on the syllabuses.

A major new feature compared with the Directives already adopted for doctors¹ and nurses² is the common definition—although incomplete—of the field of activities of dental surgeons within the Community.

Finally, the Directives include the same provisions as contained in the doctors and nurses Directives covering arrangements for receiving dentists who go to practice in another country under the Directive, requirements as to proof of good character and good repute and conditions governing the use of titles and training.

Advisory Committee on Medical Training

2.1.15. The Committee met on 13 and 14 June; it continued its discussions on the specific training of general practitioners and adopted a report on general trends in basic medical training, containing various recommendations to the Commission. It suggests notably that the Commission should organize studies on the effect of student numbers on the quality of training and on objectives and methods relating to student selection for admission to medical studies.

At its next meeting in November the Committee should, in principle, adopt an opinion on part-time specialist training and a recommendation on clinical training for doctors.

Industry: sectoral measures and restructuring

Iron and steel

Further strengthening of the crisis measures

2.1.16. In June the Commission took a number of decisions³ to strengthen the crisis plan introduced in December 1977. The main decisions were to:

- (i) raise minimum prices and guide prices for certain products from 1 July;
- (ii) strengthen monitoring and penalties to bring firms to respect the minimum prices;
- (iii) adopt a forward programme for the third quarter involving a drop in crude steel production;
- (iv) lay down preliminary guidelines for the restructuring of the iron and steel industry.

Loans to industry

2.1.17. On 14 June the Commission decided to grant a FF 70 million loan to Société des Aciéries et Laminoirs de Lorraine (Saci-lor) SA, Hayange, under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty. The loan will help to finance a programme for modernizing the Sacilor group's infrastructure and pig iron production plant.

Shipbuilding

2.1.18. At its 26 and 27 June meeting the Council took an initial look at the problems

¹ OJ L 167 of 30.6.1975 and Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2272.

² OJ L 176 of 15.7.1977 and Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.21.

³ Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.4.

of the shipbuilding industry in light of the guidelines proposed by the Commission in its December 1977 Communication.¹ It examined the general approach to be adopted, the action to be taken to influence demand and the administrative structures to be introduced at Community level.

This initial policy debate revealed unanimous agreement on the need for a Community shipbuilding policy and the restructuring of the industry. Investigation of objectives and measures to be adopted will continue. The Council acknowledged the importance of taking action on demand to accompany the restructuring measures.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on this matter so that it could reach its conclusions at a forthcoming meeting.

Aircraft industry

2.1.19. On 21 June the Commission transmitted a Communication to the Council concerning the concerted action on aircraft programmes provided for in the Resolution of 4 March 1975² and the Statement of 14 March 1977.³

The Communication includes:

- (i) a description of the European aerospace industry—a growth sector—and an annex on current programmes;
- (ii) an outline of the industry's past in the Community context;
- (iii) scope and lines of consultations on aircraft programmes to be held by the Council;
- (iv) the Community's potential role in the development of a genuine European aircraft industry.

The consultations should enable all representatives of the Governments of the Member States to assess the scope and prospects of programmes some of them now envisage; representatives from various trades concerned in aircraft manufacture will be given the opportunity to express their views; the possibility of wider financial par-

ticipation entailing participation in existing Community industrial production capacity will be examined.

In addition to consultation procedures, the Community also has a role to play in the establishment of an internal market (organization of the air transport market, monitoring of State aids and harmonization of technical legislation). It could help with the financing required to launch new programmes and by parallel measures in the fields of trade policy, external relations and industrial technology.

Trade, small businesses and tourism

Distributive trades

2.1.20. On 28 June the Commission adopted a Communication on the organization of relations with the distributive trades.

In the changing economic circumstances of the Member States it is essential for Commission departments and trade organizations to have a properly organized and fully representative framework in which to discuss matters of common concern. The need for this is all the greater as closer and closer links are forged between the various business circles with the new turns taken by common policies, particularly industrial policy.

For the sake of easy consultation between the Commission and a representative sample of each type of distributive trade in each of the Member States, the Commission has decided to set up, for a trial period, a Committee of suitably qualified consultants and of representatives of national or European trade associations.

The Committee's function will be to advise the Commission on all questions affecting

¹ Supplement 7/77 — Bull. EC.

² OJ C 59 of 13.3.1975.

³ OJ C 69 of 19.3.1977 and Bull. EC 3-1977, points 1.5.1 to 1.5.3.

the distributive trades in the Community context and on the repercussions for them of Commission activities in other fields.

The Committee's members are to be appointed as soon as possible so that work can commence in the autumn.

Customs union

Simplification of customs procedures

International customs conventions

2.1.21. On 6 June¹ the Council adopted a Decision accepting on behalf of the Community three Annexes to the International Convention on the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures. The Convention itself, which was negotiated in the Customs Cooperation Council, was concluded by the Community by Council Decision of 18 March 1975.² The new decision involves the acceptance by the Community—subject to certain reservations—of the annexes relating to customs formalities prior to the lodgement of the goods declaration, the temporary storage of goods and free zones.

Community transit

2.1.22. On 19 June³ the Council adopted the Regulations on the application of Decisions Nos 1/78 and 2/78 of the EEC-Austria and EEC-Switzerland Joint Committees on Community Transit amending the Appendices to the Agreements between the Community and Austria and Switzerland.

Following the entry into force of the Agreement on the extension of the application of the rules on Community transit, the first of the Decisions amends the acts and the cer-

tificate of guarantee used in the context of the Community transit arrangements.

The second provides for the introduction of a Community transit declaration form for use in an automatic or electronic data-processing system.

Economic tariff matters

Tariff quotas

2.1.23. On 6 June⁴ the Council adopted two Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas for rum, arrack and tafia (subheading 22.09 C I of the CCT) originating in the ACP States (volume of 161 807 hl of pure alcohol) and in the associated overseas countries and territories (volume of 71 571 hl of pure alcohol).

These duty-free tariff quotas are applicable from 1 July 1978 to 30 June 1979.

2.1.24. On 12 June 1978⁵ the Council amended its Regulation of 28 November 1977⁶ on the Community tariff quota for certain prepared or preserved bovine meat falling within heading No ex 16.02 of the CCT, originating in Malta—this was to honour the Commission's contractual obligation to Malta.

2.1.25. On 20 June⁷ the Council adopted two Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas for 38 000 head of heifers and cows, not

¹ OJ L 160 of 17.6.1978.

² OJ L 100 of 21.4.1975 and Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2107.

³ OJ L 174 of 29.6.1978.

⁴ OJ L 153 of 9.6.1978.

⁵ OJ L 157 of 15.6.1978.

⁶ OJ L 331 of 23.12.1977.

⁷ OJ L 167 of 24.6.1978.

intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds, at a 4% duty rate (with an initial instalment of 19 000 head and a reserve of 19 000 head) and for 5 000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, not intended for slaughter of certain Alpine breeds, at a duty rate of 4% (with an initial instalment of 3 500 head and a reserve of 1 500 head). These two Community tariff quotas are applicable for the period 1 July 1978 to 30 June 1979.

2.1.26. In connection with the Association Agreement between the EEC and Cyprus, and with a view to fulfilling the Community's obligations towards that country, the Council adopted on 26 June¹ various Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural products originating in Cyprus. These products are listed in Table 2.

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2.1.27. At its meeting on 20 and 21 June, the Economic and Social Committee² gave

its opinion on the Commission proposal laying down the customs procedure applicable to the stores of vessels, aircraft and international trains.³

Origin and methods of administrative cooperation

2.1.28. On 19 June⁴ the Council adopted the Regulation concerning the application of ACP-EEC Council of Ministers Decision No 1/78 of 14 March 1978 amending Protocol No 1 to the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative cooperation.

This Decision adapts Lists A and B in Annexes II and III to Protocol No 1 to the Lomé Convention following a recommenda-

¹ OJ L 172 of 28.6.1978.

² Point 2.3.84.

³ OJ C 73 of 23.3.1978 and Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.1.20.

⁴ OJ L 177 of 30.6.1978.

Table 2 — *Tariff quotas for products originating in Cyprus*

Description	Quota volume	Quota duty (%)	Initial allocation	Reserve	Period
Sweet peppers (07.01 S)	150 t	5.5	129 t	21 t	1.7 to 31.12.1978
Dried grapes, in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg (08.04 BI)	250 t	0	225 t	25 t	1.7 to 31.12.1978
Certain wines of fresh grapes, in containers holding 2 litres or less (ex. 22.05 C I a) and C II a))	5 000 hl	3 u.a./hl 3.5 u.a./hl	4 300 hl	700 hl	1.7 to 31.12.1978
Liqueur wines (ex 22.05 C)	125 000 hl	4.2 u.a./hl 5.7 u.a./hl	106 520 hl	18 480 hl	1.7 to 31.12.1978
Aubergines (07.01 T)	300 t	6.4	—	300 t	1.10 to 30.11.1978
Fresh table grapes (ex. 08.04 A I a) and b))	7 000 t	7.2 8.8	6 504 t	496 t	1.7 to 10.8.1978

tion from the Customs Cooperation Council amending the nomenclature.

It further harmonizes the model movement certificates EUR 1 and the forms EUR 2 with the preferential agreements and provides for the possibility of replacing one or more movement certificates EUR 1 by one or more others.

Lastly, it introduces a specific rule relating to the origin of goods presented in the form of sets.

2.1.29. On the same day the Council adopted the Decision¹ amending Annex II, concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative cooperation, to the Decision of 29 June 1976 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Economic Community.

The provisions adopted under the Lomé Convention by Decision No 1/78 of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers are extended to the overseas countries and territories.²

Competition

Restrictive practices, mergers and dominant positions : specific cases

Prohibited horizontal restrictive practices

Provisional decision against a market sharing agreement

2.1.30. On 12 June, after preliminary scrutiny, the Commission took a provisional decision³ under Article 15(6) of Regulation No 17⁴ in respect of certain provisions of a cooperation agreement concluded between

the Société nationale des poudres et explosifs (SNPE) of Paris and Leafields Engineering Limited (LEL) of Wiltshire.

Both parties are specialized in the manufacture of highly technical products, SNPE in auto-propulsion systems and chemical products and LEL in electronic and precision engineering. They had agreed to cooperate extensively in the development, manufacture and sale of a number of products intended in particular for off-shore submarine applications. Apart from provisions covering the manufacture of the products of one partner by the other, under licence or as subcontractor, and the joint development and manufacture of other products, the agreement, which was properly notified to the Commission, includes a clause under which each firm's national territory is reserved to it alone; neither will grant licences, manufacture or sell directly the products covered by the agreement in the territory of the other.

The Commission believes this market-sharing clause is within the prohibition of Article 81(1) of the EEC Treaty and does not qualify for exemption under Article 85(3). Pending a final decision on the agreement as a whole, the firms are free to continue the cooperation they agreed upon. But they will face fines if they give effect to the relevant clause.

Prohibited restrictive practices and abuse of dominant positions

Restrictive practices and abuse of a dominant position on the zip fasteners market

2.1.31. The Commission has terminated the proceedings instituted against most of the zip-fastener manufacturers in the Community for infringement of Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty. The alleged infringements consisted in particular of agreements concerning price-fixing and market-sharing, and of abuse of a dominant position.

¹ OJ L 177 of 30.6.1978.

² Point 2.1.78.

³ OJ L 191 of 14.7.1978.

⁴ OJ 13 of 21.2.1962.

The proceedings, which had been instituted further to a complaint made by the Japanese Yoshida Kogyo KK (YKK) group of companies, the world's largest zip-fastener manufacturer, led the Commission to undertake a comprehensive investigation into the activities of more than 40 companies with a total annual turnover of around 200 million units of account.

During the course of these proceedings the Commission examined the relations developed since 1964 between the two chief producers of zip-fasteners in the Community, Imperial Metal Industries Ltd (IMI), a British group, and the German-Swiss Heilmann family group (Heilmann), as well as the relations established between the IMI/Heilmann companies and their competitors. IMI, which until recently was controlled by the British company Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd, sells mainly under the trade marks 'Lightning' and 'Eclair', while Heilmann sells mainly under the trade marks 'Opti' and 'Zip'.

The problem was to ascertain whether the relations between IMI and Heilmann constituted agreements or concerted practices caught by Article 85 of the EEC Treaty, or whether they had led to a merger of the two groups, which would fall outside this article. After the hearing, the Commission considered that a merger of all the interests of IMI and Heilmann in zip-fasteners had been brought about.

As to the relations established with their competitors, the Commission alleged that IMI/Heilmann had entered into a number of agreements with restrictive clauses in violation of Article 85, and that they had abused their dominant position in violation of Article 86.

The various infringements of Article 85 included:

- (i) provisions in licensing agreements whereby IMI/Heilmann as licensors restricted the freedom of licensees to determine their sales prices;
- (ii) provisions in a licensing agreement granting IMI/Heilmann as licensees the use in a substantial part of the common market of all future patents or knowhow developed by the licensor, who in this case was a major competitor. This obligation extended to developments beyond the technology covered by the licence so as to secure to IMI/Heilmann a broader control in the technological field concerned;
- (iii) provisions in an agreement whereby a holder of a patent renounced the exploitation of his rights in a Member State where IMI/Heilmann was active in the same field.

Furthermore, the Commission considered the behaviour of IMI/Heilmann towards a competitor to have been an abuse under Article 86 EEC. The group had first started several actions for patent infringements, subsequently suspending these actions on condition that the defendant entered into a restrictive agreement, and for as long as the defendant remained a party to it.

After the hearing, the Commission ascertained that the parties had voluntarily terminated all the alleged infringements. It accordingly decided to close the proceedings without taking a formal decision.

Mergers

ARBED/Neunkirchen/Rodange-Athus merger

2.1.32. On 6 June 1978, in response to the application made on 30 January of this year and after obtaining favourable opinions from the Belgian, German and Luxembourg Governments, the Commission took a decision under Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty authorizing ARBED to acquire all the shares in Neunkirchen Eisenwerk AG (Neunkirchen) and a 25.09% shareholding in SA Métallurgique et Minière de Rodange-Athus (MMRA), and to assume control of MMRA's management.¹

Neunkirchen is a Saar-based company, 50% of whose shares are held by the Otto Wolff Group and 50% by the oil company Mabanaft. ARBED plans to acquire these holdings in return for a 5% aggregate holding in its own capital, which will be increased for the purpose.

At the same time ARBED, which already holds half the shares in Röchling-Burbach GmbH (RB), will purchase the remaining half held by the Röchling-Burbach family to become the sole shareholder. In return for its 50% holding in RB the Röchling family will receive a cash payment plus a 5.6% holding in ARBED, whose capital will be increased accordingly.

MMRA is a Luxembourg company which has two production plants, one at Rodange in Luxembourg and the other just over the border at Athus in Belgium. Anxious

¹ OJ L 164 of 21.6.1978.

to save this company, which has been hit hard by the crisis, the Belgian and Luxembourg Governments entered into negotiations which, on 20 December 1977, culminated in the publication of a joint document that recommends that ARBED take over the management of MMRA.¹

Acquisition of all the capital of Neunkirchen and 25.09% of the capital of MMRA, together with control of MMRA's management, constitutes a concentration under Article 66 ECSC between ARBED and the other two companies concerned.

An assessment of the effect of this concentration on the steel market has shown that the size of the new group will not be incompatible with the tests of Article 66. The new ARBED group will now produce 10.5 million tonnes of crude steel a year (as compared with 9 million tonnes before), or 7.9% of Community production, and will rank fifth among Community manufacturers.

The group will be very strongly placed for certain product categories, such as sections and merchant steel, but there are competing manufacturers in the Community with comparable or larger market shares, and the same products are also imported from outside the Community at highly competitive prices.

By assuming control of Neunkirchen, ARBED will acquire a 32.4% holding in the Saar undertaking Dillinger Hüttenwerke (Dilling), the majority of whose shares are held by the Marine-Wendel Group. Such a holding will give ARBED a blocking minority within Dilling.

This holding, together with entitlement to representation on the Dilling Board of Directors, will give ARBED considerable influence within the undertaking, as well as the power to coordinate its activities with the Marine-Wendel Group as regards production of lines which both groups manufacture, namely heavy and medium plate and sheet steel. Moreover, ARBED, RB, Neunkirchen and Dilling are linked with Otto Wolff in the South Rationalization Group authorized by the Commission on 20 December 1976.² At the time of the authorization there were no links between ARBED and the Marine-Wendel Group. The concentration between ARBED and Neunkirchen, by creating such a link, makes the continued presence of the ARBED companies in the rationalization group incompatible with the necessity of independence between groups.

In order to ensure the independence of large groups competing in an oligopolistic market such as the steel

market, the Commission has attached the following obligations to its authorization:

- (i) ARBED must reduce its shareholding in Dilling to at most 25% by 1 May 1980.
- (ii) Members of the management bodies of the ARBED group steel production and distribution firms must not belong to management bodies of outside firms or holding companies of the same type. This does not apply to steel companies jointly controlled with outsiders prior to the transactions authorized by this decision. If special circumstances justify it the Commission may, in response to a reasoned request, authorize exemptions from these obligations.
- (iii) During the period up to 1 May 1980 ARBED must refrain from exercising the voting rights attaching to such of its shares in Dilling as exceed 25% of the company's capital.
- (iv) ARBED and the firms under its control must withdraw from the South Rationalization Group by 31 July 1978. The Commission is to be notified upon fulfilment of this obligation.

Coal wholesaling

2.1.33. On 7 June³ the Commission authorized Ruhrkohle Handel GmbH, a subsidiary of Ruhrkohle AG, to acquire a 12.5% shareholding in Bayerischer Brennstoffhandel GmbH & Co. KG, of Munich.

Bayerischer Brennstoffhandel was formed by four large coal wholesalers in 1972, who then transferred their solid fuels wholesale business in part of Bavaria in Germany to the firm.

The Commission found that in spite of the substantial share in the wholesale market held by Ruhrkohle, competition from fuel oil prevents it from restricting competition in the sense of Article 66(2) of the ECSC Treaty, so that there were no grounds for refusing to authorize the transaction. The same applied to Bayerischer Brennstoffhandel, even though its market position over its competitors would be improved by Ruhrkohle AG's acquisition of a stake in it through one of its regional wholesaling subsidiaries.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.19.

² OJ L 45 of 17.2.1977 and Bull. 12-1976, point 2128.

³ OJ L 191 of 14.7.1978.

The German government put forward objections to the transaction, but the Commission held that these did not constitute sufficient grounds for attaching conditions to its authorization.

State aids

Industry schemes

Shipbuilding

2.1.34. The fourth directive on aid to shipbuilding, formally adopted on 4 April 1978,¹ provides a common system governing aid to the industry; the main objective is to avoid distortions of competition and to direct aid into the reorganization of the industry in order to make it competitive. The worsening crisis has led a number of Member States to plan measures to help their shipyards. The Commission has been informed of these measures.

The Member States in question are the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands. The Commission has stated its views on these measures; it is concerned that they may not be compatible with the common market.

The Commission has initiated the procedure of Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty in respect of the British plan for an intervention fund for a subsidy of UKL 90 million.² In doing so it pointed out to the British Government that under Article 6(1) of the directive, such aid must be clearly linked to industrial restructuring measures that are designed to make the industry competitive and capable of operating unaided. The Commission also expressed concern at the volume of aid planned.

The Commission has also initiated the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of the aid

planned by the French Government to help the ship-repair industry.² Essentially the plan would provide operating aids with a budget of FF 55 million; it is motivated by the need to restructure an industry which is at present going through serious difficulties. But there is no provision in the directive for aid of this sort; it refers only to crisis measures to assist the shipbuilding industry. The Commission has therefore asked the French Government for further details and assurances, so that it can be sure that the aid is not going to distort competition in a manner contrary to the common interest, and that the aid is in fact linked to the restructuring of the industry.

The aid planned by the Dutch Government is mainly intended to rescue certain firms in the shipbuilding and ship-repair industries and in heavy mechanical engineering. The scheme would provide HFL 950 million in grants, loans and State shareholdings. This assistance would go hand in hand with reorganization of the firms.

However, the complexity of the plans, and of the reorganization they provide for, has meant that on the basis of the information available to it at present the Commission is unable to arrive at any conclusion on the compatibility of the measures with the common market. Under the Article 93(2) procedure which it has initiated, therefore, the Commission has asked the Dutch Government for further information.

Motor cars

2.1.35. On 1 June the Commission decided that it would not oppose the Dutch Government's plan to give assistance to Volvo Car BV.

¹ OJ L 98 of 11.4.1978, and Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.1.26.

² OJ C 152 of 28.6.1978.

The Dutch authorities wished to raise their equity holding from 25 to 45% and grant repayable loans to top up loans granted on comparable terms by the parent company, AB Volvo of Sweden.

The Commission considered that the measures of assistance qualified for the derogation in Article 93(3)(c) EEC as they are of limited duration, have little influence on market conditions and offer definite prospects for the recipient firm's recovery.

2.1.36. On 22 June the Commission informed the British Government that it had no objection to certain changes made in the initial plan for the reorganization of British Leyland, which it had examined and authorized in June 1975.¹ Difficulties which have arisen in applying the plan worked out in 1975 led the management of the company, in liaison with the responsible authority, the National Enterprise Board, to propose changes intended to attain the best possible adaptation of the company to current trends; the budgetary resources provided in 1975 would remain unchanged.

The changes would not affect the general objectives of the plan; they concern only the period over which aid is to be granted and the form of public intervention; UKL 450 million is to be paid to increase the company's capital. At the same time, the company will progressively build up a new internal structure which will develop a strategy based on particular makes.

Financial institutions and taxation

Taxation

Indirect taxes

Turnover taxes

Ninth VAT Directive

2.1.37. On 26 June² the Council adopted the ninth Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes.

This Directive allows the countries which have not yet implemented the sixth VAT Directive³ to defer its application until 1 January 1979 at the latest.

At its meeting on 20 and 21 June the Economic and Social Committee had given its Opinion on the Commission proposal⁴ for this ninth Directive.

Mutual assistance by revenue departments

2.1.38. At its meeting on 20 and 21 June, the Economic and Social Committee⁵ gave its Opinion on the Commission proposal for extending the arrangements for mutual assistance by the competent authorities of the Member States to value added tax as well.⁶

¹ Bull. EC 6-1975, points 2121 and 2122.

² OJ L 194 of 19.7.1978.

³ OJ L 145 of 13.6.1977 and Bull. EC 5-1977, points 1.3.1. to 1.3.4.

⁴ OJ C 141 of 16.6.1978 and Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.36.

⁵ Point 2.3.84.

⁶ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.1.35.

Employment and social policy

Social affairs before the Council

2.1.39. The Council meeting on social affairs in Luxembourg on 29 June—i.e., a week before the European Council meeting in Bremen,¹ where a common economic and social strategy was on the agenda—was unable to deal with the major problems of the current employment situation. The concrete results were the adoption of a Resolution and the approval of a Directive, both concerned with workers' health and safety.

The Resolution related to a programme of work to be carried out by the end of 1982 on safety and health at work. The Commission was instructed to implement the programme,² the central purpose of which is to increase the level of protection against occupational risks of all types, by improving the working situation, knowledge and human attitudes.

The Council also approved a Directive on the approximation of Member States' laws, regulations and administrative provisions on the protection of workers in the plastics industry exposed to vinyl chloride monomer.³

The Commission's proposals for Community support for aid schemes to promote youth employment⁴ were also discussed. The proposals consist of a Regulation setting up a new aid scheme for young people under the European Social Fund, and an amendment to an earlier decision also concerning young people affected by employment difficulties. The Council failed to reach agreement on these proposals, one delegation maintaining its opposition.

Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, also made three statements to the Council on the social aspects of the Commu-

nity sectoral policies, the stage reached in the preparation of the next Tripartite Conference and the European Trade Union Institute,⁵ with which an agreement had been signed early in the month.

Employment

2.1.40. The unemployment problem was widely discussed during the month in various Community and international forums (such as the International Labour Conference),⁶ but in the majority of cases the discussions failed to yield specific results.

2.1.41. The Commission played its part in preparing for the European Council meeting in Bremen on 6 and 7 July. The Commission's contribution was mainly concerned with the economic and social situation, and on the basis of its work the Council on 26 and 27 June was able to finalize a report on a common strategy for dealing with this situation. The report also refers to work going on in various other bodies.

The Commission also prepared a report on some structural aspects of growth, which deals among other things with the problems of gradually soaking up unemployment and creating the new jobs which will be needed, particularly in the least-favoured areas, for the young people entering the labour market in the coming years. The problems are found to vary from one sector to another.

The Commission Vice-President, Mr Vredeling, made a statement to the Council meet-

¹ Points 1.5.1 to 1.5.3.

² Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.81.

³ Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2224 and 7/8-1977, point 2.1.54.

⁴ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 1.2.6.

⁵ Point 2.1.48.

⁶ Points 2.2.39 and 2.2.40.

ing on 29 June on the social aspects of the Community's sectoral policies, particularly those on iron and steel and shipbuilding.

In June the Commission also drew up a working paper for the ECSC Consultative Committee on the social aspects of the Community's iron and steel policy,¹ which had been touched on in connection with the various measures which were adopted during the month to bolster the December 1977 crisis measures. The restructuring policy, involving a cut in overall capacity, is bound to affect the number of jobs in the industry. Accordingly, the Commission considers that simultaneous introduction of a policy for the reconversion and redeployment of manpower is crucial for the success of the restructuring. The working paper for the ECSC Consultative Committee looks in detail at the situation and outlook for employment in the steel industry and examines the scope for action afforded, in particular, by the ECSC Treaty.

Preparations are also continuing for another Tripartite Conference to be held on 17 November, when the progress achieved since the last Conference in June 1977 will be reviewed and new priorities set.

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2.1.42. At its plenary session on 20 and 21 June in Brussels the Economic and Social Committee gave its Opinion² on the 1977 Social Report.

European Social Fund

Social Fund Committee

2.1.43. The Social Fund Committee, in its plenary session on 16 June, took cognizance of the preliminary draft budget for 1979. It

also examined Member States' applications for aid from the Fund.

Operation of the Social Fund

2.1.44. On 27 June the Commission took a decision on the presentation of applications for assistance and payment from the Fund, in an effort to improve its operation, and make it easier to implement schemes. Specimen application forms were appended to the decision.

ECSC readaptation measures

2.1.45. In June, acting under Article 56(2)(b) of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission decided to contribute towards the cost of redeploying workers affected by total closure of a number of undertakings in the Community coal and steel industries.

Four grants were approved in connection with closures in Belgium:

- (i) 30 500 EUC for 41 workers affected by the closure of the 305 mm concrete reinforcing bar mill belonging to SA Usines Gustave Boel at La Louvière;
- (ii) 45 500 EUC for 26 employees affected by the closure of the Comptoir belge des charbons (COBECHAR);
- (iii) 430 750 EUC for the 347 workers affected by the closure of two blast furnaces owned by the Société Métallurgique Hainaut-Sambre at Couillet;
- (iv) 139 000 EUC for the 110 workers affected by the closure of the open-hearth steelmaking plant at Charleroi belonging to the SA Fabrique de Fer.

Three grants were approved in connection with closures in France: 2 232 250 EUC for 1 486 workers affected by the closure of three blast furnaces, the finishing mill and the wire mill at the Longwy plant of the Compagnie industrielle de Chiers-Châtillon; 629 500 EUC for 261 workers affected by the closure of the Saint-Pierremont

¹ Point 1.3.4.

² Point 2.3.79.

iron-ore mine at Mancieules in the Lorraine Basin; and 1 992 250 EUC for 448 workers affected by the shutdown of the Thionville blast furnace belonging to US-INOR.

Two grants were approved in connection with plant closures in Italy: 53 000 EUC for 226 workers affected by the shutdown of four open-hearth furnaces and a rolling-mill belonging to Dalmine SpA in Milan, and 1 197 000 EUC for 1 462 workers affected by the closure of six open-hearth furnaces and a cold rolling-mill at the Italsider Oscar Sinigaglia plant at Cornigliano, Genoa.

In the UK, the sum already made available to the British Steel Corporation was increased by 2 448 000 EUC to contribute to the cost of redeploying 3 374 workers affected by the closure of the following plants:

- (i) The cogging mill and the electric melting shop at the Templeborough Works, Rotherham, South Yorkshire;
- (ii) the hot-dip section at the Trostre Works, Llanelli, South Wales;
- (iii) the sinter plant, coal washeries, and finishing mills at the Port Talbot Works, South Wales;
- (iv) the open-hearth furnaces at the Lanarkshire Works, West-Central Scotland;
- (v) the bar and rod mill at the Stocksbridge Works, Sheffield;
- (vi) the open-hearth furnace and slabbing mill at the Clyde Iron Works at Clydebridge, West-Central Scotland;
- (vii) the General Terminus Quay on the southern bank of the Clyde at Glasgow;
- (viii) the coke oven and the burden handling plant at the Cleveland Works in the North Riding;
- (ix) the coke oven batteries, power station and sinter plant at the Hartlepool North Works, Durham;
- (x) the slab-grinding facilities at the Shepcote Lane steelworks, Sheffield.

In addition, a new settlement aid was added to the 1973 agreement between the UK Government and the Commission for the redeployment of steelworkers.

Living and working conditions

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

2.1.46. On 5 June the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions presented its second report to the Council, detailing its activities in the second half of 1977 and describing the programme planned for 1978.¹

Housing

2.1.47. The Commission has approved loans for the following projects under the seventh and eighth schemes (first and second instalments) of financial aid to low-cost housing for workers in the ECSC industries:

United Kingdom iron and steel industry: 10 dwellings in Wales (UKL 15 727);

Italy iron and steel industry: 869 dwellings in Northern Italy and the Taranto area (LIT 3 828 520 000 from the special reserve, LIT 10 575 000 000 from borrowings);

Germany iron and steel industry: 128 dwellings in Meerbusch, Duisburg, Dillingen and surrounding areas (DM 1 872 000);

France iron and steel industry (Centre-Midi): 16 dwellings at Unieux (Loire) under a pilot scheme for migrant workers (FF 228 426);

Germany Ruhr coalfield: 160 dwellings at Ahlen under a pilot scheme for migrant workers (DM 300 000).

¹ Bull. EC 1-1978, point 2.1.23.

Industrial relations

European Trade Union Institute

2.1.48. On 7 June an agreement formalizing relations between the European Community and the European Trade Union Institute was signed in Brussels by Mr Vredeling, representing the Commission, and the President of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) Mr Vetter. The Institute's purpose will be to provide workers with information and training on matters concerning Europe¹ with the aim of helping to develop an awareness of Europe and to improve living and working conditions in the Community.

Health and safety

2.1.49. On 13 June the Commission approved a fourth research programme on industrial hygiene in mines covering the period 1978-82.² The programme, with a total budget of 7 million EUC, is to promote research on the health and safety of underground workers in coal and iron-ore mines. Control of dust and noxious gases from the use of diesel engines and explosives remain among the industry's main problems. The principle of the programme was approved by the Commission and a memorandum on the subject sent to the ECSC Consultative Committee and the Council in January 1978.³

2.1.50. The same day the Commission approved the granting of aid totalling 368 400 EUC for four research projects under its third programme of research on chronic respiratory diseases.

2.1.51. On 21 June the Commission decided to allocate 1 946 100 EUC to help fi-

nance eleven research projects coming under the third programme of research on control of pollution in the steel industry. The projects concern the treatment of effluent, the handling of waste and by-products, the reduction of emission of atmospheric pollutants, particularly in coking plants, the preparation of slabs, and noise abatement.

2.1.52. On 30 June the Commission decided to grant financial aid totalling 1 039 400 EUC to eleven research projects coming under the third programme of research in ergonomics and readaptation, formally adopted in December 1974.⁴

2.1.53. The action programme on safety and health at work, which the Commission presented in December 1977,⁵ was adopted by the Council on 29 June.⁶

2.1.54. At the same meeting, the Council adopted a Directive on the protection of workers in the plastics industry exposed to vinyl chloride monomer. The Directive lays down the essential safety measures to be taken in the industry in order to increase safety.

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2.1.55. Parliament, on 13 June,⁷ and the Economic and Social Committee, at its plenary session on 20 and 21 June,⁸ gave their Opinions of the draft resolution adopting an action programme on safety and health at work.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.56, and 1-1978, point 2.1.26.

² OJ C 159 of 5.7.1978.

³ Bull. EC 1-1978, point 2.1.27.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2228.

⁵ OJ C 9 of 11.1.1978 and Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.81.

⁶ Point 2.1.39 and OJ C 165 of 1.7.1978.

⁷ Point 2.3.12 and OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

⁸ Point 2.3.82.

Paul Finet Foundation

2.1.56. The Executive Committee of the Paul Finet Foundation met in Luxembourg on 27 June and examined 223 cases. Financial aid totalling approximately BFR 1 117 000 was granted to 127 young people whose fathers had been employed in the ECSC coal and iron-ore mining or steel industries and who had died of occupational accidents or industrial diseases.

Regional policy

Council agreement in principle on a common approach

2.1.57. At its meeting on 26 and 27 June the Council reached agreement in principle on the amendment of the Regulation establishing the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and on the main elements of the regional policy guidelines proposed by the Commission in June 1977.¹ Although these proposals will not be adopted formally until the autumn, the agreement represents an important step towards implementing a true Community regional policy.²

European Regional Development Fund

Third ERDF annual report

2.1.58. On 30 June the Commission adopted its third annual report—covering 1977—on the activities of the European Regional Development Fund. The Council Regulation of 18 March 1973³ establishing the ERDF provides for a report to be drawn up and transmitted (before 1 July each year) to Parliament and the Council.

In this report the Commission describes the economic situation in 1977 and the outlook for 1978, and examines the effects on the regions which are eligible for Fund assistance. The section on ERDF activities in 1977 shows that the Commission took 378 grant decisions for a total of 504 million u.a. in respect of 2 020 projects representing a total volume of investment of 4 498 million u.a. Payments actually made totalled 373 million u.a. On-the-spot checks were made on 119 projects.

Industry, artisan activities and the services sector accounted for 56% of the investment financed (compared with 45% in 1976); these investments accounted for 41% of the assistance given by the Fund (25% in 1976) and should lead to the creation of 70 000 jobs (55 000 in 1976). Infrastructure projects represented 44% of the investment financed and 59% of the assistance given. The large share going to infrastructure reflects in particular the low level of industrial investment, one of the consequences of the economic crisis. Although the improvement of infrastructure does not create jobs directly (except in building and construction), it is frequently a precondition for future productive investment and economic development in general.

In its conclusion the Commission again emphasizes the principle that Fund assistance must be additional to regional development measures taken by the Member State itself, given the political and economic importance of observing this principle for both infrastructure and industrial projects.

The Commission also points out that the economic crisis experienced in the Community in recent years has made the promotion of regional development, by both the Community and the national governments, particularly difficult. This has affected the impact made by Fund assistance. Furthermore, the crisis, the new international division of labour and Community policy requirements are affecting some areas of the economy more directly than others and could therefore amplify existing regional disequilibria or even cause new ones to appear.

¹ OJ C 161 of 9.7.1977 and Supplement 2/77 — Bull. EC.

² Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.9.

³ OJ L 73 of 21.3.1975.

In 1977, as in previous years, the Regional Fund provided significant support for the regional development efforts of the member countries. However, its rigid structure prevented it from helping to solve those new problems for which the Community had to accept special responsibility. The Commission, the report emphasizes, is still convinced that specific measures based on a non-quota section of the Fund and closely coordinated with other Community financial instruments could help to make good this serious shortcoming in Community regional policy.

Regional Policy Committee

2.1.59. The Regional Policy Committee held its fourteenth meeting in Brussels on 15 and 16 June. The main item on the agenda was an examination of the regional development programmes of Italy and Ireland. The Committee also gave an opinion on all the regional development programmes presented to the Commission by the Member States.

Environment and consumer protection

Environment

Reduction of pollution and nuisances

Pollution of the sea

2.1.60. In June Community institutions again looked at the problems of marine pollution caused by accidental oil spills, the gravity and urgency of which were highlighted once again by the grounding of the tanker Amoco Cadiz.¹

The Council, which adopted a Resolution and a Recommendation, discussed the outstanding problems and decided to put its

conclusions to the European Council in Bremen.²

Resolution adopted for an action programme

2.1.61. On 26 June the Council adopted a Resolution³ setting up an action programme of the European Communities on the control and reduction of pollution caused by oil spills at sea, the broad lines of which had been approved on 30 May.⁴ This programme was put before the Council by the Commission, with other proposals, on 27 April.⁵

Ratification of certain international conventions

2.1.62. On 26 June⁶ the Council adopted a Recommendation concerning the ratification of international conventions on safety in shipping, which it had approved on 12 June, with the wish that they should enter into force as soon as possible. The conventions concerned are the 1974 Solas Convention (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea) and its 1978 Protocol, the 1973 Marpol Convention (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) amended by the 1978 Protocol and Convention No 147 on Minimum Standards (merchant shipping) adopted by the International Labour Conference in 1976. The Commission had also recommended that these conventions be ratified.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.1.46 and Bull. EC 4-1978, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.13.

² The conclusions of the Presidency issued at the end of the Bremen meeting contained a section on safety at sea and the prevention and reduction of pollution (see point 1.5.2).

³ OJ C 162 of 8.7.1978.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.53.

⁵ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 1.4.8.

⁶ OJ L 194 of 19.7.1978.

The Council also agreed that it was essential to make inspections of ships more stringent, particularly in the context of international conventions. It took note of the Commission's intention to submit any proposal it might consider useful for embodying these inspection measures in Community legislation. The Council therefore agreed to hold preliminary on-the-spot consultations with an eye to the IMCO (Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization) Conference on Training and Watchkeeping in London from 14 June to 4 July. The Commission had also called for the tightening-up of inspections in the Communication which it presented at the end of April.¹

The Council furthermore noted, that following the action of its Member States, the group of North Sea countries—to which Norway and Sweden also belong—had invited Italy and Ireland to accede to the Memorandum of Understanding between the North Sea countries on the maintenance of standards on merchant ships.

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2.1.63. An opinion was delivered by Parliament² on 13 June and by the Economic and Social Committee at its plenary session on 20 and 21 June on the Commission's proposal on the ratification of international conventions on safety in shipping.

Community accession to certain international agreements

2.1.64. At its meeting on 26 and 27 June the Council took note of the work carried out and results achieved in respect of safety at sea and the prevention and reduction of marine pollution by oil tankers and discussed the following outstanding matters:

(i) the conclusion of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention of 16 February 1976 for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, which deals with cooperation in combating pollution of the Mediterranean by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency;

(ii) the Commission's negotiations for the accession of the European Economic Community to the Bonn Agreement of 9 June 1969 for Cooperation in Dealing With Pollution of the North Sea by Oil.

It also noted that some delegations were not yet able to state their final positions on this point.

Parliament's public hearing on the prevention of pollution

2.1.65. Parliament organized a public hearing in Paris from 20 to 22 June to discuss the most effective means of preventing accidents in Community waters and the resultant pollution of sea and coasts. It delivered an Opinion on 13 June² on the Communication and proposals presented by the Commission to the Council on 27 April³ stating that it would go into the matter in greater detail after the public hearing.

Freshwater pollution

2.1.66. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) invited Commission departments to attend a seminar in Malta from 5 to 10 June on problems in connection with the water resources of islands and coastal areas. At the seminar the Com-

¹ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 1.4.1.

² OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

³ OJ C 146 of 21.6.1978 and Bull. EC 4-1978, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.13.

mission presented a report on the programme of protection of underground water in the European Community.

2.1.67. The Commission took part in a seminar held in Stockholm on 16 and 17 June on combating pollution caused by pulp and paper mills organized by the Swedish air and water pollution research institute. The seminar provided a forum for the exchange of new scientific knowledge in this field, which will help when discussion resumes on the proposal for a directive on the reduction of water pollution caused by pulp mills in the Member States.

2.1.68. The Commission attended the plenary session of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine Against Pollution held in Dusseldorf on 26 and 27 June. The International Commission gave a progress report on the degree of cooperation achieved noting in particular the report by the Working Party on chemical pollution headed by a representative of the Commission of the European Communities. It also discussed preparations for the next ministerial meeting which will be held in Luxembourg on 12 September.

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2.1.69. At its meeting on 20 and 21 June the Economic and Social Committee¹ gave its Opinion on the proposal forwarded by the Commission to the Council on 27 January² which deals with the protection of underground water against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances.

Control of chemicals

Negotiations with the United States

2.1.70. The Commission attended the meeting on 29 and 30 June in Washington

to open negotiations with the United States with a view to reaching agreement on the procedures for applying the Toxic Substances Control Act to Community products and the relevant Community legislation to products from the United States. The negotiating directives³ were adopted by the Council on 27 June. Representatives of the Governments of the Member States attended the opening negotiating session which was preceded by a preparatory meeting in Brussels on 19 June.

International meeting on the control of chemicals

2.1.71. An international meeting was held in Paris on 21 and 22 June in preparation for the setting up of a special project, within the OECD, on the control of chemicals. The Community plans to contribute towards the financing of this project in view of its importance. The Paris meeting follows the meeting held in Stockholm in April⁴ which the Commission also attended.

Scientific advisory committee to study the toxicity and ecotoxicity of chemical compounds

2.1.72. The Commission decided on 28 June to set up a scientific advisory committee to study the toxicity and ecotoxicity of chemical compounds. This Committee of highly qualified specialists and Commission representatives will advise on the effects of chemical compounds on man and the environment. The need for a Community study of the risks of chemical compounds had al-

¹ Point 2.3.84.

² Bull. EC 1-1978, point 2.1.29.

³ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.56.

⁴ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.1.55.

ready been pointed out in the 1973 Programme of Action of the European Communities on the Environment¹ and the Resolution adopted by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on 17 May 1977² on the Second Action Programme (1977-81), which called for the establishment of an advisory committee to furnish the Commission with opinions.

Air pollution

2.1.73. On 29 June³ the Council adopted the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the lead content of petrol to which it had agreed on 30 May.⁴

Noise pollution

2.1.74. At its meeting on 20 and 21 June the Economic and Social Committee⁵ delivered its Opinion on the proposal presented by the Commission to the Council on 5 April⁶ on the limitation of the noise emitted by compressors.

Improving the environment

The cost to industry of pollution control

2.1.75. At its meeting on 20 and 21 June the Economic and Social Committee⁵ delivered an Opinion on the draft recommendation to the Member States forwarded by the Commission to the Council on 16 December 1977⁷ regarding methods of evaluating the cost of pollution control to industry.

Consumer affairs

Mr Burke's visit to Sweden

2.1.76. The first official visit to Sweden by a Commission delegation on consumer affairs took place on 21 and 22 June. The delegation was led by Mr Burke. Discussions centred on the question of judicial and quasi-judicial means of consumer protection. The members of the delegation looked at the Swedish system which incorporates the Market Court, the Consumer Complaints Board and the Consumer Ombudsman.

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2.1.77. On 13 June⁸ Parliament adopted a Resolution on fire regulations for hotels in the European Community.

Agriculture

Measures in connection with the monetary situation

2.1.78. On 30 June⁹ the Commission adopted detailed rules for adjusting monetary compensatory amounts fixed in advance. In accordance with these rules it determined the coefficients for the optional adjustment of

¹ OJ C 112 of 20.12.1973.

² OJ C 139 of 13.6.1977.

³ OJ L 197 of 22.7.1978.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.55.

⁵ Point 2.3.84.

⁶ Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.1.49.

⁷ OJ C 10 of 12.1.1978 and Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.97.

⁸ Point 2.3.13 and OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

⁹ OJ L 178 of 1.7.1978.

monetary compensatory amounts fixed in advance for milk products.¹

Since 3 April operators have been able, in trade with non-member countries, to fix monetary compensatory amounts in advance, provided that the import levy or export refund is also fixed in advance.²

2.1.79. On 29 June³ the Commission fixed new monetary compensatory amounts for sugar and isoglucose and certain non-Annex II products to take account of the new price of sugar and the new representative rates applicable to these products from 1 July.

On 30 June³ it amended, also with effect from 1 July, the components used to calculate the differential amounts for colza and rape seed in the light of the new representative rates for these products for 1978/79.

2.1.80. Following the Council Decision⁴ to reduce the minimum buying-in price for pig carcasses from 85% to 78%, with effect from 3 July, the Commission fixed the appropriate monetary compensatory amounts on the basis of 78%.³ At the same time, to prevent distortion of competition, it aligned the method of calculation for certain products on that applicable to others and removed from the list of products subject to monetary compensatory amounts some which could be manufactured for the sole purpose of qualifying for the amounts.

Common organization of the markets

2.1.81. Among the many implementing measures which followed the Council's decisions on prices⁵ for the new marketing year, on 23 June⁶ the Commission adopted a Regulation laying down the method for determining the minimum bread-making quality

of common wheat. The conditions laid down for the last marketing year proved inadequate so an additional test will be applied with effect from 1 August.

2.1.82. On 27 June⁷ the Commission adopted a Regulation laying down rules applicable to the import levy on sugar. In order to simplify administrative procedures, the minimum margin giving rise to the automatic adjustment, between fixings, of the import levies on white sugar, raw sugar and sucrose syrups has been increased.

On 29 June⁸ the Commission also adopted a Regulation on compensation to be granted to sugar exporters. With effect from 1 July the representative rate for the German mark and for several other currencies will be changed. Where export operations are covered by licences issued in Germany, some exporters could be at a disadvantage, and they may therefore apply for cancellation of such licences. For reasons inherent in the sugar market, however, the Regulation provides that the right to cancel will not apply but that compensation will be paid.

2.1.83. On 29 June⁹ the Council formally adopted the new basic Regulation on the common organization of the market in olive oil as part of the Mediterranean policy. The main innovations are:

¹ OJ L 179 of 1.7.1978.

² Bull. EC 1-1978, point 2.1.40.

³ OJ L 178 of 1.7.1978.

⁴ OJ L 171 of 28.6.1978 and Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.71.

⁵ Bull. EC 5-1978, points 2.1.69 to 2.1.74 and OJ L 156 of 14.6.1978, L 157 of 15.6.1978, L 160 of 17.6.1978, L 165 of 22.6.1978, L 170 of 27.6.1978, L 171 of 28.6.1978 and L 185 of 7.7.1978.

⁶ OJ L 167 of 24.6.1978.

⁷ OJ L 171 of 28.6.1978.

⁸ OJ L 176 of 30.6.1978.

⁹ OJ L 185 of 7.7.1978 and Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.72.

(i) the establishment of olive producer groups: launching aid is available for these groups up to the fifth year of their existence;

(ii) production aid: for producers not belonging to a group, production aid is fixed by the Council by reference to the number, production potential and olive and oil yields of the olive trees concerned, the yields being fixed at a standard rate. The production aid has to be standardized because of the difficulty of checking the quantities of olive oil actually produced. On the other hand, since producer groups provide guarantees concerning their members, the production aid is granted on the basis of the quantities actually produced by members;

(iii) consumer aid equal to the difference between the production target price less the production aid and the representative market price. The consumer aid may be adjusted during the marketing year if market conditions so require. The Council may allocate part of the production aid to financing regional operations to improve the quality of oil production and part of the consumer aid to financing information campaigns to keep olive oil consumption in the Community at a certain level or other measures with the same object;

(iv) special provisions: to ensure that the consumer aid system is properly managed, the Regulation provides that the Member States may have it run by a joint trade body which remains responsible to them. A system of administrative penalties will exist to ensure that the obligations under the production and consumer aid systems are observed.

2.1.84. The Council Regulation of 30 May¹ amending the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables and laying down special measures to encourage the processing of certain varieties of oranges entered into force on 1 June.

Apart from certain purely technical adjustments, the amendments to the basic Regulation are as follows:

(i) a temporary improvement of the aid which may be granted to producer organizations to encourage their formation and assist their operation;

(ii) a more prominent role for producer organizations in improving the balance between supply and demand;

(iii) as regards peaches and summer pears, the introduction of a swifter procedure for declaring a serious crisis—thereby giving rise to buying-in by the Member States—by raising the price level at which a crisis may

be recorded and reducing the period of market observation;

(iv) the replacement, for fixing reference prices, of the factor 'trend in the basic and buying-in prices' by 'trend in production costs in the fruit and vegetable sector';

(v) the abolition, in fixing any countervailing charges, of the system of the single average charge in respect of a number of exporting countries; instead each exporting country is treated separately.

To encourage the processing of certain varieties of oranges a technical adjustment has been made to the method of calculating the financial compensation to be granted to processors.

2.1.85. Under another Regulation which entered into force on 1 June¹ the Council amended the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables to establish, with effect from 1 July, a system of aid for the production of tomato concentrates, peeled tomatoes, tomato juice, peaches in syrup and prunes.

The system is based on contracts between producers and processors providing for payment of a minimum price to producers. On 30 June the Commission laid down rules for the application of the system of aid and adopted the Regulation fixing the amount of the aid and the minimum price to be paid to producers in 1978/79.

Following excessive applications for import licences, the exemption from the protective measures granted on 5 June to imports of cultivated mushrooms from Taiwan was withdrawn on 29 June.²

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¹ OJ L 144 of 31.5.1978.

² Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.75 and OJ L 150 of 6.6.1978, L 158 of 16.6.1978 and L 171 of 28.6.1978.

2.1.86. At its meeting on 20 and 21 June the Economic and Social Committee¹ delivered its Opinion on a set of Commission proposals for improving the balance on the Community market in wine.²

2.1.87. As regards milk and milk products, the Commission forwarded proposals to the Council in December 1977³ to deal with the question of Milk Marketing Boards in the United Kingdom. The compatibility of the relevant UK provisions with Community rules appeared doubtful, particularly as regards the exclusive purchasing rights of these organizations and their authority to effect price equalization (pooling). However, in drawing up its proposals, the Commission bore in mind that the Milk Marketing Boards' operations have helped to channel the majority of the milk produced in the United Kingdom towards human consumption as drinking milk.

During the discussions in the Council many reservations were expressed concerning the basic aims of the proposals, their applicability in the Member States other than the United Kingdom and the non-interference with the free movement of goods. The Commission therefore amended its initial proposals.

The Milk Marketing Board system will be restricted to those Member States which apply for permission to have such a system and in which the quantity of milk marketed as fresh milk or fresh milk products:

- (i) is, in relation to the milk produced in the Member State in question, at least 150% above the Community average, and
- (ii) represents a *per capita* consumption which is higher than the *per capita* consumption for the Community as a whole.

The amended general rules include:

- (i) fairly detailed provisions concerning the voting procedure; 80% of the producers involved in an organization must together account for at least 50% of production capacity in the area concerned;

- (ii) certain specific conditions which will require the United Kingdom to abolish some of the boards' privileges in order to obtain Community approval;

- (iii) new and detailed provisions to prevent the pooling system used by the boards from adversely affecting competition on the UK market between domestic products and milk products imported from other Member States.

After Parliament endorsed the amended proposals on 16 June,⁴ the Council formally adopted on 20 June⁵ the Regulations amending the common organization of the market in milk and milk products as regards the grant of certain special rights to Milk Marketing Boards in the United Kingdom.

On 13 June⁶ the Commission adopted measures to improve the quality of milk within the Community (quality control, testing of machinery, counselling of producers, etc.). On 23 June⁷ it also adopted rules for the application of the system of premiums for the non-marketing of milk and milk products and for the conversion of dairy herds.

2.1.88. In June the Commission applied for the first time the less strict rules for the admission of beef and veal to intervention, formally adopted by the Council on 12 May.⁸ Under these provisions it decided⁹ to suspend temporarily intervention buying-in of certain meat in Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, after noting that the market prices were satisfactory for the qualities concerned. The measure which applied with ef-

¹ Point 2.3.84.

² OJ C 71 of 22.3.1978 and Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.1.39.

³ Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.107.

⁴ Point 2.3.20 and OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

⁵ OJ L 171 of 28.6.1978.

⁶ OJ L 156 of 14.6.1978.

⁷ OJ L 167 of 24.6.1978.

⁸ OJ L 130 of 18.5.1978 and Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.72.

⁹ OJ L 154 of 10.6.1978, L 167 of 24.6.1978 and L 176 of 30.6.1978.

fect from 12 June was later amended in respect of the United Kingdom.

2.1.89. In June prices of pig carcasses dropped again throughout the Community, bringing the average to 102 u.a./100 kg (85% of the basic price).

The cause of this critical situation was the abundant supply of pigmeat, most of it of Community origin but some from outside the Community. The situation may be regarded as serious since the downward price trend for meat has been reflected since mid-May in the price of piglets, indicating that fatstock farmers are pessimistic about the economic outlook.

The Commission therefore adopted the following measures:¹

- (i) increase in export refunds with effect from 19 June (fresh meat) and 3 July (processed products);
- (ii) reintroduction or extension of certain additional amounts with effect from 18 or 26 June;
- (ii) reintroduction of private storage aid for pigmeat, with effect from 19 June for certain cuts of fresh meat.

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On 16 June Parliament² delivered its Opinion on the Commission proposal amending the common organization of the market in pigmeat.³

Structural policy

2.1.90. On 19 June the Council formally adopted,⁴ under the Mediterranean policy, the Regulation on the programme for the acceleration and qualitative guidance of collective irrigation works in the Mezzogiorno and

the Directive on the programme for the acceleration and conversion of wine-growing in certain Mediterranean regions of France. It also adopted the Directive on the programme for the acceleration of drainage operations in the less-favoured areas of the west of Ireland.

2.1.91. In June the Commission delivered four opinions regarding the implementation of the reform of agricultural structures in Italy and Germany.

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

Guarantee Section

2.1.92. On 6 June⁵ the Council adopted the Financial Regulation concerning the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund for the 1967/68 to 1970 accounting periods. Under the Regulation the aid measures adopted by the Commission on 20 December 1977 relating to the four accounting periods concerned are to be jointly implemented and the accounts relating thereto cleared in a single operation.

The Commission's aid decisions account for a total of about 7 000 million u.a., but after the preliminary and other provisional payments already made, the balance is only about 47 million u.a., as Table 3 shows.

¹ OJ L 156 of 14.6.1978, L 157 of 15.6.1978, L 166 of 23.6.1978, L 167 of 24.6.1978 and L 176 of 30.6.1978.

² OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

³ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.71.

⁴ OJ L 166 of 23.6.1978 and Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.73.

⁵ OJ L 160 of 17.6.1978.

Table 3 — *EAGGF Guarantee Section aid, 1967/68 to 1970*

(thousand u.a)

	Aid decisions by the Commission (1967/68 to 1970)	Balance	
		Debit balance	Credit balance
Belgium	490 697	3 434	—
FR Germany	1 530 139	2 439	—
France	2 416 453	—	29 701
Italy	1 408 491	39 996	—
Luxembourg	4 282	1 016	—
Netherlands	1 156 070	—	17 184
Total	7 006 132	46 885	46 885

Once these old accounts have been closed, the Commission will be able to concentrate on checking more recent periods.

Aid totalling 30 906 456 EUC² was approved for 138 individual projects, as shown in Table 4.

Guidance Section

2.1.93. Under the Council Regulation of 15 February 1977¹ on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed, on 30 June the Commission took a series of decisions granting aid from the EAGGF Guidance Section under the first 1978 instalment.

This accounts for about 38.6% of the total aid available (80 million EUC) in the 1978 budget to finance projects for the development or rationalization of undertakings engaged in the treatment, processing or marketing of agricultural products.

¹ OJ L 51 of 23.2.1977.

² The value of the EUC has been calculated by reference to the rate obtaining on 1 April 1978. The amounts are given in EUC as a guide.

Table 4 — *EAGGF Guidance Section aid*

	Number of projects	Aid in national currency	Aid in EUC
FR Germany	38	DM 21 397 666	8 417 219
Belgium	11	BFR 44 164 883	1 113 021
Denmark	6	DKR 5 891 208	842 041
France	19	FF 54 131 880	9 391 227
Ireland	15	IRL 2 638 700	3 893 697
Italy	3	LIT 825 666 828	764 690
Luxembourg	—	—	—
Netherlands	7	HFL 4 172 085	1 533 438
United Kingdom	39	UKL 3 355 302	4 951 123
	138		30 906 456

The fruit and vegetable sector (and in particular potatoes) received the largest share of the Fund aid, with 44 projects financed, totalling 9 821 332 EUC (31.8%), followed by the meat sector (29.6%) and the milk and milk products sector.

Italy was unable to submit applications before 1 January 1978 because of the administrative reorganization. The Commission will therefore take a first series of decisions granting aid for the Italian projects from the EAGGF Guidance Section in July under the second 1978 instalment.

Conditions of competition

2.1.94. In pursuance of the Mediterranean policy, on 19 June¹ the Council amended its Regulation of 15 February 1977 on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed.

The main purpose of the amendment is to overcome the serious obstacles encountered in the Mezzogiorno regions—mainly on account of the slow economic development in general and of financing difficulties—in implementing viable economic measures relating to the processing and marketing of agricultural products. It should also facilitate the reorganization and conversion of agriculture required in certain regions of France.

The amended Regulation provides that more aid than envisaged in the initial text should be granted for projects in the Mezzogiorno and Languedoc-Roussillon and for wine projects in the departments of Vaucluse, Bouches du Rhône, Var, Drôme and Ardèche.

It is in particular specified that:

(i) the recipient's contribution must be at least 25% (instead of 50%) in the case of

projects in the Mezzogiorno and at least 35% in the case of projects in France;

(ii) the EAGGF's contribution may not exceed 50% (instead of 25%) for projects in the Mezzogiorno or 35% for projects in France.

The additional expenditure arising from this Regulation is put at 210 million u.a. over five years.

2.1.95. On 19 June¹ the Council formally adopted a Regulation on producer groups and associations thereof, on the basis of the fourth proposal forwarded by the Commission.² The Commission's first proposal dates back to 1967³ and was first amended in 1970⁴ and for a second time in 1971.⁵

The Regulation adopted by the Council aims to improve the conditions of supply of agricultural products in regions experiencing severe structural deficiencies. This applies mainly to Italy but also to certain regions of France (the Mediterranean regions and the overseas departments) and Belgium.

Whereas the Regulation applies to Italy for most agricultural products, it covers only wine, plants used in perfumery and lavender and table olives in the Mediterranean regions of France, tropical fruit and beef and veal in the French overseas departments and cereals, live cattle, piglets and lucerne in Belgium.

It may be decided at a later date to apply the Regulation to other regions of the Community and to include other sectors.

¹ OJ L 166 of 23.6.1978 and Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.73.

² OJ C 146 of 22.6.1977 and Bull. EC 5-1977, point 2.1.48.

³ OJ 51 of 20.3.1967.

⁴ OJ C 70 of 12.6.1970.

⁵ OJ C 75 of 26.7.1971.

In the regions covered, the structure of supply of agricultural products is to be improved by promoting the establishment of producer groups and associations of such groups with the appropriate production and marketing discipline and offering sufficient guarantees as to their stability and effectiveness of their action. Aid is granted for three years, at the following maximum rates for the first, second and third year respectively:

- (i) groups: 3, 2 and 1% of the value of production marketed, not exceeding 60, 40 and 20% of the actual costs of setting up and operating the groups;
- (ii) associations: 60, 40 and 20% of the actual costs of establishing and operating them; the total amount may not, however, exceed 50 000 u.a.

The aid is eligible for a 25% contribution from the EAGGF. The rate of aid and the EAGGF contribution may be increased in regions with particular difficulties. EAGGF expenditure under this measure is put at 24 million u.a. over five years.

2.1.96. Acting under Articles 92 to 94 of the EEC Treaty, the Commission decided to terminate the procedure of Article 93(2) initiated on 24 January¹ against a draft law of the Italian region of Basilicata relating to aid for the equipment of greenhouses so that flower and fruit crops can be grown in a protected environment.

It also decided not to comment on a draft law of the Italian region of Molise providing for aid to encourage cooperation, and in particular aid for the installation and modernization of structures and equipment to improve agricultural and livestock production and forestry, together with advisory, information and publicity programmes to promote the marketing of crop and livestock products.

The Commission has made no comments under Article 93(3) of the Treaty in respect of the following measures:

- (i) *Germany*: repayment of excise duties on light fuel oil used in horticulture under glass;
- (ii) *Baden-Württemberg*: amendment to existing measures under a regional programme of the Land on the transfer or construction of farm buildings and aid to encourage the building of rural dwellings in less-favoured areas;
- (iii) *Lower Saxony*: aid for the conservation of land released as a result of reparacling ensuring that the area is used for recreational purposes in the public interest;
- (iv) *Friuli-Venezia Giulia*: standards for restoring the productivity of farms affected by the earthquake in May 1976 and refinancing of two regional laws providing measures of assistance for cooperatives and trade associations of independent growers;
- (v) *Sardinia*: an amendment to the law on the Regional Solidarity Fund and other measures to assist farms hit by natural disasters;
- (vi) *Venezia*: measures to assist stockfarming, irrigation and drainage and an amendment to the regional law on land improvement and irrigation measures, continued financing of certain provisions laid down by four regional laws on operating credits covered by agricultural plans 1 and 2 in force in Italy since 1928;
- (vii) *Umbria*: continued financing of agricultural credit measures;
- (viii) *United Kingdom*: aid for forestry in Northern Ireland.

Fisheries

Conservation and management of resources

2.1.97. The Council failed again—at its meeting on 20 and 21 June—to reach agreement on the overall fisheries policy. It therefore merely extended until 31 July the

¹ Bull. EC 1-1978, point 2.1.50.

interim measures governing relations with certain non-member countries.

Internal aspects

2.1.98. On 16 June¹ the Commission presented a proposal to the Council defining for 1978 measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources by the establishment of catch quotas for herring stocks. When the Council postponed a decision on the matter until its next meeting, planned for 24 and 25 July, the United Kingdom announced that it might be forced to take unilateral national measures before that date.²

Nor was any progress made towards either the definition of an internal fisheries policy or the allocation of catch quotas for 1978. The United Kingdom delegation and the eight other delegations stuck to the positions adopted in January 1978 with regard to the Commission proposals.³

External aspects

2.1.99. The regulations on the allocation among the Member States of catch quotas in the waters of Norway, Sweden, and the Faeroe Islands and on fishing in Community waters by vessels registered in these three non-member countries were not adopted. The Council therefore decided to extend the existing arrangements until 31 July 1978.

Italy was authorized to maintain its bilateral agreement with Yugoslavia until 31 December 1978. The Community will continue to cover the resulting expenditure.

Markets and structures

Structural policy

2.1.100. On 12 June the Commission transmitted two amended proposals to the Council, one for immediate measures for adjustment in the fishing industry and one for restructuring the inshore fishing industry.⁴

The main aim of the amendments to the first proposal is to extend the original number of beneficiaries;⁵ the second proposal is updated to take account of changes in circumstances since it was originally tabled⁶ and harmonized with a number of other proposals currently in the Council pipeline.

As regards inshore fishing, the proposal for a common interim measure laid before the Council on 20 April⁷ is still being discussed.

2.1.101. As regards State aids, the Commission decided on 23 June that it would not oppose three Danish measures concerning:

- (i) the fish processing industry (human consumption);
- (ii) experimental fishing;
- (iii) the establishment of a fisheries advisory service.

2.1.102. On 15 June Parliament⁸ passed a Resolution on the legal basis and procedures for certain legal aspects relating to the Community's fisheries policy. It also gave an Opinion on a Commission proposal for financial participation by the Community in in-

¹ OJ C 160 of 6.7.1978.

² This has since happened.

³ Bull. EC 1-1978, point 2.1.53.

⁴ OJ C 148 of 23.6.1978.

⁵ OJ C 278 of 18.11.1977 and Bull. EC 10-1977, point 1.6.5.

⁶ OJ C 6 of 10.1.1976.

⁷ OJ C 145 of 20.6.1978.

⁸ Point 2.3.7 and OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

speciation and surveillance operations in Danish and Irish waters.¹

Transport policy

Transport problems examined by the Council

2.1.103. The Council meeting in Luxembourg on 12 June, chaired by Mr Olesen, the Danish Minister of Transport and current President of the Council, approved eleven of the seventeen items on its agenda.

Monitoring of the markets for the carriage of goods

2.1.104. In the context of the operation of the transport market, the Council noted the Commission's intention of monitoring the markets for the carriage of goods by rail, road and inland waterway on a trial basis for three years. The aim is to provide up-to-the-minute information on the transport market and market trends. This information will be useful to transport operators and public authorities when they take decisions.

Rail transport

2.1.105. The Council adopted a Regulation laying down uniform costing principles for railway undertakings. For an initial period and in order to improve the use of capacity, the Regulation lays down certain principles for costing whole-train traffic between Member States. The Council also accepted the conclusions of two reports, on combined road/rail carriage and on cooperation among railway undertakings. These three matters

are extremely important for improving the situation of railway undertakings.

Road transport

2.1.106. The Council agreed in principle on the first Directive on the adjustment of national taxation systems for commercial road vehicles. Final approval by the Council, deferred until the meeting scheduled for November, will depend on acknowledgement by the Italian and Dutch Delegations of the progress accomplished on the weights and dimensions of commercial vehicles and on the liberalization of road transport between Member States.

The Council was unable, however, to approve the Commission's proposal to increase from 50 to 100 litres the amount of fuel admitted duty-free in the fuel tanks of commercial motor vehicles, but kept the item on its agenda.

In connection with the introduction of a road tax on goods transport in Austria, the Council adopted a statement to the effect that it regretted this new development and emphasized the need for the Member States and the Community to adopt a concerted policy with a view to finding appropriate solutions to the problems arising.

The Council was not able to reach agreement on certain adjustments to the Regulation on social legislation relating to road transport, in particular the questions of the definition of the week and rest periods for drivers. It was decided to examine these matters in the second stage of the amendment of social legislation in this field.

The Council also adopted, without debate, the Directive on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by road, as part of re-

¹ Bull. EC 10-1977, points 1.6.1 and 1.6.5.

gional statistics,¹ and amendments to the Council Regulation of 28 February 1972 on the introduction of common rules for regular and special regular services by coach and bus between Member States,² designed to simplify in some respects the procedure for regular services by bus between Member States. Lastly, the Commission informed the Council that it would be calling a meeting of senior national officials to discuss measures in respect of road transport between eastern and western Europe.

Additional Protocol to the Mannheim Convention

2.1.107. The Council discussed the proposal for a Decision on the adoption by certain Member States of an additional protocol to the revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine and the accession of the Community to that Convention. It agreed to continue work on these matters, particularly the problem of the charging of infrastructure costs, with a view to taking a decision at its next meeting.

Sea transport

2.1.108. With regard to safety at sea, the Council approved a Recommendation on the ratification by the Member States of the Solas and Marpol Conventions and their protocols and ILO Convention No 147,³ this Recommendation was officially adopted on 26 June.⁴

It also adopted a declaration on the need to reinforce international measures for the prevention of sea pollution by ships and to ensure the safety of ships and the qualification of their crews.

The Council agreed on a Decision concerning the activities of certain non-member

countries. The decision requires all Member States to set up a system for gathering information on the activities of the fleets of countries whose practices are detrimental to the maritime interests of Member States, in particular where such activities undermine the competitive position of Member States' fleets engaged in international maritime trade.

The Council took note of a progress report on the accession of the Community to the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences, and agreed to continue its work with a view to taking a decision at its next meeting.

Air transport

2.1.109. The Council agreed on a list of air transport questions to be given priority consideration. It instructed the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue work on these matters and asked the Commission to study in greater detail matters relating to the application of the general rules of the EEC Treaty to air transport.

Summer time

2.1.110. The Council decided to continue its study of this matter and in any case to take it up again in time to arrive at a decision before 1 April 1979.

¹ OJ L 168 of 26.6.1978.

² OJ L 158 of 16.6.1978.

³ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.97.

⁴ OJ L 194 of 19.7.1978.

Inland transport

Operation of the market

Transport rates and conditions

2.1.111. At its meeting of 8 June 1978, the Road Haulage Tariff Committee—set up by the Council Regulation of 12 December 1977¹ on the fixing of rates for the carriage of goods by road between Member States—approved a draft prepared by Commission staff on the general rules of application for reference tariffs. Under this regulation, the Commission is to make a recommendation on the matter before 1 July 1978.

On 12 June the Commission adopted a decision² settling the dispute between the Federal Republic of Germany, on the one hand, and Belgium and the Netherlands, on the other, over the fixing of the level of the compulsory tariffs to be applied to the carriage of goods by road between these Member States. This decision provides for a 15% increase in these tariffs and will be enforceable one month after its publication in the Official Journal, unless a Member State brings up the matter in the Council before them.

Harmonization of structures

Social conditions

2.1.112. On 23 June the Commission issued an Opinion under the Council Regulation of 25 March 1969 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport,³ concerning draft rules in the United Kingdom to clarify the legal position as to the working conditions of lorry crews.

2.1.113. On 30 June, at the British Government's request, the Commission issued an

Opinion and a Decision authorizing a derogation from the Regulations of 25 March 1969 and 20 July 1970.⁴

Infrastructure

Infrastructure investment

2.1.114. The Committee on Transport Infrastructures, set up and attached to the Commission by the Council Decision of 20 February 1978,⁵ held its first meeting on 22 June. The meeting was devoted mainly to the organization of its future business.

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2.1.115. Several Opinions on transport were delivered in June. On 16 June Parliament⁶ gave its Opinion on a Commission proposal on common rules for the normalization of the accounts of railway undertakings.⁷ Parliament⁸ and the Economic and Social Committee also delivered their Opinions on the proposal for a Directive concerning the ratification of conventions on safety in shipping.⁹

¹ OJ L 334 of 24.12.1977.

² OJ L 188 of 11.7.1978.

³ OJ L 77 of 29.3.1969.

⁴ OJ L 164 of 27.7.1970.

⁵ OJ L 54 of 25.2.1978 and Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.1.68.

⁶ Point 2.3.22 and OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

⁷ OJ C 307 of 21.12.1977 and Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.156.

⁸ OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

⁹ OJ C 135 of 9.6.1978 and Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.97.

Energy policy

Devising and implementing a Community energy policy

Energy savings

2.1.116. On 12 June the Council formally adopted the Regulation on the granting of financial support for demonstration projects in the field of energy-saving,¹ the text of which it had approved at the meeting of 30 May.²

Under the Regulation the Commission then published an invitation to tender in the Official Journal,³ calling on interested persons, institutions or organizations to submit proposals for demonstration projects that might qualify for Community finance.

Alternative energy sources

2.1.117. The Regulation on the granting of financial support for projects to exploit alternative energy sources¹ (particularly geothermal sites, liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels, solar energy, and wave, tidal and wind energy), approved in principle by the Council on 30 May,² was also formally adopted on 12 June.

Sectoral problems

Coal

2.1.118. The ECSC Consultative Committee⁴ met in Luxembourg on 9 June and adopted a Resolution on Community coal policy.⁵

Research and development, science and education

A world 'première' in hydrogen production by thermal means

2.1.119. The Ispra Establishment of the Joint Research Centre in Italy has just inaugurated the start-up of the first experimental plant, of considerable size (100 litres per hour), for continuous production of hydrogen obtained by a thermochemical process.

This process is aimed at the direct use of a heat source such as nuclear or solar energy for the dissociation of water into its elementary atoms: hydrogen and oxygen. At present, industrial plants for the production of hydrogen are based on the dissociation of water by electrolysis. The Ispra experimental facility will use a hybrid cycle developed by this laboratory and patented under the trade-name 'Mark-13', involving sulphur trioxide and bromine, two-thirds of the energy used consisting of heat at 800°C. This particular cycle was selected from many potentially applicable alternatives on the basis of technical and economic studies and laboratory tests carried out at Ispra; the test circuit is designed to demonstrate the viability of the process chosen.

This work is being carried out under the JRC multiannual (1977-80) programme; it forms an integral part of the programme of research on the thermochemical production of hydrogen being performed under the auspices of the OECD International Energy Agency, under which the Commission has been

¹ OJ L 158 of 16.6.1978.

² Bull. EC 5-1978, points 2.1.101 and 2.1.102.

³ OJ C 158 of 4.7.1978.

⁴ Point 2.3.86.

⁵ OJ C 155 of 1.7.1978.

assigned the task of operating agent (coordination of the activities of the research workers).

Proposal for a revised environmental research programme

2.1.120. On 29 June the Commission presented to the Council a proposal for a revision, for 1979 and 1980, of the multiannual (1976-80) environmental research programme (indirect action).¹ This proposal does not amend the principal points of the multiannual programme but redefines the guidelines and objectives of certain topics. It was drafted with the help of the relevant Advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM).² It provides for the main effort to be made in respect of the following four topics:

- (i) Research designed to establish criteria, i.e., exposure-effect ratios, for pollutants and chemical substances in the environment;
- (ii) Research and development (R & D) on environmental information management, and more particularly on chemicals (ECDIN project);
- (iii) R & D on the reduction and prevention of pollution and nuisances, including the application of 'clean' technologies;
- (iv) R & D on the protection and improvement of the natural environment.

The Commission has proposed that the upper limit of expenditure to be borne by the Community be raised to 20.8 million EUC; originally it had been fixed at 16 million EUC for the period 1976-80.

Science, Research and Development

Evaluation of research and development

2.1.121. A seminar organized by the Commission on the evaluation of research and

development was held in Copenhagen between 29 June and 1 July. Evaluation is a process which continues during and after programmes and research projects; it is an essential element which ensures in particular a better approach to the work in progress and to any follow-up. The Commission pointed out in its Communication of 30 June 1977 on the common policy for science and technology³ that it had always had this in mind when Community R & D programmes, whether of the direct, indirect or concerted-action type, were being performed.

It was in order to examine in detail the procedures used at national and Community level for the evaluation of research programmes, and to draw up recommendations applicable to Community programmes (a concern shown not only by the Commission but also by the European Parliament and the Member States), that the Commission organized the Copenhagen seminar, which brought together some sixty experts from the European Parliament, national ministries for research or industry, research bodies, and various sectors of industry. The discussions during the three days in question served to demonstrate the validity of the evaluation procedures so far used by the Commission and resulted in a number of suggestions for the improvement of routine methodologies.

The Commission intends to implement these suggestions as soon as possible in certain pilot projects chosen from the Community action programmes in progress; in a year or two, it will hold a further symposium which will examine the results thus obtained and consider the possibility of applying such methods and procedures to other Community programmes.

¹ OJ L 74 of 20.3.1976.

² Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.1.104.

³ Supplement 3/77 — Bull. EC.

Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST)

2.1.122. CREST met on 23 June and discussed the proposal for a revision (on which a decision should be taken in 1979) of the multiannual (1976-80) environmental research programme (indirect action).¹ The responsible ACPM had delivered a favourable opinion on this proposal.²

CREST has also instructed its Subcommittee on R & D Statistics to analyse periodically the R & D potential in the Member States (expenditure on R & D and staff in all sectors of the economy working in R & D areas), and also to analyse, by individual objectives, R & D public financing. These analyses should enable CREST to have at all times an overall view of the main guidelines for the Member States' scientific policies. CREST has likewise instructed its Subcommittee on R & D—Raw Materials to make its contribution to the preparation and execution of the Community research programmes in this sector.

Fast Reactor Coordinating Committee

2.1.123. At its meeting on 7 June the Fast Reactor Coordinating Committee devoted most of its time to a discussion of the two specific recommendations for Community projects presented by the Commission to the Council on 2 August 1977³ concerning fast breeder reactors. These are to study structures enabling the Community to contribute to the financing of demonstration projects and possibly to launch a Community research programme on fast reactor safety and on the relevant codes and standards. The Committee agreed on measures to assist the Commission in the preparation of proposals concerning these two points.

Multiannual programmes

JET Council

2.1.124. The JET Council, the executive body at the highest level of the JET Joint Undertaking—which was established by Council Decision of 30 May 1978,⁴ met for the first time on 13 June at the Culham laboratory in the United Kingdom, where the project will be carried out. The JET Council appointed as its Chairman Mr Teillac, Haut Commissaire français à l'énergie atomique, who, up to 19 April 1978,⁵ had been the Chairman of the Interim JET Council. Several decisions previously taken by the above-mentioned body have been confirmed by the JET Council, and in particular:

(i) the appointment of the persons to the following posts for the purposes of the Project:⁶ Mr R. Toschi as Chairman of the Executive Committee (which takes over the tasks previously assigned to the Management Committee); Mr H.O. Wüster as Project Director; and Mr P.H. Rebut as Deputy Director in charge of the construction of the installation;

(ii) the following procedures concerning the functioning of the Joint Undertaking:⁵ its financial regulations, the convention governing its relations with the host country, the JET Project staff regulations, and the internal management structure for the JET team.

The JET Council has also appointed Mr G.W. O'Hara to the post of Associated Director in charge of Administration, and taken the preliminary measures to implement the

¹ Point 2.1.120.

² Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.1.104.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 1.3.4.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.109.

⁵ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.1.103.

⁶ Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.181.

project in the budgetary and recruitment fields.

Environmental impact of plutonium recycling

2.1.125. On 22 June a meeting sponsored by the Commission was held on the study of the environmental impact of plutonium recycling in light-water reactors. This meeting was attended by some experts from firms and organizations with which the Commission has signed research contracts on this specific topic, as part of the programme (indirect action) of research on plutonium recycling in light-water reactors; several members of the relevant ACPM also took part in the meeting, which is a follow-up to the one on the same topic held in October 1977.¹

The experts reviewed the work carried out in respect of some fifteen contracts on the following subjects: plutonium toxicity; environmental impact of various industrial operations involved in the fuel cycle; and research aimed at minimizing this impact in certain industrial operations. Exchanges and discussion of results made it possible to improve the guidelines for the work to be carried out during the second quarter of 1978. A comprehensive report is to be published on the environmental impact of plutonium recycling up to the year 2000.

Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPMs)

2.1.126. At its meeting on 6 and 7 June the ACPM responsible for the radiation-protection research programme (indirect action) delivered a favourable opinion on the inclusion in the current contracts or in further contracts of 35 new research projects, thus raising to 275 the total number of projects car-

ried out under the 1976-80 multiannual programme.

In addition, the ACPM had a preliminary discussion on the forthcoming multiannual programme which will follow on from the present programme on 1 January 1981. The ACPM expressed the wish that the proposal for a new programme to be presented to the Council be adopted by the latter before the end of 1979, so that the present programme can go further ahead in 1981 without break in continuity.

2.1.127. The ACPM responsible for the environment and resources research programme (direct action) and for the environmental research programme (indirect action) held a meeting on 7 June. The Committee took formal note of the Council Decision of 17 April 1978 adopting a multiannual research programme (1978-80) in the field of paper and board recycling (indirect action)² and making the ACPM responsible for this additional task. The work of the Committee was basically concerned with discussion of the proposal for a revision,³ for 1979-80, of the multiannual (1976-80) environmental research programme (indirect action).

2.1.128. The ACPM for management and storage of radioactive waste (direct and indirect action), meeting on 13 and 14 June, covered two main points: cooperation with the US Department of Energy and guidelines for the preparation of the five-year indirect-action programme which will follow on from the current programme on 1 January 1980.

2.1.129. The ACPM for plutonium recycling in light-water reactors, meeting on 23 June, examined the work carried out under the relevant indirect-action programme,

¹ Bull. EC 10-1977, point 2.1.93.

² OJ L 107 of 21.4.1978.

³ Point 2.1.120.

and particularly that on the environmental impact of plutonium recycling, which had been the subject of a special symposium the day before.¹ The Committee delivered a favourable opinion on the preparation under contract of comprehensive reports on the work carried out under the 1975-79 programme, and devoted the remainder of the meeting to drawing up the indirect-action programme which will follow on from this one.

2.1.130. The ACPM for supervision of fissile materials, which is responsible for this aspect of the multiannual (1977-80) programme (direct action), held a meeting on 20 and 21 June, and delivered a favourable opinion on the work carried out at the Ispra JRC Establishment, and in particular on the non-destructive tests for analysis of fissile materials and the evaluation of statistical errors in the analysis of fissile materials. The inspection techniques developed at the JRC are used to implement Euratom safeguards.

2.1.131. The ACPM for high-temperature materials, which is responsible for this topic in the multiannual (1977-80) programme (direct action), held a meeting on 28 and 29 June. After delivering a favourable opinion on the work undertaken at the Petten JRC Establishment, the Committee spent most of its time discussing two special projects to be carried out under the multiannual programme: the construction of an experimental plant for high-temperature components and the setting-up of a data bank for high-temperature materials. Detailed specifications on this subject will be drawn up by the JRC on the basis of feasibility studies which have been carried out under contract. The Committee also noted with satisfaction the decision taken by the JRC to participate in the COST 50 project concerning the study of materials for gas turbines.

Education

Study of the Community in schools and teaching of foreign languages

2.1.132. In June the Commission presented to the Council two important communications² containing proposals for action programmes which will be discussed in November 1978 by the Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council. These communications are on the study of the Community in schools and modern-language teaching.

Education Committee

2.1.133. The Education Committee met on 6 and 7 June and also on 29 and 30 June. In order to prepare for the November meeting of the Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council, it examined two communications² presented by the Commission to the Council on the study of the Community in schools and modern-language teaching.

Information network on education

2.1.134. The first meeting of the national information services' high-level officials responsible for the setting-up of the Community information network on education³ was held on 6 and 7 June. After reviewing the various tasks to be carried out, the group approved preliminary measures to be applied so that the Community network, provided for in the action programme on education of

¹ Point 2.1.125.

² Points 1.4.1 to 1.4.3.

³ Bull. EC 1-1978, point 2.1.69.

9 February 1976,¹ could become operational as from 1979.

In particular, a list—as yet non-existent—will need to be made of the possibilities and practical methods of cooperation which the public services can offer in this field.

Education of migrant workers' children

2.1.135. A meeting organized by the Commission—bringing together some sixty experts—was held at Hasselt, Belgium from 20 to 22 June for the purpose of examining a Community pilot project on methods of improving reception facilities for migrant workers' children aged between five and seven.

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2.1.136. On 16 June² Parliament passed a Resolution on the training of adult resident students, which forms part of the European Community policy on education.

Scientific and technical information and information management

Industrial property

2.1.137. At a meeting in Luxembourg arranged by the Commission and held on 16 June, specialists from the nine Member States came together to discuss ways and means of improving information on supply and demand for technologies protected by licences in the Community. The talks revealed that these questions need to be studied in greater depth, and that in the first instance a survey should be made of the available information services concerning supply and demand, and of the agents and the services they provide.

¹ OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976.

² Point 2.3.14 and OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

2. External relations

Political cooperation

Enlargement

Accession negotiations : Greece

2.2.1. The fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the accession negotiations were held in Brussels on 12 and 23 June at Deputy (Ambassadors) level.

Discussions at the fifteenth session centred on external relations—for industrial products—and Greece's membership of the ECSC.

At the sixteenth session discussion of these two points was continued and problems relating to capital movements and Euratom were also taken up.

2.2.2. The seventh session of negotiations at ministerial level took place in Luxembourg on 26 June.

The Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee gave an account of the work done at Deputy level since the previous ministerial session¹ and agreement was reached in the fields of capital movements and Euratom on all matters of substance and procedure (subject to agreement on the duration of transitional measures). A great deal of progress was also made in ECSC matters.

2.2.3. In June the Commission approved two Communications to the Council setting out formal proposals in agriculture (21 June) and on economic and financial matters (28 June). These were the sixth and seventh in a series of proposals for common positions submitted by the Commission to the Council this year.

2.2.4. The Commission and Greek delegations continued the examination of Community secondary legislation covering the fields

of statistics, data processing and rules of origin.

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2.2.5. At its meeting on 20 and 21 June the Economic and Social Committee² adopted its Study on relations between the Community and Greece.

Portugal

2.2.6. At its meeting on 6 June³ the Council endorsed Portugal's application for membership. It agreed that preparatory talks for the opening of negotiations should take place as soon as possible in a positive spirit.

Political cooperation

Ministerial meeting

2.2.7. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States met in Copenhagen on 12 June with Mr Andersen, the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the chair. The Commission was represented by Mr Natali and Mr Cheysson.

The discussions concentrated on the following subjects: the future of European political cooperation given the prospect of the accession of new Member States; relations between Turkey and the Member States of the Community in the context of enlargement; South Africa; United Nations.

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¹ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.2.2.

² Point 2.3.83.

³ Bull. EC 5-1978, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.6.



2.2.8. At its part-session from 12 to 16 June Parliament passed three Resolutions dealing with violations of human rights in Argentina, European cooperation in the field of armaments supplies and the political situation in Africa.¹

Multilateral trade negotiations

Ministerial-level talks

2.2.9. Following their meeting in Geneva on 9 and 10 April,² Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, Mr Strauss, the United States President's Special Representative for Trade Negotiations and Mr Ushiba, the Japanese Minister of State for International Economic Relations, met again in Washington on 19 and 20 June to discuss the current round of GATT multilateral trade negotiations.

The Washington meeting, which consisted of bilateral meetings as well as the trilateral meeting, and finally a meeting in which Canada also participated, did not provide an occasion for negotiations on substantive questions still outstanding.

It did, however, serve to reaffirm the political commitment to achieving an outline package by mid-July. To this end an accelerated work programme was drawn up which sets dates for meetings in the non-tariff field and agricultural sectors with the aim of resolving outstanding issues before the Western Economic Summit on 16 and 17 July.

Community position

2.2.10. In preparation for the opening of the decisive phase of the multilateral trade



negotiations, the Community institutions prepared a summary of the past months' work and a broad definition of the guidelines to be followed during the final phase of the negotiations.

On 16 June the Commission sent a Communication to the Council proposing various guidelines and decisions concerning the main negotiating sectors.

The Council discussed the subject three times in the course of the month. In the terms of the statement issued after the meeting on 6 June the Council 'confirmed the importance it attaches to a substantive and balanced final outcome of the negotiations, comprising satisfactory solutions in the various sectors covered. During the discussion, delegations took positions on the various aspects of the negotiations and the Council took note of work in progress on a complementary conditional list of withdrawals which was to be finalized swiftly and the use of which would depend on general progress in the negotiations.'

At its meeting on 19 and 20 June the Council reviewed the progress of the negotiations, with particular regard to the agricultural aspects.

The following statement was issued after the meeting:

'Various delegations stressed in their speeches the importance they attached to these negotiations, which they said should be conducted with due regard for the principles of the common agricultural policy, and hoped that they would result in balanced solutions.'

On 27 June the Council, on the basis of the Communication sent by the Commission on

¹ Points 2.3.5, 2.3.6, 2.3.17 and OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

² Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.2.10.

16 June, worked out the guidelines for the decisive phase of the negotiations.

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2.2.11. On 16 June Parliament¹ passed a Resolution on the GATT multilateral trade negotiations.

Non-tariff measures

2.2.12. The Subgroup on Customs Matters met on 22 June for further discussions on the draft code on customs valuations, which is based on the outcome of consultations between the delegations. The Subgroup will continue its discussions on this matter, the major point at issue being whether or not to include the cost of production into the hierarchy of valuation methods.

2.2.13. At its meeting on 28 and 29 June the Government Procurement Subgroup devoted most of its time to examining the question of special, differential treatment for the developing countries. It was agreed that a number of delegations would try, by means of intensive multilateral contacts, to reach a consensus, with a view to submitting a paper on this question.

Agriculture

2.2.14. The Dairy Products Subgroup held further meetings in Geneva from 29 May to 1 June and from 19 to 22 June in an attempt to improve the text of a draft international arrangement for dairy products prepared by the GATT Secretariat on its own responsibility.²

At the first of the meetings a good deal of progress was made on the contents of the protocols concerning skimmed-milk powder

and dehydrated milk fat, and on an examination of the general provisions and administrative structures of such an arrangement. There were also further discussions on the Community's proposal on concerted disciplines. At the second meeting, however, it proved impossible to overcome numerous reservations entered by the main participants in respect of various proposed provisions. The Subgroup decided to meet again to seek solutions to the outstanding problems before mid-July.

2.2.15. The Subgroup on Meat met in Geneva from 26 to 28 June when it examined a GATT Secretariat paper prepared on the basis of the discussions which had taken place at the previous meeting.³ This paper will form the basis for negotiations for an arrangement on beef.

North-South dialogue: Development cooperation

Continuation of the North-South dialogue

2.2.16. The main theme of the numerous meetings, conferences and discussions held in June was the strengthening of relations between industrialized countries and developing countries.

Within the United Nations Family there was a meeting of the United Nations Development Programme,⁴ preparations were made for the Conference on Science and Technology for Development⁴—a topic which was also discussed by the Unesco Executive

¹ Point 2.3.11 and OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

² Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.2.12 and 5-1978, point 2.2.8.

³ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.2.9.

⁴ Point 2.2.41.

Board—and the World Food Council¹ met at ministerial level. The worldwide aspect of trade and development cooperation problems was examined at the ministerial meeting of the OECD Council¹ and by a group of governmental experts set up within Unctad.¹ Addressing the International Labour Conference Mr Vredeling dealt with the changes taking place in relations between industrialized and developing countries.¹

The Community was represented at these international meetings and at others dealing with commodities.² The Commission, which is actively preparing for the forthcoming negotiations for the renewal of the ACP-EEC Lomé Convention,³ discussed the continuation of the North-South dialogue with government representatives of India, Indonesia and Thailand who were visiting the Commission and at the meeting between the Community and Latin-American countries.⁴ A number of practical steps were taken to promote trade cooperation with developing countries.²

Unctad Integrated Programme, commodities and world agreements

Preparatory meetings

Copper

2.2.17. The Commission participated in the third meeting of the Unctad group of experts on copper⁵ which was held in Geneva from 19 to 23 June. A draft charter for a standing intergovernmental copper body was drawn up for consideration by the fourth preparatory (policy) meeting scheduled for 17 July. The draft, which has nothing like unanimous support, reflects opposing views and gives no details on certain fundamental institutional

elements such as the links with Unctad. The Community played an active role in the discussions, firmly maintaining its own positions. It is expected that the preparatory meeting will be difficult.

Natural rubber

2.2.18. Prior to the negotiating conference for an international agreement for natural rubber scheduled for November and December 1978, major consumers of this commodity met in Geneva from 12 to 15 June to begin working out a joint position for the forthcoming negotiations. A highly useful exchange of views on key elements of a possible future international buffer stock agreement took place between the main consumers (Community, USA and Japan).

Commodities and world agreements

Cereals

2.2.19. The Interim Committee set up by the negotiating conference on cereals held its second meeting in London from 5 to 22 June. Since the first meeting the conference chairman and the executive secretary of the International Wheat Council had drawn up a proposed list of items for discussion. This list was examined and progress was made on some items. The Interim Committee decided to continue its work in July at Geneva.

¹ Point 2.2.41.

² Points 2.2.17 to 2.2.21.

³ Point 2.2.64.

⁴ Points 2.2.78 and 2.2.80 to 2.2.82.

⁵ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.2.11.

Cocoa

2.2.20. The special committee on the 1975 agreement, set up by the International Cocoa Council in March 1978 to examine the problems involved in a possible renegotiation of this agreement, met in London from 12 to 15 June.

The United States, which is not party to the agreement, took part in the deliberations and also put forward proposals.

The producing countries also proposed substantial changes to the present agreement which would necessitate renegotiation.

The Community and the Member States, which, like the other consumers, had expressed preference for an extension of the agreement, will review their position before the July meeting at which a decision on the future of the international agreement must be taken.

Tungsten

2.2.21. Acting on a decision by the Trade and Development Board the Unctad Secretary-General convened a meeting in Geneva from 5 to 9 June of a preparatory working party set up to consider the proposals which had been submitted for stabilizing the tungsten market.

At the meeting the producer countries and certain consumer countries stuck firmly to their respective positions and so it was impossible to discuss matters of substance. The two possible solutions—negotiation of an agreement or creation of an advisory body—were not examined.

The participants therefore considered what procedure to adopt for the future work. After many unofficial contacts the working party simply decided that another meeting would

be held at a suitable date, if possible before the end of the year.

Commercial, industrial and technical cooperation

2.2.22. A workshop was organized from 17 to 24 June in Karachi and Lahore by Commission staff with the collaboration of commercial representatives of firms and large stores in some Member States. At these meetings, which were attended by 160 Pakistani businessmen, business contracts were signed in particular for leather, hides, and craft goods. The Pakistani authorities expressed their appreciation of this type of activity.

2.2.23. Three trade missions from India, Malaysia and the Philippines visited some of the main cities of the Community in June. These visits, which were a practical demonstration of trade cooperation between the Community and the developing countries, was of special interest to importers of surgical instruments, diesel engines, timber, marine products and preserved fruit and vegetables.

2.2.24. Advanced courses for commercial attachés from South-East Asia are being run in different European countries by the Berlin-based Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung and the Commission departments. The first part of the course took place in Manila, Philippines with the assistance of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration.

2.2.25. Trade missions from Colombia and Peru, organized by Commission staff in conjunction with specialized agencies in the Member States, had contacts with European

importers interested in preserves, skins and hides, and wool.

Food aid and emergency aid

Emergency operations

2.2.26. In answer to an appeal by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Council decided on 6 June to grant this organization 50 000 EUC in the way of emergency aid for Burmese refugees in Bangladesh to buy blankets and other essentials.

2.2.27. The Council decided on 29 June to give emergency food aid to Syria in the form of 3 500 tonnes of cereals delivered at the port of unloading to help feed 200 000 displaced persons in the south of the country. The operation will cost an estimated 411 000 EUC.

Relations with non-governmental organizations

2.2.28. For the first time the NGO Liaison Committee had a meeting with representatives of the European Parliament on 21 June.

The subjects discussed included the role played by the NGOs in providing aid to the neediest countries, their work within the Community on educating the public in development matters and the support that NGOs and Parliament can give each other on development policy. The two sides were satisfied with the talks and agreed in principle to meet once a year.

2.2.29. On 20 and 21 June there was a meeting between the NGO Liaison Commit-

tee and Commission representatives at which various aspects of cooperation between the Community and the NGOs were examined. Further progress was made especially as regards the 'Lomé Seminar' and the exhibition of development educational materials.¹

2.2.30. During the first six months of 1978 the Commission received 117 applications for project co-financing submitted by 45 NGOs for a total of 7 715 807 EUC. To date a total of 63 projects, representing a total Community commitment of 3 129 167 EUC, have been approved.

International organizations

United Nations

Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

2.2.31. The first Special Session of Advisers to the governments of the ECE on environmental problems was held in Geneva from 7 to 9 June, and was attended by representatives from the Community and many other international organizations.

The meeting was largely given over to preparations for a high-level meeting on the environment (planned for 1978), in accordance with a decision taken at the ECE's last annual session in April.² The items discussed included the setting-up of working parties and the choice of topics for study. It was pointed out that the resolution adopted by the ECE (and approved by all the Community Member States' governments) had called upon the Advisers on environmental problems to prepare concrete recommendations and proposals for a high-level meeting on cross-frontier atmospheric pollution from remote sources, low-polluting or non-polluting technology,

¹ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.2.30.

² Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.2.32.

waste recycling and other subjects to be agreed. The 'other subjects' include cross-frontier water pollution, regulations on toxic substances and waste, and the protection of indigenous flora and fauna and their habitat.

Several delegations stressed the importance of cooperation in these fields, and suggested that these topics be included in the Advisers' work programme or on the agenda of a high-level meeting. The next meeting of Advisers is to be held in October.

2.2.32. The ECE organized a seminar in Malta from 5 to 10 June on problems in connection with water resources in islands and coastal areas; representatives from the Commission took part.

Unctad

Group of governmental experts

2.2.33. A group of governmental experts; set up by the Unctad Secretary-General in compliance with Resolution 144 (XVI) of the Trade and Development Board, held a meeting at Geneva from 19 to 23 June on the interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system. The Commission was represented at the meeting as were several Community countries: France, The Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, and Belgium (as an observer).

The Group's discussions will give guidance to the Unctad Secretary-General for his report on the subject to the forthcoming Trade and Development Board; this item is on the provisional Agenda for the Fifth Conference on Unctad due to be held in Manila in May 1979.

United Nations Development Programme

2.2.34. A meeting devoted to preparations for the Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, to be held under the auspices of the UNDP in Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September, took place in Geneva from 5 to 9 June. In a statement made on behalf of the Community, the Commission representative summarized the broad lines of Community development cooperation policy, and gave backing to the conference organized by the UNDP.

2.2.35. The UNDP Governing Council, meeting in Geneva from 12 to 30 June, also reviewed the progress of the preparatory work for the conference, and examined a number of technical cooperation projects with a dozen developing countries. On a more general level, the Council took note of the Administrator's report, which contained a review of the most serious obstacles blocking development.

United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

2.2.36. The Director-General for Research, Science and Education represented the Commission at the preparatory meeting of the European region in connection with the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (Unctad), held in Bucharest from 26 to 30 June. The preparatory work for the Conference, to be held in August 1979 in Vienna, is taking place in various regional meetings and conferences. At the Bucharest meeting representatives of the nine Member States adopted a joint position and presented a joint paper containing recommendations on the plan of action to be adopted by the Vienna Conference.

World Food Council

2.2.37. The World Food Council held its fourth session at ministerial level in Mexico, from 12 to 14 June, preceded by a preparatory meeting, also held in Mexico, from 5 to 10 June.

The Community, which has participatory status on the WFC but does not vote, was represented at both meetings. Five Community States (Denmark, Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands) also took part in the work of the Council.

The WFC looked at various aspects of the world food situation, in particular those connected with stepping up food production in the developing countries, the development of nutritional programmes, food security, food aid, the international emergency reserve and trade in farm and food products.

A detailed text (the 'Mexico declaration') was approved by consensus at the end of the session; it represents a statement of opinion by the international community on the various world agri-food problems.

Food and Agriculture Organization

European Commission on Agriculture

2.2.38. The Community took part in the meeting of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture held in Rome from 19 to 23 June. The meeting dealt with the provisional agenda for the FAO's Regional Conference, due to be held in Lisbon in October. Ways of adjusting the supply of agricultural products to keep pace with the consumer needs and the organization of the marketing of such products in Europe were also discussed. In the Community there have already been Council Regulations on producer groups and on common measures to improve

the processing and marketing of agricultural products.

Labour problems and policies in European countries were also discussed. The Community took the opportunity of drawing attention to the social directives adopted in 1972, and to its efforts to help young farmers.

International Labour Organization

Cooperation between the ILO and the Community

2.2.39. In the present economic and social climate, it is more important than ever to develop cooperation between the Community and the International Labour Organization. That was the substance of an exchange of letters between Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission and Mr Blanchard, Director of the International Labour Office, at the sixty-fourth session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva.

This year sees the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing, on 14 August 1953, of the first agreement fixing the terms and conditions of cooperation between the ILO and the first of the Communities to be established, the ECSC. Similar agreements have since been concluded with the EEC (July 1958) and Euratom (July 1961). Over the years cooperation between the Communities and the ILO has taken root and developed, and the recent exchange of letters reaffirms the need for and importance of such cooperation.

Mr Vredeling and Mr Blanchard reviewed the problems common to the two institutions in the areas for which they are responsible. They also emphasized the joint activities to which priority should be given in 1978 and 1979, namely industrial relations and worker

participation, and social security, in particular for migrant workers.

Speech by Mr Vredeling at the International Labour Conference

2.2.40. Speaking on 15 June at the International Labour Conference in Geneva, which took place from 7 to 23 June, Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, drew attention to various aspects of cooperation between the European Community and the ILO. Speaking about the employment problems rife in all countries, he said that the unacceptably high rates of unemployment which existed today were an international plague, and maintained that protectionism was not the solution.

The Community, went on Mr Vredeling, remained strongly committed to opening up world trade, but nevertheless did not lose sight of the fact that changes in the traditional pattern of relations between industrialized and developing countries called for structural changes on both sides. Such adjustments were socially often very painful. For reasons of social justice, therefore, certain fundamental norms concerning working conditions would have to be respected if a country was to receive Community aid.

United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Executive Board

2.2.41. The Community was represented at a session of the Unesco Executive Board held in Paris from 24 April to 9 June.

The Board examined Unesco's programme for the next two years, which is to be laid

before the General Conference at the end of October. The programme emphasizes the importance of various areas of activity which are also of concern to the Community: The environment, data processing, strengthening the link between education and employment, the promotion of research into new sources of energy (particularly solar energy), and a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development scheduled to take place in 1979.¹

World Intellectual Property Organization

Protection of industrial property

2.2.42. The Community was represented at the meeting in Geneva from 26 to 30 June of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee² which is revising the Paris Convention on the protection of industrial property. A further meeting is planned for 28 November to 6 December 1978 before the WIPO Diplomatic Conference is held in November 1979 to decide on the revision of the Paris Convention.

Although various meetings were being held at different levels, some progress was made by the intergovernmental preparatory committee. Of the six main items on the agenda, two were referred to the 1979 diplomatic conference and three will be considered again by the committee at its meeting later this year.

Although the Community supports the principle of speeding up the transfer of technology to the developing countries, the view which seems to prevail among the industrialized countries (as revealed at the meeting of the preparatory committee) is that the re-

¹ Point 2.2.36.

² Bull. EC 11-1977, point 2.2.50.

vision of the Paris Convention is perhaps not the best way of achieving this.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Council of Representatives

2.2.43. The GATT Council, meeting in Geneva on 6 June, again discussed Canada's withdrawal of tariff concessions under Article XXVIII (3) of the General Agreement following the Community's decision to convert its specific duties on lead and zinc into *ad valorem* duties. The Council called on both sides to continue consultations, with a view to reaching an agreement. Meanwhile, it will have time to consider the Community's request for information on the scope of various conclusions contained in the report by the panel examining the matter.

Consultative Group of Eighteen

2.2.44. The Community took part in a meeting of the Consultative Group of Eighteen held in Geneva on 8 and 9 June. This Group was set up in 1975 to enable the GATT Director-General to hold informal talks on current problems with the main contracting parties.

The Group's main business was to evaluate recent developments and trends in commercial policies and international trade. It studied ways of enabling GATT to keep more fully abreast of governments' commercial policy measures, and also paid particular attention to recent protectionist tendencies and ways of fighting them.

The Group also held a preliminary discussion on the tasks which are likely to confront GATT and the international trade system after the conclusion of the multilateral trade negotiations. In particular, it will be neces-

sary to find ways of liberalizing trade, supervising and tightening up the application of the rules governing international trade, and improving the joint organization and management of trade relations at a time when the world economy is likely to be unsettled.

Fisheries Commission

2.2.45. The Community was represented by the Commission at the XXVIIIth annual meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) held in Bonn from 30 May to 6 June. At the meeting recommendations were adopted on catch quotas for 1979 in the zone covered by the ICNAF Convention.

2.2.46. On a proposal from the Commission, the Member States which are Contracting Parties agreed jointly to notify their withdrawal from the Convention from 31 December. The decision to withdraw was taken in the expectation that a new multilateral convention on the Northwest Atlantic fisheries will enter into force on that date with the Community as a Contracting Party.

2.2.47. The Commission took part as an observer at the twelfth session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, held in Rome from 12 to 16 June, and at the second meeting of the Committee on Resource Management of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, also held in Rome from 19 to 21 June.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OECD Council

2.2.48. The annual ministerial meeting of the OECD Council was held in Paris on 14

and 15 June. Mr Jenkins and Mr Ortoli represented the Commission.

In a persistently bleak economic climate with insufficient growth, inflation, unemployment, disorderly exchange markets and protectionist pressures, ministers reached agreement on a general programme of joint action aimed at securing more durable economic growth. The programme does not set specific targets, but indicates various countries' responsibilities for growth, price stability and payments equilibrium. It also stresses the need for stronger energy policies and suitable monetary cooperation.

In the ministers' view this programme could not be carried out unless an open, free-market system were maintained, and they therefore decided to renew the Trade Pledge of 30 May 1974¹ for a further year. The Community as such supported this decision, which left the original 1974 text unchanged but added a new preamble which reflects recent developments and the spirit in which the Pledge was renewed.²

The meeting's conclusions also include a number of considerations on the redirecting of adjustment policies along more positive lines in the fields of industry, employment and (at the insistence of producer countries in the southern hemisphere) agriculture.

Mr Ortoli gave an account of the targets which the Community had set itself, notably at the Copenhagen European Council meeting in April, with a view to reversing current economic and social trends. The strategy which the Commission is preparing for the Community includes coordination of macro-economic policies and the development of integrated mechanisms such as the new loan facility proposed by the Commission, and hinges on monetary and exchange rate policy measures needed to prepare the way for a zone of monetary stability in Europe.

The ministers also looked at aspects of international interdependence and relations with developing countries. They called for positive policies to speed up the economic and social development of these countries, particularly by increasing investment, but also noted the disappointing present overall aid level.

Council of Europe

Conference of Local and Regional Authorities

2.2.49. The thirteenth plenary session of the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities was held in Strasbourg from 20 to 22 June; Commission representatives attended, and Mr Jenkins, President of the Commission, addressed a message to the Conference.

An important topic this year was the progress of European integration, and one day was set aside for a debate on the regional policies of the Member States of the Council of Europe and the European institutions. Mr Jenkins, in his message, concentrated on various concrete and topical aspects of the moves towards greater integration, and on the economic and social background against which the Community's efforts are taking place.

Western European Union

Session of the Assembly

2.2.50. Several matters of interest to the Community were raised at the WEU Assembly's session which was held in Paris from 19

¹ Bull. EC 5-1974, points 2306 and 2307.

² Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.2.30.

to 22 June. Presenting the WEU Council's annual report, Mr Forlani, the Italian Foreign Minister and current President of the Council, spoke of East-West relations and the relations between WEU member countries and Greece, Turkey and Spain.

During the debates a number of speakers raised the question of what would happen to the WEU Assembly after the direct elections to the European Parliament. In a 'Directive' adopted on 21 June the Assembly noted that direct elections would lead member countries' parliaments to reconsider their participation in the European parliamentary assemblies, and advocated a reallocation of the work of these assemblies on the basis of their respective competences as laid down by treaty or internal rules of procedure.

Commercial policy

Formulating and implementing the common commercial policy

Instruments of commercial policy

Adjustments to basic regulations

2.2.51. Following its Decision of 20 December 1977¹ adopting provisional import arrangements (for 1978) in respect of eleven categories of textile products originating in State-trading countries, the Council adopted on 12 June² the definitive import arrangements for the textile products in question. This new Decision confirms the quantitative restrictions laid down in the Decision of 20 December 1977 and fixes the quotas for imports of these products into the Community in 1978.³

Easing of restrictive measures

2.2.52. Under the Council Decision of 27 March 1975 on unilateral import arrangements in respect of State-trading countries,⁴ the Commission has taken the following measures relaxing import restrictions.

Federal Republic of Germany—Czechoslovakia: exceptional opening of an additional import quota for plywood panels;⁵

Italy—Czechoslovakia: exceptional opening of an additional import quota for motor cars, parts and accessories;⁵

Italy—China and Albania: exceptional opening of additional import quotas for shirts, T-shirts, etc., cotton yarn not put up for retail sale and other cotton fabrics;⁵

Italy—Hungary: exceptional opening of an additional import quota for black and white sensitized photographic paper;⁵

Italy—Poland: exceptional opening of an import quota for petroleum gases;⁵

Italy—State-trading countries: exceptional opening of various additional quotas;⁵

Italy—Czechoslovakia: exceptional opening of an additional import quota for overcoats;⁶

Investigation, surveillance and safeguard measures

Anti-dumping/anti-subsidy procedures

2.2.53. On 20 June⁷ the Commission decided to impose a provisional anti-dumping

¹ OJ L 360 of 31.12.1977.

² OJ L 168 of 26.6.1978.

³ Point 2.2.55.

⁴ OJ L 99 of 21.4.1975.

⁵ OJ C 166 of 12.7.1978.

⁶ OJ C 170 of 15.7.1978.

⁷ OJ L 165 of 22.6.1978.

duty on ferro-chrome originating in South Africa and Sweden.

On 6 June¹ the Commission extended for three months the provisional anti-dumping duty on kraftliner paper and board originating in the United States, and amended its method of calculation; this duty was imposed in March.² The Commission suspended, however, the definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of steel products originating in Romania¹ after an arrangement had been concluded with that country.

Import surveillance

2.2.54. On 22 June³ the Commission decided to introduce retrospective control to replace the Community surveillance of footwear imports it had introduced on 7 April.⁴ Although this measure is not due to enter into force until 1 November—for a period of fourteen months (i.e. until the end of 1979)—the Commission considered it necessary to establish the arrangements now.

Specific measures of commercial policy

Textiles

Operation of the agreements

2.2.55. On 12 June⁵ the Council adopted a Decision on import arrangements for certain textile products originating in State-trading countries. This was to adapt the unilateral import arrangements applicable to those countries in the light of the amendments introduced in the Community policy in this sector since the beginning of the year.

2.2.56. The same day⁶ the Commission adopted a Regulation making imports of certain textile products from certain third countries subject to Community surveillance.

For some Mediterranean countries covered by preferential arrangements, the Regulation establishes a system of Community surveillance that can provide rapid and detailed information on imports of certain textile products. This system is based on the automatic issue of an import document by the competent Community authorities, free of charge and within a maximum of five working days. It will not constitute a quantitative restriction or a measure having equivalent effect.

If a satisfactory level of administrative co-operation is established between the Community and an exporting country covered by these measures, the Community may establish alternative procedures to provide it with the necessary information.

Steel

2.2.57. As part of its efforts to strengthen the crisis measures adopted in June in the steel sector, the Commission took a number of decisions concerning anti-dumping procedures, alignment prohibitions and changes in the base price.⁷ Negotiations also continued with a number of non-member countries for the conclusion of bilateral arrangements, but no new agreements were concluded in June.

¹ OJ L 153 of 9.6.1978.

² OJ L 69 of 11.3.1978.

³ OJ L 188 of 11.7.1978.

⁴ OJ L 94 of 8.4.1978 and Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.2.42.

⁵ Point 2.2.51 and OJ L 168 of 26.6.1978.

⁶ OJ L 155 of 13.6.1978.

⁷ Point 1.3.3.

Mediterranean countries

Greece

2.2.58. The EEC-Greece Association Committee met in Brussels on 30 June and examined the problems arising in the textile sector. The Community called for an urgent and immediate solution to these problems in order to ease the serious difficulties this sector is experiencing and indicated that it was prepared to take the necessary measures if Greece would not keep to the levels agreed for 1978 between the Commission and the Greek textile industry.

Cyprus

2.2.59. The Protocol to the Agreement setting up an association between the EEC and the Republic of Cyprus, which was signed in Brussels on 15 September 1977,¹ came into force on 1 June 1978.²

2.2.60. The Council adopted on 26 June³ a Regulation on the conclusion of the Supplementary Protocol to the Association Agreement and of the Protocol laying down certain provisions relating to trade in agricultural products between the EEC and Cyprus, which were signed on 11 May.⁴ These two Protocols came into force on 1 July 1978.⁵

Maghreb and Mashreq

Extension of the agreements

2.2.61. On 26 June the Council extended until 31 December 1978⁶ the Interim Agreements between the EEC and the Maghreb and Mashreq countries pending the entry into force of the Cooperation Agreements.⁷

The same day, the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC meeting in the Council decided to extend until not later than 30 June 1979 the tariff preferences for ECSC products originating in the Maghreb and Mashreq countries.⁶

Morocco and Tunisia: trade promotion

2.2.62. The Commission departments have established initial contacts with the Ministers of Trade and Industry of Morocco and Tunisia to work out trade promotion campaigns which could be mounted under the agreements between the Community and these countries. Morocco has applied in the first place for technical aid for the export promotion centre set up in 1976. The Tunisian authorities have asked the Community to help them market abroad phosphates and their derivatives.

ACP States and the OCT

Official visit by the President of Mali to the Commission

2.2.63. Mr Moussa Traoré, President of the Republic of Mali, visited the Commission on 19 June. He was received by President Jenkins and Mr Cheysson, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for development. President Traoré stated that he was satisfied with Mali's relations with the Com-

¹ Bull. EC 9-1977, point 2.2.29.

² OJ L 105 of 19.4.1978.

³ OJ L 172 of 28.6.1978.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.2.53.

⁵ OJ L 189 of 12.7.1978.

⁶ OJ L 175 of 29.6.1978.

⁷ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.2.55.

munity and expressed his support for the renewal of the ACP-EEC Convention.

Negotiations for the renewal of the Lomé Convention

2.2.64. On 9 June the Commission sent a recommendation to the Council for a decision on the opening of negotiations on the renewal of the Lomé Convention.¹ On the basis of these proposals, the Council, at its meeting on 26 and 27 June, gave directives to the Commission for the opening of negotiations with the ACP States.

Under the Lomé Convention the contracting parties must, in September 1978, i.e. eighteen months before the expiry of the Convention, begin negotiations in order to examine what provisions shall subsequently govern relations between them. A formal opening ceremony will be held at ministerial level on 24 July. The negotiations proper will be conducted by the Commission and the ambassadors of the ACP States and will commence early in September.

Lomé Convention

Institutions

Joint Committee of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly

2.2.65. The Joint Committee of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly met at St George's, Grenada, from 29 May to 3 June under the joint chairmanship of Mr Bersani (Italian Christian-Democrat) and Mr Kasongo Mukundji (Zaire). Also present at this meeting were Mr Keble Munn (Jamaican Minister

of Parliamentary Affairs) in his dual capacity of President of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and President of the ACP Council, Mrs Lise Østergaard, Danish Minister without portfolio and President of the Council, and Mr Cheysson, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for development.

Discussions centred on the examination of the report presented by Mr Guillabert concerning the annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and on the present situation of the Lomé Convention prior to its renewal.

Mr Cheysson reviewed the application of the Convention. He stressed that, despite the economic crisis and political troubles, the spirit of Lomé is still alive and its attractiveness remains.

A report by Mrs Mathé (Botswana) was the basis of a Joint Committee study of the possibilities of closer cooperation with economic and social circles. The ACP States did not want to formalize these contacts but felt that given the positive results of the Luxembourg meeting of June 1977² the contacts could be continued.

Lively discussions took place on the inclusion in a future convention of provisions relating to human rights. Mr Cheysson explained that the Convention goes far beyond financial and technical considerations and took pains to remove any uncertainties which might exist in this matter. The Joint Committee devoted a paragraph of its final declaration to this subject. In its view the question of a reference to human rights in a future convention should be broached, in due course, with great care and a sense of responsibility.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1978, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.4.

² Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.2.61.

Trade, industrial, financial and technical cooperation

Trade promotion

2.2.66. Under the Community programme for the participation of the ACP States in major international trade fairs, five of these countries took part in the Trieste International Fair from 17 to 19 June. At the instigation of the Italian federations, days were set aside for a study of the timber trade and industry and the situation on the international coffee market. The meetings were attended by a large number of African delegates representing both the public and private sectors.

2.2.67. In accordance with the recommendations made at the meeting of representatives of forty-three ACP States in Brussels on 6 and 7 February 1978¹ experts have been sent to Madagascar and Senegal to identify possible trade promotion operations.

Export earnings

Sugar

2.2.68. The negotiations on the guaranteed price for sugar originating in the ACP States were concluded on 22 June with an agreement between the ACP producers and the Commission, which negotiated on behalf of the Community.

From 1 July 1978 to 30 June 1979 the guaranteed price for raw sugar will be 27.81 u.a. per 100 kg and the guaranteed price for white sugar will be 34.49 u.a. per 100 kg. This is an increase of 2% over last year.

European Development Fund

New financing decisions

2.2.69. Following the favourable opinion delivered by the EDF Committee, the Commission decided in June to finance the following projects under the fourth EDF:

Lesotho — Village water supplies: 700 000 EUC.

OCAM countries — Regional cooperation for the Institute of African and Mauritian Statistics and Applied Economics: 900 000 EUC.

Ethiopia — Exceptional aid: 2 750 000 EUC.

Guinea-Bissau — Construction and equipping of two schools at Farim and Catio: 1 000 000 EUC.

Seychelles — Site and service and mortgage scheme: 1 480 000 EUC.

Guinea — Equipment and technical assistance for the faculties of agriculture: 805 000 EUC.

Fiji — Vanua Levu road: 2 850 000 EUC.

Tonga — Purchase of road equipment: 1 430 000 EUC.

Other countries

Industrialized countries

EFTA countries

Relations between the Community and the EFTA countries

2.2.70. On 22 June the Commission sent a Communication to the Council on relations

¹ Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.2.50.

between the Community and the EFTA countries in which it reviews the various sectors in which there is cooperation 'in varying degrees of intensity' between the two organizations and makes proposals for improving and extending the scope of the operation of the Agreements in any areas where this is necessary.

At its meeting on 26 and 27 June the Council discussed the Communication and afterwards released the following statement:

'The Council ... took note of the communication and agreed on the utility of improving and perfecting the operation of the agreements in all areas where this was deemed useful.

The Council agreed that where additional cooperation beyond the free trade agreements was regarded as desirable by both sides, the Community was prepared to undertake such cooperation in the mutual interest of the parties concerned.

It also took note of the Commission's intention of keeping it informed, via the Permanent Representatives Committee, of the development of cooperation with the EFTA countries and invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to report to the Council on this matter before the end of the year.'

Meeting of the Joint Committees

2.2.71. The Joint Committees set up by the Agreements concluded between the Community and the EFTA countries met in June: EEC-Finland on 2 June, EEC-Switzerland and EEC-Norway on 7 June, EEC-Iceland on 12 June, EEC-Austria on 13 June and EEC-Sweden on 15 June.

With the exception of Iceland, whose ECSC Agreement does not provide for a Joint Committee, the above meetings were immediately followed by the meetings of the Joint Committees set up under the ECSC-EFTA country agreements.

At these meetings, the delegations examined the functioning of the various Agreements,

heard the reports of the Customs Committee and held a broad exchange of views on international economic problems and the situation on the steel market. Particular reference was made to the crisis measures adopted by the Community. The arrangements¹ for trade in iron and steel products were also examined.

Visit to the Commission of the Austrian Foreign Minister

2.2.72. Mr Willibald Pahr, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited the Commission on 8 and 9 June. During the visit, which was his first to Brussels since the signing of the EEC-Austria Agreement, the Austrian Minister expressed his concern about Austria's large trade deficit with the Community. The Commission referred to the difficulties which the Member States are expecting as a result of the introduction of a road tax in Austria with effect from 1 July 1978.²

Mr Pahr also reiterated his country's wish to see cooperation between Austria and the EEC intensified in various areas of mutual interest.

Japan

High-level consultations

2.2.73. The twelfth meeting in the series of regular high-level consultations³ took place in Tokyo on 22 and 23 June. The Commission delegation was led by the Director-General for External Relations and the Japanese delegation by Mr H. Miyasaki, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.2.49.

² Point 2.1.106.

³ Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.2.67.

A meeting of the Joint Study Group was held prior to the consultations, to examine developments and achievements in economic relations and trade with Japan. In the Community-Japan joint statement of 24 March,¹ it was agreed that the trend of economic relations would be examined at regular intervals and that the first such assessment would be carried out in June.

The Commission sought to assess whether there were at this time some indications, or at least clear prospects, of a 'major turn-round' in Japan's trade and payments position. In the conclusions adopted by the Council on 7 February,² signs of such a development by late summer 1978 were identified as the main requirement for improving the Community's relations with Japan. On the basis of the evidence available from the relatively short period covered, the Commission concluded that it could not yet be said with confidence that a clear new trend had emerged.

As regards internal growth, there were growing signs of an upturn in the Japanese economy, and the Japanese authorities were more confident that their growth target of 7% in the current fiscal year (April 1978 to March 1979) could be realized. It was not certain, however, in the Commission's view, how long the present improvement would be sustained.

The latest figures showed that Japan was continuing to run a large overall surplus on its current account. Whether the two means so far chosen to reduce the surplus—zero volume growth of Japanese exports and measures of domestic stimulation and import facilitation to sustain the rising trend of imports—would prove successful had yet to be seen. There were some signs of a renewed upward trend in the proportion of manufactures in total Japanese imports, although the percentage was still considerably below that of the other major industrial powers.

As regards aid, the Commission again urged upon Japan the need to improve the level of its official development aid (ODA) and to bring its contribution up to the scale of other OECD countries in terms of proportion of GNP. It was recalled on the Japanese side that the Government has announced its intention to double its ODA over three years, and not five as earlier envisaged.

In bilateral Community-Japan trade, it was noted that Community exports had grown reasonably fast since the beginning of the calendar year. It was too early to say,

however, whether this growth was likely to be sustained throughout the year, and what impact this would have on the bilateral balance of payments.

During the high-level consultations the situation in the multilateral trade negotiations was also reviewed, with particular reference to the revised Japanese tariff offer, which the Commission side declared was disappointing.

2.2.74. At the Council meeting on 26 and 27 June, Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, reported on the high-level consultations and on the results of the examination and assessment which had been made of the economic situation of Japan and EEC-Japan trade. The Council took note of this report and concluded that it would be premature at this stage to determine whether the objectives which the Japanese Government have announced, in particular as regards the prospects for economic growth and the reduction of its external surplus, would be achieved in the near future. The Commission was invited to submit a further report to the Council at an early date.

Australia

2.2.75. Consultations took place in Brussels on 8 and 9 June between the Commission and an Australian delegation led by Mr Garland, the Minister for Special Trade Negotiations. The talks centred on the proposals relating to agricultural matters presented to the Commission by the Australian Government on 27 October 1977.³ The position adopted by the Commission was in accordance with the guidelines set out in its Communication to the Council of 24 May.

The Commission expressed its commitment to the improvement of relations between

¹ Bull. EC 3-1978, point 1.1.4.

² Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.2.53.

³ Bull. EC 10-1977, point 2.2.65.

Australia and the Community but explained—as it had at the time of the visit by the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, on 17 June¹—that most of the problems raised by the Australian Government could only be resolved fully within a multilateral context, that is in the GATT negotiations, which were now at an advanced stage. The Commission also raised a number of trade problems resulting from restrictive measures on imports adopted by the Australian authorities in a number of industrial sectors.

Beyond specific trade matters, the Commission stressed its desire to broaden and strengthen existing relations, taking account of each side's longer-term economic and political interests.

New Zealand

2.2.76. Mr Brian Talboys, the New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Overseas Trade, visited the Commission from 26 to 29 June, when he had discussions with Mr Jenkins, Mr Gundelach and Mr Haferkamp.

The issues raised by Mr Talboys concerned the sheepmeat regulation proposed by the Commission and matters relating to New Zealand exports of dairy products. The progress of the multilateral trade negotiations in respect of agricultural products was also discussed.

The Commission emphasized that it was very conscious of the significance of the Community market for New Zealand lamb and dairy exports, which were of major importance for the New Zealand economy, and indicated its willingness to maintain close contacts with New Zealand over the issues involved.

Developing countries

Asia

Iran

2.2.77. A Commission delegation visited Tehran from 27 June to 2 July for further exploratory talks² with a view to the conclusion of an outline economic and trade co-operation agreement between Iran and the Community. The purpose of the talks was to consider in greater detail the opportunities for Iran's exports in the 1982-85 period.

India

2.2.78. The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Morarji Desai, visited the Commission on 5 June. During his talks with President Jenkins and with Mr Haferkamp, Mr Cheysson and Mr Brunner, he stated that as regards the development of the Third World there were many similarities between the views of his Government and those of the Community.

Both sides found that the relations between India and the Community were satisfactory and that there were favourable prospects for deepening and broadening their cooperation. Mr Desai raised the matter of the updating of the content and methods of administration of the trade cooperation Agreement,³ it was agreed that exchanges of views in this connection could begin at expert level in September or October. Reference was also made to the forthcoming opening of an Indian trade centre in Brussels.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.2.70.

² Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.2.64.

³ OJ L 82 of 27.3.1974 and Bull. EC 3-1974, point 2337.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the implementation of practical scientific and technological cooperation between India and the Community, in particular in the fields of coal gasification and solar energy.

2.2.79. The negotiations on the guaranteed price for cane sugar from India were concluded on 28 June with an agreement between India and the Commission, who negotiated on behalf of the Community.

From 1 July 1978 to 30 June 1979 the guaranteed price for raw sugar will be 27.81 u.a. per 100 kg and the guaranteed price for white sugar will be 34.49 u.a. per 100 kg. This is a 2% increase over last year.

Indonesia

2.2.80. Mr Haroun Zain, Indonesia's Minister for Manpower and Transmigration, visited the Commission on 21 June. He informed the Commission of the encouraging results of the population control campaign at present being carried out in Indonesia. He also thanked the Community for its support, through participation in various projects—such as those involving soya bean cultivation in Sumatra and irrigation in Sulawesi—for Indonesia's efforts to ease the burden on over-populated areas.

Thailand

2.2.81. On 26 June Mr Kasame, the Thai Minister of Industry, had talks with Mr Davignon, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for industrial affairs. Mr Kasame expressed particular interest in Community industrial restructuring projects and stated that his Government was willing to cooperate with the Community in this area; he also stated that the Thai Government was

now refusing to authorize any further increase in capacity in sectors recognized as being particularly sensitive from the world trade angle.

Mr Kasame asked the Community to adopt an understanding attitude with regard to his country's efforts to diversify agricultural production for export, such production being at present dominated by manioc and rice. For its part, the Community renewed its earlier offer to help Thailand diversify its production, in particular through the introduction of high-protein crops.

Latin America

Meeting at Ambassador level

2.2.82. The first session of the ninth meeting at Ambassador level between the Community and the countries of Latin America was held in Brussels on 29 June. As at the December 1977 session,¹ the background to the talks was provided by certain current problems of the world economy—fear of protectionist trends, monetary difficulties and unemployment. At this session the examination of relations between the Community and Latin America was marked by approval of a preliminary study of trade relations between the EEC and Latin America. This study was the first document resulting from the work done by the Joint Working Party of Experts on Trade questions under the new mandate which the Working Party was given at the preceding session of the dialogue. In this study, the Joint Working Party analyses against a world background the main trends of trade between the EEC and Latin America from 1958 to 1976 and draws initial conclusions from the results of its study.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.2.71.

3. Institutional and political matters

Diplomatic relations

State-trading countries and the CMEA

2.2.83. At its meeting on 6 June the Council heard a report by Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, on the first round of negotiations between the Community and the CMEA, which took place in Moscow on 29 and 30 May.¹

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2.2.84. On 15 June Parliament² passed a Resolution on the state of relations between the EEC and the State-trading countries of Eastern Europe and the CMEA.

Diplomatic relations

2.2.85. The President of the Council and the President of the Commission received Their Excellencies Mr Peng Yuan Hwang (Republic of Singapore) and Mr Mao Chao Kang (People's Republic of China), who presented their letters of credence in their capacity as Heads of their countries' missions to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC) with effect from 7 June³ and 28 June respectively.⁴

The new Ambassadors succeed Mr Ho Rih Hwa and Mr Huan Hsiang respectively, who have been appointed to other duties.

Institutional developments — European policy

President of Parliament's visit to the Commission

2.3.1. On 28 June the Commission officially received the President of the European Parliament, Mr Colombo; this was the first visit of a President of Parliament to the Commission since the Community was enlarged. Discussions centred on the future elections to Parliament by direct universal suffrage.

Mr Colombo called for more extensive links with the Commission and hoped, with its help, to enhance the political nature of the Assembly's proceedings, in particular by organizing a number of important debates over the coming months on the major issues of European development. The Commission expressed its willingness to assist in this and several themes were suggested for the debates: the general problems of enlargement, the road towards economic and monetary union, the negotiations with the ACP countries, the Community's development policy, and so on. These ideas will be further developed with the President of Parliament. The Commission also made some practical suggestions for organizing parliamentary business.

Speaking to journalists at a joint press conference, Mr Colombo gave his personal views on the question of the dual parliamentary mandate; he felt that such a mandate would be desirable for the first directly-elected Parliament, since it would enable leading politicians to take part in these first elections. Mr Jenkins shared this point of view, but stressed that for the Parliament to function effectively it was essential that the majority should be full-time members.

¹ Bull. EC 5-1978, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.3.

² Point 2.3.10 and OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978.

³ OJ C 147 of 22.6.1978.

⁴ OJ C 166 of 12.7.1978.

Regarding the future of the elected Parliament, Mr Jenkins pointed out that direct elections together with the increase in the number of representatives would extend the moral authority of the Parliament, even if it did not put national powers at stake. The election of Parliament would also give it a new democratic dimension.

Interinstitutional dialogue

2.3.2. At its June sittings Parliament adopted a report by Mr Cointat (*EPD/F*) on the interinstitutional dialogue with regard to certain budgetary matters. This extremely complex subject has grave political consequences since it bears on the very essence of the control which Parliament has over the Community's finances.

The report deals with such questions as the inclusion of borrowing operations in the budget, appropriations for cooperation with non-member countries, supplementary budgets, budgetary nomenclature and transparency, the implementation of the budget, financial planning and the machinery specific to the ECSC budget. These highly technical points reflect the part which Parliament intends to play in budgetary procedure.

Many questions were raised during the debate, and in particular Parliament urged that:

- (i) a Commission report should be prepared on the co-ordination of the various borrowing instruments and on the respective responsibilities of the individual institutions in the application of these instruments;
- (ii) all the Community's cooperation activities (particularly those under the second Lomé Convention) should be financed by the general budget;
- (iii) financial protocols should be ratified by the directly-elected Parliament;
- (iv) it should be possible, through effective coordination of legislative and budgetary proceedings, to avoid resorting to supplementary budgets except in unavoidable and unforeseeable circumstances;

(v) bodies which carry out Community tasks should be financed by the general budget;

(vi) some types of appropriations should be entered in the budget and implemented with no other prior legal basis;

(vii) costs should be coordinated between the ECSC and EEC budgets, that these two budgets should be examined and adopted together, and that Parliament should have overall supervision of the ECSC investment budget.

Lastly, Parliament held that Article 205 of the EEC Treaty authorizes the Commission to implement the budget without waiting for specific implementing decisions from the Council.

Consultation of Parliament

2.3.3. The debate on fisheries during the June sittings¹ gave Parliament the opportunity to again raise the issue of its right to be consulted.² The Resolution contained in the report by Mr Schmidt (*S/D*) contests the legality of Community texts adopted without indicating their legal basis; this is seen as a violation of the Treaty since it makes it possible to avoid consulting Parliament, even though in some cases it is compulsory. Parliament pointed out that Article 103 of the EEC Treaty can be invoked as a legal basis only for short-term measures to deal with an emergency. In conclusion the House requested the Council and the Commission to consult it whenever there was a doubt about the legal basis for a Community instrument.

Use of languages

2.3.4. The difficult problem of the use of languages in the Community was raised in two oral questions to the Commission during the June sittings of Parliament. The ques-

¹ Point 2.3.7.

² Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.3.2.

tions were prompted by the concern of certain members that the enlargement of the Community would result in changes in the rules governing the use of languages. Mrs Cassanmagnago Cerretti (C-D/I), for instance, stressed the 'danger' of a French-German-English trilingualism which she could see developing particularly at the Commission.

Mr Vredeling agreed that the Commission must examine the tricky question of working languages. It was essential to reconcile the individual's right to express himself in his mother tongue with the need to work efficiently, the Commission's rule being that all Community languages be placed on an equal footing.

In his reply to the second question put by Lord Reay (C/UK), Mr Jenkins considered that some distinction had to be made between official and working languages. As far as official languages were concerned, all Community instruments which were to have force of law in the Member States had to be drawn up in the language of each of them. Also, all members of Parliament had to be able to speak in their own language.

However, as far as working languages were concerned, the important thing was to remain as flexible as possible and to proceed on a practical basis. The President of the Commission held that it was essential to 'work in as limited a number of working languages as enables the business to be properly done'. Mr Jenkins considered that Parliament had great authority on the question of its working languages and called upon it to examine the whole subject of the use of working languages by Community institutions.

Institutions and organs of the Communities

Parliament

Part-session in Strasbourg from 12 to 16 June

2.3.5. Parliament's June sittings¹ saw significant developments in some important matters. As the Danish presidency came to an end, the President of the Council, Mr Andersen, gave his report to Parliament on the past half-year. The common fisheries policy was the subject of a major debate which was marked by pessimism, but Mr Gundelach was satisfied on the whole with the Council's decisions on agricultural prices.

Several matters concerning external relations, including relations with State-trading countries and the multilateral negotiations in GATT, were debated. Social problems (safety and health at work) and education (adult education) were also considered and Parliament resumed its discussion of fire safety regulations in hotels and of a code of conduct for multinational undertakings. The agenda further included institutional and political matters: European cooperation on armaments procurement, the interinstitutional

¹ This report was prepared from *Le point de la session* published by Parliament's Secretariat. The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978 and the report of proceedings is contained in OJ Annex No 231.

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

dialogue on budgetary questions,¹ working languages² and Parliament's right to be consulted.³ The House passed the Resolution on the infringement of human rights in Argentina which it had debated in May.⁴

On the financial side Parliament's budget estimates for 1979 were adopted and the requests for the carryover of appropriations for Parliament, the Commission and the Court of Auditors were approved. Resolutions were passed on railway accounts, the common organization of the markets for milk products and pigmeat and the supplementary protocol to the EEC-Cyprus agreement. In the matter of company law Parliament passed a Resolution on the seventh Directive on group accounts.⁵ It also gave its Opinion on the postponement until 1 January 1979 of the entry into force of the sixth VAT Directive (ninth Directive).⁶

In another Resolution Parliament asked the Commission to take emergency action on behalf of the flood victims in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and the Rhineland-Palatinate. An event of note was the press conference given by Mr François Mitterand at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Socialist Group.

Summary of the Danish presidency (14-15 June)

2.3.6. As is customary the President of the Council, Mr Andersen, gave a report to the House on the achievements during the six months of the Danish presidency. Confining himself to certain essential features, he expressed his disappointment that no internal fisheries policy had been formulated and did not hide his concern at the failure so far to implement a common energy policy which was an essential requirement for the Community.

However, there were positive achievements to be noted: the farm price increases were moderate; work on economic and monetary matters was progressing again; a new financial instrument was to be set up shortly; all the structural problems facing industry had been reviewed (this essential work would continue); several steel agreements had been concluded with non-member countries. Work on the enlargement of the Community had also made good progress, while relations with the ACP countries were characterized by a real desire for cooperation. An agreement had been signed between the Community and China.

Mr Andersen thought that progress had definitely been made on political cooperation as well. In connection with enlargement it had been decided that the 'new Member States' should gradually become involved in political cooperation, and that Turkey too should be associated with this move. On Africa, the Nine thought that the Anglo-American plan still offered the best chance of a peaceful solution in Zimbabwe. They supported the efforts of the Western members of the Security Council in Namibia and of the OAU in the Horn of Africa. On South Africa the ministers had studied the possibility of resorting to economic measures. The Nine had reaffirmed their position with regard to the Middle East, and played an active role within the UN, where, for the first time, a joint document on disarmament had been presented. The President of the Council reminded the House that the dates for the direct election of Parliament had been fixed during the Danish presidency.

Parliament paid a personal tribute to the Danish Foreign Minister for the work that he had undertaken during the six months of the presidency. Nevertheless the Council came in for some heavy criticism. Many members spoke of economic and social problems, hoping that the European Council in Bremen would finally decide on measures to restimulate the economy.⁷

¹ Point 2.3.2.

² Point 2.3.4.

³ Point 2.3.3.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.3.3.

⁵ Supplement 9/76 — Bull. EC; Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2108.

⁶ OJ C 141 of 16.6.1978; Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.36.

⁷ Point 1.5.2.

African matters dominated the debate. In a Resolution, adopted unanimously, Parliament called on the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to tackle these matters and regretted the lack of a Community position on the important problems disturbing that part of the world. Many speakers asked for a clause relating to the observance of human rights to be included in the next Lomé Convention and at the same time for a similar clause to be inserted into any agreement with the CMEA.

Common fisheries policy

(14 June)

2.3.7. The difficulties encountered in setting up a Community fisheries policy prompted Parliament once again to express its concern at the lack of progress on this matter. Following the presentation of reports by Mr Schmidt (*S/D*) on the procedures used by the Council and the Commission for the adoption of legal instruments in this sector¹ and by Mr Corrie (*C/GB*) on Community financial participation in inspection and surveillance operation in the maritime waters of Denmark and Ireland, several oral questions were put to the Council and to the Commission on general and specific problems of fisheries policy.

Mr Jakobsen, for the Council, and Mr Gundelach, for the Commission, had to acknowledge that since January no real progress had been made towards breaking the deadlock in the fisheries negotiations, although the President of the Council said that all hope was not yet lost. All the Member States except the United Kingdom now accepted the general proposals put forward by the Commission,² which had done everything possible to meet British demands. On the central issue—the management of Community fishing resources—the proposals took account of the Member States' traditional shares of catches and also of their future possibilities, and at the same time sought to compensate for losses incurred in the fishing zones of non-member countries. Special arrangements had been made to accommodate the special situ-

ation to the north of the United Kingdom, where all the Member States, except the United Kingdom, had agreed to take smaller—and in some cases much smaller—catches. It was not possible for the Commission to go beyond that without infringing the Treaty, Mr Gundelach maintained. The situation was the more damaging as the failure of the Community's internal policy could in the long run jeopardize the possibilities of fishing in the waters of non-member countries with which it would no longer be possible to make pragmatic arrangements.

The tone of the debate was one of pessimism. A number of speakers regretted the attitude of the United Kingdom, and others, such as Mr Eberhard (*COM/F*), were afraid that the restructuring proposals would lead to the running-down of the sea-fishing industries. Mr Prescott (*S/UK*) called for more understanding for the British position. Although he admitted that failure to agree on fisheries policy could lead to a disastrous situation, he reminded the House that the United Kingdom had abandoned its original claim—'the electoral advantage of which any politician must understand'—to an exclusive fishing zone.

At the end of the debate the President of the Council emphasized the fact that a common fisheries policy should be global in conception and not dissociate the problems of management, structure and inspection. Every Member State now needed to face up boldly to its political responsibilities, he concluded.

Common agricultural policy

Agricultural prices

2.3.8. Mr Gundelach made a statement to Parliament on the Council decisions on agricultural prices for 1978/79.³ He was pleased

¹ Point 2.3.3.

² As was in fact confirmed at the Council meeting on 20 June.

³ Bull. EC 5-1978, points 2.1.69 to 2.1.74.

that the increase agreed by the Council was very close to what the Commission had proposed (2.11% instead of 2%). However, he had to admit that the attempt to find a way of automatically eliminating monetary compensatory amounts had been unsuccessful, and that pragmatic solutions must therefore be sought, such as pairing the question with the annual price review.

Mr Gundelach was openly optimistic at the Council's choice of a policy of moderate prices, for this seemed to indicate that we were perhaps now getting somewhere in restoring balance on the markets. Appropriate support measures for this policy were needed, especially in the milk sector. The Commission would be making the necessary proposals. Although an essential requirement, the prices policy alone could not make the situation healthier. Mr Gundelach again emphasized the importance he attached to the Mediterranean package, which he saw as 'the beginning of a new Community policy', and he thought that an important advance had been made this year in the common agricultural policy.

Monetary compensatory amounts

2.3.9. Asked about the economic aspects of MCAs by Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (C/UK) Mr Gundelach pointed out that roughly 90% of agricultural produce came under the market organizations and the prices policy and as a result was included in the MCA system. Since 1973 the compensatory amounts had been financed entirely by the Community and were no longer charged to national budgets. He could not see the introduction of the European unit of account into the common agricultural policy solving the problem of MCAs. On the contrary this would be more of an obstacle to their removal, since positive compensatory amounts were much more difficult to abolish than negative ones.

Trade policy

Relations with State-trading countries and Comecon (15 June)

2.3.10. For nearly three years now relations between the Member States and State-trading countries had not been governed by agreement. In a report to Parliament, Mr Schmidt (S/D) called for this to be changed as soon as possible.

In its Resolution Parliament invited the Council and the Commission to pursue energetically the course already embarked upon in order, especially, to achieve balanced mutual advantages, harmonious development of trade, the application of the most-favoured nation clause and relaxation of import controls. It also drew attention to the State-trading countries' high level of debt and to the increase in barter deals which tend to obstruct the diversification of trade and handicap small businesses. The House therefore supported the Commission's efforts to negotiate commercial agreements with the different State-trading countries in accordance with the outline trade agreement which the Commission itself suggested and was pleased that the Commission intended to introduce and if possible develop at a later stage, in a framework agreement, cooperation with the CMEA (Comecon) in those areas where both organizations were competent.

Replying to members, Mr Haferkamp reminded them that a gentleman's agreement had been concluded at international level with a view to drawing up rules which would put a stop to overbidding in export credits as practised by some Member States. Consequently it was not unreasonable to think that the proposed European export bank would be able to function satisfactorily. On the talks which the Commission had held in Moscow with Comecon, Mr Haferkamp confirmed that the Commission wanted to see relations return to normal both with the member countries of Comecon and with the organization itself. Negotiations would continue between experts in Brussels in July and if possible, at a higher level in October. On the

differences between the Community and Comecon, Mr Haferkamp reported that the Moscow talks had clearly shown that the two delegations were not equally competent to negotiate the terms of a trade agreement, as Comecon did not have the necessary competence to deal with matters such as the common customs tariff, import quotas, customs arrangements, etc. That did not mean that an agreement could not be reached setting up relations between the two organizations, in the form of an exchange of documents (especially on investments), meetings of experts, etc., which would be based on three principles: mutual respect for practices, objectives and institutional rules.

Multilateral negotiations in GATT
(15 June)

2.3.11. After more than four years of preparatory technical discussions the Tokyo Round has entered into a decisive stage. On the basis of a report drawn up by Mr Cousté (EPD/F) and presented by Mr Brugha (EPD/IRL), the rapporteur's mandate having expired, the House held a wide-ranging debate which clearly showed the desire of all the political groups to see the negotiations produce substantial results accompanied by meaningful reform of the GATT regulations. The major themes of the debate included the rejection of protectionism, the search for the right balance in reciprocal concessions and consideration for the problems which the developing countries were facing, especially in agricultural trade.

In its Resolution Parliament set out the guidelines which it would like to see the Community's negotiators follow. The essential points were:

(i) to denounce resurgent protectionism which is hindering the expansion of international trade and whose effect may be worsened by the current monetary situation;

(ii) to ensure the orderly expansion of trade in a better organized market;

(iii) to review the system of generalized preferences in order to encourage the exports of the poorest developing countries and to harmonize concessions granted by the industrialized countries;

(iv) to insert a 'social clause' to guarantee workers in certain mass-exporting countries norms which comply with the rules of the International Labour Organization;

(v) to call for an end to dumping practised by State-trading countries;

(vi) to implement concurrently, within the Community, a common industrial policy and structural adjustments to maintain the level of employment and preserve competitiveness.

Mr Haferkamp felt that the lesson for the Community from the pattern of world trade was clear: it ought itself to apply the rules which it wanted to see applied by others, and at the same time insist that these rules should be the same for everybody; primarily, this would mean that the United States could no longer enjoy exceptional treatment. Mr Haferkamp added that developing countries which had already attained a certain level of development should be more cooperative.

Safety and health at work
(12-13 June)

2.3.12. In this draft resolution containing an action programme on safety and health at work¹ the Commission is striving to eliminate occupational hazards through the prevention of accidents at work and occupational diseases. The report presented to Parliament by Mrs Squarcialupi (COM/I) welcomed the action programme, estimated at 3 225 million EUC, which is a real attempt to come to grips with one of the most difficult problems in our society. In its Resolu-

¹ OJ C 9 of 11.1.1978 and Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.81.

tion Parliament laid down the *sine qua non* for the achievement of the programme: that workers themselves should be actively and positively involved in the various parts of the action programme. It hoped that in the implementation of this comprehensive programme the Commission would obtain the full cooperation of all the social partners and make full use of the experience and expert knowledge available in industry.

Mr Vredeling also referred to the importance of the participation of workers in setting up the programme. As Parliament had done, he emphasized the need to ensure the total independence of doctors dealing with industrial accidents and also the special measures on behalf of young people, women and migrant workers. An advisory scientific committee would be set up to carry out toxicological studies, especially on carcinogenic substances; Mr Vredeling concluded by saying that specific measures would be decided as soon as possible. In answer to an oral question by Mrs Krouwel-Vlam (S/NL) who was worried by the increased incidence of cardio-vascular diseases, Mr Vredeling regretted that the Treaty did not provide for any specific action to be taken in this field. Member States had been sent a questionnaire on the measures they had undertaken concerning their citizens' eating and smoking habits. Mr Vredeling hoped that the answers could be discussed at the meeting of Ministers of Health due to be held in November with a view to Community action. However, he doubted whether the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions could be asked to carry out studies in this field.

Fire safety regulations. (12-13 June)

2.3.13. Once again the question of fire safety in hotels aroused Parliament's concern.¹ The report by Mr Spicer (C/UK) showed that fire safety regulations in hotels and similar establishments in the European Community contained serious deficiencies and invited the Commission to draw up a model regulation immediately with a view to ensuring the best possible protection for guests and staff in

hotels and similar establishments. The regulation should provide for:

- (i) the issue, inspection and withdrawal of licences;
- (ii) the prevention and containment of fire and the reduction of the risk of fire;
- (iii) the issue of European fire protection certificates to be displayed where they can be seen.

Meanwhile Parliament urgently requested that a draft directive should be drawn up as quickly as possible so that in all bedrooms a notice is posted giving instructions to be followed and action to be taken in case of fire, fire-extinguishers are positioned in public areas and emergency exits are clearly marked.

Mr Vredeling was unable to commit himself as to dates but said that the Commission was drawing up proposals on fire safety and on the flammability of materials and the toxicity of gases.

Education (16 June)

2.3.14. On the initiative of Mr Waltmans (S/NL) and other signatories, Mrs Kellet-Bowman (C/UK) presented to Parliament a report, further to the action programme for education,² dealing with measures for residential adult education. The resolution which Parliament passed acknowledged that the idea of adult residential education sprang from an idealistic desire to bring the European Community closer to the people but felt that the subject was only one element in the education policy. As it was impracticable to set up a large number of establishments in the Member States at the moment Parliament considered there was a need to start with pilot projects. It emphasized the important Community public relations role played by the Europe Houses and approved the inclusion of 358 000 EUC in the 1979 budget.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.3.18.

² Bull. EC 12-1975, points 1101 and 1102.

Code of conduct for multinational undertakings

(15 June)

2.3.15. Following an oral question put by Mr Bertrand (B) and other signatories on behalf of the Christian-Democrat Group, Parliament re-examined the question¹ of a code of conduct for multinational undertakings.

Convinced of the need for the progressive introduction of binding standards which would bring the multinationals under democratic control the authors of the question wanted to know what the Commission had done on this matter.

In his answer Mr Haferkamp listed a number of measures which had been, or were being, taken by the Council and which concerned multinationals in particular: directives on collective dismissals and on the protection of workers in the event of a merger and the final stage of the Council's review of the directive on company accounts.² The OECD code, adopted in 1976, could not yet be properly evaluated, although the first general impression was positive. In the UN, preparations for a code of conduct were also starting but negotiations were likely to be long.

Mr Haferkamp thought it important to seek a balance between the obligations to be imposed on the multinationals and the conditions which the host country ought to grant them in order to create a favourable climate for investment.

From the floor Mr Ansquer (EPD/F) emphasized in particular that although action by the multinationals might sometimes be negative, the companies had made a great contribution to the spread of technical knowledge and to the creation of jobs. They had managed to profit from the extraordinary economic growth of Europe and 'they had been right to do so'. The Community institutions, and the Community as a whole for

that matter, had not been able to overcome the problems. He thought that if an international code of conduct were to be introduced, it would have to be done coherently and realistically.

Abuse of dominant positions

(15 June)

2.3.16. In reply to an oral question by Mr Lange (S/D) on the abuse of dominant positions, Mr Haferkamp emphasized the importance of the judgment given by the Court of Justice in the United Brands case.³ This was the Court's first judgment pursuant to Article 86 of the EEC Treaty and would facilitate procedures against other abuses of dominant positions. Mr Haferkamp added that a decision on merger control, based on the proposal for a regulation sent to the Council in July 1973,⁴ was urgent, for *a priori* supervision would mean avoiding abuse, whereas *a posteriori* supervision was not enough, in his opinion, to ensure that the market structure was competitive. One Member State had a general reservation about that proposal, but a result could be hoped for within the next six months.

Armaments procurement cooperation

(13-14 June)

2.3.17. There was a heated debate on the question of European armaments procurement cooperation. The report drawn up by Mr Klepsch (C-D/D), further to a resolution moved by Mr Berkhouwer (L/NL), which Parliament passed, invited the Commission

¹ Bull. EC 4-1977, point 2.3.14.

² Supplements 7/71 — Bull. EC and 6/74 — Bull. EC; point 2.1.12.

³ OJ L 95 of 9.4.1978 and Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.3.46.

⁴ OJ C 92 of 31.10.1978.

to send the Council in the near future as an element of the common industrial policy a Community action programme for the development and production of conventional armaments.

In addition to the importance which such an action programme would give to the industrial policy it would allow economies to be made and would promote the objectives of interoperability and/or standardization. The rapporteur wanted proposals therefore with a view to setting up a single, structured Community market in military equipment. He thought, however, that the Community could only progress towards that if there were a parallel development within the IEPG—Independent European Programme Group—and in the two-way relation between Europe and the United States.

Set up on the initiative of the defence ministers in Euro-group—but still, as its name indicated, independent of that body—the IEPG had the advantage that France was represented on it. Its object was close cooperation in the supply of armaments and the establishment of a common position to serve as a basis for negotiations with the United States on matters of defence equipment. It was therefore likely to constitute the chief institutional element in a future European armaments procurement agency, the creation of which, moreover, had been suggested by Mr Tindemans in his report on European Union.¹ To do this it would be a good idea, in the rapporteur's view, if the IEPG could have a permanent secretariat working on the instructions of the member governments. As the Community was responsible for industrial and commercial cooperation it should be represented by the Commission and/or the Presidency of the Council on the IEPG. The Commission should also represent the Member States in negotiations with the United States and Canadian Governments on the commercial terms of the transatlantic arms trade between the Atlantic partners.

As draftsman of the opinion of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Mr Normanton (C/UK) argued above all that any new attempt to set up a common industrial policy which did not apply to the key sector of armaments would be indefensible. As that industry played an important part in providing new technology, which could generally be applied in many different ways in the civilian sphere, failure to cooperate in the

production of military equipment would mean, since costs were very high, that the defence industries in the Community would go into an inevitable decline.

On behalf of the Socialist Group Mr Dankert (NL) strongly indicted Mr Klepsch's report. It was not clear enough, did not define accurately the approach which the Commission should adopt, neglected certain important aspects, in short, it did not take sufficiently into account the complex nature of the problems. Mr Dankert was also opposed to the principle of interoperability which, in his view, led to wastage. He also thought that the report placed the Community executive in a difficult position and, in the last analysis, 'capitulated to the French'.

Thereafter the majority of speakers gave their backing to the report and, consequently, to the definition by the Commission of a Community policy on armaments, insisting like Mr Notenboom (C-D/NL) and Mr Spinelli (COM/I) that these observations did not alter the fundamental attitude of the Europeans who were in favour of reducing armaments. Mr Granelli (C-D/I) also emphasized in particular the need to avoid wastage, to open up public contracts, especially in the armaments industry, and above all to put an end to the well-nigh total dependence of Europe on the United States with regard to armaments.

Subscribing to Mr Brezhnev's view that 'science and technology will play a decisive role in East-West competition' Mr Rippon (C/UK) thought that if Europe did not develop its own military technology it would leave the United States to decide its rate of economic progress. For Mr Spinelli the choice did not lie between national independence and a Community policy but between a Community policy and subordination to the Americans. In short, for those speakers who shared the rapporteur's point of view, armaments procurement was an integral part of the common industrial policy, which was sufficient reason for Parliament to consider the matter.

On the other hand, however, Mr Soury, on behalf of the French Communists, thought that the European Parliament should not concern itself with this problem, even if there were supposedly industrial aspects. In his view, an effort was being made to promote a European defence policy which he did not want to hear about and which was not the responsibility of the Community. He

¹ Supplement 1/76 — Bull. EC.

also emphasized that the French act of ratification stated clearly that 'any act of the European Parliament which exceeded the responsibilities laid down in the Treaty would be automatically void'.

A similar point of view was expressed by Mr Krieg (EPD/F) who saw Parliament's discussion of this problem as 'a deplorable attempt to extend its own powers'. It was impossible to separate entirely the industrial from the underlying military aspects which came exclusively within the scope of the Treaty of Brussels. In addition to these 'institutional' objections Mr Krieg also regretted the report's lack of realism: the IEPG was in serious difficulties at the moment; the United Kingdom did not wish to limit its armaments policy to a Community context; Ireland, a neutral country, would refuse to be associated with European cooperation in this field; Spain would want to keep its bilateral cooperation with the United States, and so on. For Mr Christensen (NA/DK),¹ too, the proposals amounted to a violation of the Treaty.

Taking the floor, Mr Davignon admitted straightaway that a review, in a Community context, of the problems relating directly and indirectly to defence did raise some difficult questions. Was the debate therefore outside Parliament's authority? He thought not, as the Treaty did not specify that any subject associated with defence was automatically outside Community rules. The Treaty did provide, for example, that customs duties should be levied on imports of military equipment. It was therefore legitimate to consider military data when they affected industrial data, though this in no way implied that the Community had any authority in matters of military strategy.

For Mr Davignon, the Commission's task was to evaluate the importance of public orders in industry, especially in areas of high technology, which necessarily meant taking the defence industries into account. According to the circumstances, the Commission would then have to decide in which sub-sectors joint action was called for, not with a protectionist end in view, but merely in order to break up monopolies and avoid waste.

Further to a suggestion from Mr Spinelli, Mr Davignon promised that the Commission would discuss its views with Parliament before drawing up definitive proposals. He concluded by saying that the Community could tackle defence-linked problems without embarking on the subject of European defence or conflicting with the sovereignty of nation States in matters of military strategy.

Budget

Estimates of Parliament for 1979 (15 June)

2.3.18. On the basis of a report presented by Mr Ripamonti (C-D/I) Parliament adopted its estimates which amounted to 111 089 905 EUC. This was still only a provisional estimate which Parliament reserved the right to review in the autumn when it would have a better picture of the newly-elected Parliament's requirements on starting its work. The estimates were up by 10.6% on the appropriations for 1978.

Carry-over of appropriations (13 June)

2.3.19. Parliament approved the non-automatic carry-over of appropriations requested by the Commission for Parliament, the Commission and the Court of Auditors, although it regretted that the Council had not agreed to abolish this non-automatic carry-over procedure as the Commission had proposed.

Parliament drew attention to the problem of its rights being undermined by the failure to commit appropriations entered in the budget by Parliamentary amendment and intended to return to this point when the full picture was known and when it took a decision on the granting of the discharge for the 1977 financial year.

It asked all the institutions in future, to supply full explanations where underspending had occurred and carry-overs were requested and proposed to reassess the carry-over procedure when it examined the complete list of requests later in the financial year.

¹ NA: Non-attached.

Milk Marketing Boards (15-16 June)

2.3.20. Concluding the debate which it had held on this matter in May¹ Parliament formally adopted a resolution moved by Mr Herbert (*EPD/IRL*), in favour of this type of organization provided that the Boards 'are compatible with Community law and the provisions of the Treaty and do not obstruct Community trade'.

Parliament considered that 'the Milk Marketing Boards, in so far as they have helped to channel a major proportion of milk produce in the United Kingdom towards direct human consumption, have contributed to improving the Community's market balance in the dairy sector'. There was no evidence, in Parliament's view, that the special powers granted to the Milk Marketing Boards would in any way restrict imports from other Member States which had more than doubled since 1973. Parliament pointed out that the modified proposals included provision to ensure that differentiation of milk prices according to intended use would not cause any distortion in competition between the United Kingdom and other Member States.

Company law (15-16 June)

2.3.21. Parliament endorsed the proposal for a seventh Directive concerning group accounts.² The report presented to Parliament by Mr Schwörer (*C-D/D*) welcomed the submission of this proposal for a directive providing for the consolidation in a single group account of the individual accounts of all undertakings belonging to a group in order to obtain a true and fair view of the economic and financial position of the group itself.

However, in the Resolution which it adopted Parliament wished to see certain amendments to the proposal introduced. These were:

- (i) when a dominant group undertaking publishes group accounts in accordance with provisions of the Directive, sub-group accounts need not be drawn up;
- (ii) provisions should be made for drawing-up consolidated accounts on a worldwide basis;
- (iii) the Directive should be applied as a general rule to banks and insurance companies;
- (iv) even in the absence of a central and unified management, a dominant undertaking should provide information equivalent to that provided by a consolidation regarding certain undertakings which are presumed to be 'dependent';
- (v) systematic checks should be carried out to ensure that exempted firms continue to meet the requirements for exemption from the consolidation;
- (vi) verification should be made in the annual audit that the interim accounts conform to the principles laid down in the fourth Directive;³
- (vii) it should be possible for Member States to authorize consolidation differences, which cannot be entered wholly or in part against the various items in the group consolidated balance sheet, to be written off over a period exceeding five years.

Replying on behalf of the Commission, Mr Burke emphasized the importance of this proposal which constituted an essential complement to the Directive on the annual accounts of limited liability companies which the Council has just formally adopted.³

Normalization of railway undertakings' accounts (15-16 June)

2.3.22. Parliament endorsed the Commission proposal amending the Regulation on the common rules for the normalization of the accounts of railway undertakings⁴ and considered that the proposed amendments

¹ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.3.14.

² Supplement 9/76 — Bull. EC; Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2108.

³ Point 2.1.12.

⁴ OJ C 307 of 21.12.1977 and Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.56.

would lend greater transparency to the accounts. The report presented by Mr Nyborg (EPD/DK) called on the Commission to draw up further proposals which would place the finances of railway undertakings on a sounder footing and bring about closer cooperation between national railway companies. The Committee on Regional Policy, which had insisted on these two points, thought that the Commission's proposed amendments were of only marginal importance compared with the main problem of strengthening the position of national railways. As the Commission representative Mr Burke declared, only two Member States had to date carried out the Council's Decision of 20 May 1975 relating to the rationalization of railway undertakings¹ and established multi-annual business plans and investment programmes. Nevertheless, an interesting future was opening up with regard to the financing of infrastructure projects, an area where a very important proposal was now being examined by the Council.

Council

2.3.23. The Council held seven meetings in June on the following subjects: foreign affairs, transport, economic and financial affairs, agriculture, fisheries and social affairs.

520th meeting — Foreign Affairs (Luxembourg, 6 June)

2.3.23a. *President:* Mr Andersen, Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Commission: Mr Jenkins, President; Mr Natali, Mr Ortoli, Mr Haferkamp, Vice-Presidents; Mr Cheysson, Mr Vouel, Mr Giolitti, Mr Davignon, Members.

Portugal's application for accession: The Council took note of the Commission's Opinion on Portugal's application for accession and accepted the application.²

Relations with Yugoslavia: After hearing a progress report by Vice-President Haferkamp on the Community's negotiations with Yugoslavia, the Council noted the unanimous desire of all delegations to see these negotiations progress along positive lines. The Council decided to return to this item on the basis of proposals for additional negotiating directives announced by the Commission.

Iron and steel: The Council held an exchange of views on the steps the Commission proposes to take regarding the functioning of the steel market in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of the crisis plan.³ The Council affirmed its resolve to ensure that the plan was implemented and pledged its support for the Commission's action.

GATT — multilateral trade negotiations: The Council heard a detailed Commission progress report on the negotiations.⁴

521st meeting — Transport (Luxembourg, 12 June)

2.3.24. *President:* Mr Olesen, Danish Minister of Public Works and Communications.

Commission: Mr Burke, Member.

Statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods: The Council adopted the Directive on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by road as part of regional statistics.⁵

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2257.

² Bull. EC 5-1978, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.6 and Supplement 5/78 — Bull. EC.

³ Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.4.

⁴ Point 2.2.10.

⁵ Point 2.1.106.

Regular coach and bus services: The Council adopted an amendment intended to simplify the information procedure laid down in the Regulation on the introduction of common rules for regular and special regular services by coach and bus between Member States.¹

Summer time: The Council noted that it would not be possible to decide in time on the application of uniform summer-time arrangements for the whole Community in 1979.

Rhine Navigation Convention: The Council considered the proposal for a Decision on the adoption by certain Member States of an Additional Protocol to the revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine of 17 October 1968.²

Safety at sea: The Council endorsed a recommendation on the ratification of certain international conventions on safety in shipping.³

Liner Conferences: The Council reviewed the progress of the proceedings relating to the accession of the Community to the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences.

Costing of railway undertakings: The Council approved the Regulation laying down uniform costing principles for railway undertakings.⁴

Austrian transport tax: The Council adopted a statement on the road tax applicable to goods transport in Austria, which was introduced on 1 July 1978.¹

Railways: In the light of the Commission report on the progress made in the preparation of a programme of cooperation among the railway undertakings of the Nine, the Council considered that the Commission should, in collaboration with the Member States and the railway undertakings, take supplementary measures in certain areas.

Air transport: The Council agreed to the establishment of a work programme covering some ten priority items regarding air transport.⁵

Combined rail/road carriage: After an exchange of views on the subject, the Council called on the Commission to seek ways of stimulating carriers' interest in combined rail/road transport.

Monitoring freight markets: The Council was informed of the Commission's plans for carrying out, for a period of three years from 1 January 1979, an experimental monitoring of the markets for the carriage of goods by rail, road and inland waterway between Member States.⁶

European driving licence: The Council agreed to await the opinion which the Court of Justice is shortly to deliver on certain points concerning the proposal for a Directive on the harmonization of the laws governing motor vehicle driving licences; this opinion could have important implications for future proceedings on the matter.

Taxes on commercial road vehicles: The Council agreed in principle on the first Directive on the adjustment of national taxation systems for commercial road vehicles.¹

Activities of certain non-member countries in shipping: The Council recorded its agreement on a framework decision binding each Member State to take steps to set up a system for gathering information on the activities of fleets of countries whose practices are detri-

¹ Point 2.1.106.

² Point 2.1.107.

³ Point 2.1.108.

⁴ Point 2.1.105.

⁵ Point 2.1.109.

⁶ Point 2.1.104.

mental to the shipping interests of Member States.

522nd meeting — Economic and Financial Affairs
(Luxembourg, 19 June)

2.3.25. *President:* Mr Heinesen, Danish Minister of Finance.

Commission: Mr Ortolì, Vice-President; Mr Tugendhat, Member.

Common strategy on the economic and social situation: The Council drew up its contribution to the report on the preparation of a common strategy to deal with the economic and social situation in the Community for submission to the meeting of the European Council in Bremen on 6 and 7 July.¹

Community loan to promote investment within the Community: The Council agreed to prepare its position for the next conciliation meeting with Parliament, to be held on 24 July, to discuss the proposal to empower the Commission to contract loans for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community.

523rd meeting — Agriculture
(Luxembourg, 19 and 20 June)

2.3.26. *President:* Mr Dalsager, Danish Minister of Agriculture.

Commission: Mr Gundelach, Vice-President.

Potatoes: The Council resumed its examination of the proposal for a Regulation on the common organization of the potato market.

Sheepmeat: The Council held a general discussion on the principles which should govern the planned common organization of the market in sheepmeat.

Multilateral agricultural negotiations: The Council heard a Commission statement on the progress of the current GATT multilateral negotiations, with particular reference to the agricultural aspects.

Common measure for forestry: The Council decided to resume its examination of the proposal for a Regulation on a common measure for forestry in certain dry Mediterranean zones of the Community at its next meeting, scheduled for 24 and 25 July, so that a decision could be taken before the end of September 1978.

524th meeting — Fisheries
(Luxembourg, 20 and 21 June)

2.3.27. *President:* Mr Dalsager, Danish Minister of Agriculture.

Commission: Mr Gundelach, Vice-President.

Fisheries policy: The Council discussed in detail a series of issues raised by both the internal and external aspects of framing the common fisheries policy.²

525th meeting — Foreign Affairs
(Luxembourg, 26 and 27 June)

2.3.28. *President:* Mr Andersen, Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Commission: Mr Jenkins, President; Mr Natali, Mr Ortolì, Mr Haferkamp, Vice-Presidents; Mr Cheysson, Mr Brunner, Mr Vouel,

¹ Point 1.5.2.

² Points 2.1.98 and 2.1.99.

Mr Giolitti, Mr Burke, Mr Davignon, Members.

Election of Members of the European Parliament: The Council noted that all the Member States have completed the national procedures necessary for the adoption of the Act of 20 September 1976 on the election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage.¹ The Act entered into force on 1 July 1978. Parliament has been formally consulted on the dates for the first election, which is likely to take place from 7 to 10 June 1979.

ACP-EEC Convention: The Council adopted the Directives empowering the Commission to open negotiations with the ACP countries on 24 July 1978 for the renewal of the Lomé Convention.

Regional policy: The Council agreed on a common position, to be notified to Parliament under the conciliation procedure, concerning the amendment of the Council Regulation establishing a European Regional Development Fund.²

Shipbuilding: The Council held a general discussion on the Commission communication concerning the rationalization of the shipbuilding industry and the framing of a common policy in this sector.³

Company law: The Council approved the Directive on the harmonization of the annual accounts of limited companies.⁴

Relations with the EFTA countries: The Council discussed the Commission Communication regarding the Community's relations with the EFTA countries.⁵

Common strategy on the economic and social situation: The Council finalized the report for the Bremen European Council on a common strategy to deal with the economic and social situation.⁶

Relations with Japan: The Council was informed by the Commission of its consultations with the Japanese Government. It confirmed the importance it attached to closer and more balanced relations with Japan and to continuing consultations with a view to a more harmonious development of economic and trade relations.⁷

Freedom of movement for dentists: The Council approved a set of measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services for dental surgeons throughout the Community.⁸

Textiles: The Council took stock of the situation regarding the problems facing the Community as a result of imports of textile products originating in certain countries with which the Community has preferential agreements.⁹

Structural policy in the iron and steel industry: The Council held a policy debate on the problems regarding the framing of a Community structural policy for the iron and steel industry.

GATT multilateral trade negotiations: The Council laid down the guidelines for the decisive phase of these negotiations.¹⁰

Removal of technical barriers: The Council adopted the Directive on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous prepa-

¹ Bull. EC 9-1976, points 2501 to 2507.

² Point 2.1.57.

³ Point 2.1.18.

⁴ Point 2.1.12.

⁵ Point 2.2.70.

⁶ Point 1.5.2.

⁷ Point 2.2.74.

⁸ Point 2.1.14.

⁹ Point 2.2.56.

¹⁰ Point 2.2.10.

rations (pesticides);¹ this is the hundredth Directive on the removal of trade barriers.

526th meeting — Social Affairs (Luxembourg, 29 June)

2.3.29. *President:* Mr Auken, Danish Minister of Labour.

Commission: Mr Vredeling, Vice-President.

Safety and health at work: The Council adopted a Resolution containing a European Communities action programme on safety and health at work.²

Protection of workers' health: The Council adopted the Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States on the protection of the health of workers exposed to vinyl chloride monomer (a plastic widely used for industrial purposes).

Employment of young people: The Council held a detailed discussion on the proposals for Community aid to promote the employment of young people.³ A broad degree of agreement was reached on many aspects of these proposals. However, opposition by one delegation meant that it was not possible to conclude the matter, and the Council agreed to report to the European Council in Bremen.

Conduct of a firm during a legal industrial dispute in Denmark: At the request of the Danish Delegation, the Council commented on the conduct of a firm during a legal industrial dispute in Denmark.

Commission

Activities

2.3.30. The Commission held four meetings in June. The run-up to the European

Council in Bremen on 6 and 7 July played a large part in its discussions, and various communications were prepared for it.³ The President of the European Parliament, Mr Colombo, paid an official visit to the Commission,⁴ which also received Mr von Dohnanyi, Minister of State, German Federal Foreign Office, representing the government which is taking over the Council chair for the second half of this year. The Council President is to outline his programme for the second half of the year at Parliament's July part-session. Steel policy came up for attention once again. Elsewhere in industrial policy, the Commission gave particular consideration to the aerospace industry. Various communications were adopted for the forthcoming resumption of the fisheries negotiations. On education, proposals were made on language teaching and on the teaching of Community affairs. On external relations and development aid, lastly, the Commission discussed the renewal of the Lomé Convention and aspects of relations with Greece.

Steel: The Commission adopted a series of measures to improve the effectiveness of its restructuring plan. The measures provide for new guide prices for various steel products, new minimum prices for three categories of products, and a deposit system to strengthen controls and their enforcement in cases where minimum prices are not respected.⁵

Preparing the way for discussion of this question by the Council, the Commission adopted a communication to the Council containing guidelines on the restructuring of the steel industry, with particular reference

¹ Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.4.

² Point 2.1.39.

³ Points 1.5.1 to 1.5.3.

⁴ Point 2.3.1.

⁵ Point 2.1.16.

to social measures over the next few years, with a view to retraining and redeploying the steel industry's work force.¹ The Commission also adopted the forward programme for steel for the third quarter of this year.¹

Fisheries: The Commission sent the Council a number of amended proposals for regulations and directives, either to supplement the conservation and fisheries resources management measures it had already proposed or to deal with reorganization of the industry and a scheme for restructuring inshore fishing.² Another proposal to the Council would set out measures for the conservation and management of fisheries resources in 1978, including catch quotas for herring stocks.³ The Commission also approved a communication to the Council concerning the ban on herring fishing in waters off the west coast of Scotland.

Industrial policy: The Commission adopted a communication to the Council urging concerted action by Member States on aircraft programmes over the next few years.⁴

Commerce and distribution: The Commission approved a communication on the organization of relations between the Commission and commerce and the distributive trades. This advocated the setting up of a committee of highly qualified consultants and representatives of European or national organizations representing commerce and the distributive trades; the committee would be set up for a trial period only.⁵

National aid to milk producers in Northern Ireland: The Commission adopted a communication to the Council authorizing the United Kingdom to introduce national aid to milk producers in Northern Ireland.

Education: The Commission adopted proposals to the Council and the meeting of Ministers for Education, consisting of a general programme to encourage and improve the

teaching of languages, particularly Community languages, and a communication on teaching activities with a European dimension.⁶

Greece: While examining various questions arising out of the current industrial difficulties, the Commission discussed the textile sector, where imports of certain products from Greece now exceed forecasts. The Commission approved the broad lines of measures to be taken under Article 55 of the Athens Agreement.⁷ It also decided to send the Council the draft of a decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with Greece for the reinsertion of a clause in the Association Agreement allowing either party to take safeguard measures to meet economic difficulties.

Lomé Convention: The Commission approved the legal text of a recommendation for a negotiating brief for the renewal of the Lomé Convention. The draft preamble to the new Convention, set out in one of the two annexes to the document, includes a passage on human rights.

Relations with workers and employers' organizations

2.3.31. Several meetings of representatives of the two sides of industry were held in June. They exchanged views with the Commission on investment and full employment,

¹ Points 1.1.1 to 1.3.4.

² Point 2.1.100.

³ Point 2.1.98.

⁴ Point 2.1.19.

⁵ Point 2.1.20.

⁶ Points 1.4.1 to 1.4.3.

⁷ Point 2.2.58.

and on the international situation in the run-up to the next tripartite conference.

At *three information meetings*, experts from the European Committee of Trade Unions in Entertainment and the Arts heard about cultural plans, the European Federation of Building and Wood Workers in the EEC was told of the economic situation in the construction industry, and the European Trade Union Confederation was informed on the enlargement of the Community.

Several *consultative meetings* were also held. Teachers' unions discussed the Commission's programme. Mr Davignon had talks with the textile industry unions, also attended by man-made fibre manufacturers, and discussed commercial policy and trade union consultation procedures with representatives of the European Trade Union Confederation. Steel unions were consulted on the general objectives for steel set by the Commission.

At *preliminary consultation meetings* experts from the European Confederation of Trade Unions dealt with several questions: renewal of the Lomé Convention, taxation and transfer prices, the common agricultural policy, energy policy and temporary working. Lastly, representatives of the European Metalworkers' Federation discussed the impact of data processing on jobs and working conditions.

Court of Justice¹

New cases

Procedure under Article 103 of the EAEC Treaty — 1/78

2.3.32. After obtaining the comments of the Commission, the Kingdom of Belgium applied to the Court of Justice on 3 June,

under the third paragraph of Article 103 of the EAEC Treaty, for a decision on its right to take part, in the absence of any concomitant participation by the Community, in the Convention on the physical protection of nuclear substances, installations and transport which is being prepared.

Case 126/78 — N.V. Nederlandse Spoorwegen, Utrecht v Staatssecretaris van Financiën

2.3.33. In a dispute concerning the deduction of value added tax which the Dutch railways are liable to pay to the tax authorities in respect of their activities relating to the carriage of goods for which each is payable on delivery, the Hoge Raad der Nederlanden asked the Court of Justice on 2 June a number of preliminary questions² on the interpretation of item 5 of Annex B of Directive 67/228 on VAT³ and on whether the collection of money on delivery of those goods was a service exempted from value added tax.

Case 127/78 — Firma H. Spitta & Co., Frankfurt am Main v Hauptzollamt Frankfurt am Main

2.3.34. A meat importer questioned whether the German Authorities were entitled to collect monetary compensatory amounts on seasoned beef and veal imports from France under Regulation No 3092/76⁴ in view of the fact that the conditions laid down in Article 1 (1) of Regulation No 974/71⁵ were not fulfilled, that the regulation discriminated between intra-Community trade and trade with

¹ For further details, see the texts published by the Court of Justice in the Official Journal and in the European Court Reports.

² OJ C 161 of 7.7.1978.

³ OJ 71 of 14.4.1967.

⁴ OJ L 348 of 18.12.1976.

⁵ OJ L 106 of 12.5.1971.



third countries and, finally, that it failed to make provision for contracts concluded before its entry into force. This matter was brought before the Hessisches Finanzgericht, which requested the Court of Justice on 7 June to rule on whether this regulation was valid.¹

Case 128/78 — Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom

2.3.35. On 8 June¹ the Commission brought an action before the Court of Justice for a declaration that by failing to adopt in good time the implementing measures provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 1463/70 on the introduction of recording equipment in road transport,² the United Kingdom had failed to fulfil its obligations under Article 21 (1) of that regulation.

Case 129/78 — Bestuur van de Sociale Verzekeringsbank, Amsterdam v A.E. Lohmann, Retie

2.3.36. In a dispute on the grant to a former Dutch civil servant in receipt of an invalidity pension, and residing in Belgium, of family allowances for a child residing in the Netherlands, the Centrale Raad van Beroep (Dutch court of last instance on social security matters) asked the Court of Justice on 9 June for a preliminary ruling³ on the interpretation of Article 1 (j) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on social security.⁴ It asked whether the fact that Article 1 (j) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 only referred to paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 4 signified that the limitation contained in paragraph 4 of that Article did not relate to the meaning of the term 'legislation' where the term was used elsewhere in the regulation. Secondly, it asked whether the terms 'pension under the legislation of one Member State only' in Article 77 (2) (a) also included pensions payable

under a special scheme for civil servants and persons treated as such.

Case 130/78 — Salumificio di Cornuda SpA, Cornuda v Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato

2.3.37. In a dispute concerning the collection by the Italian authorities of a supplement to the levies on beef and veal imports in 1966, the Italian Corte Suprema di Cassazione, confronted with two Community instruments of the same date, namely Council Decision 66/455/EEC⁵ authorizing the Italian Republic to increase in the beef and veal sector levies on certain imports from third countries and Commission Decision 66/474/EEC⁶ requiring the Italian Republic to abolish safeguards in respect of full-grown cattle and calves (in this case a supplement to the levy), asked the Court of Justice on 9 June³ for a preliminary ruling on which of these two instruments took precedence. In the event of the Commission Decision taking precedence, the Corte Suprema di Cassazione asked whether it was directly applicable, when it entered into force and whether the effect of that decision was to annul the relevant national instrument *ex tunc* or merely to repeal it *ex nunc*.

Case 131/78 — Firma K.A. Becher, Bremen v Bundesanstalt für landwirtschaftliche Marktordnung, Frankfurt am Main

2.3.38. The Hessisches Finanzgericht asked the Court of Justice on 9 June for a preliminary ruling on whether Regulation (EEC) No

¹ OJ C 161 of 7.7.1978.

² OJ L 164 of 27.7.1970.

³ OJ C 166 of 12.7.1978.

⁴ OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

⁵ OJ 144 of 5.8.1966.

⁶ OJ 153 of 23.8.1966.

1173/75 fixing the threshold prices for cereals for the 1975/76 marketing year¹ was valid insofar as it related to common wheat. The Finanzgericht made this reference for a ruling in connection with a dispute on the prior fixing of the levy rate on imports of this product.²

Case 132/78 — Denkavit Loire, Sarl, Montreuil Bellay v Etat français, Administration des Douanes, Lille

2.3.39. The Lille tribunal d'instance (court of first instance) asked the Court of Justice on 12 June for a preliminary ruling on whether the collection of a fee for health inspection by the customs authorities on imports of lard from another Member State for use in the manufacture of animal feeding-stuffs was inconsistent with Articles 9, 12 and 13 of the EEC Treaty (charges having equivalent effect to customs duties) or with Article 95 of the EEC Treaty (discriminatory taxation) or with Regulation (EEC) No 2759/75 on the common organization of the market in pigmeat.³

Case 133/78 — H. Gourdain, Paris v F. Nadler, Wetzlar

2.3.40. In connection with bankruptcy proceedings, the Paris Cour d'appel (Court of Appeal), at the request of the liquidator responsible for winding up the affairs of the insolvent company, ordered the *de facto* manager of that company, who was resident in Germany, to pay the company's debts. Since an application by the liquidator of the company to a German court for an order enforcing this decision was rejected, the matter was brought before the Bundesgerichtshof, which requested the Court of Justice on 12 June to rule on the scope of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters.⁴

Case 134/78 — Firma E. Danhuber, Munich v Bundesanstalt für landwirtschaftliche Marktordnung, Frankfurt/Main

2.3.41. A dispute was brought before the Hessisches Finanzgericht concerning the payment of import levies on beef and veal for which import licences had been issued under Regulation (EEC) No 1090/75 relating to the EXIM system⁵ but in respect of which transitional measures, laid down in Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 76/76⁶ setting up a system linking imports of beef and veal products effected by way of protective measures with the sale of beef held by intervention agencies, had been applied. This was because the operator had been unable to prove in good time that he had exported products without refunds, as a result, according to him, of delays occasioned by the German Authorities. The German court asked the Court of Justice on 12 June to give a preliminary ruling on whether the latter provision was valid.

Cases 135/78 and 135/78 R — Eurosteel Products Ltd, London v Commission

2.3.42. To counter dumping practices on the part of non-member countries of the ECSC, the Commission had imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of iron or steel coils for re-rolling from South Korea by Recommendation 112/78/ECSC⁷ and had confirmed this measure by Recommendation 790/78/ECSC imposing a defini-

¹ OJ L 117 of 7.5.1975.

² OJ C 166 of 12.7.1978.

³ OJ L 282 of 1.11.1975.

⁴ OJ L 299 of 31.12.1972.

⁵ OJ L 108 of 26.4.1975.

⁶ OJ L 10 of 17.1.1976.

⁷ OJ L 17 of 21.1.1978.

tive duty.¹ A United Kingdom importer of these products applied to the Court of Justice on 13 June for financial compensation, under Article 40 of the ECSC Treaty, in respect of the loss it claimed to have suffered as a result of the application of those instruments. Furthermore, the applicant submitted an application for interim measures to ensure that the amounts guaranteed as provisional duties were not definitively collected until the Court reached a decision on the substance of the case.

Case 136/78 — Ministère public (Public Prosecutor) v V. Auer, Mulhouse

2.3.43. The Colmar cour d'appel (Court of Appeal), hearing a case concerning a prohibition imposed by France on an Austrian national from practising the profession of veterinary surgeon in France after he had qualified as a veterinary surgeon in Italy, had acquired the right to practice the profession there and had thereafter become a French national, stayed the proceedings pending a preliminary ruling by the Court of Justice, to which the matter was referred on 14 June, on whether this measure was consistent with Articles 52 and 57 of the EEC Treaty.

Case 137/78 — (1) Henningsen Food Inc., Nebraska; (2) Van den Burg Eiprodukten BV, Waalwijk; (3) Henningsen Van den Burg, Waalwijk v Produktschap voor Pluimvee en Eieren, Zeist

2.3.44. A dispute concerning the allocation by the Dutch authorities of monetary compensatory amounts on imports to the United Kingdom of a product consisting mainly of egg-powder was brought before the College van Beroep voor het Bedrijfsleven in The Hague, which asked the Court of Justice on 14 June 1978 for a preliminary ruling on the

tariff classification of this product and, consequently, on the right to monetary compensatory amounts, and on whether the authorities of the exporting country were bound to grant these amounts where the authorities of the importing country had failed to comply with the customs formalities laid down in the second sentence of Article 11 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1380/75 laying down detailed rules for the application of monetary compensatory amounts.²

Case 138/78 — H.M. Stölting, Tankenrader Berg v Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Jonas

2.3.45. In a case in which a German milk producer challenged the collection of a co-responsibility levy on milk deliveries on the grounds that Regulations (EEC) Nos 1079/77³ and 1822/77⁴ imposing this levy had no legal basis, the Finanzgericht Hamburg asked the Court of Justice on 14 June for a preliminary ruling on whether these regulations were valid, and secondly, on whether the determination of the levy rate in units of account was consistent with Article 40 (3) of the EEC Treaty.

Case 139/78 — G. Coccioli, Göttingen v Bundesanstalt für Arbeit, Nürnberg

2.3.46. In a dispute on whether a worker travelling to another Member State for the purpose of seeking employment there was still entitled to receive unemployment benefits, the Sozialgericht Hildesheim asked the Court of Justice on 14 June a number of preliminary questions on whether Article 69 (3)

¹ OJ L 106 of 20.4.1978.

² OJ L 139 of 30.5.1975.

³ OJ L 131 of 26.5.1977.

⁴ OJ L 203 of 9.8.1977.

of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71¹ on social security made provision for extending the period within which a worker could return to the State concerned without losing his rights there, where an application for an extension was submitted after the original period had expired, a sudden illness having prevented the return of the worker concerned before such expiry.

Case 140/78 — Commission v Italy

2.3.47. The Commission brought an action against Italy on 14 June for a declaration that that Member State, by failing to submit in good time reports relating to the use of Community funds allocated to Italy under Regulations (EEC) No 130/66 on the financing of the common agricultural policy² and No 159/66/EEC on supplementary provisions on the common organization of markets in the fruit and vegetable sector,³ had failed to fulfil its obligation under those regulations.

Case 141/78 — France v United Kingdom

2.3.48. On 14 June France brought an action before the Court of Justice against the United Kingdom. This is only the second time in the history of the Community in which a Member State has instituted proceedings against another Member State before the Court. France complained that a United Kingdom Ministerial Order issued in 1977 concerning maximum by-catches authorized for fishing vessels was inconsistent with obligations incumbent on the United Kingdom arising under Community fisheries legislation. France relied particularly on the fact that the United Kingdom had failed to request the Commission to approve the abovementioned measure, as provided for in Annex VI of The Hague Agreements on fisheries problems in October 1976, and that the British measure went further than was required to comply with Recommendation

No 5 drawn up under the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Convention. France alleged, moreover, that the British measure exceeded the powers of a Member State basically in view of its excessive effect on the fishery products market and its impact on the Community's external negotiations on fisheries. France also alleged that the British measure was unlawful since it was a national measure which went further than was necessary for conservation purposes.

Case 142/78 — Commission official v Commission

2.3.49. A Commission official brought an action before the Court of Justice on 19 June to obtain the household allowance of which the Commission had earlier deprived him.

Case 143/77 — J. de Cavel, Frankfurt/Main v L. de Cavel, Frankfurt/Main

2.3.50. The plaintiff in divorce proceedings before a French court applied to a German court for an order enforcing the judgment of the French court placing under seal and ordering the seizure of matrimonial property situated in Germany. Since this application was rejected by the lower courts, the Bundesgerichtshof asked the Court of Justice on 19 June to rule on the inapplicability of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters⁴ to the judgment of the French court in so far as it constitutes a procedure parallel to a legal procedure relating to the

¹ OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

² OJ 165 of 21.9.1966.

³ OJ 192 of 27.10.1966.

⁴ OJ L 299 of 31.12.1972.

status of natural persons and property rights between husband and wife.

Case 144/78 — R. Tinelli, Stuttgart v Berufsgenossenschaft der chemischen Industrie, Heidelberg

2.3.31. In a dispute concerning the failure to pay accident pension to an Italian national who had been injured in an industrial accident in 1944 in Stassfurt (now in the German Democratic Republic) for the period in which the person concerned was resident outside the Federal Republic of Germany, the Landessozialgericht Baden-Württemberg asked the Court of Justice on 19 June to rule on whether Article 50 and Annex G IA 2 of Regulation No 3 on the social security of migrant workers,¹ and Article 59 and Annex V B 1 (b) of Regulation (EEC) 1408/71,² laying down the exceptions to the principle of the waiver of residence clauses, are compatible with Article 51 of the EEC Treaty.

Case 145/78 — A.P. Augustijn, Moerstraten v Staatssecretaris van Verkeer en Waterstaat

2.3.52. A member of a firm of carriers, which is to be dissolved and whose business will be taken over by two one-man companies, one of them being run by the member in question, who fails to satisfy the condition as to professional competence laid down in Article 3(1)(c) of Directive 74/561/EEC on admission to the occupation of road haulage operator in national and international transport operations,³ applied for exemption from the requirement laid down in Article 4(2), which was refused by the national authorities. The matter was brought before the Raad van State in The Hague, which asked the Court of Justice on 19 June for a ruling on whether the exemption referred to above could be granted only where the business was carried on in its entirety, retaining the same legal structure, or whether it was suf-

ficient, in order to claim the exemption, for some of the activities of the original company to be carried on.

Case 146/78 — A.J. Wattenberg, Nijmegen v Staatssecretaris van Verkeer en Waterstaat

2.3.53. After the management of a family transport company had been taken over by the owner's son, who failed to satisfy the condition as to professional competence laid down in Article 3(1)(c) of Directive 74/561/EEC on admission to the occupation of road haulage operator in national and international transport operations³ but who was granted a temporary exemption from this condition by the national authorities, the son applied to the authorities in question for definitive exemption. Following the rejection of his application, the person concerned brought an action before the Raad van State in The Hague, which asked the Court of Justice on 19 June a number of preliminary questions on the interpretation of Articles 3, 4 and 5 of the said directive.

Case 147/78 — Firma Köln-Bonner Eisenbahnen AG (KBE), Köln v (1) Bundesrepublik Deutschland, vertreten durch den Bundesminister für Verkehr and (2) Land Nordrhein-Westfalen, vertreten durch den Minister für Wirtschaft, Mittelstand und Verkehr

2.3.54. A German private undertaking providing railway and bus services claimed in the Oberverwaltungsgericht (Higher Administrative Court) for Land North Rhine-Westphalia financial compensation from the Fed-

¹ OJ 30 of 16.12.1958.

² OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

³ OJ L 308 of 19.11.1974.

eral Government and from the Land in respect of concessionary rates which it is obliged to charge certain categories of passengers, and the reimbursement of one-half of the costs incurred in maintaining crossing installations. The German court asked the Court of Justice on 20 June to rule on the interpretation of Decision 65/271 on the harmonization of certain provisions affecting competition in transport by rail, road and inland waterway¹ and on the interpretation and, if appropriate, on the validity of Regulations (EEC) No 1191/69 on action by Member States concerning the obligations inherent in the concept of a public service in transport by rail, road and inland waterway and No 1192/69 on common rules for the standardization of the accounts of railway undertakings² which confine these advantages to State railway companies.

Case 148/78 — Criminal proceedings v T. Ratti

2.3.55. In criminal proceedings instituted against a producer of solvents for failing to observe rules under Italian law relating to packaging and labelling solvents and varnishes, the Milan Pretura penale asked the Court of Justice on 21 June a number of preliminary questions. These relate to the direct applicability of Directives 73/173/EEC and 77/728/EEC on the approximation of the Member States' laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations (solvents)³ and of paints, varnishes, printing-inks, adhesives and similar products,⁴ whether the Member States could adopt measures which were more restrictive than those provided for in the directives and whether the measures constituted obstacles to the free movement of goods.

Case 149/78 — Metallurgica L. Rumi, SpA, Bergamo v the Commission

2.3.56. By its Decision of 30 May the Commission fined the firm of Rumi LIT 68 840 000 on the ground that it had effected certain transactions at prices lower than those on its own scale, thereby infringing Article 60 of the ECSC Treaty and the decisions adopted to implement it. The firm concerned lodged an appeal with the Court of Justice on 22 June 1978 for the annulment of that decision.

Case 150/78 — Firma K.A. Becher, Bremen v Bundesanstalt für landwirtschaftliche Marktordnung, Frankfurt/Main

2.3.57. The Hessisches Finanzgericht asked the Court of Justice on 26 June for a preliminary ruling on the validity of Regulation No (EEC) 1427/74 fixing the threshold prices for cereals for the 1974/75 marketing year⁵ in so far as it related to sorghum, on the ground that it was contrary to the first paragraph of Article 5 of Regulation No 120/67/EEC⁶ as most recently amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1125/74.⁷

Judgments

Case 28/77 — Tepea BV (voorheen Theal BV), The Hague v Commission

2.3.58. On 21 December 1976 the Commission adopted a Decision stating that the verbal exclusive distribution agreement between a Netherlands firm and a United Kingdom

¹ OJ 88 of 24.5.1965.

² OJ L 156 of 28.6.1969.

³ OJ L 189 of 11.7.1973.

⁴ OJ L 89 of 7.4.1977.

⁵ OJ L 151 of 8.6.1974.

⁶ OJ 117 of 19.6.1967.

⁷ OJ L 128 of 10.5.1974.

firm constituted an infringement of Article 85 (1) of the EEC Treaty.¹ The Commission also fined the said firms under Article 15 (1) of Regulation No 17 implementing Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty² on account of the fact that the Commission was not notified of all the facts.

The Netherlands undertaking brought an action before the Court on 24 February 1977 to annul the decision.³

The Court dismissed this action in its judgment of 20 June.

Case 70/77 — SpA Simmenthal v Ministero delle Finanze

2.3.59. In hearing an action concerning the collection by the Italian authorities of a fee for health inspections carried out on beef and veal imported from third countries, the Pretore d'Alessandria asked the Court of Justice on 6 June 1977 for a ruling on whether such a fee constituted a charge having equivalent effect to a customs duty and whether Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems on importation of animals and meat from third countries⁴ authorized the reintroduction of fees for health inspections. If the reply to the latter question were in the affirmative, the Pretore raised the question of the validity of the said Directive.⁵

In its judgment of 28 June the Court explained that the charges imposed for health inspections carried out on bovine animals and beef and veal imported from third countries constituted charges having equivalent effect to customs duties. The Council, exercising a right vested in it, introduced, by Directive 72/462/EEC, exemption from the prohibition against the imposition of charges having equivalent effect in trade with third countries. These exemptions would take effect as soon as the Member States had been

given the opportunity of organizing the inspections provided for in the Directive.

Case 71/77 — Commission official v Commission

2.3.60. By its judgment in Case 53/72,⁶ the Court annulled the Commission's rejection of the applicant's request to be allowed to resume his scientific work and experiments. Faced with the Commission's delay in taking action thereon, the applicant, who had in the meantime been transferred to another post, brought a fresh action before the Court on 9 June to annul the Commission's implicit rejection of his complaint in this connection and to contest the absence from his personal file of certain reports.⁷

The applicant discontinued proceedings and the Court accordingly removed the case from the register by order of 15 June.

Case 77/77 — (1) Benzine en Petroleum Handel Maatschappij BV, Amsterdam; (2) British Petroleum Raffinaderij Nederland NV, Rozenburg; (3) British Petroleum Maatschappij Nederland BV, Amsterdam v Commission

2.3.61. Three petroleum undertakings brought an action before the Court of Justice on 4 July 1977 for the annulment of the Commission's Decision of 19 April 1977⁸ in which the Commission held that the refusal by BP to make certain deliveries to ABG

¹ OJ L 39 of 20.2.1977.

² OJ L 13 of 21.2.1962.

³ Bull. EC 2-1977, point 2.3.41.

⁴ OJ L 302 of 31.12.1972.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.3.46.

⁶ Bull. EC 7/8-1974, point 2447.

⁷ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.3.47.

⁸ OJ L 117 of 9.5.1977.

during the oil crisis constituted an abuse of a dominant position within the meaning of Article 86 of the EEC Treaty.¹

The Court annulled the decision complained of in its judgment of 29 June.

Case 99/77 — Commission official v Commission

2.3.62. A former Commission official brought an action before the Court of Justice on 1 August 1977 for the annulment of the implied decision of the Commission rejecting two complaints made by the applicant seeking respectively the withdrawal of his probation report and the withdrawal of the decision to dismiss him.²

The Court dismissed the action in its judgment of 1 June.³

Case 110/77 — Commission official v Commission

2.3.63. A Commission official brought an action before the Court of Justice on 12 September 1977 for the annulment of the appointment of another official to a post of Head of Division.⁴

In its judgment of 1 June³ the Court of Justice dismissed the action on the ground that it was not well founded.

Case 127/77 — NV Roelants Maltings, Bornem v Commission

2.3.64. A Belgian malt producer brought an action before the Court of Justice on 26 October 1977 for damages to compensate for losses it claims to have suffered as a result of the application of Regulation (EEC) No 413/76 on the reduction of the time limit during which certain cereal products may remain under customs control while awaiting

advance payment of refunds⁵ to sales concluded before its entry into force.⁶

The applicant discontinued proceedings and the Court of Justice accordingly removed this case from the register by order of 20 June.

Case 128/77 — (1) SA Sucprosol, Paris and (2) A. Topfer & Co., Hamburg v Administration française des douanes

2.3.65. In hearing an action concerning the levying by the French customs authorities of monetary compensatory amounts on exports of quota C white sugar to non-member countries, the customs export formalities for which had been completed in a Member State other than that in which the export licences were issued, the Tribunal d'instance in Calais asked the Court of Justice on 27 October for a preliminary ruling on the validity of Regulation (EEC) No 101/77 fixing these monetary compensatory amounts.⁷

Since the applicants discontinued proceedings, the court which referred the matter withdrew its reference for a preliminary ruling and the Court of Justice accordingly removed the case from the register by order of 7 June.³

Case 139/77 — Denkavit Futtermittel GmbH, Warendorf v Finanzamt Warendorf

2.3.66. An action between a breeder of calves, who also manufactures and sells fodder products, and the German authorities,

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.3.41.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.3.62.

³ OJ C 155 of 1.7.1978.

⁴ Bull. EC 9-1977, point 2.3.33.

⁵ OJ L 50 of 26.2.1976.

⁶ Bull. EC 10-1977, point 2.3.45.

⁷ OJ L 17 of 20.1.1977; Bull. EC 10-1977, point 2.3.46.

based on the fact that he is taxed as an industrial undertaking, was brought before the Münster Finance Court, which asked the Court of Justice on 16 November 1977 for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of the expression 'agricultural producer' in Article 1 of Regulation 2464/69 on measures to be taken in agriculture as a result of the revaluation of the German Mark¹ and on whether the Federal Republic of Germany could withhold aid granted under that regulation from industrial breeders of livestock. The regulation in question also gave rise to an action for damages² which was, however, removed from the Court register as it was barred by lapse of time.³

In its judgment of 13 June the Court held that neither the provisions of the EEC Treaty nor Article 1 of Council Regulation No 2464/69¹ nor the provisions of the Council Decision of 21 January 1974 prevented the Federal Republic of Germany from withholding aids granted under the said regulation from industrial or commercial owners or breeders of livestock.

Case 142/77 — Statens Kontrol med Aedle Metaller v (1) P. Larsen, Jyllinge; (2) F. Kjerulff, Copenhagen

2.3.67. In a dispute between the Danish precious metal inspection authorities and two jewellers concerning payment of a fee to cover the cost of such inspection on work carried out for a foreign client, the Københavns Byret (Copenhagen City Court) made a reference to the Court of Justice on 18 November 1977 for a number of preliminary rulings on the compatibility of such a fee with, firstly, Article 16 and secondly, Article 95 of the EEC Treaty.⁴

In its judgment of 29 June the Court held that such a fee was not contrary to Community law provided it applied, according to the same criteria, to all undertakings subject to

such inspection, irrespective of the origin or destination of the products concerned.

Case 144/77 — Société A. Töpfer & Co., Hamburg v Administration française des douanes

2.3.68. The Cambrai Tribunal d'instance (Court of first instance) asked the Court of Justice on 24 November for a preliminary ruling on the validity of Regulation 101/77⁵ fixing monetary compensatory amounts on quota C white sugar exports to third countries in respect of which customs export formalities had been completed in a Member State other than that in which the export licence was issued. This reference for a preliminary ruling came in the wake of a number of identical cases.⁶

After the court which referred the matter had informed the Court of Justice that proceedings had been discontinued, the latter removed the case from the register by order of 13 June 1978.⁷

Case 146/77 — British Beef Company Limited v Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce

2.3.69. The High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Commercial Court, asked the Court of Justice on 2 December 1977 for a preliminary ruling on whether Regulation

¹ OJ L 312 of 12.12.1969.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.3.52.

³ Bull. EC 11-1977, point 2.3.31.

⁴ Bull. EC 11-1977, point 2.3.34.

⁵ OJ L 17 of 20.1.1977.

⁶ Case 96/77, Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.3.59; case 128/77, Bull. EC 10-1977, point 2.3.46, case 141/77, Bull. EC 11-1977, points 2.3.33 and 2.3.36.

⁷ OJ C 155 of 1.7.1978.

(EEC) No 2424/76 altering the monetary compensatory amounts¹ applied to exports effected in performance of contracts concluded prior to the date on which the regulation entered into force and, if so, whether it was valid in view of the fact that provision was not made in it for transitional measures enabling persons who had entered into contracts to avoid losses caused by such alterations.²

In its judgment of 13 June the Court replied in the affirmative to the first question and affirmed the validity of the regulation in question.

Case 147/77 — Commission v Italian Republic

2.3.70. The Commission brought an action in the Court of Justice on 6 December 1977 under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty to establish that Italy had failed to fulfil its obligations under Article 5 of the EEC Treaty and under Directive 74/577/EEC on the stunning of animals before slaughter.³

In its judgment of 6 June 1978,⁴ the Court of Justice held that the Italian Republic had failed to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty by failing to adopt, within the time limits set, the measures required to implement Directive 74/577/EEC.

Case 149/77 — Miss G. Defrenne, Jette v Sabena, Brussels

2.3.71. The Belgian Cour de Cassation asked the Court of Justice on 12 December 1977 for a preliminary ruling on whether the imposition of a different age limit for men and women presumed to be engaged in the same work, which may have pecuniary effects, especially as regards retirement benefits and pensions, was compatible with Community law, in particular with Article 119 of the EEC Treaty.⁵

In its judgment of 15 June, the Court held that:

Article 119 of the EEC Treaty could not be interpreted as laying down, in addition to equal pay, equality in other working conditions applicable to men and women and went on to explain that when the facts of the case occurred, there were, as regards labour relations governed by national law, no rules of Community law prohibiting discrimination between men and women as far as working conditions were concerned, apart from the rules on remuneration embodied in Article 119 of the EEC Treaty.

Case 150/77 — Société Bertrand, Arnage v Société Paul Ott KG, Neustadt/Stuttgart

2.3.72. The French Cour de Cassation, acting pursuant to the Protocol concerning the interpretation by the Court of Justice of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters,⁶ asked the Court of Justice on 15 December 1977 for an interpretation of Article 13 of the Convention. The Cour de Cassation asked, in particular, whether the sale of a machine by one company to another for a price payable in two instalments after 60 and 90 days could be regarded as a sale of goods on instalment credit terms.⁷

In its judgment of 21 June the Court held that the concept of 'sale of goods on instalment credit terms' could not be regarded as

¹ OJ L 275 of 6.10.1976.

² Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.3.39.

³ OJ L 316 of 26.11.1974 and Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.3.40.

⁴ OJ C 155 of 1.7.1978.

⁵ Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.3.42.

⁶ OJ L 299 of 31.12.1972.

⁷ Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.3.43.

including the sale of a machine by one company to another for a price payable in separate instalments.

Case 154/77 — Procureur de roi v J.P. Dechmann, Noirefontaine

2.3.73. The Neufchateau Tribunal de première instance, in the course of proceedings concerning the failure by a meat retailer to observe the consumer prices for pigmeat specified by the Belgian Ministerial Order of 27 March 1977, asked the Court of Justice on 19 December 1977 for a preliminary ruling on the compatibility of this Order with Regulation No 121/67/EEC on the common organization of the market in pigmeat¹ and with the regulations which laid down the basic price of pigmeat.²

In its judgment of 29 June the Court held that:

Regulation 121/67/EEC must not be interpreted as constituting a barrier to the unilateral fixing by a Member State of a minimum trading margin for the retailing of pigmeat, calculated on the basis of the purchase prices charged in earlier marketing stages and varying according to fluctuations in those prices, provided the margin was fixed at a level which did not hinder intra-Community trade.

Case 1/78 — P.C. Kenny v Insurance Officer

2.3.74. The National Insurance Commissioner asked the Court of Justice on 3 January 1978 a number of preliminary questions on the interpretation of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on social security for migrant workers.³ These references concerned the question of whether Article 7 of the EEC Treaty was directly applicable and the interpretation of Articles 19 and 22 of the abovementioned regulation, in particular with regard to whether a social security institution could refuse to

pay benefits to a worker from another Member State on account of facts occurring in the territory of another Member State which, if they had occurred in its own State, would have entitled the institution to disqualify the worker from receiving the benefits.⁴

In its judgment of 28 June the Court declared that Article 7 was directly applicable in the Member States within the sphere of application of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71. With regard to the effects of circumstances arising in another Member State which would have led to the loss of social security benefits if they had arisen on national territory, the Court was of the opinion that that was a matter for the national authorities to decide, subject to the reservation that there must be no discrimination based on nationality.

Case 96/78 — Criminal proceedings against G. Brunetti

2.3.75. The Procuratore della Repubblica di Salerno asked the Court of Justice on 20 April 1978 for a preliminary ruling on the compatibility with Article 48 *et seq.* of the EEC Treaty and with Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 of 15 October 1968,⁵ on the free movement of workers within the Community, of the practice followed by the Italian sport federations of allowing only Italian citizens to take part in football matches as professionals or semi-professionals, having regard to the fact that the clubs were economically viable but were not allowed to be profit-making under Italian law.⁶

¹ OJ 117 of 19.6.1967.

² Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.3.47.

³ OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1978, point 2.3.37.

⁵ OJ L 257 of 19.10.1968.

⁶ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.3.38.

After the Procuratore della Repubblica di Salerno had withdrawn his reference for a preliminary ruling, the Court ordered the case to be removed from the register on 7 June 1978.

Case 135/78 R — Eurosteel Products Limited, London v Commission

2.3.76. In connection with an application for compensation under Article 40 of the ECSC Treaty, a United Kingdom firm had applied to the Court of Justice for the adoption of interim measures to prevent the amounts guaranteed as provisional duties from being definitively collected until the Court had reached a decision on the substance of the case.

Since the firm concerned had reached an out-of-court settlement with the British customs authorities, it withdrew its application for the adoption of interim measures and the Court of Justice accordingly removed the case from the register by order of 28 June.

Economic and Social Committee

160th plenary session

2.3.77. The 160th plenary session of the Economic and Social Committee was held in Brussels on 20 and 21 June with the Committee's Chairman, Mr Basil de Ferranti, presiding. During discussions on the economic and social situation, the Commission President, Mr Roy Jenkins, outlined the developments which had taken place since his speech in Florence on the revival of economic and monetary union.¹

Mr Jenkins expressed his satisfaction that, over the last eight months, 'the monetary integration of Europe is being discussed again;

it has now a central place in the debate'. Moreover, 'it is implicitly agreed that the economic policies that will have to be applied if our economies are to get moving must be discussed jointly in a Community context, there is no national answer in these fields'.

Mr Jenkins added: 'The revival of the idea of a European currency area is only just beginning. But the various circles concerned have already been working on various hypotheses, most of them centred around three points—reinforcing monetary cohesion around the existing snake mechanisms, setting monetary objectives to be observed by non-snake countries which for economic reasons cannot join the snake in the immediate future, and the gradual introduction of the EUC as a means of payment between operators, notably between central banks, which could provide an opportunity for further development in the role and intervention powers of the European Monetary Cooperation Fund.

But our efforts will be vain if we do not at the same time get down to work on the fundamental changes that must be made in our economies. The Commission agrees with the view so often expressed by your Committee that we are living at a time when substantial changes are going to have to be made both in our productive structures and in our patterns of consumption, particularly where energy and raw materials are concerned.'

Opinions

The economic situation in the Community

2.3.78. In the Opinion adopted by 47 votes in favour and 28 abstentions, the Committee

¹ Bull. EC 10-1977, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.9.

takes the view that the Commission's autumn 1977 predictions¹ of a 4 to 4.5% increase in the Community's GDP will not be achieved in 1978, and that unemployment will remain at a level that is 'economically wasteful and socially demoralizing'. There is therefore scope for the Member States to take further action to stimulate demand—and thus create employment—without jeopardizing the achievement of targets for the reduction of inflation. The Committee states that the nature and degree of expansionary measures to be taken, must differ from one Member State to another, in view of the differing situations in each country. Labour market policy measures are needed since, in the short-term, investment and other expansionary policies will not absorb existing levels of unemployment. The Committee emphasizes the urgency of expanding training schemes—especially in order to improve occupational mobility. Work-sharing measures have an important role to play in alleviating grave unemployment problems; but such measures *must* be forward-looking.

The Opinion deals too, with the various roles of the Community institutions in achieving an expansion of activity and employment—effective concertation of policies being a prerequisite for any real progress towards economic and monetary union. It lays stress here on the Community's role in furthering the trade relationships already established with the developing countries through the Lomé Convention.

Development of the social situation in 1977

2.3.79. The Committee adopted by 57 votes in favour and three abstentions its Opinion on the Report on the development of the social situation in 1977.² The Committee stresses that social and economic development go hand in hand and urges the

Commission to draw the logical conclusions with regard to its practice of issuing separate reports on the economic and social situations.

The Committee stresses the following points:

- (i) the need for a Community approach to employment and investment promotion measures;
- (ii) the need for increasingly closer correlation between employment objectives and financial aid for companies, plans for industrial development, restructuring and conversion, programmes for agriculture and food production and the growth of the service industries;
- (iii) the need to revamp, adapt and better coordinate Community social policy instruments to enable them to cope with their new tasks (aims and resources of the European Social Fund, new Social Action Programme, etc.);
- (iv) the importance of closer consultation between both sides of industry and the Community authorities in hammering out a social and economic strategy which will initiate and sustain inflation-free recovery throughout the Community, promote full and better employment and improve the quality of life;
- (v) the Copenhagen Council's³ guidelines on job-creation and work-sharing;
- (vi) measures to improve the labour market situation (Community-level coordination, clampdown on illegal labour practices, upgrading of manual labour, more suitable training for young people);
- (vii) the Commission must make a timely assessment of employment trends in the Nine, play its part in mobilizing all Community policies towards full and better employment and in coordinating national and Community employment policies;
- (viii) the role of the Tripartite Conferences and the Standing Committee on Employment as genuine consultative bodies in which the guidelines for a new social policy can be worked out.

International monetary disorder

2.3.80. The Committee adopted by 73 votes in favour and three abstentions its

¹ Bull. EC 10-1977, points 2.1.2 and 2.1.3.

² Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.1.29.

³ Bull. EC 4-1978, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.7.

own-initiative Opinion on the Community's approach to the present international monetary disorder.

In order to minimize the harmful effects of the present international monetary disorder, and achieve its principal task of reducing the exchange rate fluctuations between Member States' currencies, the Community must increase the resources, authority and area of responsibility of the European Monetary Cooperation Fund (EMCF). The Committee believes that the EMCF should act as a kind of IMF at Community level. The Committee sees the immediate role of the EMCF as acting in defence of Community currency par values, by multilateralizing swap agreements and intervening on the European exchange market with currency or SDR credit lines. It believes that EMCF's activities should be supervised by the Council, which would draw up regulations for the EMCF and the national monetary authorities to observe, regarding changes in exchange rates, conditions for granting credits, and interest rate policy. The Committee goes so far as to propose that the EMCF would grant credits by a qualified majority, in the light of the economic situation in the applicant Member State.

The two major difficulties to be surmounted are the absence of any international monetary authority capable of applying sanctions for undisciplined behaviour, and the lack of any monetary reference standard. The proposal is not only that the EMCF be reinforced, but that within the Community the alignment and coordination of economic policies become a reality. The decision-making procedures of the Community's institutions (Monetary Committee, Committee of Central Bank Governors, etc.) should be sharpened, and the use of the European unit of account (EUC) as the reference standard for intra-Community business transactions should be encouraged. The Community must continue in its endeavours to achieve complete economic and monetary union, despite failures and setbacks. The Economic and Social Committee for its part will continue its work in this field to determine the requirements for the creation of a common currency which can help restore equilibrium to the international monetary system.

Youth unemployment

2.3.81. The Committee adopted by 41 votes in favour and 12 abstentions its Opinion on the creation of a new European Social

Fund Aid in favour of young people.¹ The Committee, with a number of reservations, supports the Commission proposal for Community aids and underlines the urgency and speed with which these new aids or interventions should be applied. The Committee supports in particular the Commission efforts to help young people in economically and socially deprived regions.

However, the Committee is of the view that the new aid measures in favour of young people can only be short-term measures and can only be a partial solution to the problem of youth unemployment. It is paramount that policies in the area of education, training and employment are coordinated at every level. The Committee feels strongly that action to be taken in the future should be long-term, in order to get at the deep-rooted causes of youth unemployment. Short-term measures should be supplemented by the promotion of effective continuing educational and vocational guidance measures as well as provision of continuing education and training opportunities.

The Committee is also of the view that the second set of measures (subsidies for programmes involving recruitment of young people for newly created jobs in the context of activities or services in the public interest) are more positive than the first set, in that they represent new job-creating measures. The first set of measures, recruitment premiums, are in the opinion of the Committee artificial measures which do not secure a stable job for the young worker. The Committee also would like to see a reference made within the draft regulation to ensure equal male and female participation.

Health and safety at work

2.3.82. The Committee unanimously endorsed the objectives of the Community's Action Programme on health and safety at work,² and in particular the six multidisciplinary project areas.

The Committee stresses that the right instruments need to be found to put the ideas

¹ OJ C 100 of 25.4.1978; Bull. EC 4-1978, point 1.2.6.

² OJ C 9 of 11.1.1978; Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.81.

of the Programme into effect. These instruments must build on existing knowledge and experience, and support the effort of prevention making it possible to take action on declarations of intent (which are sometimes little more than lipservice) and ensure that human suffering and tragedy is no longer an accepted part of 'labour costs'.

Community relations with Greece

2.3.83. The Committee approved with no votes against and three abstentions its Study on the Community's relations with Greece. The Committee is all in favour of supporting economic development and social progress in Greece, so that Greek accession can be carried out under the best conditions possible. To bring this about, it is prepared to put its experience and its contacts at the disposal of those working for integration.

The Committee is pleased that an Economic and Social Council is shortly to be set up in Greece. This will encourage a dialogue between the two sides of industry in a country where such a process is still in its infancy. The Committee is prepared to collaborate with its Greek opposite number and provide it with any help necessary.

Considerable investments will be necessary to bring about the development and economic and industrial restructuring of Greece, and most of these will come from abroad. The importing of Community capital and technology, which will be given a fillip by membership, could have a considerable impact on integration. The same applies to collaboration in its most diverse forms between Greek and Community firms (agreements, holdings, subsidiaries, mergers, etc.). It would therefore be useful to organize systematic documentation and information on the opportunities and conditions in this area (statistics, regulations, prospects, etc.). To promote inter-firm collaboration, it would also help things along if the Commission's Business Cooperation Centre could start operating in Greece right now and liaise closely with the Community delegation in Athens.

Where the changes in the Greek economy which will be necessary for its progressive integration into the Community economy are likely to require considerable imports of investment and technology from the Member States and thus be an additional burden on the Greek balance of payments, the Community should provide timely and adequate financial aid to assist Greece. Finally, to guide and coordinate these collaboration programmes, it would be a good idea to set up a permanent Greece-EEC contact group including government representatives and the two sides of industry in the two camps.

Other subjects

2.3.84. The Committee also unanimously adopted a number of Opinions on technical questions.

It approved the proposal for amending the Directive on making-up by volume of certain prepackaged liquids.¹ It feels that the proposed transitional periods should be the maximum allowed and that they should be shortened if necessary. The Committee stresses that the standardization of volumes is essential but will not by itself ensure the transparency of the markets, which also poses the question of unit-pricing, informative labelling, etc.

The proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the customs procedure applicable to the stores of vessels, aircraft and international trains² was approved in general by the Committee. The Opinion adopted by the Committee stresses that the terms of competition among the Member States themselves should be harmonized and this should embrace the fixing of the exempt quantities. Precise rules of application are needed to avoid differences in interpretation of the proposed Regulation. Finally, the Committee would like the Member States to undertake to apply the tax exemptions in accordance with rules identical to those governing the customs exemptions.

The Committee approved the proposal for a Council Directive on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances.³ In its Opinion, it recommends that some of the definitions be improved so that a uniform terminology is used. It considers that some of the particularly dangerous substances

¹ OJ C 250 of 19.10.1977; Bull. EC 9-1977, point 2.1.8.

² OJ C 73 of 23.3.1978; Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.1.20.

³ Bull. EC 1-1978, point 2.1.29.

in List II (especially selenium and cyanide) should be transferred to List I, and that concentration limits should be drawn up for both lists.

The Committee endorsed the Commission's draft Recommendation to the Member States regarding methods of evaluating the cost of pollution control to industry,¹ since this will lead to greater comparability of the cost of pollution control in the various Member States. The Committee considers that a better understanding in this area could also facilitate harmonization of legislation. Costs are, however, merely one aspect of the entire environmental problem. Anti-pollution measures also entail advantages in so far as they improve the environment. The Committee stresses that the effectiveness of the Recommendation depends on the collaboration of the Member States, and voices some concern about the competitive position of industrial production in the Community, which could be adversely affected by decisions to impose further cost burdens.

The Committee welcomes the Commission's proposal for a Council Directive on the limitation of the noise emitted by compressors.² Among the comments made on the proposal, the Committee urged that the date on which the definitive limits enter into force be postponed by at least five years so that allowance could be made for the results of the Directive's first few years in force.

The Committee also approved in general the Commission's recent proposals on wine.³ However, the Committee considers that removing all possibilities of supporting table wine of less than 10° strength would endanger market equilibrium, and therefore asks that support for table wines with a strength of 9.5° or more should be continued.

In its Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive concerning mutual assistance by the competent authorities of the Member States in the field of direct taxation, the Committee welcomes the fact that the Commission is now proposing that the provisions of its earlier directive on mutual assistance by the tax authorities of Member States⁴ to combat tax evasion and avoidance in the field of direct taxation, now also apply to value added tax, a suggestion the Committee gave in its Opinion on this first Proposal.⁵

ECSC Consultative Committee

191st meeting

2.3.85. The ECSC Consultative Committee held its 191st meeting in Luxembourg on 8 and 9 June; the meeting was chaired by Mr Ackermann, the Committee Chairman and was attended by Mr Vredeling, Vice-President and Mr Brunner and Mr Davignon, Members of the Commission.

With the postponement to the next meeting of consideration of the draft Decision introducing Community rules for national aid and intervention to assist the steel industry, the agenda carried the following items:

(i) A review of coal problems, particularly in respect of the market; the Committee endorsed a draft Decision on the supply of coking coal and discussed a Communication on implementing a Community aid scheme to support intra-Community trade in coal for power stations. A resolution was adopted.

(ii) A review of steel problems, in particular of the social aspects of the Commission's measures; the Committee approved the forward steel programme and the new method for establishing forward programmes.

The Committee also gave its opinion on the allocation of 9.4 million EUC of financial aid for a programme involving thirty-seven steel research projects.

Coal market

2.3.86. In general the speakers approved the Commission's proposals to ensure disposal of coal for power stations. Mr Picard emphasized that this project should be considered not only from its economic aspects but also from the social and human angle; it

¹ OJ C 10 of 12.1.1978; Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.97.

² Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.1.49.

³ OJ C 71 of 22.3.1978; Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.1.39.

⁴ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.1.35.

⁵ OJ C 56 of 7.3.1977.

was a great pity that the producer and non-producer countries did not see eye to eye, the more so in that it was in the interests of the non-producers to safeguard Community production, since the Treaty provided for sharing resources when a crisis arose. Several members, in particular Mr Ezra, regretted that the Council had not managed to agree on practical measures for a strategy for coal. Mr Ezra also said that if the Council did not intend to implement practical measures for cooperation on energy, the Member States would be prompted to take the necessary steps themselves, which would be a great pity.

Having summarized what the Commission had done to improve the coal situation, Mr Brunner stressed that it was not enough merely to define objectives, practical measures must be applied, especially if the Community was to appear credible alongside the United States, to which it should propose a pact on oil in order to limit imports.

At the end of the debate, the Committee adopted, unanimously with two abstentions, a Resolution confirming support for the Commission's proposals to help the coal industry,¹ deploring the Council's failure to take any decision and stressing the 'vital necessity for agreement to be reached on the required practical measures during the course of the present year in view of the continuing weakness in the Community coal market'.

Steel

2.3.87. Steel problems were considered in a debate in which Mr Vredeling and Mr Davignon spoke on behalf of the Commission; all the other speakers supported the Commission in its will to act.

Mr Davignon pointed out that of all the aspects of the steel market, only trade with

non-member countries was not a source of great alarm. Commitments had not been honoured in the spirit in which they had been made and this was jeopardizing the operation of the system.

The Commission had carefully considered whether or not to continue with its plan. It had decided that the plan must go on because the restructuring operations now under way must be seen through. The steel industry must be restored to its rightful place. Nevertheless, since the production and delivery programme for crude steel had been exceeded by at least 10% during the second quarter, a reduction of 6.5% would have to be accepted for the third. The Commission would tighten its surveillance of the market: it would check each month's production figures and would set up a system to strengthen discipline on prices by quicker and more effective checks and quicker imposition of fines (deposit system). The Commission would also set up an improved system for monitoring imports. At the end of the debate, in which the producers recognized the need to conform to set objectives, the Committee approved the forward programme for the third quarter.

Mr Vredeling made an important statement on the social aspects of the Commission's action, announcing that the Commission would present a memorandum at the Committee meeting on 13 July.

In view of the somewhat gloomy forecasts on the decline in employment to be expected between now and 1980 (70 000 to 100 000 jobs) and its regional impact, the Commission intended to boost existing resources (60 million EUC in 1978 under Article 56 (2) (b) of the ECSC Treaty, of which 54 million EUC was for steel). It was planning, under Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty, to apply provisions better tailored to the crisis. It was ex-

¹ OJ C 155 of 1.7.1978.

amining the possibility of providing assistance in certain countries where social security benefits were lower than elsewhere. It was considering whether the period of entitlement to benefits (one to three years) should not be reviewed in order to help the reorganization of work. The question of forced lay-offs and a reduction in overtime were also being examined and a system of shorter working hours to avoid redundancies was being studied.

European Investment Bank

Loans raised

2.3.88. The European Investment Bank recently signed a contract in Zurich for a SFR 100 million bond issue on the Swiss capital market.

The underwriters are a syndicate of Swiss banks headed by the Swiss Credit Bank, the Union Bank of Switzerland and the Swiss Bank Corporation. Carrying a coupon of 4¼% payable annually and with a maximum life of fifteen years, the bonds will be offered to the public at par from 7 to 13 July.

Redemption will commence in 1982 by purchase on the market at prices not exceeding par. Bonds not purchased will be redeemed at par on 31 July 1993. The Bank will have the option of redeeming in advance, as from 31 July 1988, all bonds in circulation. Application for admission and listing of the issue for the full period of the loan will be made to the Zurich, Basle, Geneva, Lausanne and Berne stock exchanges.

Proceeds from the sale of bonds will be used by the Bank to finance its ordinary lending operations. This is the fifth public bond issue by the Bank in Switzerland, bringing total EIB public issues in Swiss francs to SFR 460 million.

2.3.89. The EIB has signed a contract in Paris for issue of a USD 100 million bond issue on the international capital market. The issue has been underwritten by a banking syndicate headed by Société Générale in Paris. The bonds will have a maximum life of fifteen years, carry a coupon of 9.125%, payable annually, and be offered to the public at 99%, offering a yield of 9.25% on the basis of their total lifetime.

After five years, the bonds will be redeemable at par in ten equal annual instalments, and the Bank has the option of redeeming in advance, at progressively reducing premiums, all or some of the bonds in circulation, from 1988 onwards. Application has been made to list the issue on the Luxembourg stock exchange. The proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be used by the Bank for its ordinary lending operations.

Loans granted

Italy

2.3.90. A loan equivalent to LIT 2 000 million (1.9 million EUC) has been granted by the European Investment Bank to the Italian company Acciaieria e Tubificio di Brescia—ATB—owned jointly by the Finsider and Falck steel groups.

The finance—provided for eight years at an interest rate of 7.2%—will go towards new heavy engineering equipment at the company's works in Brescia itself and in nearby Roncadelle to be used for the manufacture of various components for nuclear power plant.

This investment, costing an estimated LIT 6 000 million, will help to reinforce European penetration of a high technology sector of industry which is of considerable importance to the Community's efforts to reduce its dependence upon oil imports.

The local impact, seen against the background of problems currently affecting the steel industry and associated activities, will be appreciable.

United Kingdom

2.3.91. A loan for the equivalent of UKL 5 million (7.4 million EUC) has been granted by the Bank to cover about half of the cost of a modernization project at the BICC Metals Ltd works at Prescott, Merseyside.

The finance has been provided for ten years at an interest rate of 10.25%. Most will go towards a new electrolytic copper refinery (with an annual production capacity of 55 000 tonnes) which will meet part of the BICC group's own requirements for high purity copper in the manufacture of wire and cable products.

This investment is expected to bring about lower production costs and substantial energy savings. For the EIB the main interest is that the project will safeguard about 350 jobs; Merseyside suffers from one of the worst unemployment rates in the United Kingdom (at the beginning of this year the rate was almost twice the national average).

Federal Republic of Germany—France

2.3.92. The Bank has granted a multi-currency loan for the equivalent of DM 110 million (43.2 million EUC) to help finance construction of the Megal gasline system, running across Germany to France from the Czechoslovak and Austrian frontiers.

The funds have been advanced for fifteen years to Megal Finance Company Limited, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, a company formed for the purposes of financing the project by Ruhrgas AG, Essen, which holds a

50% stake, Gaz de France, Paris (43%) and ÖMV AG, Vienna (5%).

The Megal gasline, with a total length of approximately 630 km, will from 1979 onwards transport Russian natural gas for consumption in Germany; towards 1980 supplies will be piped through to France too.

From 1981, the line will also be bringing in gas from Iran, and when full throughput is reached around 1984 it will be conveying about 16 000 million cubic metres annually, of which some 9 000 million will be from Iran and 7 000 million from the Soviet Union. It is estimated that these imports will cover about 20% of consumption in France and 10% of German consumption at that time.

The project involves an overall outlay of about DM 1 200 million, and is an instance of close cooperation between European companies. It will help considerably to bolster the campaign to diversify not only the nature but also the origin of the Community's energy imports. At the same time, the Megal system will afford the Community greater security of supply in that it involves interconnections between European grids and thus increased scope for the exchange of gas.

Since its foundation in 1958, the EIB has channelled a total of 2 273 million EUC into energy projects in the Community, either to promote regional development by improving the infrastructure in less-favoured regions or, as in this case, in consideration of benefits accruing to several Member States or the Community as a whole. Of this total, 486.4 million EUC have gone towards laying various gas pipelines including TAG (the Trans-Austria Gasline) which crosses Austria bringing Russian natural gas to Italy and the TENP (Trans-European Natural Gas Pipeline) which conveys natural gas to Germany as well as to Switzerland and to Italy. The TENP and MEGAL meet at Mittelbrunn,

near Kaiserslautern, forming a main connection point in the European gas transmission system.

Denmark

2.3.93. The Bank has granted two loans for a total equivalent of DKR 302.5 million (43.2 million EUC) for constructing a motorway in South Jutland and financing small and medium-scale ventures in less-favoured areas of Denmark.

The first of these, worth DKR 265 million, has been made available to the Danish Government for fifteen years, with interest payable at 5%, towards financing a 65 km section of motorway between the German-Danish border and the town of Christiansfeld, entailing capital investment put at DKR 529 million. The road, expected to be opened to traffic at the end of 1982, will substantially improve links between Denmark, Germany and several other Member States and promote trade in South Jutland which is designated a development area by the Danish Government.

The second operation is in the form of a global loan, also granted to the Danish Government, for the equivalent of DKR 37.5 million; it carries a term of 10 years, with interest payable at 8.25%. The proceeds will be on-lent to the Regional Development Board (Egnsudviklingsraadet) which has already attracted three global loans from the EIB for a total of DKR 127.5 million; these have so far provided backing for 50 small and medium-scale ventures likely to create more than 1 100 jobs in the country's development areas. The latest operation will enable the EIB to continue supporting such ventures in Denmark.

These two loans bring to some DKR 965 million the amount of EIB financing for in-

vestment in Denmark since the country joined the European Community in 1973.

Italy

2.3.94. The European Investment Bank has granted two loans for a total equivalent of LIT 70 000 million (65.2 million EUC) towards financing projects for improving electricity supplies in Southern Italy. The funds have been made available to ENEL, Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica, in each case for twelve years with interest payable at 8.10% per annum.

The larger of the two loans, worth LIT 50 000 million, will help to extend Sicily's electricity transmission and distribution network. It is planned to erect some 2 000 km of medium and high-voltage transmission lines on the island between 1977 and 1979 to enable the grid to cater for increased electricity production capacities and higher consumption. The project, costed at LIT 118 000 million, should make a substantial contribution towards Sicily's economic advancement as most of the new lines are to serve industrial growth centres and tourism areas.

The second loan, worth LIT 20 000 million, will part-finance a peak-load generating unit to be added to a power station at Maddaloni, near Caserta (Campania); the project involves the installation of four 90 MW gas turbine generator sets, the total investment being calculated at LIT 48 000 million.

Ireland

2.3.95. The Bank is making available the equivalent of IRL 5 million (7.4 million EUC) to help development of small and medium-sized manufacturing and food processing

ventures in Ireland. The finance takes the form of two global loans, each worth IRL 2.5 million, granted to the Industrial Credit Company Ltd and the Agricultural Credit Corporation Ltd.

The funds will be on-lent by these institutions in loans of not less than IRL 17 000 for ten and twelve years at fixed interest rates of 9% and 9.25%, respectively. The investment schemes will be chosen in agreement with the EIB, priority going to those which promise to make the most impact in terms of employment. Although the EIB provides the finance to ICC and ACC in foreign currencies, the funds will be on-lent in Irish pounds under special measures adopted by the Government to safeguard borrowers against the effects of any fluctuations in exchange rates, provided that the ventures concerned do not employ more than 100 people or have fixed assets in excess of IRL 600 000.

In making these global loans, the EIB seeks to strengthen two important areas of the Irish economy: according to recent figures, small undertakings employing less than 100 people accounted for 90% of the country's manufacturing firms and about 36% of employment; food processing plays a major part in the development of Irish agriculture and accounts for a quarter of the industrial labour force.

The global loan system, first introduced by the EIB in 1969, permits the Bank to harness its own financial resources to the local expertise of intermediary institutions. It has been used to effect in most member countries as a means of spurring on balanced regional development; at the end of 1977 close on 700 small and medium-sized ventures had benefited from funds worth 320.2 million EUC lent to them via global loans.

Lebanon

2.3.96. The EIB is for the first time extending its operations to Lebanon by scheduling finance worth a total of 25 million EUC (approximately 92.25 million Lebanese pounds) to cover about a third of the cost of adding three 70 MW units to a power station at Jieh, near Beirut. This is a key project in the Lebanese Government's efforts to promote the country's economic recovery. Electricity consumption has climbed back to pre-disturbance levels already and extra generating capacity is required to meet the expected growth of industrial and commercial activities as well as to satisfy future domestic requirements.

The finance includes a loan of 20 million EUC, i.e. the full amount of exceptional aid which, upon request from the Community, the EIB's Board of Governors authorized the Bank to offer to Lebanon in the form of long-term investment finance. The first contract, for 3 million EUC (term ten years, interest rate 4.9%), was signed in Luxembourg on 15 June.

Apart from the 20 million EUC exceptional aid a further 5 million EUC is to go to the same borrower under the Financial Protocol between the Community and Lebanon but conclusion of the loan contract must await completion of ratification by member countries; this Protocol provides for 20 million EUC in EIB loans plus 10 million EUC in other development finance to come from Community budgetary resources (of which 8 million EUC in grant aid—part to be used to pay 2% interest rebates on EIB loans—and 2 million EUC in soft loans). A guarantee from the European Community is applicable to these operations.

Financing Community activities

Budget

General budget

Preliminary draft budget for 1979

2.3.97. On 13 June, in accordance with Article 78 (3) of the ECSC Treaty, Article 203 (3) of the EEC Treaty, and Article 177 (3) of the Euratom Treaty, the Commission placed before the budgetary authority the preliminary draft general budget of the Communities for 1979 as adopted by the Commission on 24 May.¹

To draw up this preliminary draft, the Commission based itself, as regards expenditure and revenue in Sections I (Parliament) and II (Council) on amounts which were not final when the documents were prepared.

The preliminary draft comprises the general introduction provided for in Article 12 (2) of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977² and a detailed analysis, heading by heading, of Titles 1 to 10, revenue and borrowing and lending operations, as well as the triennial financial estimates. Also attached to the preliminary draft are the analysis of financial management and the balance sheet referred to in Article 12 (5) and the working documents referred to in Article 12 (4) of the Financial Regulation. The Commission made no comment on the estimates sent to it by the other institutions.

Own resources

2.3.98. The preliminary draft budget for 1979 totals 14 667 046 885 EUC in appro-

priations for commitments and 13 859 319 840 EUC in appropriations for payments. The increase over the preceding year is 15.5% for the appropriations for commitments and 12.1% for the appropriations for payments. The proposed financing for the 1979 budget (appropriations for payments) is based on the assumption that all Member States will be applying the Sixth Directive concerning the harmonization of the VAT assessment basis so that financial contributions will no longer be made. They were eliminated when the 1978 budget was drawn up and approved but had to be brought back in an amending budget, as only two Member States had harmonized the VAT assessment basis pursuant to the Sixth Directive.

Compared with the 1978 budget the total resources available have increased by 5.4% from 15 323 million EUC to 16 152 million EUC. The increase in expenditure on appropriations for payments is much more marked and the VAT rate is eleven points higher than the rate in the 1978 budget, standing at 0.75% in the preliminary draft budget for 1979. Any change in appropriations or resources occurring during the budgetary procedure will be reflected in the rate finally fixed by Parliament when approving the budget.

With the maximum resources available (i.e., taking into account the 1% VAT ceiling fixed in the 1970 Decision creating own resources) the financial margin is 2 293 million EUC. According to the triennial estimates placed before the budgetary authority at the same time as the preliminary draft budget for 1979, this margin is likely to be exhausted in 1981. The Commission has already started to examine the possible ways of raising the 1% VAT ceiling or creating new sources of Community financing, and will be putting its

¹ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.3.94.

² OJ L 356 of 31.12.1977.

suggestions to Council and Parliament once work is completed.

The revenue estimates embodied in the preliminary draft budget for 1979 are shown in the table below:

Estimates of own resources for 1979

	<i>million EUC</i>
1. Agricultural levies	1 706.0
2. Sugar/isoglucose levies	438.1
3. Customs duties	4 745.5
4. 1% of VAT	9 104.0
5. Miscellaneous revenue	158.5
6. Total resources	16 152.1
7. Expenditure	13 859.3
8. VAT rate	0.75%

The agricultural levies, sugar and isoglucose levies and customs duties will be paid over in full by the Member States. VAT payments will total 6 811.2 million EUC.

The miscellaneous revenue comes mainly from the amounts deducted from staff salaries (112.9 million EUC), the rest accruing from contributions to Euratom complemen-

tary programmes (10.9 million EUC), ECSC contributions towards administrative expenditure (5 million EUC) and other small items of revenue.

The triennial estimates¹ of own resources indicate a total increase of 7% in 1980 and 6% in 1981, the resources available totalling 17 100 million EUC in 1980 and 18 150 million EUC in 1981. The first tariff reductions now being negotiated under GATT should come into force in 1980. These reductions would be spread over an eight-year period and would be automatic for the first five years, but would depend on the economic situation in the last three. The reductions should not have a major impact on the revenue from customs duties as far as 1980 and 1981 are concerned.

Financial Regulation

2.3.99. On 12 June, as agreed in the joint consultative meetings in November and December 1977, the Commission placed before the Council a proposal to amend the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European

¹ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.3.96.

Triennial estimates of own resources

	<i>million EUC</i>		
	1979	1980	1981
Customs duties	4 746	5 050	5 300
— percentage change		+6	+5
Agricultural levies and sugar levies	2 144	2 100	2 000
— percentage change		-2	-5
1% of VAT	9 104	9 950	10 850
— percentage change		+9	+9
Total own resources available	15 994	17 100	18 150
— percentage change		+7	+6

Communities.¹ This proposal seeks to improve the budgetary presentation of borrowing and lending, simplify the structure of the research and investment part of the budget and increase the time-limits for approval by Council of requests for the carrying-over of appropriations.

Financial operations

ECSC

Loans raised

2.3.100. The Commission raised the following loans in June:

(i) a USD 50 million bond issue underwritten by an international syndicate of banks. The bonds carry a coupon of 8.75%, payable annually and run for nine years. The issue price was 99.75%. The bonds have been admitted to official quotation on the Luxembourg stock exchange.

(ii) private placings totalling USD 45 million issued at 9.10% payable annually for a term of ten years.

(iii) a FF 275 million bond issue underwritten by a syndicate of French banks. The bonds carry a coupon of 10.80%, payable annually and run for fifteen years. The bonds were offered to the public at par. Application has been made for the bonds to be listed on the Paris stock exchange.

(iv) private placings totalling DM 80 million at 6.25 and 6.50% payable annually for terms of up to fifteen years.

(v) a BFR 2 000 million bond issue underwritten by a syndicate of Belgian banks. The bonds carry a coupon of 8.50%, payable annually and run for eight years. The issue price was 99.50% and application has been made for the bonds to be listed on the Brussels and Antwerp stock exchanges.

(vi) a HFL 100 million bond issue underwritten by a syndicate of Dutch banks. The bonds carry a coupon of 7.25%, payable annually and run for fifteen years. The issue price was 99%. Application has been made for the bonds to be listed on the Amsterdam stock exchange.

These operations bring the total funds raised by the ECSC to date to more than 5 000 million EUC, for more than two hundred loans.

Loans granted

Loans paid

2.3.101. Under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty the Commission paid out loans totalling 94.8 million EUC in June.

Industrial loans

Industrial loans amounting to 92.3 million EUC were made to two undertakings to finance the following programmes:

Coal industry

Rationalization and modernization of collieries—National Coal Board, London:

(a) Doncaster (Goldthorpe/Highgate, Askern, Frickley/South Elmsall and Bentley collieries);

(b) Barnsley (Houghton Main and Grime-thorpe collieries);

(c) Yorkshire (Manton and Selby collieries);

(d) Nottinghamshire (Thoresby and Harworth collieries);

(e) South Midlands (Bagworth/Ellistown colliery);

(f) Wales (Lady Windsor/Abercynon collieries);

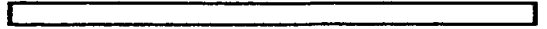
(g) North-West (Lea Hall colliery);

(h) Scotland (Seafield/Frances collieries);

(i) North (Wearmouth colliery).

¹ Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.3.113.

Financing Community activities



Steel industry

(i) Extension of a coastal steel works:

Det Danske Stalvalseværk AS, Frederiksværk;

(ii) Research centre:

IRSID (Institut de Recherches de la Sidérurgie Française) Saint-Germain-en-Laye (laboratories in Saint-Germain-en-Laye and testing station in Maizières-les-Metz).

Low-cost housing

Loans for the construction and fitting-out of low-cost housing amounted to 2.5 million EUC.

Loan decisions

2.3.102. The Commission also took one decision to grant a loan under Article 54 of the EEC Treaty to the following undertaking:

Steel industry

Rationalization of pig-iron and steel production:

Société des Aciéries et Laminoirs de Lorraine (Sacilor) SA, Hayange (works in the Thionville region).



PART THREE

DOCUMENTATION

1. Units of account

Units of account

European unit of account (EUC)

Changeover from the unit of account to the EUC

3.1.1. On account of the severe disturbances in international monetary relationships and the replacement of the system of fixed parities by floating exchange rates, the Community decided to introduce a new unit of account. Whereas the old unit of account (u.a.) was defined by reference to a given weight of fine gold, with fixed parities, the new 'basket' unit of account (EUC) reflects the day-to-day fluctuations between the various currencies on the foreign exchange markets.

A 'basket' unit of account is made up of different national currencies; the European unit of account is thus defined by reference to a sum of fixed amounts of Member States' currencies. When the EUC was introduced in 1975, these fixed amounts were obviously not chosen at random but took account, among other things, of the size of each Member State's economy.

The value of one EUC is the sum of the values of the following amounts: BFR 3.66, LFR 0.14, DM 0.828, HFL 0.286, UKL 0.0885, DKR 0.217, FF 1.15, LIT 109 and IRL 0.00759.

Depending on whether the rates of these different currencies are those recorded on the market in Brussels, Copenhagen or Paris, etc., the rate of the European unit of account is given in Belgian francs, Danish kroner or French francs, etc. The effect of this definition is that the value of the EUC in any national currency moves in line with changes in the weighted average of exchange rates in all the currencies in the basket; in other words, it reflects the aggregate movement in those currencies (Table 1).

The value of the EUC in the Member States' currencies is determined each day by the Commission on the basis of the official exchange rates notified by Member States' central banks; the value of the EUC is also calculated in a number of other currencies. Rates for the value of the EUC in the various national currencies are published

Table 1 — Values in national currencies of one European unit of account

National currency	1 June 1978 ¹	15 June 1978 ²	30 June 1978 ¹
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc	40.2458	40.4293	40.6953
German mark	2.57318	2.57384	2.58101
Dutch guilder	2.75838	2.75929	2.77740
Pound sterling	0.672698	0.672029	0.668451
Danish krone	6.92859	6.96765	7.01962
French franc	5.65196	5.65260	5.60057
Italian lira	1 065.00	1 058.12	1 062.79
Irish pound	0.672698	0.672029	0.668451
United States dollar	1.23236	1.22960	1.24412
Swiss franc	2.32366	2.33898	2.30594
Spanish peseta	98.6961	97.8206	97.9429
Swedish krona	5.68363	5.69186	5.68370
Norwegian krone	6.66321	6.65174	6.71761
Canadian dollar	1.37958	1.37878	1.39606
Portuguese escudo	56.0137	56.3474	56.6787
Austrian schilling	18.5038	18.4862	18.5400
Finnish mark	5.28022	5.28142	5.27483
Japanese yen	272.437	265.807	254.346

¹ OJ C 128 of 2.6.1978.

² OJ C 141 of 16.6.1978.

³ OJ C 155 of 1.7.1978.

daily.¹ In addition, anyone may contact the Commission to obtain this information.

Scope of application of the EUC

3.1.2. Since it was devised in 1975, the EUC has been phased into use in various areas of Community activity: 1975: ACP-EEC Lomé Convention (Council Decision of 21 April 1975);² balance sheet of the European Investment Bank (Decisions of the Board of Governors dated 18 March 1975 and 10 November 1977);

1976: ECSC operational budget (Commission Decision of 18 December 1975);³

1978: General budget of the Communities (Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977).⁴

The European unit of account is now used in all areas of Community activity, apart from the common agricultural policy, operations of the European Monetary Cooperation Fund (EMCF), and the customs field. It will be used for customs purposes from 1 January 1979 onwards.

The EUC has also been in use for some time in the fields of banking and commerce (Table 2).

Table 2 — *Annual interest rates on bank deposits denominated in EUC*

	1 June 1978	15 June 1978	30 June 1978
1 month	6 $\frac{1}{8}$	6 $\frac{1}{8}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
3 months	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{5}{8}$
6 months	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 $\frac{15}{16}$	7 $\frac{1}{16}$
12 months	7 $\frac{1}{16}$	7 $\frac{1}{8}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$

(Rates obtaining in Brussels).

'Green' rates

3.1.3. The old unit of account (u.a.) is still used in connection with the common agricultural policy. However, the conversion procedures applied have been substantially modified; conversion into national currencies of common agricultural prices expressed in units of account (u.a.) has long ceased to be based on fixed parities determined by reference to a given weight of fine gold and is now determined by 'representative rates', which are used in the agricultural field only. Generally referred to as 'green' rates, representative rates are fixed by de-

¹ In the Official Journal of the European Communities and in the press.

² OJ L 104 of 24.4.1975.

³ OJ L 327 of 19.12.1975.

⁴ OJ L 356 of 31.12.1977.

Table 3 — *Conversion rates into national currencies for the unit of account used in connection with the common agricultural policy*

National currency	June 1978
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc	49.3486
Danish krone	8.56656
German mark	3.41258 ⁷
	3.40238 ¹
French franc	6.00103 ⁷
	6.22514 ²
	6.45761 ³
Irish pound	0.739700 ⁷
	0.786912 ⁴
Italian lira	1 030.00 ⁷
	1 154.00 ⁵
	1 096.00 ⁶
Dutch guilder	3.40270
Pound sterling	0.586638 ⁷
	0.634204 ⁵

¹ For beef and milk products.

² For beef, milk products and hops.

³ For pigmeat.

⁴ For beef, pigmeat, milk products and hops.

⁵ For beef, pigmeat, milk products, hops and tomato concentrates.

⁶ For wine.

⁷ For the other products.

2. Additional references in the Official Journal

Units of account

cision of the Council (Table 3). The difference between these rates and the rates obtaining on the exchanges is offset by monetary compensatory amounts.

The market rates for the snake currencies (Benelux, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany) are taken to be their central rates, with the result that the compensatory amounts for these countries are not changed unless the central rates and the representative rates are adjusted. The monetary compensatory amounts for the other Member States are normally fixed each week on the basis of the average exchange rate of the relevant national currency against the currencies in the snake.

3.2.1. This section lists the titles of legal instruments and notices of Community institutions or organs which have appeared in the Official Journal since the last Bulletin was published but relating to items appearing in earlier issues of the Bulletin; the references were not available when the Bulletin went to press.

The number of the Bulletin and the point to which this additional information refers is followed by the title shown on the cover of the Official Journal, the number of the issue and the date of publication.

Bull. EC 1-1978

Point 2.1.35

Amendment to the proposal for a Council Directive to protect the consumer in respect of contracts which have been negotiated away from business premises

OJ C 127 of 1.6.1978

Bull. EC 2-1978

Point 2.1.53

Amendment to the amended proposal for a Council Regulation concerning producer groups and associations thereof

OJ C 139 of 14.6.1978

Point 2.2.18

Council Decision of 19 December 1977 on the application by the European Economic Community, as a provisional measure, of the Protocol of 23 March 1973 for the extension of the 1963 International Olive Oil Agreement

Annex I: International Olive Oil Agreement, 1963, as amended by the Protocols of 7 March 1969 and 23 March 1973, further extending the Agreement

Protocol of 23 March 1973 further extending the International Olive Oil Agreement, 1963, with amendments

Annex II: Notification of intention to accede to the Protocol of 23 March 1973 for the extension of the 1963 International Olive Oil Agreement with amendments to the said Agreement, and of the provisional application of the Agreement as amended by the above-mentioned Protocol

Information concerning the deposit of the declaration of provisional application by the Community of the International Olive Oil Agreement

OJ L 169 of 26.6.1978

Bull. EC 4-1978

Points 1.4.1 to 1.4.13

Draft Council resolution setting up an action programme of the European Communities on the control and reduction of pollution caused by oil spills at sea

Proposal for a Council Decision concluding the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, of 16 February 1976, concerning cooperation in combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency

Recommendation for a Council Decision concerning negotiations by the European Economic Community with a view to its accession to the Bonn Agreement of 9 June 1969 on cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil

Draft Council resolution on the extension to 12 miles of the breadth of the territorial seas of all Member States
OJ C 146 of 21.6.1978

Point 2.1.35

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/799/EEC concerning mutual assistance by the competent authorities of the Member States in the field of direct taxation

OJ C 127 of 1.6.1978

Point 2.1.48

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer

OJ C 135 of 9.6.1978

Point 2.1.97

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a programme of research for the European Atomic Energy Community on safety in thermal water reactors

OJ C 146 of 21.6.1978

Point 2.1.98

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a programme concerning the decommissioning of nuclear power plants

OJ C 146 of 21.6.1978

3. Infringement procedures

Infringement procedures

Reasoned opinions

3.3.1. In June the Commission issued nine reasoned opinions to Member States for: failure to comply with the rules governing free movement of goods (one case), agriculture (one case), transport (one case) and failure to apply directives (six cases).

Free movement of goods

Infringement of Article 30 *et seq.* of the EEC Treaty by the ban on imports of potatoes from other Member States from 1 January 1978 (United Kingdom).

Agriculture

Infringement of Articles 9 and 16 of the Regulation of 13 June 1967 on the common organization of the market in cereals¹ by the refusal to pay carry-over allowances for stocks of common wheat and maize and export refunds on bran for transactions relating to the 1972/73 harvest in Guadeloupe (France).

Transport

Failure to comply with the Council Regulation of 20 July 1970 on the introduction of recording equipment in road transport² (Ireland).

Application of directives

Failure to apply five motor vehicles and eight agricultural tractors directives (Belgium).

Failure to apply 23 motor vehicles and nine agricultural tractors directives (Ireland).

Failure to apply the Directive of 17 December 1974 on the approximation of laws relating to cold-water meters³ (United Kingdom).

Failure to apply the Directive of 19 November 1973 on the approximation of laws relating to the certification and marking of wire ropes, chains and hooks,⁴ as amended by the Directive of 13 April 1976⁵ (Ireland, Italy and United Kingdom).

Proceedings in the Court of Justice

3.3.2. In June the Commission took the following cases to the Court of Justice:

(i) Case 128/78:⁶ failure to apply the Regulation of 20 June 1970² on the introduction of recording equipment in road transport;

(ii) Case 140/78:⁷ failure to supply the supporting documents required by Article 4(3) of the Regulation of 26 July 1966⁸ on the financing of the common agricultural policy.

In Case 123/78,⁹ when Belgium took the requisite measures to comply with the Directive of 20 May 1975 on the approximation of laws relating to aerosol dispensers,¹⁰ the Commission withdrew the action commenced on 25 May.

¹ Regulation No 120/67/EEC: OJ 117 of 19.6.1967.

² Regulation (EEC) No 1463/70: OJ L 164 of 27.7.1970.

³ Directive 75/33/EEC: OJ L 14 of 20.1.1975.

⁴ Directive 73/361/EEC: OJ L 335 of 5.12.1973.

⁵ Directive 76/434/EEC: OJ L 122 of 8.5.1976.

⁶ Point 2.3.35.

⁷ Point 2.3.47.

⁸ Regulation No 130/66/EEC: OJ 165 of 21.9.1966.

⁹ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 3.3.2.

¹⁰ Directive 75/324/EEC: OJ L 147 of 9.6.1975.

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FR Français	Un seul volume comportant des textes différents en plusieurs langues	Page
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15

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CB-23-77-922-FR-C

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(DA.DE.EN.FR.IT.NL)

BFR 125	DKR 22	DM 8	FF 18
LIT 3 400	HFL 8,70	UKL 2	USD 4

CD-NO-77-029-EN-C

ISBN 92-825-0152-3

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1978. 26 pp. (EN)

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BFR 90	DKR 16	DM 5,80	FF 13,60
LIT 2 500	HFL 6,20	UKL 1.50	USD 2.90

CD-NO-77-033-3A-C

ISBN 92-825-0185-X

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LIT 15 000	HFL 38,30	UKL 8.80	USD 17

*) CB-AK-78-011-EN-C

ISSN 0378-4428

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LIT 700	HFL 2,80	UKL 0.48	USD 1.15

16

Intet offentliggjort / Keine Veröffentlichung /
No publications / Pas de parution /
Nessuna pubblicazione / Niets verschenen

17

KOMMISSIONEN - KOMMISSION - COMMISSION
COMMISSION - COMMISSIONE - COMMISSIE

CA-AP-78-013-DE-C ISSN 0378-8008
Index der industriellen Produktion der Europäischen
Gemeinschaft. Methodik. Retrospektive Reihen. Kon-
junkturindikatoren für die Industrie. Beilage 1-1978.
April 1978.
1978. 42 p.

CA-AP-78-013-EN-C ISSN 0378-7877
The Index of industrial production in the European
Community. Methodological note. Retrospective series.
Industrial short-term trends. Supplement 1-1978.
April 1978.
1978. 40 pp.

CA-AP-78-013-FR-C ISSN 0378-7427
L'indice de la production industrielle dans la Com-
munauté européenne. Note méthodologique. Séries
rétrospectives. Indicateurs conjoncturels de l'industrie.
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BFR 50 DKR 8,20 DM 3,15 FF 6,70
LIT 1 200 HFL 3,40 UKL 0.80 USD 1.40

CA-22-77-564-6A-C ISSN 92-825-0125-6
Arbejdsforholdene i fællesskabslandene 1975.
December 1977.
Arbeitsbedingungen in den Mitgliedstaaten der
Gemeinschaft 1975. Dezember 1977.
Working conditions in the Community 1975. December
1977.
Conditions de travail dans les pays de la Commu-
nauté 1975. Décembre 1977.
Condizioni di lavoro nei paesi della Comunità
1975. Dicembre 1977.
Arbeidsvoorwaarden in de landen van de Gemeen-
schap 1975. December 1977.
1978. 178 p.
(DA/DE/EN/FR/IT/NL)
BFR 300 DKR 53 DM 19,40 FF 43,20
LIT 8 200 HFL 21 UKL 5 USD 9.50

CA-24-77-100-6A-C ISSN 92-825-0145-0
Folketællingen i fællesskabslandene 1968-1971.
December 1977.
Volkszählungen in den Ländern der Gemeinschaft
1968-1971. Dezember 1977.
Censuses of population in the Community countries
1968-1971. December 1977.
Recensements de la population dans les pays de la
Communauté 1968-1971. Décembre 1977.

Censimenti della popolazione nei paesi della Comunità
1968-1971. Dicembre 1977.
Volkstellingen in de landen van de Gemeenschap
1968-1971. December 1977.
1978. 138 p.
(DA/DE/EN/FR/IT/NL)
BFR 500 DKR 87,50 DM 32,25 FF 72,50
LIT 13 300 HFL 34,50 UKL 7.90 USD 15.30

CA-24-77-306-2F-C ISSN 92:825-0127-2
Zahlungsbilanzen. Regionale Gliederung 1972-1976.
Februar 1978.
Bilance dei pagamenti. Ripartizione geografica
1972-1976. Febbraio 1978.
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(EN/FR. DE/IT. DA/NL)
BFR 700 DKR 122,20 DM 45,20 FF 101,50
LIT 18 500 HFL 48,50 UKL 11 USD 21.50

CA-24-78-427-DE-C ISSN 92-825-0217-1
Die Behinderten und ihre Beschäftigung.
Eine statistische Untersuchung der Lage in den Mit-
gliedstaaten der Europäischen Gemeinschaften.

CA-24-78-427-EN-C ISSN 92-825-0218-X
The Handicapped and their employment.
A statistical study of the situation in the Member
States of the European Communities.

CA-24-78-427-FR-C ISSN 92-825-0218-8
Les handicapés et leur emploi.
Étude statistique sur la situation dans les pays mem-
bres de la Communauté européenne.
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BFR 250 DKR 44,50 DM 16 FF 38
LIT 6 900 HFL 17,30 UKL 4.20 USD 8

*) CA-NB-76-007-2A-C
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ringvæsen i 1974. 7 - Nederlandene. Specialserie.
April 1978.

Gehalts- und Lohnstruktur im Groß- und Einzel-
handel, im Bank- und Versicherungsgewerbe in 1974.
7 - Niederlande. Sonderreihe. April 1978.

Structure of earnings in wholesale and retail distri-
bution, banking and insurance in 1974. 7 - Nether-
lands. Special series. April 1978.

Structure des salaires dans le commerce, les ban-
ques et les assurances en 1974. 7 - Pays-Bas.
Série spéciale. Avril 1978.

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banche e nelle assicurazioni nel 1974. 7 - Paesi
Bassi. Serie speciale. Aprile 1978.

Loonstructuur in de sectoren handel, banken en verzekeringen in 1974. 7 – Nederland. Speciale serie, April 1978.

1978. 418 p. (EN/FR)

BFR 600 DKR 94,50 DM 40,50 FF 72

LIT 10 900 HFL 41,50 UKL 7,30 USD 17,20

Samlet specialserie - Gesamte Sonderreihe - Complete special series - Ensemble de la série spéciale - Insieme dei volumi - Gehele speciale serie

BFR 4 500 DKR 708 DM 303 FF 540

LIT 81 500 HFL 311 UKL 55 USD 130

CA-24-78-564-DE-C ISBN 92-825-0220-1

Einige Zahlen. Berufliche Bildung außerhalb des Schulsystems, Alter und Erwerbstätigkeit. Gemeinschaft 1973 und 1975. Dezember 1977.

1978. 31 p.

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CA-24-78-564-EN-C ISBN 92-825-0221-X

Selected figures. Out-of-school vocational training, age and activity. Community 1973 and 1975. December 1977.

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CA-24-78-564-FR-C ISBN 92-825-0222-8

Quelques chiffres. Formation professionnelle extra-scolaire, âge et activité. Communauté 1973 et 1975. Décembre 1977.

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CB-23 77-243-6A-C

Glosar. Ny transportteknik.

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1978. 900 p.

(DA/DE/EN/FR/IT/NL)

BFR 660 DKR 112 DM 42,60 FF 90

LIT 15 750 HFL 45 UKL 10,40 USD 18,25

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Klassifikationssystem. Sachbereichsschlüssel. Länderkennzeichen. Sprachensymbole. Terminologiebüro – Luxemburg. 1976 – 1977 (Ergänzungen).

1978. 114 p.

Gratis

CB-24-78-637-FR-C

Système de classification. Codes matières. Symboles des pays et des langues. Bureau de terminologie – Luxembourg. 1976 – 1977 (mise à jour).

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1

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6

Den økonomiske situation i Fællesskabet

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Résultats de l'enquête de conjoncture auprès des chefs d'entreprise de la Communauté

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LIT 71 500 HFL 204 UKL 48 USD 83

7

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Gains horaires – Durée du travail

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8

Råjern og stål – Basispriser og jern- og stålproducenter
 Roheisen und Stahlerzeugnisse – Grundpreise und Stahlunternehmen
 Pig Iron and Steel – Basic Prices and Iron and Steel Undertakings
 Fontes et aciers – Prix de base et entreprises sidérurgiques
 Ghise ed acciai – Prezzi base e imprese siderurgiche
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} A + B + C

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Månedsoversigt over transport
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Monthly tables of transport
Tableaux mensuels des transports
Tabella mensili dei trasporti
Maandgegevens van het vervoer

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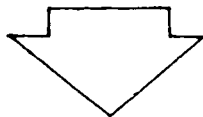
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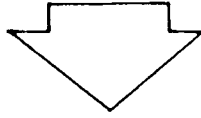
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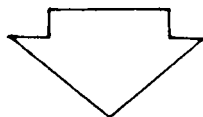
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