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Bulletin OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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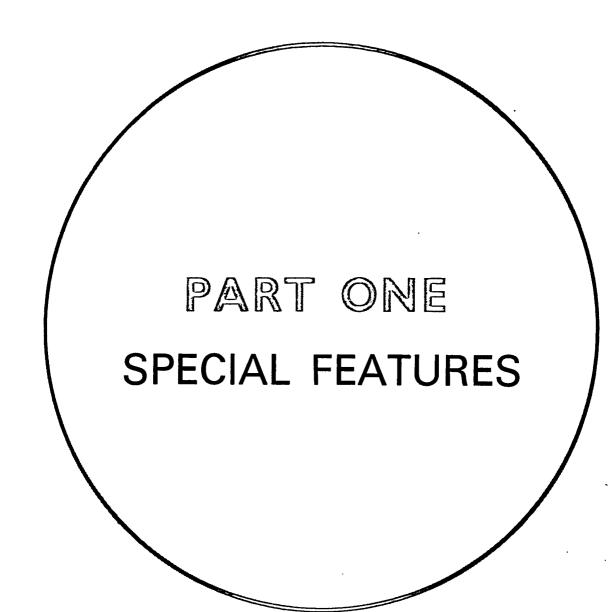
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^{*} In preparation.



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

ECU = European currency unit

BFR = Belgische frank / Franc belge DKR = Dansk krone

DM = Deutsche Mark

DR = Greek drachma

FF

HFL = Nederlandse gulden (Hollandse florijn)

IRL = Irish pound / punt

LFR = Franc luxembourgeois

= Franc français

LIT = Lira italiana

UKL = Pound sterling

USD = United States dollar

The fight against unemployment

Special part-session of Parliament

Commission proposals on employment for young people

1.1.1. Unemployment, which is still a very serious problem, was the topic for discussion at a special part-session held by Parliament in April; this month also saw the Commission put before the Council proposals on the promotion of jobs for young people.²

Parliament's part-session on unemployment

1.1.2. Parliament held special sittings in Brussels on 27 and 28 April to make an in-depth study of the growing evil of unemployment. Although Parliament has no powers to enforce its resolutions, the fact that it made a formal pronouncement on this problem, urging a European employment pact involving a commitment by the Member States to take concerted action in the social and economic fields, meant that it was fulfilling its function.

However, Parliament was unable to achieve that large majority which would have given its statements the maximum impact. Most of the motions for resolutions were diluted by amendments put forward by EPP, Liberal, EDP and ED members. Furthermore, the differences between the left and the centreright frequently gave rise to juxtapositions of sharply distinct views and, even though many speakers from all the parties often presented the same analysis of the situation and recommended the same solutions, the attitude of the party groups was marked by a polarization which was particularly evident when it came to a vote.

During this special part-session two arguments—to put it in simple terms—met head-on: whether priority should be given to investment in an endeavour to get the

economy moving again and thus promote employment, or whether there should be a direct attack on unemployment by means of a substantial reduction of working time, thus providing more jobs.

The four resolutions adopted

The employment situation in the European Community

1.1.3. In his report on the employment situation in the Community, Mr Efstratios Papaefstratiou (EPP/GR), Chairman of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, estimated that of the 12.3 million persons currently registered as unemployed in Europe, about half were young people under 25 years of age and that over 4 million of them had been unemployed for a year or more. Pointing out that the measures so far adopted were evidently incapable of checking the rise in unemployment, Mr Papaefstratiou asked that a European employment pact be concluded under which the Member States would commit themselves to concerted action in the fields of social policy, regional policy, education and training, industrial development policy, research and energy policy, such a pact to be drafted in close collaboration with both sides of industry and in consultation with Parliament.

1.1.4. During the debate the President of the Commission, Mr Gaston Thorn, said that the Commission was convinced of the value of a programme put together and rapidly carried out at Community level in the fight against unemployment. Such a programme would have to be comprehensive, combining measures for revitalizing the economy and restoring competitiveness with specific measures for combating the economically distress-

Points 1.1.2 to 1.1.10.

² Points 1.1.11 to 1.1.21; COM(83)211 final.

ing and socially destabilizing effects of unemployment.

Mr Ivor Richard, the Member of the Commission responsible for social affairs, said that while unemployment was perceived as the concern of the Member States in the 1960s and 1970s, it had become the concern of the Community in the 1980s. Part of the Community's failure to produce an effective strategy for employment was to be explained by the fact that in times of economic expansion there had been a tendency to regard the maintenance of full employment as being, as it were, a natural by-product of that success. Today, he said, it had to be acknowledged that increased economic activity was not in itself an answer to the problem of unemployment.

The President of the Council, Mr Norbert Blüm, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, expressed his satisfaction over the fact that Parliament had decided to hold a special session on unemployment and said that the Community should concentrate the funds at its disposal on tackling unemployment among young people. The Social Fund, he said, should be used not to 'finance' unemployment but to do away with it. Mr Blüm also took the view that proposals for reorganizing working time could help to reduce unemployment.

1.1.5. Parliament adopted the resolution contained in its Committee's report despite opposition of the Socialists Communists (the resolution had been amended to give it a distinctly conservative tone). It retained the Committee's appeal that the Member States and both sides of industry adopt a European employment pact containing comprehensive guidelines for extricating Europe from the recession; however, it rejected the call for 'extraordinary measures' and an 'emergency strategy'. By the same token, the adoption of an amendment tabled by Mr Philipp von Bismarck (EPPID) meant that the Member States were asked to devote 'an annually increasing proportion' of their GNP to joint investment in sectors likely to provide new jobs rather than 'at least 1%', as

the European Trade Union Confederation is also demanding.

The resolution finally adopted stresses the need to create jobs, but lays even greater emphasis on alleviating the burdens borne by undertakings (adjustment of taxation systems, social security, etc.). As regards the impact of the new technologies, Parliament did not retain the original wording calling for 'an agreement on technological cooperation' which 'should provide a solution to the concomitant social problems'.

Finally, Parliament rejected the proposal by its Socialist and Communist members calling for a gradual reduction of working time to 35 hours a week without reduction of overall purchasing power (amendment tabled by Georges Frischman (Com/F) and Félix Damette (Com/F). The resolution in its final form, as amended by Mr Elmar Brok (EPP/D), does not refer to a 'significant reduction in ... working hours' but only to a reduction accompanied by an appropriate wage and pensions policy, financially feasible because it has no impact on costs.

Youth unemployment

1.1.6. In her report Mrs Heinke Salisch (SodD) laid particular emphasis on the need to give young people adequate vocational training to enhance their mobility and enable them to adjust to technological change. She suggested measures aimed at developing vocational training in a direction which would, in particular, help young people who dropped out of school without acquiring any kind of qualification.

1.1.7. Parliament adopted this report by a more comfortable majority, though taking a less radical stand than Mrs Salisch. For example, it deleted suggestions regarding a reduction in working time, a quota of jobs to be reserved for underprivileged young people and mandatory part-time attendance at vocational training centres. But the call for a 100% increase in Social Fund resources in the 1984 budget was retained.

Most of the amendments adopted—12 out of the 60 tabled—were proposed by Liberal or EDP members. For example, Mrs Tove Nielsen (Lib/DK) said that a reorganization of overall working conditions must not impair firms' competitiveness and Mrs Magdeleine Anglade of France, speaking for the EDP group, called for a genuinely forward-looking education policy, involving coordination between schools, universities and industry.

Competitiveness of Community industry

1.1.8. Restoring the competitiveness of European industry, which had suffered a severe decline—especially in relation to the United States and Japan—called for a united effort by all Member States. Parliament wished to see this effort made, according to Mr Silvio Leonardi (Com/I).

The speaker went on to say that this failing was not caused by any lack of financial resources but by a lack of belief in the future of Europe and low adaptability. He also deplored the fact that the Community had failed to make good use of one of its principal resources, i.e. its labour force: in the past 20 years only 2.5 million jobs had been created in the Community against 30 million in the United States and 7.5 million in Japan, whose population was far smaller.

1.1.9. Mr Leonardi's report was broadly endorsed by Parliament, though minor changes were made in the resolution it contained through amendments tabled by EDP and ED members. Mr Gustave Deleau and Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté (F), for the EDP group, stressed the role of small and medium-sized businesses and the importance of investment—especially in the services sector, where the greatest employment potential was located. Mr Frans Andriessen, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for competition, concurred with Mr Leonardi's analysis and affirmed that to restore the Community's competitiveness action must be taken on three levels: improvement of the general economic background, strengthening of the internal market, development of the Community's industrial strategy.

Reduction and reorganization of working time

1.1.10. Parliament adopted a resolution on the memorandum from the Commission to the Council on the reduction and reorganization of working time. The rapporteur, Mr Domenico Ceravolo (Com/I), argued in favour of a significant reduction and redistribution of working time accompanied by greater flexibility. He stressed the political advantages of measures taking full account of the need to restore full employment, which must continue to be a fundamental objective. He called on the Council to define, by means of a binding Community directive, the ways and means of giving effect to this reduction in working time.

When a vote was taken, Parliament's position proved to be more moderate than that of its rapporteur. While it wished to see the Council take practical steps on the reorganization of working time, it merely called for 'a recommendation outlining the principles' on which governments and the two sides of industry could jointly take action instead of coming down in favour of 'a binding Community measure'. An amendment by Mr Vincent Ansquer, Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté and Mr Gustave Deleau (F) on behalf of the EDP group softened the opening passages, affirming that 'an adjustment of working time, possibly combined with a reduction of working hours, may, in some circumstances, help to improve the employment situation'. This formulation was more cautious than the original motion, which spoke of 'the need for an early and decisive reduction and reorganization of working time'. Similarly, an amendment by Mr George Benjamin Patterson and Mr Michael J. Welsh (ED/UK), deleted the passage asserting that 'a substantial, once-and-for-all reduction in working hours may have a more positive effect in expanding employment than a gradual, step-by-step strategy'.

Bull. EC 4-1983

Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.55.

Commission proposals on the promotion of employment for young people

1.1.11. Despite the many measures in recent years at local, national and Community level to provide training and employment for young people, the likelihood of getting a job has decreased as the recession has deepened. The youth unemployment rate has risen while the length of time for which young people remain jobless has lengthened: under-25s, who account for only 20% of the working population in the Community, make up 40% of the total number of registered unemployed. More than 2 million young people have been without a job for over 6 months and more than 1.5 million have been unemployed for over 12 months.

The causes of youth unemployment

1.1.12. The problem of youth unemployment is not confined only to school-leavers: in fact, 16 to 18 year-olds account for less than 20% of the young unemployed. It cannot, therefore, be ascribed solely to the failure of the education system to adapt to the needs of the economy, but is a consequence of economic stagnation and the low level of job creation.

Basic training for young people, although it has been improved, has benefited those from different social strata unequally. Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds turn, for want of anything better, to the least-skilled or most precarious types of employment.

1.1.13. Young people are particularly hard-hit by the contraction in the volume of employment due to structural changes in recruitment and manpower turnover; workers in stable employment are less and less inclined to change jobs, those jobs traditionally regarded as the first rungs in the career ladder are less often vacated, and delays in replacing workers leaving their jobs tend to be more and more prolonged. As a result, young people are mainly recruited for short-term or marginal jobs.

1.1.14. The worsening economic situation primarily penalizes those workers who are the least well protected and the least able to

compete; this especially applies to young people who are new entrants to the labour market.

1.1.15. It is widely believed that youth unemployment is a temporary phenomenon and that the problem will resolve itself after 1985 with the arrival on the labour market of young people from the low-birth-rate generations of the late 1960s. In reality, however, in the past 10 years or so the tendency to prolong schooling has resulted in a lower activity rate in the 16-19 age group. Therefore, the problem essentially concerns young people aged 20 and over, whose number will continue to rise until after 1990. Overall demographic factors (new arrivals on the labour market, retirements, womens' activity rate) will not of themselves bring about any improvement in the situation of young job-seekers in the medium term.

The Commission proposals

1.1.16. While welcoming the various measures taken up to now at both national and Community level, the Commission believes that they were not sufficiently well adapted to the particular problem of youth unemployment. On 25 April the Commission therefore transmitted to the Council a communication on the promotion of employment for young people, together with a draft resolution, aimed at developing a programme of specific measures in this area.¹

General strategy

- 1.1.17. In its communication the Commission proposes the introduction of special measures based on the following principles:
- (i) the measures should take their place among general measures to stimulate job creation and increase the flexibility of the labour market through the reduction and reorganization of working time;
- (ii) the development of unstable or marginal jobs should be avoided;
- (iii) 'positive measures' should be included to benefit the most disadvantaged groups;

¹ COM(83)211 final.

(iv) existing measures in the field of basic and continuing training for young people should be complemented and supported.

To make an impact, action must be taken on a significant scale and will call for a substantial financial contribution from the Member States. These concerted efforts at national level should be supplemented and guided by Community resources provided under the European Social Fund. The Commission therefore calls for a substantial increase in ESF appropriations for measures to help young people—as indeed in the Fund's budget as a whole.

Types of measure

- 1.1.18. The Commission identified five principal types of measure:
- (i) expanding employment possibilities through the reorganization and reduction of working time, in particular by the creation of part-time jobs, taking care to ensure that young people benefit from this measure;
- (ii) encouraging private-sector employers to create new jobs and expand the recruitment of young workers, especially through recruitment premiums, exemption from social charges and tax incentives;
- (iii) helping young people to set up new businesses;
- (iv) expanding job opportunities in the non-market sector with recruitment concentrated on young people and providing jobs for the long-term unemployed through special temporary public programmes or quotas for young people;
- (v) assisting young people to develop their vocational abilities and non-vocational interests through better support facilities.
- 1.1.19. The two sides of industry, through collective bargaining, will be called on to play their part in sharing the burden of the implementation of measures in favour of young people. They should act to influence recruitment and the creation of permanent

jobs and promote increased flexibility and mobility on a voluntary basis to speed up job turnover. They should also make every effort to reorganize work in such a way as to create more jobs.

1.1.20. However, the Commission warns that there can be no lasting solution to the problem of youth unemployment independently of overall strategies aimed at economic and job market recovery. Success in the struggle against youth unemployment therefore depends on the intensity of the efforts the public authorities are prepared to make on the economic and social fronts.

1.1.21. The communication on the promotion of employment for young people can be seen as part of a series of proposals and communications that the Commission has put forward since the end of 1981. While it believes that setting up modern and competitive manufacturing and service industries in a sound economic environment is the best weapon against unemployment, the Commission has endeavoured to promote employment in general, in particular by means of proposals relating to vocational training and to social security for the least privileged types of worker. It has laid before the Council a recommendation on retirement age, which adopted on 10 December 1982,1 proposals for directives on voluntary parttime work² and temporary employment,³ two communications on measures relating to vocational training in the 1980s,4 and a memorandum on the reorganization and reduction of working time.⁵

Bull. EC 4-1983

¹ OJ L 357, 18.12.1982; Bull. EC 12-1982, point

² OJ C 62, 12.3.1982; Bull. EC 12-1981, point 1.1.1 et seq.

seq.
3 OJ C 128, 19.5.1982; Bull. EC 4-1982, point 1.2.1 et seq.

⁴ OJ C 162, 29.6.1982; Bull. EC 5-1982, point 2.1.41; OJ C 306, 23.11.1982; Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.31. ⁵ Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.55.

2. Financial integration

Deadlock: but the need is imperative

1.2.1. At the Council meeting on 18 April Mr Ortoli introduced the Commission's communication on renewed progress towards financial integration in the Community. In this document the Commission calls for a fresh start at Community level on work to bring a unified European financial market into being. It begins by pointing out that progress in this direction has been deadlocked since 1962 and that the degree of freedom of capital movements in the Community has even declined since then, for the application of the Directives of 11 May 1960 and 18 February 1962 has been partially suspended in several Member States under the safeguard clauses in Article 108 of the Treaty. The Commission considers that the time has come for a new advance, particularly with a view to harnessing European savings for productive the Community.² The investment in restrictions imposed by a number of Member States are not justified, it says, and are in no way an effective answer to the problems facing national authorities.

1.2.2. The need for a European financial market cannot be denied; industrial development requires considerable capital and therefore better means of tapping Community savings. According to the Commission, an unnecessarily large proportion of these through international savings move markets-i.e. outside the Community financial system and also free of control-with all the consequences which this entails for the stability of exchange relationships. Despite the economic crisis and the abuse of the safeguard clauses by a number of Member States, the Commission considers that the conditions for financial integration now appear in quite a new light. It feels that controls on financial flows by the Member States are increasingly unlikely to ensure them a degree of autonomy in their economic policies, particularly as it is more difficult to impose controls and restrictions on short-term capital movements—provoked by instability in the international monetary system and fostered by economic uncertainties—which are by far the most speculative.

A broad pratical objective coupled with a pragmatic approach

1.2.3. In the knowledge that the creation of a financial market is a gradual, long-term process, but convinced that the undoubted advantages to be gained far outweigh any disadvantages, the Commission proposes a 'realistic process of financial integration' and indicates the measures which should be given priority. It lists in its communication the main steps and stages it envisages. In brief, it places particular emphasis on reinforcing the role of the ECU and on the adoption of Directives designed to create a common banking market, to promote the integration of stock markets and to ensure freedom to provide insurance services.

The Commission attaches great importance to this communication as a contribution to the work on the development of the EMS and because it seeks to further the convergence of Community economies and to ensure greater stability in the international financial system.

1.2.4. The principal aim is to establish a Community 'financial area' which will facilitate the economic development of Europe and strengthen its structures. This area should be as free as possible of internal inconsistencies, open to the outside world on an orderly basis and equipped with effective means of tapping and allocating savings, which currently serve only very inadequately to finance investment in the Community.

The Commission lays particular stress on the fact that very little—between a quarter and a third—of gross savings in the Community (totalling 430 000 million ECU in 1980 compared with only 340 000 million ECU in the United States) is tapped by national financial markets and used to finance investment in the Community. The securities issued in 1980 on the five main financial markets in the Community totalled much less than those issued in the USA (112 000 million ECU

¹ COM(83)207 final.

Point 1.3.1 et seq.

compared with 212 000 million ECU). Furthermore, long-term capital movements between Member States constitute only one-twentieth of the value of their commercial trade.

The conditions for achieving financial integration and the need for renewed efforts

- 1.2.5. The Commission considers that the present situation contains elements conducive to further progress and that the economic policy considerations which for a long time were said to justify the absence of a European financial area have lost much of their force. The conditions necessary for establishing such an area are there and the time is right:
- (i) Macroeconomic incompatibility has been attenuated. While full convergence is still a distant prospect, the growing interdependence of the Member States' economies is reducing both the symbolic and the instrumental value of controlling financial flows, including those contributing to the development of the European economy, in the pursuit of a degree of autonomy in economic policies. Furthermore, substantial progress towards coordinating economic and monetary policies in the Community now allows greater flexibility as regards capital movements.
- (ii) The strengthening of the internal market also involves the question of financial services. If firms are to exploit to the full the opportunities offered by the single market of the Community, they must be in a position not only to move their products but also to choose the location of their production establishments without sacrificing the economies of scale obtainable through centralized management of a number of departments, especially thos dealing with financial and banking matters.
- (iii) Direct tapping of European savings would make for more effective restructuring of the Community economy. The orderly restructuring of ailing industries and the development of new activities require considerable capital, which, given the poor performance of the European stock exchange and banking systems in this field (particularly

compared with their American counterparts), is unlikely to materialize. This situation is due to the partitioning of the Community's financial markets, which is even more of a paradox considering that non-member countries borrow more heavily than Community countries on these markets to meet almost as great a proportion of their needs.

(iv) Continuing excessive intermediation of European savings on international markets and in non-Community currencies undermines the stability of the international financial system. An unnecessarily large proportion of Community savings moves through international markets in the form of Euro-credits, for ill-defined economic purposes and subject to somewhat uncertain arrangements, as recent events have shown, and this hardly helps the stability of the international financial system.

Proposals for a realistic process of financial integration

1.2.6. The Commission is aware, however, that a number of difficulties may well arise for a time. In a response to the need for integration that takes account of such difficulties, it proposes gradual but significant progress on three fronts.

A financial system to serve economic development

- 1.2.7. The first series of proposals is designed to develop a financial system which will serve economic development:
- (i) the gradual dismantling of partitions between capital markets by: gradually removing restrictions, with priority being given to the establishment of a European risk capital market; drawing up a list of exchange control measures or monetary policy measures with equivalent effect that are to be prohibited unless they have been agreed at Community level; and promoting, in collaboration with the main European stock exchanges, a technical system of interlinking Community stock markets:
- (ii) the establishment of a more unified network of financial services, in the banking, insurance and stock-exchange fields;

Bull. EC 4-1983

of financial (iii) the development instruments that can ensure efficient tapping and movement of capital within a wider financial area: apart from developing Community instruments proper, the Commission will encourage closer cooperation between medium and long-term credit institutions, create a suitable environment for collective undertakings for investment purposes which will enable them to borrow and lend anywhere in the Community, and make it possible for housing credit establishments to operate throughout the Community, in other Member States besides their own.

More balanced international financial relations

- 1.2.8. The second series of proposals is designed to improve the balance in international financial relations:
- (i) greater control of capital flows into and out of the Community, there being nothing at Community level (except a 1972 Directive adopted pursuant to Article 70 of the Treaty) between national exchange controls and free world movements;

- (ii) more thorough international banking supervision through, in particular, the calculation of certain bank solvency and liquidity ratios and the monitoring of large exposures such as the large loans granted by banks; the development of cooperation between credit information exchanges is also envisaged;
- (iii) the coordination of foreign borrowing policies of Member States in accordance with the programme put forward in 1980 in the Monetary Committee's report on recycling, once it is certain that Community instruments are geared to the new technical features of financial markets and are adequate to meet the needs of the Member States.

Promoting the use of the ECU

1.2.9. Finally, the Commission proposes that the use of the ECU—the monetary identity of Europe—be promoted by granting it the status of a currency, by giving preferential treatment to financial transactions denominated in ECU so as to develop its private use by operators inside and outside the Community and by enlarging its official role as recommended by the Commission in its communication of 15 March 1982 on the development of the EMS.

3. National tax and financial measures to revive investment

1.3.1. The creation of a 'European financial area'is not an end in itself but a response to the need to mobilize all possible financial resources in a bid to revive productive investment. This cannot wait upon a fully operative financial integration policy; and on 29 April the Commission sent the Council its next chapter on the subject, a communication financial measures and governments might usefully take to promote investment. Such measures are additional to those proposed in the June 1982 communication on the role of government in reviving investment² and fit into the supportive framework defined by the Commission in October 1982.3

With regard to the role of the Community proper, something has already been done in the further expansion of the activity of its financial instruments—witness the latest tranche of New Community Instrument borrowing (NCI III), this time for a sum of 3 000 million ECU. As regards the right framework for a new impetus to investment, the Commission has proposed the gradual creation of a large financial market, 4 but its

¹ COM(83)218 final.

² Bull. EC 6-1982, points 1.5.3, 2.1.5 and 2.1.6; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.1.

³ Bull. EC 10-1982, points 1.1.2 to 1.1.6.

Point 1.2.1 et seq.

positive influence will be felt only in the medium term.

1.3.2. The new communication answers more immediate concerns by making practical proposals for the tax and financial measures to be taken to facilitate business investment and to channel more savings into investment.

The Commission describes the principal general measures in the Member States that are designed both to increase self-financing margins and to improve the external financing of companies, and puts forward its suggestions in these two areas.

Self-financing

- 1.3.3. On self-financing, three main problems are identified and corrective or dynamic measures suggested:
- (i) the taxation of 'apparent profits' resulting from the effects of inflation on the rebuilding of productive capital: the Commission considers that it is unclear how far the various incentives provided represent a definite advantage, and how far they merely compensate, to varying degrees, for the effects of inflation; the Commission recommends the adoption by the Member States of arrangements to eliminate in a structural manner the adverse effects of inflation on resources intended for rebuilding productive capital;
- (ii) the limits imposed on offsetting losses with past or future profits: these limits reduce firms' ability to deal with temporary difficulties and to face up to the requirements of expansion and innovation; the Commission therefore recommends that tax rules for carry-back or carry-forward of losses should

be brought into line with the most favourable system in the Member States;

(iii) the tax burden, and particularly taxes which do not depend on profits, becomes harder to bear in a period of slow growth and high risk: the Commission thinks that not only should this burden not be increased, it ought to be reduced—particularly for taxes not linked to profits.

Measures to improve the external financing of companies

- 1.3.4. Among measures to improve external financing of companies, the Commission recommends:
- (i) greater transparency of company accounts, which is essential to improve access to equity capital and borrowed funds;
- (ii) tax neutrality in relation to the different forms of external financing, obtained by reducing the double taxation of dividends and the direct channelling of savings into risk capital, in particular through the development of forms of collective investment;
- (iii) the encouragement of asset formation among wage and salary earners.
- 1.3.5. The Commission says that the implementation of these measures simultaneously in all the Member States would promote the convergence of their economies while preventing economic readjustment from having adverse effects on the production potential, particularly in the Member States with acute inflation or balance of payments problems. The Commission therefore requests the Council to adopt the proposed guidelines and to allow for special situations in order to ensure that the suggested measures have their full impact.

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4. Implementation of the new fisheries policy: the Commission adopts its first proposals

1.4.1. On 20 April the Commission adopted, for transmission to the Council, its proposals on the allowable catches (TACs) for 1983 and the allocation of quotas to the Member States. The TACs and quotas, which have to be fixed each year for some 30 species forming about 100 different stocks, are the cornerstone of the new fisheries policy adopted by the Council on 25 January. The proposals on TACs and quotas are accompanied by proposals for amendments to certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources.

1.4.2. As far as possible, the Commission has endeavoured to guarantee the stability of fishing activities in 1983, in line with the aims of the basic Regulation of 25 January 1983 establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources.² Overall, however, the proposals would entail a slight decrease in catch possibilities as compared with 1982. The Commission has been particularly cautious in three cases where stocks have been overfished, namely the cod stocks to the east and west of Greenland and the western mackerel stock. To protect the latter, it is proposed that fishing in ICES Division VIa off the west of Scotland should be prohibited altogether for certain periods.

1.4.3. As regards fish stocks managed jointly with non-member countries, the proposed TACs and quotas reflect the outcome of the

annual negotiations conducted under the fisheries agreements with the countries in question (Norway, Sweden, Faroe Islands). Where the Community's own stocks are concerned, the Commission took account of the opinions of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the Scientific and Technical Committee on Fisheries (STCF). The interests represented on the Advisory Committee for Fisheries were also consulted.

1.4.4. For the 1983 allocation of quotas to the Member States, the Commission used the same cheme as was adopted in January for the 1982 quotas. A weighting was applied to meet the specific needs of the regions particularly dependent on fisheries (the north of the United Kingdom, Ireland and Greenland).

1.4.5. The Commission, having as yet no scientific opinion on which to base the management of most herring stocks, proposed that the TACs for such stocks should be set provisionally at zero. New proposals will be drawn up as soon as the opinions in question are available. The Commission also reserves the right to amend any of its other proposals in the light of fresh scientific advice.

² OJ L 24, 27.1.1983.

¹ OJ L 24, 27.1.1983, OJ L 25, 27.1.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.11.



Building the Community

Economic and monetary policy

Council meeting

2.1.1. On 18 April the Council held a meeting on economic and financial questions and made its first-quarter examination of the economic situation in the Community. It also heard a statement from Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, Commission Vice-President, introducing the Commission's communication on the relaunching of Community financial integration. Lastly, the Council adopted a Decision empowering the Commission to contract loans under the New Community Instrument (NCI III).

Economic situation

2.1.2. The Council made its first-quarter examination of the economic situation on 18 April, on the basis of a communication from the Commission, in accordance with Article 2 of the convergence Decision of 18 February 1974.

The Council concluded that there was no need to adjust the guidelines it had adopted in the annual economic report at its meeting in December 1982.⁴

2.1.3. In preparation for the Council meeting on energy policy on 21 April⁵ Commission departments presented to the group of senior officials a working paper on the economic effects of the fall in oil prices following the OPEC agreement of 14 March. The document stresses the beneficial economic consequences to be expected from this development but also warns the Member States against the economic dangers they will face if they relax their efforts to reduce dependence on external supplies of energy, especially oil.

2.1.4. At its sitting on 13 April Parliament also expressed its concern with regard to the economic and monetary consequences of instability in the world energy market and adopted a resolution on the response to be made.⁶

Economic Policy Committee

2.1.5. The Economic Policy Committee held its 131st meeting on 27 April, with Mr Byatt in the chair. It examined the question of budget deficits and public debt.

European Monetary System

Financial integration

2.1.6. On 15 April the Commission sent a communication to the Council on financial integration in the Community. It takes stock of the situation, assesses the possibilities for progress on capital movements and identifies the priority areas for action. The Commission concludes its analysis by proposing a varied package of measures.

Financial measures in favour of investment

2.1.7. On 29 April the Commission sent the Council a communication on tax and financial measures in favour of investment. This is a follow-up to the communication on initiatives for promoting investment which the Commission presented to the Council on 11 October 1982 and to the conclusions of the Council meeting on economic and financial questions held on 15 November 1982. 10

Community borrowing and lending

Conciliation meeting between Parliament and Council on NCI III and Decision by the Council

2.1.8. On 18 April the Council held a conciliation meeting in Luxembourg with a

¹ Point 2.1.2.

Point 1.2.1 et seq. and 2.1.6.

³ Point 2.1.8.

⁴ OJ L 386, 31.12.1982; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.5.

⁵ Point 2.1.140.

⁶ Point 2.4.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

⁷ Point 1.2.1 et seq. and COM(83)207 final.

⁸ Point 1.3.1 et seq. and COM(83)218 final.

⁹ Bull. EC 10-1982, point 1.1.1 et seq. and 2.1.4.

¹⁰ Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.5.

Parliament delegation, led by Mr Pierre Pflimlin, on the subject of the basic Decision empowering the Commission to contract loans under the New Community Instrument (NCI III).¹

On 7 February the Council had worked out a common position² which it had sent to Parliament. Because this position had not taken account of all the wishes expressed by Parliament in its December 1982 opinion,³ Mr Piet Dankert, Parliament's President, in a letter dated 9 March had requested Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Council President, to open the conciliation procedure.

The conciliation meeting took place in a constructive atmosphere and resulted in a joint statement by Parliament and the Council. Having noted the goodwill of both parties, the Parliament delegation made no objection to the adoption of the Decision. The Council adopted the Decision on 19 April.⁴

Monetary Committee

2.1.9. The Monetary Committee held its 289th meeting in Brussels on 13 April, with Mr Camdessus in the chair. It examined the economic and financial situation in Ireland and adopted an opinion for the attention of the Council and the Commission on the monetary and financial aspects of Unctad VI.

Internal market and industrial affairs

Free movement of persons and freedom to provide services

2.1.10. On 15 April Parliament adopted resolutions on the violation of the freedom of movement of French tourists as a result of the exchange control regulations introduced by the French Government, on the French Government's decision to restrict travel abroad and on currency restrictions on French citizens.⁵

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical barriers to trade

Industrial products

2.1.11. On 11 April the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the roll-over protection structures (rear-mounted rollbar, frame or cab type) of narrow-track wheeled agricultural of forestry tractors. This proposal is in line with the Council Directive of 4 March 1974 and supplements the two Council Directives relating to the roll-over protection structures of standard tractors, the first of which (77/536/EEC), adopted on 28 June 1977, concerns dynamic tests, while the second (79/622/EEC), dated 25 June 1979, related to static tests.

Foodstuffs

2.1.12. On 25 April the Council adopted a Directive¹⁰ on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film intended to come into contact with foodstuffs.¹¹

The purpose of this Directive is to prevent the materials and articles in question from transferring their constituents to foodstuffs in quantities which could endanger human health or bring about an unacceptable change in the composition of the foodstuffs. To this end, it lays down an approved list of

¹ Bull. EC 10-1982, points 1.1.7 to 1.1.11; OJ C 282, 17.10.1982.

² Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.2; OJ C 28, 3.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.3; COM(83) 15 final.

³ OJ C 13, 17.1.1983; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.4.

⁴ OJ L 112, 28.4.1983.

³ Point 2.4.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

⁶ OJ C 123, 9.5.1983.

⁷ OJ L 84, 28.5.1974.

⁸ OJ L 220, 29.8.1977.

⁹ OJ L 179, 17.7.1979.

¹⁰ OJ L 123, 11.5.1983.

OJ C 235, 15.9.1981; Bull. EC 1-1981, point 2.1.5.

substances which may be used in the manufacture of regenerated cellulose film and specifies the permissible quantities of each of these substances. Printed parts of regenerated cellulose film must not enter into contact with foodstuffs; where the film has been coloured, the colouring matters used must not migrate into the foodstuffs.

The transitional period for the application of the new Directive end on 15 July 1985.

Pharmaceuticals

2.1.13. On 14 April Parliament adopted a resolution aimed at directing the production of, securing market conditions for and monitoring the use of drugs in the Community.¹

Business law

Companies

2.1.14. On 18 April an interim progress report on the proposal for a seventh Directive on group accounts² was laid before the Council, which instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its discussions so that a final decision might be taken at a forthcoming meeting.

2.1.15. On 13 April Parliament adopted a resolution on cooperatives in the European Community.¹

Industry

2.1.16. On 28 April Parliament adopted a resolution on the competitiveness of Community industry at its special part-session on unemployment.³

Steel

Council meeting

Extension of production quota system

2.1.17. On 21 April the Commission sent the Council a communication informing in of its intention, as the 'manifest crisis' is

persisting, to extend the production quota system until the end of 1985, when the restructuring plans now being examined should be complete.⁴

The Council (with the exception of one delegation, which had reservations) felt that the present arrangements were needed for the harmonious development of the steel market. It examined several aspects of the measures that might be taken to make the system more equitable and promote restructuring. The Commission intends to present its draft Decision for the Council's assent in June so that the new arrangements can be in place when the current ones lapse on 1 July. It may be recalled that on 8 June 1982 the Council gave its assent⁵ concerning the extension of production quota arrangements from 1 July 1982 to 30 June 1983.⁶

Community steel market

2.1.18. The Council took note of a Commission communication on the state of the steel market in the Community, with particular reference to the current price situation and the Commission's pricing policy.

Restructuring

2.1.19. The Council took note of the Commission's fourth report on the application of the aid code⁷ and on progress made in the restructuring of the steel industry. The Council invited the Commission to continue applying the aid code and called on the Member States to supply the Commission rapidly with all the information it needs to meet the deadline of 30 June for its decisions on the restructuring programmes.⁸

Point 2.4.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

² OJ C 121, 2.6.1976; Tenth General Report, point 40; Bull. EC 12-1978, point 2.1.13.

³ Points 1.1.8 and 1.1.9; OJ C 135, 24.5.1983.

⁴ COM(83) 236 final.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.25.

⁶ OJ L 191, 1.7.1982.

⁷ OJ L 228, 13.8.1981.

⁸ Sixteenth General Report, point 234.

Extension of Annex I to the ECSC Treaty

2.1.20. On 20 April the Commission transmitted to the Council and the ECSC Consultative Committee a report¹ in which it proposes, on the basis of Article 81 of the ECSC Treaty, the inclusion of additional products in Annex I to the Treaty.² The Council heard a statement from Mr Etienne Davignon on these proposals and invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine them in preparation for its next meeting.

Follow-up to the informal meeting of Industry Ministers at Helsingør³

2.1.21. The Council took note of the price checks already carried out by the Commission on steelmakers and stockholders under Articles 58 and 60 of the ECSC Treaty and of the measures to be considered by way of safeguard against any drop in prices.

It also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the statistics to be provided by stockholders⁴ so as to enable the Council to give its assent at the earliest opportunity.

Forward programme for steel

2.1.22. On 12 April, after the ECSC Consultative Committee had given its opinion,³ the Commission adopted, at the second reading, the forward programme for steel for the second quarter of 1983.6

Final rates of abatement for the second quarter of 1983

2.1.23. On 20 April the Commission adjusted,⁷ in respect of products covered by the system of mandatory production quotas, the initial rates of abatement for the second quarter, 8 in accordance with Decision No 87/ 83/ECSC of 21 January 19839 amending the Decision of 30 June 1982, 10 which enables the Commission to alter previously adopted rates of abatement if market trends so require.

The Commission set these final rates of abatement in the light of market surveys conducted in cooperation undertakings and associations.

Table 1 — Rates of abatement for the second quarter of 1983

(%)

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	Initial rates		Final	rates
	Production	Delivery	Production	Delivery
Ia Hot-rolled wide strip	- 49	- 4 7	– 47	- 46
Ib Thin sheet	- 45	- 40	- 37	- 33
Ic Galvanized sheet	- 24	- 27	- 15	- 19
Id Other coated sheet	+ 23	+ 22	+ 41	+ 40
IV Wire rod	- 39	- 42	- 37	- 41
V Reinforcing bars	- 46	- 52	- 43	- 50
VI Merchant bars	- 41	- 48	- 40	- 48

COM(83)227 final.

² Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.16; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.15; OJ L 56, 3.3.1983; Bull. EC 2-1983, point

Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.15.

Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.16; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.12.

Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.4.34.

OJ C 105, 19.4.1983; Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.18.

OJ L 104, 22.4.1983.

OJ L 45, 17.2.1983; OJ L 46, 18.2.1983.

OJ L 13, 15.1.1983. ¹⁰ ŎJ L 191, 1.7.1982.

Guide prices for certain products

2.1.24. On 30 March the Commission adjusted, with effect from 1 April, the guide prices for certain steel products that it had adopted in December 1982 by way of reinforcement of the crisis measures. On 26 April it decided to increase these prices once more with a view to restoring product prices to a level approaching that attained in the early summer of 1982. This increase, which ranges from 2.6% to 3.2%, will take effect on 15 May.

Electronics and information technology

Submission of proposals for the pilot phase of the Esprit programme

2.1.25. The review of the pilot phase of the European Strategic Programme for R & D in Information Technology (Esprit)³ is in progress. Nearly 200 specific proposals from the ten Member States were submitted before 21 February, the closing date set for the receipt of proposals.⁴

All areas of the Esprit programme were addressed by the proposers, who included all the major European information industry groups.

These proposals represent a total expenditure of 110 million ECU in the first year, 50% of which will be financed from Community funds. This far exceeds the budget of 11.5 million ECU earmarked for the Community's contribution during the pilot phase.

The first conclusion that can be drawn from the large number of proposals received is that cross-participation in given projects by different Member States and types of bodies (industrial research establishments and universities) is excellent: among the proposals received there are 620 instances of participation by individual contractors.

Decisions on most of the proposals selected were taken in April, after consultations between the Commission and the Member States. Contracts are expected to be signed in June. The pilot phase of Esprit is to last one year; it covers 15 projects relating to the five main areas of Esprit, namely microelectronics, software technology, advanced information processing, office automation and computer-integrated manufacturing. A 16th project relates to an information exchange system.

2.1.26. On 15 April Parliament delivered its opinion⁵ on a proposal for a Council Decision⁶ amending the Decision of 11 September 1979 adopting a multiannual (1979-83) programme in the field of data processing.⁷ It approves the extension of the second part of the programme but urges the Commission to present as soon as possible its proposals for the completion of the first part and to report on the obstacles encountered.

Industrial innovation and the information market

Industrial innovation

2.1.27. On 21 April the Commission held a second meeting of industrial information transfer managers⁸ from all the Member States in Luxembourg. These managers usually operate at regional level, their role being principally to help small and medium-sized businesses innovate and diversify their activities. It was decided to prepare the ground for the formal setting-up of an association to promote exchanges of experience and information between the various bodies concerned and thereby encourage transfrontier cooperation between firms.

¹ OJ C 92, 7.4.1983.

² OJ L 370, 29.12.1982; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.16a.

³ OJ L 370, 29.12.1982; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.19.

⁴ OJ C 341, 29.12.1982.

⁵ OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

OJ C 193, 28.7.1982; Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.28.
 OJ L 231, 19.9.1979; Bull. EC 7/8-1979, point 2.1.19.

⁸ Bull. EC 9-1982, point 2.1.10.

Three-year plan of action

2.1.28. The procedure for the selection of projects from those submitted in response to the call for proposals for the promotion of high-quality information services in the fields of trade and industry, energy and social services¹ is nearing completion. These projects relate to the setting-up or improvement of data bases and to feasibility studies in such fields as standards, certified products and reference materials, computerized publishing and software, biotechnology, sea and air transport, metallurgy and coal.

The Commission recently issued another call for proposals for the promotion of high-quality information services in the fields of agriculture and the environment,² the closing date for which is 31 May 1983.

Multilingual projects

Eurotra

2.1.29. Following the Council Decision of 4 November 1982 adopting the Eurotra R & D programme,3 which is aimed at developing a European machine translation system, the Governments of the Member States have appointed their delegations to the Advisory Committee on Programme Management, which held its first meeting in Luxembourg on 7 April.

The Committee had a detailed discussion on the organizational, financial and legal aspects of the project, which are proving particularly complex since this is a shared-cost R & D project and all the Member States are required to contribute to the development of a single system.

The Commission presented the broad outline of the work that must be carried out during the first phase of the programme (1983-84) if the objectives set out in the Council Decision are to be attained; this would include measures to bridge the gap between the Council Decision and the setting-up of the management structures, as well as the contractual arrangements necessary for the execution of the programme.

The next meeting, which is scheduled for 27 June, will be devoted mainly to discussion of the scientific bases for the project (linguistics and data processing) and of the work programme for the first phase.

Customs union

Simplification of customs formalities

Simplification of formalities in intra-Community trade

2.1.30. On 6 April, in order to take account of Parliament's opinion,4 the Commission amended⁵ its proposal of 9 July 1982 for a Council Regulation simplifying customs formalities in trade between Member States.⁶

General legislation

Repayment or remission of duties and post-clearance recovery of duties

2.1.31. On 21 April the Commission adopted two Regulations: the first⁷ amends the Regulation of 20 June 19808 laying down provisions for the implementation of Article 13 of the Council Regulation of 2 July 1979 on the repayment or remission of import or export duties,9 and the second7 amends the Regulation of 20 June 19808 laying down provisions for the implementation of the Council Regulation of 24 July 1979¹⁰ on the post-clearance recovery of import duties or export duties which have not been required of the person liable for payment on goods

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OJ C 169, 7.7.1982; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.18. OJ C 60, 4.3.1983; Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.22.

³ OJ L 317, 13.11.1982; Bull. EC 11-1982, point

^{2.1.25.} OJ C 42, 14.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.7.

OJ C 102, 15.4.1983.

OJ C 203, 6.8.1982; Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.10; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.21; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.20.

OJ L 104, 22.4.1983.

⁸ OJ L 161, 26.6.1980. 9 OJ L 175, 12.7.1979.

¹⁰ ŎJ L 197, 3.8.1979.

entered for a customs procedure involving the obligation to pay such duties.¹

The aim of these two Regulations is identical: the implementing procedures of the two Council Regulations provided that the Commission had to take a decision in response to applications submitted to it, concerning the repayment or remission of duties or the post-clearance recovery of duties, within three months of the date on which the application was received. Experience has shown that this period may be too short in certain particularly complex cases. Accordingly, the new Regulations extend the limit to four months.

Customs procedures with economic impact

Inward processing

2.1.32. On 19 April the Commission sent a further request to the Council¹ for an amendment to the Directive it adopted on 26 May 1975 on detailed rules concerning equivalent compensation and prior exportation under inward processing arrangements.²

Common Customs Tariff

Suspensions

2.1.33. On 19 April the Commission transmitted several proposals to the Council for Regulations temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of agricultural products,³ industrial products,⁴ and certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft.⁵

2.1.34. On 19 April the Commission also sent the Council a proposal for a Regulation temporarily suspending in full the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain niobium alloy products.⁶

Nomenclature

2.1.35. On 5 April the Commission adopted a Regulation for the purpose of ensuring uniform application of the Common Customs

Tariff, classifying money-boxes in heading No 69.13 or in subheading 39.07 B V d), 44.27 B or 73.40 B.⁷

Economic tariff matters

Tariff quotas

2.1.36. On 25 April the Council adopted a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for apricot pulp falling within CCT subheading ex 20.06 B II c) 1 aa), originating in Turkey.8

Competition

Twelfth Report on Competition Policy

2.1.37. On 30 March the Commission approved its Twelfth Report on Competition Policy,⁹ published in conjunction with the Sixteenth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities. Like previous issues, the Twelfth Report outlines development in Community competition policiy during the past year.

The introduction to the Report, the bulk of which is reproduced in the extracts given below, summarizes the approach adopted by the Commission against the present economic, social and international background, which encourages an increase in State intervention of all kinds with a view to promoting and safeguarding undertakings both private and public.

2.1.38. 'Maintenance of undistorted competition is one of the fundamental principles of the free market economy on which the

¹ COM(83) 201 final; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.32.

² OJ L 156, 18.6.1975.

COM(83) 208 final.
 COM(83) 206 final.

COM(83) 206 final

⁵ COM(83) 205 final.

COM(83) 198 final.
 OJ L 90, 8.4.1983.

OJ L 50, 8.4.1583.

OJ L 118, 5.5.1983.

⁹ COM(83) 140 final.

Community is based; the Commission's task, pursuant to the Treaties, is to secure its application. However, as a result of economic difficulties and their serious industrial and social repercussions, there has been a sharp increase in initiatives, taken both by governments and individual firms, which are liable to place this principle in jeopardy.

In such circumstances the Commission believes that it is vital, now more than ever before, to safeguard the operation of fair, workable competition: the only way to ensure optimum allocation of resources, the development of innovation and a long-term improvement in the competitiveness of the European economy... Active competition policy can ... play a useful part in solving the persisting economic difficulties. With this in mind, the Commission has implemented its policy of rigorously monitoring State aids, restrictive agreements between undertakings and abuses of dominant positions. Although such supervision is based on a general prohibition, this is qualified by a system of derogations giving the Commission a certain discretion when assessing State aids or restrictive agreements between undertakings for compatability with the common market.

2.1.39. This Report sets forth the Commission's approach in using the combination of prohibitions and authorizations to promote the proper operation of competition at a time when economic difficulties are affecting an increasing number of firms, spheres of business and regions in the Community. It cannot, therefore, provide a detailed analysis the numerous links between Community's economic and industrial policy as a whole and the competition policy which plays a significant role therein. The efficient functioning of this system is essential for the consolidation of the Community's unified market, particularly as its attainment is still hampered by obstacles to the free movement and services, establishment problems, disparities in company law, as well as marked differences in national economic policies. This Report cannot, however, present a detailed analysis of the interconnections between the Community's competition policy

and its other economic and industrial policies, although it is generally recognized, for example, that reinforcement of competition and consolidation of the unified market go hand in hand.

2.1.40. The general economic and social situation, and in particular worsening unemployment, no doubt explain why the Member States have stepped in so many times to support or rescue both private and public undertakings. Thus in 1982 the Commission had to take decisions on 233 State aid schemes, far more than in any other year, even in the recent past... The Commission has acknowledged that the grant of State aids may in some cases be beneficial to the Community in so far as such assistance favours economic growth, improves industrial structures, reduces regional imbalances and promotes research and development... Of the aid proposals, including general schemes, notified to the Commission in 1982, 104 were considered compatible with the common market. However, the Commission is well aware of the dangers inherent in the proliferation of State aids and whenever necessary it has drawn attention to their numerous adverse repercussions...

2.1.41. This explains why the Commission has developed, in the spirit of the Treaties, very restrictive criteria which it applies when granting derogations from the general ban on aids which distort or threaten to distort competition. Such derogations are therefore granted subject to a series of conditions. The compatibility of an aid with the common market must be assessed from the standpoint of the Community rather than of a single Member State... All these conditions must be satisfied if the grant of State aid is to comprise the counterpart within the meaning ascribed by the Court of Justice in its judgment in the Philip Morris case. The Member States certainly do not normally include these Community requirements when drawing up their aid policies, so it is hardly surprising that during the Report period the Commission initiated proceedings in respect of 129 cases; 55% of notifications received. Nevertheless, following the negotiations between the Commission and Member States in

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the course of these proceedings and the ensuing amendments, final negative Decisions were adopted in only 13 cases. In addition, with the aim of improving practical application of its decisions on State aids, the Commission has defined the position it will be adopting in cases where aid is paid out illegally...

2.1.42. At the same time, in an endeavour to be more explicit, the Commission defines guidelines for identifying State aid which is in line with the Community interest, notably where it is clearly advisable because of developments on the world market to encourage restructuring and industrial redeployment. The aid framework for the textile and clothing industries, the Directive on aid to shipbuilding, the rules for aids to the steel industry and the aid framework for environmental matters were worked out in this context. As far as regional aid is the Commission concerned, endeavoured to specify the nature and terms of State measures that can be approved for the purpose of reducing the disparities in development as between the regions of the Community... The Commission has also stressed that the development of small and medium-sized enterprises is essential to the balance of the European industrial fabric, so certain measures of support for such businesses may also be approved...

2.1.43. The Report period provided the Commission with the opportunity to assert once again that the Community competition rules are applicable to all undertakings, irrespective of whether they belong to the private or public sector...

The need to safeguard competition implies, therefore, *inter alia*, that the Commission must decide whether any aspects of State intervention are tantamount to aid. It was this concern that gave rise to the Directive on the transparency of financial relations between Member States and the public undertakings; following applications for annulment by three Member States, the validity of this Directive was upheld by the Court of Justice on 6 July 1982. ¹

The Commission accordingly plans to proceed first of all to examine the financial relations between the Member States and their public undertakings in the following industries: automobiles, shipbuilding, man-made fibres, textile machinery and manufactured tobacco. On the basis of these enquiries the Commission will be able to ascertain whether distortions exist in the conditions of competition in these industries and if so, whether any of them should be eliminated.

2.1.44. The Commission's policy towards restrictive practices on the part of firms pursues two complementary objectives: in the first place it must enable competition to help to improve the allocation of resources, increase businessmen's capacities for adjustment and better satisfy the requirements of consumers; secondly, it must reinforce the unity of the Community market by eliminating obstacles to trade between Member States...

2.1.45. Such a policy necessarily involves prohibition of practices designed to maintain or create divisions within the European market. In the course of 1982 the Commission accordingly adopted several decisions banning horizontal agreements which, notably by means of price-fixing and concerted practices, constituted barriers to trade within the common market.

It also took a number of formal decisions prohibiting restrictive practices relating to distribution, such as export and resale bans. The Commission thus drew attention to ... the prohibition of vertical agreements which may partition the market to the detriment of the European consumer. In order to prevent the national car markets from being sealed off, resulting in substantial price differences between Member States, the Commission made use for the first time of its power to take interim measures, since it considered that Ford Werke AG's decision to suspend deliveries of right-hand-drive vehicles in the Federal Republic was against the general

¹ In Joined Cases 188, 189 and 190/80 France, Italy and United Kingdom v Commission.

Community interest.¹ Furthermore, the Commission is likewise anxious to oppose protection of national markets: Article 86 of the EEC Treaty was applied for the first time to the telecommunications industry...

2.1.46. In the interests of legal certainty, the Commission's policy in 1982 also included clarification of the kinds of agreement which may be considered compatible with the Community competition rules. The Commission had the most opportunity to spell out the scope of certain exemptions in cases relating to small and medium-sized enterprises ...: cooperation between small and medium-sized firms may be in the general interest. The new Regulation concerning the application of Article 85(3) of the EEC Treaty to certain specialization agreements, which now covers joint manufacturing, reflects this... Similarly, the draft legislation on exclusive dealing agreements, scheduled for adoption in 1983. allows for non-reciprocal exclusive distribution and purchasing agreements between competing manufacturers regarded as small and medium-sized undertakings... Importance was attached in elaborating the proposed block exemption Regulation for patent licensing agreements to safeguarding the potential contributions that small and medium-sized businesses and also technical progress can make to the European economy... The Commission's exemption decisions are not restricted to agreements between small and medium-sized firms so long as certain conditions are fulfilled and the cooperation in question contributes, for example, to technical progress or to improving European competitiveness in the face of competition from non-member countries...

The question arises as to whether the Commission can, on the other hand, regard as compatible with the common market agreements in restraint of competition which provide for concerted reductions of production capacity in industries struck by crises or undergoing adaptation. Were the Commission ascertains that structural overcapacity does in fact exist, it may consider authorizing such agreements, but they must be made subject to the maintenance of adequate conditions of competition and a genuine reorganization of

production structures which should also bring in its wake a rapid improvement in the competitiveness of European industry.

The fact that the public sector accounts for a significant proportion of the European economy is not in itself a potential obstacle to accomplishment of the objectives of Community competition policy... However, in the single Community market a large national public sector must not be allowed at any stage, by virtue of its operation and management, to cause damage or distortion to the conditions of competition.

After 20 years of application it appears, therefore, that the Community competition rules, which have had to be implemented in very different economic circumstances—from sustained expansion to recession-have stood the test of time... Where the Commission notes that the exisitng rules are wanting, it puts forward additional measures as required... This should also apply to the supervision of significant mergers; to this end, some considerable time ago, the Commission proposed to the Council introduction of suitable complementary provisions under the EEC Treaty. The Commission's amended proposal was discussed by the Economic and Social Committee in the summer of 1982, and as soon as Parliament has delivered its opinion, the Commission will press the Council to take its decision. The Commission, for its part, has continued its action with regard to procedures by implementing a series of measures which improve the objectiveness of investigations in individual cases and speed up certain procedures...

While economic horizons remain hazy, pursuit of a workable competition policy is more necessary than ever. The in-depth sectoral analyses carried out under the Commission's programme of studies have revealed favourable development prospects in the various industries where competition operates effectively. These encouraging signs

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¹ See Joined Cases 228 and 229/82 Ford-Werke v Commission; Sixteenth General Report, point 855.

inspire determination to press on with the measures consistently directed towards achievement of a competitive economy'.

State aids

General aids

Federal Republic of Germany

2.1.47. On 26 April the Commission decided to terminate the procedure it had initiated in January under Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty in respect of a proposed system of tax concessions for the purchase of firms in difficulties.¹

In the comments it submitted in the course of the procedure the German Government pointed to the limited scope of the measure, given that the money in question would be exempt from tax only temporarily (for five years). It undertook to give the Commission advance notice of all cases in which the purchaser's annual turnover exceeded DM 100 million. Half-yearly reports on the application of the scheme are also to be supplied to the Commission.

In view of these undertakings the Commission authorized the implementation of the scheme.

Regional aids

France

2.1.48. The Commission initiated the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of two planned aids measures notified by the French Government at the beginning of the year, which would assist firms located in regions not designated as assisted areas for purposes of the Regional Planning Premium, the departments of Aube and Doubs.

2.1.49. The Commission also decided not to oppose amendments to two orders concerning a capital goods premium and an employment premium in the overseas departments.

United Kingdom

2.1.50. At the beginning of the year the Commission was notified of a proposal to assist an investment in Irvine in Scotland. The

project combined investment assistance with substantial aid towards the training of the workers to be employed in the new installations. It appeared doubtful whether the aid towards training was compatible with the rules of the common market, and the Commission decided to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of that part of the proposal.

2.1.51. The Commission informed the British Government that it would raise no objection to the grant of assistance, notified on 21 February, to a firm located in the Borough of Lambeth. The assistance, payable under the Inner Areas Act 1978, would amount to 2.3% of the investment. About 400 jobs would be created.

Industry aids

Restructuring the steel industry

2.1.52. The Council meeting on iron and steel held on 25 April took note of the Commission's Fourth Report on the Application of the Rules for Aids to the Steel Industry.² The Council expressed its views on the various problems considered in the Report, and in particular the questions of capacity reductions and the restructuring effort in the Member States. The Council concluded its discussion by inviting the Commission to continue applying the aids code and the Member States to communicate rapidly to the Commission all the relevant information to enable it to observe the deadline of 30 June for its decisions on the restructuring programmes. The Council agreed to continue its discussion of this question at its next meeting.

Shipbuilding and ship repair

Netherlands

2.1.53. On 26 April the Commission decided to terminate the Article 93(2) procedure which it had initiated in respect of the Dutch

¹ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.23.

² COM(83) 178 final; the 'aids code' is published in OJ L 228, 13.8.1981.

Government's plans to grant aid to an Amsterdam ship-repair firm. Following discussion with the Commission the Dutch Government had presented a revised proposal based on cooperation between the national government, the municipality of Amsterdam and the province of North Holland, and providing for a cut in the workforce from 1 600 to 1 100. The Commission took account of the fact that the assistance would help to rescue the firm, and thus the existence of repair facilities for ocean-going vessels, which were indispensable to the role and operation of a port complex such as that of Amsterdam.

Given the very difficult situation in the Community ship-repair industry, the Commission also sought to ensure that the rescue would result in a real restructuring of the firm, which would give it a prospect of viability despite the existence of substantial overcapacity in ship repair around the coasts of the North Sea. The Dutch Government indicated that the firm had undertaken to adapt its plant to its smaller scale following the cut in the workforce, with the closure of a dry dock and a berth; and the Commission decided to raise no objection to the aid measure for the rescue of this yard, under Articles 4 and 6 of the Fifth Directive on aid to shipbuilding.²

Italy

2.1.54. On 26 April the Commission decided to drop its objections to a programme of assistance to the shipbuilding and ship-repair industries in Italy, in respect of which it had initiated the Article 93(2) procedure.³

The programme, which is to expire at the end of 1983, may now be implemented provided the Italian Government rapidly produces restructuring plans which comply with the guidelines laid down in the Fifth Directive on aid to shipbuilding.

The Commission also took the view that the reduction it had negotiated with the Italian authorities in the tonnage affected by the measures envisaged had substantially reduced the danger that the measures might distort trade within the Community.

Chemicals

United Kingdom

21.55. On 13 April the Commission decided to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of an investment in a chemicals firm, to help it increase its production capacity for oriented polypropylene film.

The Commission took the view that the proposed aid was not necessary in order to ensure that the firm would develop this line of business, as the investment represented only a normal effort on the part of the firm to adapt itself to market conditions. On the other hand, the aid was liable to distort competition with other Community manufacturers producing polypropylene film.

State monopolies of a commercial character

France: alcohol monopoly

2.1.56. On 8 April the Commission referred this case⁴ to the Court of Justice under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty, and also asked it to order France to take the temporary measures necessary to avoid the serious and perhaps irreparable damage which would otherwise result from the continuation of the practice in question.

France was not prepared to comply with the reasoned opinion addressed to it on 28 March. The French Government did propose an immediate reduction of 10% in the price paid by the 'Service des alcools'. But this would have concerned only fresh deliveries of alcohol derived from molasses to the monopoly, and would not have rectified the general infringement. The Commission therefore felt obliged to bring an action before the Court.

Bull. EC 9-1982, point 2.1.23.

OJ L 137, 23.5.1981.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.44.

Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.40.

Financial institutions and taxation

Financial institutions

Insurance

2.1.57. On 18 April the Council took note of a statement by the Presidency on the subject of direct insurance other than life assurance.¹

The Council agreed to hold a substantive discussion on the matter as soon as possible and asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to present a report at the next meeting.

Taxation

Convergence of tax systems

2.1.58. On 15 April Parliament delivered a favourable opinion² on the proposal for a Decision establishing a prior information and consultation procedure for tax matters.³

Indirect taxes

Turnover tax

2.1.59. On 28 April the Economic and Social Committee endorsed the proposal for a 13th Council Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes.⁴ This proposal makes arrangements for the refund to taxable persons not established in Community territory of VAT paid by them on imports or purchases of goods and services made in a Member State.

Tax-free allowances

Tax-free allowances for travellers

2.1.60. On 8 and 11 April respectively the Commission sent the Council two proposals for Directives:⁵

(i) The first proposes a programmes of successive increases in the tax-free allowance

granted to travellers within the Community. The allowance, which has been set at 210 ECU since 1 January 1983, would be increased in four stages: to 280 ECU on 1 January 1984, 320 ECU on 1 January 1985, 360 ECU on 1 January 1986 and 400 ECU on 1 January 1987.6

The adoption of such a programme, which meets the wishes already expressed by Parliament, would ensure a steady increase in tax-free allowances over the next few years and demand very little of Member States at each stage. The Commission is also proposing the gradual removal of the present quantitative limits for tea and coffee.

(ii) The other proposal concerns the provisions relating to goods acquired by persons travelling by air or by sea within the Community. Its aim is to harmonize the conditions in which such goods may be sold in shops under customs control at airports and on board aircraft, sea-going vessels and hovercraft, and to lay down the conditions governing the tax-free importation of such goods.⁷

Employment, education and social policy

Employment

Employment and the labour market

Promotion of employment for young people

2.1.61. On 25 April the Commission sent to the Council and Parliament a communication and a draft resolution on the promotion of employment for young people.⁸ This

OJ C 32, 12.1.1976; Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2136.

Point 2.4.17; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

³ OJ C 346, 31.12.1981; Bull. EC 12-1981, point 2.1.52.

⁴ Point 2.4.36; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.54.

⁵ OJ C 114, 28.4.1983.

⁶ COM(83) 117 final/2.

⁷ COM(83) 166 final and final/2.

Point 1.1.11 et seq.; COM(83)211 final.

communication will be discussed by the Standing Committee on Employment in May prior to discussion at the Council meeting on social affairs scheduled for 2 June.

2.1.62. Unemployment among young people was likewise one of the main topics of the special part-session held by Parliament on 27 and 28 April to discuss employment problems. Reports and resolutions were discussed and adopted concerning the employment situation in the Community, youth employment, the competitiveness of Community industry and the reduction and reorganization of working time.

Reorganization of working time

2.1.63. On 27 April the Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion² on the proposal for a Directive on temporary work;3 the Committee was in favour of introducing common rules to subject temporary work to more stringent control and improve the protection of temporary workers.

2.1.64. At its special part-session on employment Parliament passed a resolution⁴ on the Commission memorandum on the reduction and reorganization of working time.5

Local job creation measures

2.1.65. As part of the research programme on local employment initiatives undertaken jointly by the Commission and OECD,6 a meeting was held in Brussels on 14 and 15 April of the organizers sponsored by the Commission in about 20 localities in different parts of the Community. After a first analysis of the conclusions to be drawn from the consultations already held, a number of policy recommendations were made. Great importance was attached to financial arrangements and the need for institutions rooted in the local community in order to act as a catalyst and support the initial process of job creation. During April local meetings took place at Volterra in Italy,

Loccum in Germany and Thebes in Greece. The programme is to run until June.

2.1.66. On 13 April Parliament adopted a resolution on cooperatives in the Community.⁷

Education and vocational training

Cooperation in the field of education

The Education Committee met on 21 and 22 April to prepare for the next meeting of the Council and Ministers of Education meeting within the Council (scheduled for 2 June in Luxembourg) and for the first joint Council meeting of the Ministers of Employment and of Education (due to be held in Luxembourg on 3 June).

The Council meeting on education will be concerned mainly with the adoption of a resolution concerning measures relating to vocational training and the introduction of new information technologies in education,8 the mobility of students and, in particular, the academic recognition of diplomas.

Among other things, the joint Council is to examine the draft resolution on vocational training policies in the European Community in the 1980s;9 it will also take cognizance of a report assessing the first action programme (1979-82) concerning the transition from school to working life and will be informed about the implementation of the second programme (1983-86).¹⁰

Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.10; OJ C 135, 24.5.1983.

Point 2.4.32.

OJ C 128, 19.5.1982; Bull. EC 4-1982, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.8.

Point 1.1.10; OJ C 135, 24.5.1983.

Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.55. Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.34. Point 2.4.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

OJ C 162, 29.6.1982; Bull. EC 5-1982, point 2.1.41. OJ C 306, 23.11.1982; Bull. EC 10-1982, point

Bull. EC 5-1982, point 2.1.35.

Vocational training

2.1.68. The Commission took part in a meeting of the International European Construction Federation (FIEC) held in Turin on 7 April to discuss problems of vocational training in a period of economic recession.

The meeting's deliberations were based mainly on the findings of a survey carried out by the FIEC through its member organizations, taking into account the proposals made by the Commission to the Council on new technologies, ¹ the reform of the European Social Fund² and vocational training policies for the 1980s.³

Living and working conditions and social security

Equal opportunities for men and women

2.1.69. On 25 and 26 April Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the Situation of Women in Europe held a public hearing on the education and vocational training of women to prepare Parliament's report on this topic. The experts taking part emphasized the importance of these questions, which, they said, were at the foot of job discrimination against women.

2.1.70. On 20 April the Commission adopted a proposal for a Directive on occupational social security schemes,⁴ the first legal instrument to be proposed by the Commission under the new Community action programme to promote equal opportunities for women.⁵

Once adopted by the Council, this Directive will take its place alongside the three others designed to ensure equal treatment for men and women—that of 10 February 1975 on equal pay,⁵ that of 9 February 1976 on equal treatment as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion⁶ and that of 19 December 1978 on equal treatment as regards statutory social security schemes.⁷

Social security

2.1.71. On 20 April the Commission adopted, for transmission to the Council, a proposal for a Directive⁸ which would extend

to occupational social security schemes the principle of equal treatment already applying to statutory schemes (Directive 79/7). The proposed Directive would apply, in particular, to social security schemes set up under collective agreements, company schemes or schemes for the self-employed (small businessmen, doctors, lawyers, etc.).

As laid down in the proposal, equal treatment implies that there must be no discrimination whatsoever based on sex, either directly or indirectly, by reference in particular to marital or family status, especially as regards the scope of the schemes and membership of them, the obligation to contribute and the calculation of contributions and benefits.

Health and safety

Public health

2.1.72. On 15 April Parliament adopted a resolution on public health policy in the Community. Noting that a Council meeting of Health Ministers had not been held for more than four years, Parliament called on the Council to express its resolve to develop and implement a health policy.

2.1.73. On the same day Parliament adopted a resolution on organ transplants in which it urged the Commission to draw up within one year rules designed to improve coordination and cooperation between European organ banks.⁹

2.1.74. In a third resolution Parliament called on the Commission to prepare a proposal for a Directive with a view to

OJ C 162, 29.6.1982; Bull. EC 5-1982, point 2.1.41.
 OJ C 308, 25.11.1982; Bull. EC 10-1982, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.8.

³ OJ C 306, 23.11.1982; Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.31.

OJ C 134, 21.5.1983; point 2.1.71; COM(83)217 final.

⁵ OJ L 45, 19.2.1975.

⁶ OJ L 39, 14.2.1976.

OJ L 6, 10.1.1979.
 COM(83)217 final.

⁹ Point 2.4.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

applying the WHO's International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.¹

Health and safety at work

2.1.75. On 27 April the Economic and Social Committee endorsed² the second action programme on safety and health at work.³

Health and safety (ECSC)

2.1.76. On 19 and 20 April the Commission international symposium Luxembourg on health and safety in the oil and gas industries, with the aim of allowing an exchange of views at international level government agencies, company between managements and representatives of workers' organizations so as to bring out ideas to be taken into consideration in developing the activities of the Mines Safety and Health Commission. In practical terms, these activities will result in proposals to the governments in accordance with the Safety and Health Commission's agreed terms of reference.

The subjects covered include the assessment of accident risks, their reduction through appropriate training, health and psychological problems and action to be taken in the event of serious accidents.

2.1.77. On 26 April the Commission decided, in pursuance of Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty, to grant an amount of 960 000 ECU in financial aid to a first Community research programme on occupational safety in the steel industry.⁴

The aim of this project is to develop, with due regard to technological change, accident prevention in steelworks using either ingot-moulds or continuous casting. The work encompasses not only prevention techniques but also the human factors that can be the cause of an accident. Eight Community firms or bodies are taking part in this project, which is to last two and a half years.

Health and safety (Euratom)

2.1.78. The Commission recently published the proceedings of a seminar⁵ held in Luxembourg on 4 and 5 June 1981 concerning the application of the Council Directive of

15 July 1980 laying down the basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers of ionizing radiation.⁶

This seminar was organized with a view to helping Member States bring their national laws on radiation protection into line with the principles embodied in these revised basic safety standards.

Regional policy

Financial instruments

European Regional Development Fund

Recasting the Fund Regulation

2.1.79. On 25 April the Council held an intensive debate on the principal problems thrown up by the review of the European Regional Development Fund proposed by the Commission in October 1981,⁷ including the concentration of aid in the less prosperous countries, expansion of the non-quota section, programme financing, categories of infrastructure eligible for aid and coordination of Community and national policies.

The discussion showed that the Council was anxious to reach substantive agreement at its May meeting. To this end the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press on with the preparatory work on the basis of the Presidency's suggestions and in the light of the latest discussions.

Bull, EC 4-1983

Point 2.4.18.

Point 2.4.34.

³ OJ C 308, 25.11.1982; Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.55.

Point 2.1.161.

⁵ EUR 8287 (available in English and French).

⁶ OJ L 246, 17.9.1980.

⁷ OJ C 336, 23.12.1981; Bull. EC 10-1981, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.9.

ERDF aid: first allocation for 1983

2.1.80. On 27 April the Commission approved the first allocation of grants for 1983 from the Regional Fund, totalling 237.35 million ECU. These grants will go to 100 projects in three of the Member States, costing a total of 724.01 million ECU.

Under the Regulation of 18 March 1975 establishing the ERDF, as amended by the Regulations of 6 February 1979² and 16 December 1980, the Fund Committee had endorsed these projects on 18 May and 25 and 26 November 1982. The Regional Policy Committee had been consulted beforehand, on 11 and 12 May and 12 November 1982, on infrastructure projects costing more than 10 million ECU.

The aid granted under this allocation was distributed among the Member States as shown in Table 2.

The total of 237.35 million ECU breaks down as follows:

(i) 232.54 million ECU to help finance 97 infrastructure projects, comprising 193.04 million ECU to finance 10 projects costing

more than 10 million ECU each. The total cost of the infrastructure investment projects receiving assistance from the Fund amounts to 678.05 million ECU.

(ii) 4.81 million ECU to help finance three projects in industrial (including small business) or service activities, comprising 4.66 million ECU to finance two projects costing more than 10 million ECU each, and 0.15 million ECU to finance one project costing less than 10 million ECU. The total cost of industrial (including small business) and service investment projects receiving assistance from the Fund amounts to 45.96 million ECU.

This brings the number of projects financed since the ERDF was set up to 17 873 and the total aid granted to about 7 393 million ECU.

Table 2 — Grants from the ERDF (first 1983 allocation)

		Number of grant decisions	Number of projects	Investment assisted (million ECU) ¹	Assistance granted (million ECU)	
Belgium		<u> </u>	_	_	-	
Denmark		<u> </u>	_	_ ·	_	
Germany (FR)		_	_	<u> </u>	_	
Greece		13	61	392.38	123.81	
France				<u> </u>		
Ireland			_	_	_	
Italy		7	21	266.91	103.16	
Luxembourg		_	-	_	_	
Netherlands		_	_		_	
United Kingdom		5	18	64.72	10.38	
	Total	25	100	724.01	237.35	

Rate of exchange in January 1983.

OJ L 73, 21.3.1975.

² OJ L 35, 9.2.1979.

³ OJ L 349, 23.12.1980.

Environment and consumers

Environment

Action by the Community relating to the environment

2.1.81. On 15 April Parliament passed a resolution on the Commission's proposal that the Council should adopt an appropriate legal basis for Community action on the environment (ACE).² Parliament welcomed the proposal as an important first step towards setting up a European environment fund, a step frequently called for by the House. The Economic and Social Committee gave its opinion on the proposals on 28 April.3

Prevention and reduction of pollution and nuisances

Freshwater and marine pollution

Titanium dioxide

2.1.82. On 18 April the Commission transmitted to the Council a proposal for a Directive⁴ to implement the Council Directive of 20 February 1978 concerning waste from the titanium dioxide industry.⁵ This new instrument lays down procedures for harmonizing the programmes for reducing pollution, with a view to its eventual elimination, and for improving conditions of competition in the titanium dioxide production industry. In the case of one of the production processes involved, the proposed Directive prohibits, and in the case of the other process reduces, the discharge of solid, liquid and gaseous waste into the aquatic environment or the air.

Pollution of the Rhine

2.1.83. On 26 April the Commission was represented at a meeting in Paris of the heads of delegation of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution. The text of an exchange of letters between the French Government and the Governments of the other signatories of the 1976 Bonn Convention (pollution of the

Rhine by chlorides) was finalized. It should therefore now be possible for the text of the Convention to be updated, for the French National Assembly to ratify the Convention during the 1983 spring session and for work on pumping the salt underground to begin.

Pollution of the North Sea by oil

2.1.84. The Commission was also represented at a meeting of contracting parties⁶ to the Agreement of 9 June 1969 for Cooperation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil, held at The Hague from 26 to 29 April.

All delegations approved a new draft Agreement which is expected to be signed in September. The differences between this Agreement and the previous one are that there will be more mutual assistance and cooperation in combating pollution dangerous substances other than oil, geographical boundaries have been adjusted to align them with the Helsinki Convention, and the Community as such is one of the contracting parties.

Air pollution

2.1.85. On 15 April the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Directive to give effect to the measures and procedures aimed at preventing and reducing air pollution from industrial plants. The proposal arises out of the 1973 and 1977 Community action programmes on the environment, and more particularly the third programme, adopted on 7 February, which gives special priority to air pollution from stationary industrial plants. The proposal provides for a system under which building, operating or substantially

OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

OJ C 30, 4.2.1983; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.96.

Point 2.4.35.

OJ C 138, 26.5.1983; COM(83)189 final.

OJ L 54, 25.2.1978.

Belgium, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom.

OJ C 139, 27.5.1983; COM(83)173 final.
 OJ C 112, 20.12.1973; OJ C 139, 13.6.1977.
 OJ C 46, 17.2.1983.

modifying stationary industrial plants particularly likely to cause air pollution will be subject to a system of prior authorization. Authorization is granted according to criteria which combine the 'quality standard' and 'emission standard' approaches.

It also allows for the possibility of imposing additional conditions on authorized plants in the light of further developments and for the gradual application of the provisions to plants already in existence at the time of the notification of the Directive to the Member States.

Noise pollution

2.1.86. On 21 April the Council formally adopted¹ an amendment to the Directive of 20 December 1979 on the limitation of noise emissions from subsonic aircraft,² which it had already approved in principle in June 1982.³ The further measures now adopted will help improve the acoustic environment wherever aircraft operate and will mean that there will no longer be any difference between the treatment accorded to Community and non-Community airlines.

2.1.87. The Commission sent the Council a communication⁴ on 13 April containing a proposed aide-mémoire to the Department of State concerning the United States regulation on aircraft operating noise limits. The aide-mémoire is accompanied by a proposed petition from the Community to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration seeking amendment of the US regulation so as to bring it into line with the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization, of which the United States is a member.

One of the proposed changes is designed to ensure that, until 1 January 1988 at least, subsonic jet aircraft not registered in the United States for which internationally agreed noise standards do not require noise certification will be allowed to fly to and from the United States. The purpose of another amendment is to obtain authorization beyond that date for the operation of aircraft meeting the noise standards of Annex 16 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation

but not United States domestic standards (Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 36).

Chemicals

2.1.88. Parliament adopted a resolution on 14 April on the application of the Community Directives on toxic substances and the shipment and storage of the dioxin from Seveso.⁵

2.1.89. The Scientific Advisory Committee to Examine the Toxicity and Ecotoxicity of Chemical Compounds held its eighth plenary meeting in Luxembourg on 11 and 12 April. It gave its final opnion on water quality objectives for pentachlorophenol, chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, hexachlorobenzene and hexachlorobutadiene. It also issued opinions on the carbon tetrachloride content of household solvents and fire extinguishers and the nitrobenzaldehyde content of sneezing powders.

It issued a further opinion on the toxicity of cadmium as a function of its origin, its physico-chemical form and its bonding with other metals (particularly zinc) and reached agreement on a simplified presentation of its opinion on the grouping of carcinogenic, teratogenic and mutagenic substances.

The Committee held a detailed discussion on the safety of toys and the problem of formaldehyde fumes from insulating materials, but did not reach any final conclusions. It also expressed its anxiety over the possible consequences as regards public health if the Council of Europe's draft convention on the protection of animals used for experimental purposes were to be adopted.

2.1.90. Under the Commission Decision of 11 May 1981⁶ the deadline for making additions to the Einecs list of chemical substances was 31 December 1982. The second phase of this operation, namely the completion of substance declaration forms,

¹ OJ L 117, 4.5.1983.

OJ L 18, 24.1.1980; Bull. EC 12-1979, point 2.1.90.

³ Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.91.

⁴ COM(83)194 final.

⁵ Point 2.4.16; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

⁶ OJ L 167, 24.6.1981; Bull. EC 5-1981, point 2.1.58.

resulted in some 80 000 forms being sent to the Member States' authorities—giving a total of over 130 000 substances declared.

The forms have been processed, and the first requests for additional information where declarations are incomplete or incorrect will be sent to the declarers shortly.

Protection and rational use of land, the environment and natural resources

Natural resources

2.1.91. On 27 April the Economic and Social Committee issued a favourable opinion¹ on the proposal for a Directive on the supervision and control of transfrontier shipments of hazardous wastes within the European Community, sent to the Council in January.²

International cooperation

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

2.1.92. The Commission sent a delegation to represent the Community as an observer at the fourth biennial and second extraordinary meeting of the conference of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora held at Gaborone, Botswana, from 18 to 30 April. At present there are 81 parties to the Convention, including five Community's Member States. The 59 parties represented at the conference included Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. The Netherlands sent an observer. A number of non-governmental organizations, representing ecological and environmental protection movements, and some business interest groups also sent observers.

Joint Community positions were presented on all major issues.

The Community informed the conference that the Council had adopted a Regulation extending the application of the Convention to the whole Community.³ At the extraordinary meeting convened for the purpose on 30 April the conference adopted, by a three-fourths majority, an amendment permitting the Community as such to become a contracting party to the Convention.

Consumers

Physical protection

2.1.93. Parliament adopted two resolutions on consumer policy in April. One emphasizes the need to reinforce action to implement consumer policy and requests the Commission to send the proposal for a Directive on hormonal substances used in livestock production to the Council as soon as possible. The other concerns means of protecting the European consumer against imports into the Community of products which have been declared unfit for consumption by legislation in a non-member country.

Consumer information, education and representation

2.1.94. At a meeting in April the Consumers Consultative Committee, which is made up of 33 representatives of European and national consumer organizations, elected Mrs Bénédicte Federspiel (Denmark) Chairman and Mr Semler-Collery (France, the outgoing Chairman), Mr Cornerotte (Belgium) and Mr Hilkens (the Netherlands) Vice-Chairmen.

2.1.95. The Committee adopted an opinion on the agricultural price proposals for 1983/84, expressing concern regarding any increase exceeding that proposed by the Commission. It felt that farmers' interests were likely once again to prevail over the interests of consumers, taxpayers and the economy in general.

In its opinion on the WHO code concerning breast-milk substitutes, the Committee

¹ Point 2.4.33.

OJ C 53, 25.2.1983, Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.55.

OJ L 384, 31.12.1982.

⁴ Point 2.4.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

Point 2.2.22.

supported Parliament's resolution¹ calling on the Commission to propose a Directive that would incorporate the code into Community law. It adopted an opinion on labelling indicating the noise levels of domestic appliances in which it called on Community institutions to lay down rules concerning maximum noise levels for such appliances. The Committee also asked that the labelling in question should be made statutory throughout the Community and not left to the discretion of the Member States.

Agriculture

Council

2.1.96. The Council continued its discussion of agricultural prices and related measures for 1983/84 at two meetings, held on 18 to 21 April and 27 and 28 April respectively. It was unable to reach an agreement, mainly because of differences regarding the measures for the milk and cereal sectors (producer coresponsibility) and for Mediterranean produce and the specific provisions, in particular those aimed at reducing the positive and negative compensatory amounts.

2.1.97. On 18 April the Commission submitted to the Council the latest information available on the agricultural situation. Agricultural production in the Community is increasing faster than demand on Community markets, so that intervention stocks are tending to rise. Milk production, for instance, has expanded even more sharply than was forecast in December, so that the Commission has had to propose tougher co-responsibility measures. The latest figures on farmers' incomes show that they rose by 9% in real terms in 1982.

The Commission also informed the Council that a supplementary budget would be required in 1983 to cover the agricultural price proposals. The advances on guarantee expenditure which the EAGGF had granted to Member States for the first five months of the year were already 35% up on those for the corresponding period of 1982.

In these circumstances the Commission has decided not to alter the general level of prices proposed, although there might be some adjustments for individual products. In particular, it would not be improving its proposals for the major surplus products.

2.1.98. At its meeting on 27 and 28 April the Council resumed its examination of outstanding problems. On the question of the extent to which the monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs) should be dismantled, the widest differences of view concerned the positive MCAs, and no agreement was reached. Some Member States felt that not enough progress was being made towards the goal of complete elimination of the MCAs within two years. Others felt that the reductions proposed went unacceptably far and might well block or even lower agricultural prices when expressed in national currencies.

A compromise was then worked out on the basis of a number of points, including:

- (i) wider 'neutral margins' for the calculation of the MCAs;
- (ii) alteration of the German and Dutch representative rates, entailing a reduction in the positive MCAs of Germany and the Netherlands; the reduction would be smaller for milk and cereals but the difference would be eliminated during the 1984/85 marketing year;
- (iii) general dismantling of the French negative MCAs as provided for in the Commission's proposal and a further reduction in the MCAs for pigmeat.

Reservations were entered by a number of Member States opposed to the compromise; Italy felt that the proposals did not provide an adequate response to essential desiderata, such as a more substantial reduction in positive MCAs at agreed dates and interest subsidies to be granted in Italy from the next marketing year onwards.

The Council concluded that more time was needed before a decision could be taken and

¹ Point 2.4.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

agreed to hold a further meeting starting on 16 May. It twice extended the market Regulations on milk, beef and veal, sheepmeat and goatmeat, dried fodder and cauliflowers (until 22 May).1

Market organizations

Adjustments to basic Regulations

2.1.99. On 27 April the Commission altered² the description of certain products listed in Annex I to the basic Regulation on products processed from fruit and vegetables.³

Prices and specific measures

Cereals

2.1.100. The change, with effect from 1 August, in the coefficients for calculating the variable component of the levy on bran was threatening to disturb trade. The Commission, therefore, pending the adoption of appropriate measures, decided to suspend temporarily the advance fixing of the levy on bran imports.4

Fresh fruit and vegetables

2.1.101. On 18 April the Council fixed the basic price and the buying-in price for apples for June.5

On 12 April the Commission fixed the reference price for courgettes for 1983.6 It is 8.8% up on the 1982 price.

Wine

2.1.102. On 11 April the Commission adopted three Regulations ensuring that during the first marketing year the application of the various distillation schemes provided for under the new arrangements adopted in July 19828 need not be unduly rigorous.

These provisions concern the calculation of the quantities of wine obtained from grapes for drying which are to be distilled, the application of tolerances in connection with preventive distillation¹⁰ and the time limits within which distillers must distill byproducts.9

2.1.103. On 11 April the Commission also adopted a Regulation which, following the Council Decision of 17 January¹¹ to extend by one year the period provided for in Article 73 of the Act of Accession of Greece for adopting the necessary transitional measures, extends until 31 December 1983 the validity of the transitional provisions on the holding and putting into circulation of Greek wine products.6

2.1.104. On 13 April, because of the changes in the central rates of certain currencies, the Commission altered⁶ the special rates for converting the free-at-frontier reference prices of imported liqueur wines into national currency. 12

2.1.105. On the same day the Commission adopted a Regulation on research and development projects concerning new uses for products in the wine sector.6 This work—which may take up to three marketing vears—should enable new outlets to be found for wine and wine musts.

2.1.106. On 27 April the Commission decided¹³ to raise to 4.3 million hectolitres the maximum quantity of table wine which may be the subject of the distillation measures authorized on 9 March. 14 It considers that this will enable the distillation measures to meet their objective more fully.

Lastly, on 29 April the Commission consolidated and adapted² the Regulation on storage contracts for table wine and grape musts. 15

OJ L 106, 23.4.1983; OJ L 116, 30.4.1983.

OJ L 116, 30.4.1983.

OJ L 73, 21.3.1977. OJ L 96, 15.4.1983.

OJ L 102, 21.4.1983.

OJ L 95, 14.4.1983.

OJ L 92, 12.4.1983. Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.92.

OJ L 262, 10.9.1982. OJ L 267, 16.9.1982. OJ L 17, 21.1.1983.

OJ L 291, 19.11.1979.

^{1.3} OJ L 112, 28.4.1983.

OJ L 64, 10.3.1983.

OJ L 297, 24.11.1979.

2.1.107. Parliament gave a favourable opinion on 15 April¹ on the two proposals for Regulations concerning collective projects for the restructuring of vineyards and the grant of temporary and permanent abandonment premiums for the renunciation of replanting which the Commission had sent to the Council in January.²

Beef/veal

2.1.108. With a view to alleviating difficulties on the beef/veal market, where the price trend is at present unfavourable, on 15 April the Commission fixed appropriate buying-in prices for carcases and half-carcases applicable from 18 April.³

Processed fruit and vegetables

2.1.109. On 5 April the Commission amended the Regulation on protective measures applicable to imports of dried grapes.⁴ The purpose of this was to ensure that, following the currency adjustment on 22 March, the minimum price of dried grapes expressed in national currency does not cause a distortion of trade.⁵

2.1.110. On 21 April the Commission extended by four months the storage period for certain quantities of dried grapes and dried figs held by the Greek storage agencies.⁶

Tobacco

2.1.111. Regulation No 2825/82 of 22 October 1982 enabled purchasers of tobacco to claim the advance on the premium for tobacco grown and processed in Greece even without a contract or crop declaration. These provisions were valid only for tobacco from the 1981 and 1982 harvests, and in view of the time required to introduce a system of contracts between growers and buyers it has become necessary to extend their validity until the 1984 harvest.

Hemp ·

2.1.112. On 7 April the Commission transmitted to the Council a proposal for a Regulation intended to confine aid to those varieties of hemp which meet certain

requirements as regards their content of intoxicating substances and placing some restrictions on the import of hemp and hemp seed. The purpose of these measures is to protect human health.

Structures

Forestry

2.1.113. The Commission also sent to the Council on 19 April a proposal for a Regulation⁹ raising by 25% the funds available for the 'common measure' for forestry in certain Mediterranean areas of the Community. ¹⁰ The purpose of this proposal is to ensure the continuity of programmes begun since 1980 and to avoid a break in the implementation of this measure, which is planned to run for five years and had an original appropriation of 184 million ECU. At the same time the Commission reported to the Council on the progress of work.

Agricultural legislation

Veterinary legislation

Swine fever

2.1.114. In view of the situation with regard to classical swine fever in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Commission suspended temporarily the officially swine-fever-free status of Regierungsbezirk Freiburg, 11 prolonged the suspension of the officially swine-fever-free status of Unterfranken and Darmstadt 12 and withdrew this status from

Point 2.4.17; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

OJ C 18, 22.1.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.70.

OJ L 97, 16.4.1983.

⁴ OJ L 88, 6.4.1983.

³ OJ L 290, 14.10.1982.

⁶ OJ L 104, 22.4.1983.

⁷ OJ L 297, 23.10.1982.

⁸ COM(83)160 final.

COM(83)192 final.

OJ L 38, 14.2.1979.

OJ L 108, 26.4.1983.
 OJ L 117, 4.5.1983; OJ L 127, 17.5.1983.

Braunschweig.¹ In addition, on 21 April the Commission restricted trade in live pigs for breeding and production from certain parts of five German regions.¹

2.1.115. As the outbreak of classical swine fever in Belgium was being dealt with satisfactorily, the Commission repealed the Decision suspending trade in live pigs from certain parts of the country.²

2.1.116. Because of the persistence of the disease in the Netherlands, the Commission decided on 21 April to prohibit trade in pigs for breeding and production from the provinces of North Brabant and Limburg.¹

2.1.117. In a Decision dated 22 April the Commission laid down the conditions for performing on-the-spot checks on the application of national plans for eradicating classical swine fever.¹

Foot-and-mouth disease

2.1.118. The Commission, in a Decision adopted on 7 April, discontinued health protection measures in respect of the German Democratic Republic because of the elimination of foot-and-mouth disease in that country.²

2.1.119. In the Evros buffer zone the Greek authorities have strictly delimited the area in which livestock is vaccinated systematically against foot-and-mouth disease. Therefore, and in view of further assurances given, the Commission, in a Decision adopted on 21 April, amended its 1981 Decision by clearing for trade that part of the prefecture of Evros in which livestock is not vaccinated.

Health controls

2.1.120. Pursuant to the basic Directive on meat-based products, the Commission laid down on 12 April the appropriate derogations for certain products which contain other foodstuffs and in which the percentage of meat or meat-based products is very small.⁴

Parliament gave a favourable opinion on 14 April⁵ on the proposal for a Directive on the

manufacture, putting into circulation and supply of medicated feedingstuffs in the Community.⁶

2.1.122. Parliament also passed a resolution on the need for a Directive on hormonal substances used in livestock production.⁷

Competition

2.1.123. Under Articles 92 to 94 of the EEC Treaty, the Commission decided to make no comment concerning the adoptation of the following draft measures, notified by:

Federal Republic of Germany

Bavaria and Hessen: grants of aids to collective projects for the restructuring of vineyards pursuant to Regulation No 458/80.8 The amount of the aids is consistent with the Regulation.

Baden-Württemberg: encouragement for the joint use of machinery and horses by entrepreneurs and machinery syndicates in the forestry sector. This measure should stimulate the structural improvement of forestry holdings.

North Rhine-Westphalia: grant of aid for a project which is also assisted under Regulation No 355/77, providing for the construction of a marketing centre for drinking milk and milk products with the exception of butter and milk powder, in order to facilitate sales of the products in question and to create outlets.

United Kingdom

Scheme for the eradication of a pig disease under a national programme.

OJ L 121, 7.5.1983.

OJ L 104, 22.4.1983.

³ OJ L 33, 5.2.1981.

OJ L 112, 28.4.1983.

⁵ OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

⁶ OJ C 41, 16.2.1982; Bull. EC 1-1982, point 2.1.59.

⁷ Point 2.4.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

⁸ OJ L 57, 29.2.1980.

⁹ OJ L 51, 23.2.1977.

Greece

Aids to make good the damage caused by natural disasters in 1981 (drought and fires).

2.1.124. The Commission decided to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of the following aids:

Italy

Sicily: agricultural credit and emergency aid for certain production sectors (Act No 87/82), in particular: financing of aids for investments in processing and marketing; aids for the purchase of male breeding cattle, horses, sheep and goats; aids to producer groups for dairy production (milk and

cheese), the amount depending on the price or quantity of the product.

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

Guidance Section

2.1.125. Pursuant to the Regulation on a 'common measure' to improve infrastructure in certain rural areas of Italy and southern France, on 21 April the Commission adopted a first batch of decisions granting aid for 1983. Altogether 99 projects received aidtotalling 22.3 million ECU, broken down as follows:

	Number of projects	Aid in national currency	Aid in ECU ¹
France Italy	42 57	FF 25 662 521 LIT 24 770 451 668	3 808 671 18 523 980
Total	99	_	22 332 651

Approximate figures.

2.1.126. On the same day, pursuant to the regulation on a 'common measure' to improve infrastructure in certain less-favoured areas of the Federal Republic of Germany,² the Commission adopted a set of decisions granting aid from the Guidance Section for 1983. Altogether 46 projects received aid totalling DM 28 959 169, or 12 595 709 ECU.³

2.1.127. Lastly, also on 21 April the Commission adopted a first batch of decisions

granting aid for 1983 pursuant to the Regulation on collective projects for the restructuring of vineyards. Altogether 22 projects received aid totalling 4.5 million ECU. The breakdown by Member State is as in the table below:

⁴ OJ L 57, 29.2.1980.

		Number of projects	Aid in national currency	Aid in ECU ¹
Germany (FR)		2	DM 1 942 738	864 761
France		6	FF 12 446 585	1 847 244
Italy		14	LIT 2 346 000 108	1 754 399
	Total	22		4 466 404

I Approximate figures.

¹ OJ L 204, 28.7.1978.

OJ L 197, 20.7.1981.

³ Approximate figure.

Fisheries

Resources

Internal aspects

TACs and national quotas proposed for 1983

2.1.128. On 20 April the Commission adopted, for transmission to the Council, its proposals on the TACs (total allowable catches) and the allocation of quotas to the Member States for 1983. This will be the first time that the new fisheries policy has been applied since it was introduced on 25 January.

2.1.129. On 28 April the Commission gave qualified approval to three United Kingdom measures restricting the fishing and landing of salmon and sea trout. The Commission requested the United Kingdom authorities to amend certain provisions in the three measures so as to make them consistent with Article 19(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 171/83 of 25 January 1983.³

2.1.130. On 8 April the Commission took note of five United Kingdom measures implementing the provisions of Regulations (EEC) Nos 170, 171, 172, 178, 179 and 180/83 of 25 January 1983,³ namely:

- (i) The Sea Fish (Conservation) (Revocation) Order 1983;
- (ii) The Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Conservation Measures) Order 1983;
- (iii) The Fishing Boats (European Economic Community) Designation Order 1983;
- (iv) The Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Miscellaneous Community Quota Measures) Order 1983;
- (v) The Third Country Fishing (Enforcement) Order 1983.

The Commission reminded the United Kingdom authorities that it had the right to determine, at any time, whether these Orders were compatible with Community law and in line with the common fisheries policy.

External aspects

Bilateral relations

2.1.131. On 27 April the Council adopted three Regulations laying down certain measures concerning the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable in 1983 to vessels flying the flag of Norway or Sweden and to vessels registered in the Faeroe Islands.⁴

Multilateral relations

2.1.132. The Commission took part in a meeting of experts in Rome which discussed access to fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone. The meeting was organized by the FAO to prepare the way for the World Conference on the Management and Development of Fisheries which is to be held in 1984, also under FAO auspices.

2.1.133. The Commission represented the Community, as a party to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean,⁵ at a second meeting held in Edinburgh preparatory to the activation of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization.

2.1.134. On 19 April the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Decision⁶ whereby the Community would accede to the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and the Belts, as amended by the Protocol to the Conference of the Representatives of the States Parties to the Convention signed in Warsaw on 11 November 1982.⁷

Point 1.4.1 et seq.

Bull. EC 1-1983, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.11.

³ OJ L 24, 27.1.1983.

⁴ OJ L 115, 30.4.1983.

⁵ OJ L 378, 31.12.1982; Bull. EC 1-1982, point 2.1.67; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.148.

⁶ OJ C 117, 30.4.1983; COM(83) 191 final.

Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.113.

Markets and structures

Structures

2.1.135. The Commission raised no objection to the introduction of an Italian interim aid scheme for the rationalization and development of sea fisheries, in implementation of Act No 41 of 17 February 1982, which the Commission had already approved.¹

2.1.136. On the other hand, the Commission initiated the procedure laid down in Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty in respect of a draft Sicilian measure whereby subsidies would be granted to fishermen and shipowners in 1983. The subsidy amounts to LIT 300 000 per gross registered ton and has a budget allocation of LIT 22 500 million.

Transport

Inland transport

Frontier formalities and inspections

2.1.137. In response to Parliament's opinion² the Commission amended³ its proposal for a Directive on the facilitation of formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States.⁴

Approximation of structures

Improving the situation of the railways

2.1.138. On 29 April Commission staff consulted railway experts on plans concerning international cooperation between the railways on traffic movements across frontiers.

Air transport

Eurocontrol

2.1.139. On 14 April Parliament adopted a resolution on the Eurocontrol air traffic control centre in Maastricht.⁵

Energy

Council meeting

2.1.140. At a meeting of Energy Ministers on 21 April the Council discussed recent developments on the oil market, notably the effect of the fall in oil prices on the Community's energy policy objectives.⁶ The Council then turned its attention to the working paper on solid fuels⁷ and approved two recommendations to the Member States. It adopted a Council recommendation on the methods of fixing natural gas prices and tariffs in the Community;8 it also agreed that the Commission should prepare as quickly as possible a report containing a detailed analysis of the sectors in which Community support might be provided for demonstration projects.

2.1.141. On 13 April Parliament passed a resolution on responding to the economic and monetary consequences of instability in the world energy market.⁵

Formulating and implementing a Community energy policy

Energy strategy and the oil market

2.1.142. The Council underlined the need to ensure that there was no relaxation in efforts to restructure the energy sector through diversification of energy sources and rational use of energy although the recent fall in the price of oil had been a positive factor in helping to promote a world economic recovery. The present trend on the oil market had been largely a result of this policy

¹ Bull. EC 3-1982, point 2.1.99.

² OJ C 42, 14.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.4.13.

³ COM(83)182 final.

⁴ OJ C 127, 18.5.1982; Bull. EC 4-1982, point 2.1.87; Bull. EC 2-1982, point 2.1.126; Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.144.

⁵ Point 2.4.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

⁶ Point 2.1.142.

Point 2.1.147.

⁸ Point 2.1.145.

of diversifying, conserving and developing indigenous energy resources in the Community. Despite the sound achievements, there was still strong pressure on the Community's energy supply.

To ensure the attainment of the Community's objectives for 1990—a matter of the greatest importance—the Council asked the Commission to prepare for its next meeting a progress report on the energy strategy which should also identify the financial implications of measures taken or to be taken. This would serve as a point of reference for future decisions on solid fuels, demonstration projects and financial incentives for certain categories of investment in the rational use of energy.

Specific problems

Energy saving and rational use of energy

2.1.143. The Council was unable to reach agreement on the proposal for a Regulation on the payment of financial incentives in support of certain categories of investment in the rational use of energy. It was, however, agreed that this matter would be re-examined in the light of the energy strategy report which the Commission is to present at the next Council meeting on energy.

On 12 April Parliament endorsed the Commission's proposal but extended the scope of the proposed Regulation.²

2.1.144. On 19 April the Commission sent to the Council for its information the text of its Decision granting 9 267 011 ECU to 33 energy-saving demonstration projects.³

Oil and gas

2.1.145. The Council adopted a recommendation⁴ on the methods of forming natural gas prices and tariffs in the Community.⁵ This follows up a similar recommendation adopted on 27 October 1981 on the fixing of electricity prices and tariffs⁶ in line with the basic principles of the representativeness and the transparency of prices laid down by the

Council in its resolution of 9 June 1980⁷ and expanded by the Commission in its communication of September 1981.⁸ This recommendation on the setting of natural gas prices and tariffs is based on the following principles:

(i) the best possible use should be made of natural gas, and natural gas prices should be as close as possible to market value;

(ii) the methods of setting tariffs should be adapted to the needs of users;

(iii) there should be transparency of prices, whether or not this involves tariffs, with due regard for confidentiality of private supply contracts and commercial transactions.

The Commission was instructed to monitor the application of the recommendation by the gas industry and to report back to the Council regularly under the general arrangements for examining energy pricing policies in the Community.

2.1.146. On 21 April 'the Commission amended⁹ its proposal for a Directive on crude oil saving through the use of substitute fuel components in petrol.¹⁰

Solid fuels

2.1.147. In response to the informal meeting of Energy Ministers held in Copenhagen on 16 December 1982¹¹ and the working programme which the Commission transmitted to the Council on 14 February, ¹² the Council agreed that practical proposals should be brought forward as quickly as possible for a common and coherent strategy on solid fuels. These proposals would be

¹ OJ C 285, 30.10.1982; Bull. EC 9-1982, point 2.1.91.

OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

³ COM(83) 520 final.

⁴ OJ L 123, 11.5.1983.

⁵ OJ C 270, 14.10.1982; Bull. EC 9-1982, point 2.1.93.

OJ L 337, 24.11.1981; Bull. EC 10-1981, points 2.1.142 and 2.1.150.

OJ C 149, 18.6.1980.

⁸ Bull. EC 9-1981, point 2.1.121.

COM(83) 210 final; OJ C 120, 5.5.1983.
 OJ C 229, 2.9.1982; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.170.

Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.169.

¹² Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.133.

drawn up in the light of the four fundamental questions raised by Mr Davignon with regard to:

- (i) the nature of obstacles to wider use of solid fuels:
- (ii) the contribution of R & D to the use of solid fuels:
- (iii) economic Community production and its influence on security of supply;
- (iv) the social implications of rationalization in the coal industry.

The Council also welcomed the Commission's undertaking to present as soon as possible concrete proposals on support for investment in the modernization and restructuring of the coal industry and, at a more general level, in the use of solid fuels. The Council would also welcome other proposals on stocks, trade in steam coal and a research, development and demonstration programme.

2.1.148. The Council approved two draft recommendations to Member States on measures to promote investment in the conversion or reconversion of oil-fired installations in industry and oil-fired boilers in public buildings to solid fuels.¹

2.1.149. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine as soon as possible the Commission's proposal to the Council on the introduction of new arrangements for coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry.²

2.1.150. In accordance with its Decision of 25 February 1976 on a Community system of measures taken by the Member States to assist the coal industry,³ the Commission, after consulting the Council, notified Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany and France on 7 April of its aid authorization decisions for 1982.⁴

Nuclear energy

2.1.151. On 7 April the Commission sent to the Council a communication on uranium exploration in the Community (second progress report and orientations for the future),⁵ acting under Article 70 of the Euratom Treaty.

Between 1976 and 1981 the Commission was authorized by the budgetary authorities under the terms of the first paragraph of Article 70 to finance uranium exploration programmes in the Member States. Through the 27.5 million ECU committed, over 33 000 tonnes of new uranium resources were identified. As regards future guidelines, the communication suggests that Community aid be concentrated on specific geological targets which have been shown to have potential uranium deposits by the general geological surveys that have been undertaken.

Research and development

Development of the common policy

Coordination of national policies

2.1.152. The Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) held its 91st meeting on 21 April. CREST acknowledged the value to the Community of an R & D project undertaken under the aegis of COST on primary marine biomass (COST Project 48), which could form part of a future action programme on biotechnology. The next meeting of the Committee is to take place on 2 May.

Cooperation with non-member countries

Working Group on Technology, Growth and Employment

2.1.153. As part of its preparations for the Williamsburg Western Economic Summit, the Commission discussed the report of the Working Group on Technology, Growth and Employment,⁶ which it received on 26 January. The Working Group had identified areas where international cooperation might

OJ C 105, 26.4.1982; Bull. EC 2-1982, point 1.2.9.

Bull. EC 3-1983, points 2.1.152 and 2.1.159.

OJ L 63, 11.3.1976.
OJ L 100, 19.4.1983.

⁵ COM(83) 169 final.

⁶ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.108.

be able to increase knowledge and improve social and economic conditions both in the Western nations and in the world at large.

The 18 projects to be put forward at the Williamsburg Summit cover the fields of energy, e.g. controlled thermonuclear fusion (where the Community will lead the project with the United States), improved management of food resources (in which, for example, France and the UK will be project leaders on food technology), the improvement of living and working conditions (rapid transit systems, town planning, advanced, materials, etc.) and progress in basic research (in which, for example, the Community will head up a biology project).

On a more general plane, the Working Group recommends that greater efforts be made to study the impact on individuals of living and working conditions in a society undergoing rapid technological changes.

Community delegation in China

2.1.154. At the request of the Chinese Government a Community delegation chaired a symposium in Beijing organized jointly by the Commission and the State Commission for Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China. Some hundred participants from the various ministries concerned took part in the discussions, which dealt mainly with the problems of general science and technology policy, R & D planning and forward studies. Fringe sessions enabled wide-ranging exchanges of views to take place on the implementation of science and technology policies and on the efforts the Chinese are currently making in the fields of energy (coal and hydroelectric power), transport (railways), building (plan for the year 2000), foodstuffs (processing plants), the information technologies, resource conservation and environmental protection, and the importing of technologies.

It was from this standpoint that the questions arising in connection with possible scientific and technological cooperation between China and the Communities were tackled. A number of possible areas of cooperation were mentioned: remote sensing from space, energy

(coal, hydroelectric power, thermonuclear fusion and energy savings), raw materials, scientific and technical documentation, agriculture and biotechnology.

The Chinese authorities expressed their satisfaction with the discussions and their desire to continue and intensify these fruitful contacts.

Cooperation with the United States in research on radioactive waste

2.1.155. Under the agreement signed on 6 October 1982¹ between the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) and Euratom covering an exchange of information concerning a cooperative program me on radioactive waste management, a Commission delegation of experts in this research field held an initial meeting with USDOE on the implementation of the agreement on 18 April. The characterization of waste forms and disposal in geological formations were adopted as the initial topics for practical cooperation.

Cooperation with the United States in controlled thermonuclear fusion

2.1.156. At its meeting in Garching on 19 April the Advisory Committee for the Fusion Programme discussed a draft negotiating brief for a cooperation agreement between the Community and the United States covering all the subjects tackled in their respective controlled thermonuclear fusion programmes. The Committee approved the draft, which provides for the conclusion of an outline agreement under which implementing agreements on specific projects could be signed between Euratom or its associated bodies and the United States Government or its agencies.

COST projects

2.1.157. On 18 April the Council adopted a Decision concluding an agreement between the Community and Switzerland relating to a concerted-action project on cellular ageing.² The aim of this project is to make an effective

Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.128.

² OJ L 126, 13.5.1983.

contribution to the enjoyment of optimum health by individuals and society.

2.1.158. On the same day the Council adopted a Decision concluding an Agreement between the Community and Switzerland extending and amending the Agreement relating to a concerted-action project on the registration of congenital abnormalities (medical and public health research).2 The Agreement was signed by the Community and Switzerland on 27 April.

2.1.159. In the context of the COST programme, work has been carried out since 1970 on electronic traffic aids on major roads. In the light of the results obtained, the most suitable means of communication with drivers would seem to be variable traffic signs forming part of a system comprising the rapid detection of incidents and/or adverse atmospheric conditions. It is also recommended that seven new symbols be added to the Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals — recommended maximum speed, breakdown or accident, congestion, fog, rain or snow, aquaplaning, and risk of skidding due to black ice or snow.

A comprehensive system embodying the different results of the research has been installed in the Netherlands on a section of motorway south of The Hague. This European experiment was inaugurated on 28 April.

Multiannual programmes

Support for industrial development

Submission of proposals for the pilot phase of the Esprit programme³

2.1.160. The pilot phase of the European Strategic Programme of Research Development in Information Technology (Esprit)⁴ is under review. Nearly 200 specific proposals from the 10 Member States were submitted before 21 February, the closing date set for the receipt of proposals.³

Decisions on most of the proposals selected were taken in April, after consultations between the Commission and the Member States. Contracts are expected to be signed in Iune.

Living and working conditions

ECSC social research

2.1.161. Having obtained a favourable from the ECSC Consultative opinion Committee in December 19826 and the assent of the Council in February, on 26 April the Commission decided to implement an initial Community research programme on safety at work in the iron and steel industry (steel casting)⁷ and to grant financial support amounting to 960 000 ECU to nine research projects forming part of the programme. These projects are intended to contribute to the improvement of working conditions and workers' safety in both conventional and continuous casting.

Radiation protection programme for 1980-84: microdosimetry

2.1.162. A Commission report published in April summarizes recent developments in microdosimetry and new interpretations of radiobiological results using microdosimetric concepts.8

The Commission has played a fostering and steering role in the field of microdosimetry since 1967, when the first international symposium on the subject took place. Since then, symposia on microdosimetry have concentrated on the distribution of radiation energy deposition at the cellular and molecular levels of biological tissue and on the

OJ L 126, 13.5.1983.

OJ L 113, 25.4.1981.

See also point 2.1.25.

OJ L 369, 29.12.1982; Bull. EC 12-1982, point

OJ C 341, 29.12.1982.

Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.4.30.

Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.153.

EUR 8395 (available from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985 Luxembourg).

implications of the radiological results for radiation protection and other fields.

The development of microdosimetry in recent years has been characterized by the emergence of important new approaches. One of them is a new concept: the energy deposit, which is the energy that remains at the locus of interaction in the form of excitations and ionizations after all nuclear reactions and mass-energy transformations have taken place and all energetic particles have been emitted. There have been many examples of new developments in this field, such as the evaluation of the energy imparted to small solid-state detectors, the development of area monitors for absorbed dose and dose equivalent, and the evaluation of free-in-air quality. The radiation adoption microdosimetric principles and methods in

radiation protection as well as in radiation therapy and diagnosis is steadily increasing.

Remote sensing

2.1.163. The Community acted as host for a symposium on 'remote sensing applications for environmental studies' held in Brussels from 26 to 29 April, which was jointly organized by the European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories and the European Space Agency. This symposium provided an opportunity for discussing concrete examples of the practical use of remote sensing, in which significant scientific and technical achievements have been made, such as the evaluation and monitoring of agricultural production (rice crops) and the detection and characterization of marine pollution.

2. Enlargement and external relations

Enlargement and bilateral relations with applicant countries

Spain

Accession negotiations

2.2.1. The 15th ministerial-level meeting of the negotiations for Spain's accession to the European Community was held in Luxembourg on 26 April under the chairmanship of Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, German Foreign Minister and President of the Council.

The Community presented statements on external relations, customs union (quantitative restrictions on imports into Spain and textile products) and patents.

The Spanish delegation, headed by Mr Morán, Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented statements on the ECSC (external relations) and patents.

Owing to efficient preparation, the Conference was successful in concluding the negotiations on quantitative restrictions and textiles.

Commercial policy

Export promotion

2.2.2. On the initiative of Mr Haferkamp a meeting was held in Brussels on 19 April between the directors of export promotion bodies in the Member States and Commission representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to look at ways of strengthening

cooperation between the bodies concerned, particularly by means of a more systematic exchange of information. Following this initial meeting the discussions are to be pursued at a more technical level in the near future.

Implementing the common commercial policy

Import arrangements

Easing of restrictive measures

2.2.3. Under the Council Regulation of 4 December 1980 on import arrangements in respect of State-trading countries, the Commission decided on the following measures:

Italy—People's Republic of China: opening of quotas for ladies' hand-embroidered silk woven nightdresses;2

Federal Republic of Germany—Poland: opening of quotas for textile products imported under outward processing arrangements;³

Italy—Poland: opening of quotas for unwrought aluminium containing 99.99% aluminium:

France—German Democratic Republic: modification of quotas for textile products falling within categories 2 and 3;2

Benelux-German Democratic Republic: modification of quotas for textile products falling within categories 5 and 83.

Trade protection

- 2.2.4. The Commission imposed provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of barium chloride originating in the People's Republic of China or the German Democratic Republic.4
- 2.2.5. It also adopted a recommendation⁵ amending definitive anti-dumping duties on certain iron and steel products originating in the German Democratic Republic.
- 2.2.6. The Council extended the provisional anti-dumping duties on imports of natural magnesite, caustic burned, originating in the

People's Republic of China, and on imports of natural magnesite, dead-burned (sintered), originating in the People's Republic of China or in North Korea.

2.2.7. The Council amended⁸ the definitive anti-dumping duties on p-xylene (paraxylene) originating in Puerto Rico, the United States of America or the United States Virgin Islands, and on o-xylene (orthoxylene) originating in Puerto Rico or the United States of America.9

It also amended 10 the definitive countervailing duty on certain seamless tubes of non-alloy steels originating in Spain. 11

- 2.2.8. The Commission initiated dumping proceedings concerning imports of:
- (i) certain synthetic fibre hand-knitting yarn originating in Turkey; 12
- (ii) chlorine chloride originating in the German Democratic Republic or Romania; 13
- (iii) certain angles, shapes and sections, of iron or steel, originating in Romania; 13
- (iv) lithium hydroxide originating in the People's Republic of China; 14 it was also decided to review the definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of lithium hydroxide originating in the United States of America or the Soviet Union and also the price undertaking accepted by the Commission in connection with the proceeding. 14
- 2.2.9. The Council decided to terminate⁸ the anti-dumping proceeding in respect of imports of acrylonitrile originating in the United States of America. 15

OJ L 353, 29.12.1980.

OJ C 101, 14.4.1983.

OJ C 105, 19.4.1983.

OJ L 110, 27.4.1983.

OJ L 96, 15.4.1983.

OJ L 108, 22.4.1978; OJ L 372, 30.12.1978.

OJ L 371, 30.12.1982.

OJ L 101, 20.4.1983.

OJ L 270, 25.9.1981; OJ L 296, 15.10.1981. 10 OJ L 116, 30.4.1983.

¹¹ OJ L 322, 28.11.1980.

OJ C 102, 15.4.1983.

¹³

OJ C 109, 23.4.1983. OJ C 98, 12.4.1983.

OJ C 84, 3.4.1982.

2.2.10. The Commission decided to terminate¹ an anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of certain cellulose ester resins originating in the United States of America² and to accept an undertaking given in connection with the proceeding.

It also decided³ to suspend application of the definitive anti-dumping duty⁴ and to terminate the anti-subsidy proceeding concerning broad-flanged beams originating in Spain.

Surveillance measures

2.2.11. The Commission lifted the protective measures⁵ covering imports into France and the United Kingdom of tableware and other articles of a kind commonly used for domestic or toilet purposes, of stoneware, and introduced a system of automatic authorization for imports of such products originating in or coming from South Korea.⁶

2.2.12. On 16 February the Italian Government informed the Commission of protective measures it had introduced under Council Regulation No 288/82⁷ concerning imports of tube and pipe fittings of malleable cast iron originating in certain non-member countries.

The Commission decided on 23 February that imports of these products into Italy should not be subject to any quantitative restriction; on 1 March the Italian Government, acting under the Regulation, referred the Commission's decision to the Council. The period within which the Council is required to take a decision was extended in March until 27 April inclusive.⁸

On 25 April the Council decided, with the Commission's agreement, to extend the time limit again—until 1 June. During this period, therefore, the measures adopted by Italy will continue to apply.

Export credits

Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits (the 'Consensus')

2.2.13. On 18 April the Council adopted the Commission's negotiating mandate for

the renewal of the Arrangement on Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits. 10

The negotiations, which were held under OECD auspices in Paris from 25 to 27 April, were not successful. With the agreement of the Article 113 Committee, the Commission arranged with the other participants to extend the current 'Consensus' for two months, i.e. until the end of June.

2.2.14. On 18 April the Council adopted a common position on officially supported credit terms for nuclear power stations.

Sectoral commercial policy measures

Iron and steel products

External element of the steel plan for 1983

2.2.15. The Commission continued negotiations with various non-member countries aimed at extending for 1983 the arrangements on imports of iron and steel products falling within the ECSC Treaty. 11

Arrangements have been concluded and signed with 13 of the 14 1982 partner countries; Australia signed on 10 March and Spain on 21 April. Brazil signed the 'cast iron' arrangement (extension of the arrangement of previous years) on 28 April. The Commission is pursuing negotiations with Brazil with the aim of concluding for the first time an arrangement on iron and steel products proper.

Extension of the 'understanding' with Japan is at the stage of an exchange of letters and will finalized very shortly.

OJ L 106, 23.4.1983.

² OJ C 299, 16.11.1982.

OJ L 116, 30.4.1983.

⁴ OJ L 30, 1.2.1983.

⁵ OJ L 369, 29.12.1982.

⁶ OJ L 96, 15.4.1983.

⁷ OJ L 35, 9.2.1982.

⁸ OJ L 86, 31.3.1983.

⁹ OJ L 121, 7.5.1983.

Sixteenth General Report, point 632.

¹¹ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.2.17.

2.2.16. The Commission also completed negotiations with an additional country, South Africa, for extending the 1978 and 1979 arrangements. The extension is expected to be signed very soon.

Relations with industrialized countries

Preparation for Williamsburg Summit

2.2.17. As part of the preparations for the forthcoming Western Economic Summit in Williamsburg, a further quadripartite meeting was held in Brussels on 29 April. Canada's Minister of State for International Trade, Mr Gerald Regan, Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Mr Sadanori Yamanaka, the United States Representative for Trade Negotiations, Mr William Brock, and Commission Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp met for a discussion on trade matters. In view of the informal nature of the meeting, no press communiqué or statement was issued regarding the content of the talks.

2.2.18. On 21 April Mr Thorn had talks in Washington with President Ronald Reagan, Vice-President George Bush and the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr Donald Regan, and a working meeting with the Secretary of State, Mr George Schultz.

During the meeting with President Reagan and his colleagues, both sides put forward their views on the major topics to be discussed at the Summit.

2.2.19. The personal representatives ('sherpas') of the participants in the Summit met in San Diego from 16 to 29 March and in Williamsburg from 15 to 17 April.

EFTA countries

Joint Committees

2.2.20. At the request of the Austrian delegation, the Joint Committee of the EEC-Austria Free Trade Agreement met on 20 April to discuss the difficulties arising for certain Austrian exporters following the

restrictions imposed by Italy on imports of tube and pipe fittings of malleable cast iron. 1

United States

2.2.21. The Council reiterated its very serious concern regarding certain aspects of the United States Government's proposals (particularly their extraterritorial effects) for the renewal of the 1979 Export Administration Act.² It voiced the firm hope that the comments and suggestions made by the Community and its Member States would be taken into account during the legislative process in the United States.

2.2.22. On 14 April Parliament adopted a resolution on the protection of the European consumer against imports into the Community of products declared unfit for consumption under United States legislation.³

Canada

2.2.23. The 20th session of high-level consultations between the Community and Canada took place in Brussels on 25 and 26 April. The Commission delegation was led by Mr Umberto Toffano, Deputy Director-General, and the Canadian side by Mr R. E. Latimer, Assistant Deputy Minister (Trade Relations), External Affairs. The emphasis of the discussions was on trade policy issues, reflecting each side's preoccupations in this area, both internationally and bilaterally.

Issues arising from trade between the Community and Canada were reviewed in detail, in particular the operation of the fisheries agreement, baby seals, newsprint, antidumping and countervailing duty measures, and the Liquor Boards.

2.2.24. An initial negotiating session under the Euratom-Canada Agreement⁴ took place in Brussels on 28 and 29 April. The Commission presented a draft exchange of letters which was explained and clarified.

Point 2.2.12.

Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.2.20.

³ Point 2.4.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1981, point 2.2.42.

Further discussions are planned before the next negotiating session.

Japan

2.2.25. On 20 April the Commission referred a complaint against Japan on behalf of the Community to the GATT Council, under Article XXIII(2) of the General Agreement. This marks the transition to the second stage of the proceedings regarding certain Japanese trade practices and their effects on imports originating in the Community, which had been decided by the Council in December 1982.

In this stage the Community wants the issue to be submitted to a multilateral working party on which all the GATT member countries concerned could be represented.

The Commission took this opportunity to point out that the steps taken by the Community constituted an act of faith and trust in the multilateral trading system and in the GATT. The GATT Council decided to return to this question at one of its forthcoming meetings.

2.2.26. The Commission welcomed the decision taken by Japan to revise its certification standards and systems. It was particularly pleased that Japan intended to try harder to adapt its standards to those accepted internationally. The Commission expressed its interest in continuing discussions with the Japanese authorities on the implementation of this decision.

Relations with other countries and regions

Mediterranean countries

Yugoslavia

Entry into force of the Cooperation Agreement

2.2.27. The new Cooperation Agreement² between the Community and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, signed in

April 1980³ and designed to replace the 1973 Agreement (which itself followed on from the 1970 Agreement), entered into force on 1 April. The trade and financial provisions had been applied by means of an Interim Agreement and a protocol since 1 July 1980.

The new Agreement is for an unlimited period and covers trade, financial aid and cooperation in the fields of industry, science and technology, energy, agriculture, transport, environment and tourism.

It thus gives concrete expression to the development of these cooperation activities, as provided for in the future developments clause contained in the 1973 Agreement.

Prime Minister's visit.

2.2.28. The President of the Federal Executive Council, Mrs Milka Planinc, paid an official visit to the Commission on 28 April at the invitation of Mr Thorn. During the talks both sides confirmed their resolve to promote all the forms of cooperation provided for in the Agreement and to encourage in particular joint production, transfers of technology and cooperation on the markets of other non-member countries.

The results of the recent summit of nonaligned countries in New Delhi and the Conference of the Group of 77 developing countries in Buenos Aires were also discussed, together with the preparations for Unctad VI, which is to take place in Belgrade.⁴

Euro-Arab Dialogue

2.2.29. A symposium on the relations between the two civilizations, the first project to be undertaken by the Euro-Arab Dialogue, took place in Hamburg from 11 to 15 April. The symposium, officially opened by the Mayor of Hamburg, Mr Klaus von Dohnanyi,

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Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.2.57.

OJ L 41, 14.2.1983; OJ L 56, 3.3.1983.

³ OJ L 130, 27.5.1980; Fourteenth General Report, point 656.

Point 2.2.33.

was addressed by the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Mr Chedli Klibi.

The keynote speech was given by Dr Mohidine Saber, Secretary-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (Alecso). A wide range of European and Arab cultural experts met in a large number of working sessions and individual workshops on cultural subjects of particular interest to both sides.

Asia

India

Seminar on the transfer of technology

2.2.30. The Commission participated in a seminar on technology transfer between the Community and India which was held in New Delhi on 16 and 17 April. The seminar reviewed the results of the first phase of the joint study being carried out by the Indian National Council for Applied Economic Research and a number of Community contractors on the supply and demand aspects of technology transfer from the Community to India. This joint study is being undertaken in the context of the EEC-India Agreement for commercial and economic cooperation and will be completed in June 1984.

Pakistan

2.2.31. The seventh session of the EEC-Pakistan Joint Commission set up under the 1976 Agreement² was held in Brussels on 14 and 15 April.

The Joint Commission reviewed recent developments in the economic situation in both regions and had a detailed discussion on the trade promotion programme. In 1983 this programme, which is aimed to integrate more closely with the other Community programmes for Pakistan, will include participation in trade fairs, exchanges of experts and a financial contribution to the Pakistan Trade Office in Copenhagen.

The Joint Commission also:

- (i) noted that Pakistan was making better use of the system of generalized preferences, since exports of industrial goods other than textiles had increased;
- (ii) endorsed a project to assist the promotion of the Karachi Export Processing Zone;
- (iii) reviewed the Community's financial and technical assistance and food aid to Pakistan (noting with satisfaction that Pakistan had become self-sufficient in wheat).

The Joint Commission also began discussions on new forms of cooperation in the energy and industry sectors.

State-trading countries

China

2.2.32. Mrs Chen Muhua, Chinese Minister of Economic Relations and Foreign Trade, visited the Commission on 19 April at the end of a European tour. Her discussions with Mr Thorn, Mr Haferkamp and Mr Davignon covered international relations and EEC-China bilateral relations.

The question of Chinese exports of textile products was mentioned, together with the increase in Chinese imports under the new Chinese economic programme.

Mrs Chen agreed with the Commission proposal that regular high-level bilateral consultations be held and invited Mr Haferkamp to visit China to inaugurate these new talks.

Development

Preparation for Unctad VI

2.2.33. On 26 April the Commission adopted a communication setting out the prospects and issues of the sixth session of Unctad, which is to be held in Belgrade from 6 June

OIL 328, 16.11.1981.

Tenth General Report, point 549.

to 1 July. After analysing the economic and political background to the session, the communication outlines the approach that might be adopted by the Community and its Member States and makes specific proposals regarding the main agenda items—commodities, trade and financial and monetary issues.

Coordination of aid

2.2.34. On 12 April, as part of the Commission's efforts to step up coordination of aid with the Member States in order to achieve greater effectiveness and coherence, Commission staff held an initial meeting with those responsible for administering Belgian bilateral aid.

Geographically, the discussions were limited to the problems of sub-Saharan Africa, including Angola and Mozambique. Both sides focused the discussions on an operational objective, that of possibly implementing projects of common interest. There was a more detailed discussion on projects in Central Africa and the Sahel and the continent-wide campaign against cattle plague and pleuropneumonia.

Stress was also laid on the mutual improvement of all information channels, including information in the field, and a timetable was drawn up for immediate operational follow-up.

2.2.35. On 28 April the Commission held a coordination meeting with the Member States on southern Africa.

The meeting looked at proposed operations and projects which might be suitable for joint implementation with bilateral and Community aid.

Campaign against hunger in the world

Special programme

2.2.36. On 15 April Parliament endorsed, subject to a number of amendments, the proposal made by the Commission in January for a Regulation on the implementation of

the special programme to combat hunger in the world.² Parliament stressed the importance of the proposed measures whose practical implementation will be initiated by the Regulation and criticized the inadequacy of the funds earmarked for these measures in the 1983 budget; given the long-term nature of some of the measures proposed, it recalled the Council's decision in favour of long-term financing and called for specific action to be taken on this decision immediately; it reasserted its firm belief that responsibility for management operations must rest solely with the Commission.

Food aid, emergency aid and exceptional aid

Food aid

Emergency aid

2.2.37. On 8 April the Commission authorized the allocation of 5 000 tonnes of cereals, valued at 625 000 ECU at world prices, to victims of war and drought in Chad.

2.2.38. On 12 April the Commission authorized the allocation of 5 000 tonnes of cereals, valued at 625 000 ECU, and 94 tonnes of butteroil, valued at 218 550 ECU at world prices, to victims of drought and war in the Eritrea and Tigre regions of Ethiopia, to be distributed by a non-governmental organization.

2.2.39. On 14 April Parliament adopted a resolution on emergency aid for Ethiopia, calling on the Commission to arrange a programme as soon as possible and stressing the need to ensure that emergency food aid did in fact reach the people concerned.³

OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

OJ C 37, 10.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.2.31.

Point 2.2.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

Exceptional aid

2.2.40. In view of the floods which have devastated several urban and rural areas in Bolivia, the Commission decided on 12 April to allocate emergency aid of 100 000 ECU to the League of Red Cross Societies to provide the flood victims with basic necessities. The aid is intended for purchasing and flying in tents and equipment for food centres and for buying provisions locally.

2.2.41. Following the earthquake which caused havoc in south-western Colombia, the Commission decided on 21 April to grant the disaster victims 200 000 ECU of emergency aid via the German Red Cross.

Commodities and world agreements

Coffee

2.2.42. The Community and the Member States took part in the 39th meeting of the International Coffee Council, which was held in London from 18 to 22 April.

Most of the work was devoted to examining the problems connected with the operation of the International Coffee Agreement during the 1982/83 coffee year, in particular matters concerning the monitoring system where exports are subject to quotas, in view of the considerable surplus of exportable production in relation to demand.

It was noted that there had been a marked increase in exports from International Coffee Organization member countries to non-member importing countries, mainly because prices were often half those prevailing on ICO member country markets such as the Community markets.

With a view to making it easier for exporting member countries to comply with their obligation to prove to the ICO that the coffee has in fact reached its destination in the non-member countries, while not violating trade secrecy in operations carried out by middlemen in importing member countries (such as those in the Community), the ICO Executive Board noted the fact that ICO officials would be appointed by the Executive

Director to operate in 33 non-member countries and decided that the cost of this procedure, due to start on 1 June, would be covered by the ICO special fund.

Moreover, importing members are to make every effort, on a voluntary basis and with the cooperation of their trade associations, to inform the ICO about exports to non-member countries which are trans-shipped in their ports, such as those situated in the Community.

2.2.43. As a side issue on the occasion of the ICO Council meeting, the exporting member countries decided to send missions to the main non-member importing countries to persuade them to accede to the new 1983 International Coffee Agreement, which is due to enter into force on 1 October.

Cocoa

2.2.44. On 18 April the Council approved a report on the operation of the 1980 International Cocoa Agreement (which came into force provisionally for three years on 1 August 1981), setting out guidelines for the future:

- (i) in the short term the Community confirms its participation in the present Agreement until 30 September 1984;
- (ii) in the longer term it is making internal preparations for a possible renegotiation.

Now that the Council has approved this report, the parliaments of the Member States will be able to ratify the Agreement.

Tropical timber

2.2.45. In connection with the Unctad Integrated Programme for Commodities, the Community and the Member States took part in the United Nations Conference for the preparation of an International Agreement on Tropical Timber, which was held in Geneva from 14 to 31 March.

Fifteenth General Report, point 666.

Although considerable progress was made in many fields, the Conference had to adjourn. It should resume by the end of the year. The Community and the Member States made a positive and effective contribution throughout the meeting.

There was failure to reach agreement on only 6 of the 43 articles in the draft Agreement, but the outstanding matters are among the most difficult:

- (i) the definition of tropical timber, which the producer countries want to extend to cover all derived products, while all the consumer countries, including the Community, want to restrict it to industrial tropical wood;
- (ii) in the producer members' definition, how to take account of the question of forest area, which will affect the way the allocation of votes among the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America is worked out;
- (iii) the number of standing committees which will deal with the various issues within the Agreement (R & D, reafforestation and forestry management, processing, market information);
- (iv) the location of the headquarters of the future organization, offers having been put forward by Japan (Tokyo) and five Community countries United Kingdom (London), Netherlands (Amsterdam), Belgium (Brussels), Greece (Athens) and France (Paris).

The Conference Chairman is to consult the main countries concerned on the outstanding questions before the next meeting is convened by the Unctad Secretariat-General.

Commercial, industrial, financial and technical cooperation

Fairs and exhibitions

2.2.46. Taking part in international trade fairs is clearly an effective way for developing countries to increase the size of their export markets, and the Community provides financial and technical assistance for increasing the commercial impact of participation. Exhibition stands were organized by Commission staff at the Milan Fair and the Paris Fair

for ACP States and other developing countries in Asia and Latin America.

Cooperation to help small businesses

2.2.47. On 21 April the Commission held a meeting of experts from the Member States to discuss cooperation to help small businesses in developing countries.

The experts stressed that priority should be given to small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly from the angle of a development policy based on the idea of self-help, with the main emphasis on rural development. They have already examined the role and importance of small businesses in Third World development and studied the obstacles and constraints which hinder this development. In due course they will use these findings to discuss the strategies, policies and types of operation which might help to strengthen commercial cooperation in this sector.

Relations with non-governmental organizations

Annual general assembly of European non-governmental development organizations

2.2.48. At the annual general assembly of NGOs, which was held in Brussels from 12 to 14 April and attended by Mr Pisani, Commission staff and NGO representatives took stock of their cooperation in 1982 and marked out the prospects for future cooperation.

Last year saw an unprecedented stepping-up of EEC-NGO cooperation, embracing the co-financing of microprojects in the developing countries, the organization of food aid and emergency aid, but above all a vast extension in co-financing operations, the budget for which was doubled between 1981 and 1982 — to 28 million ECU. The Commission looks upon 1983 as a year for consolidating this progress.

Co-financing

2.2.49. From the beginning of the year to the end of April, 190 admissible projects

Bull. EC 4-1983 57

totalling 24 880 410 ECU were submitted to the Commission by 890 NGOs. During the same period a grant totalling 3 435 190 ECU was committed for 25 projects.

In addition, 406 820 ECU was spent on co-financing seven campaigns to inform the European public about development issues.

ACP States and OCT

ACP-EEC Convention

Negotiations for a new convention

2.2.50. On 25 and 26 April the Council held an initial exchange of views on the substance of the Commission communication on the guidelines for the forthcoming ACP-EEC negotiations, and stressed the considerable importance of the communication. It was agreed to propose to the ACP States that the negotiations be opened in September.

Regional cooperation

2.2.51. On 13 April Commission representatives took part in the annual meeting of the Caribbean donor countries coordinating group, held at the World Bank's European office in Paris. They gave a progress report on the various programmes of assistance to the 12 ACP countries in the Caribbean, while representatives from the Member States outlined their governments' positions on bilateral aid to some of these countries.

European Development Fund

2.2.52. In April the Commission took decisions involving the allocation of fourth and fifth EDF resources totalling 45 384 000 ECU to finance projects and programmes and emergency aid operations within its purview in the following sectors:

	ECU
Road infrastructure	24 850 000
Energy	3 900 000
Stockfarming	3 319 000
Agriculture	4 800 000

Education Health		1 000 000 5 515 000
Emergency aid		2 000 000
	Total	45 384 000

International organizations and conferences

United Nations

Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

2.2.53. The UN Economic and Social Council's Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) held its 38th session in Geneva from 12 to 23 April.

For the second year in succession the atmosphere was affected by the state of East-West relations, in particular the situation in Poland.

The start of the session was held up for a day to enable the delegations to come to an agreement on item 5 of the agenda, which for a number of years has referred to the 'Brezhnev' proposals for high-level meetings on the environment, energy and transport. In the face of determined opposition from the Western countries, the Eastern bloc countries decided to drop this formula and the agenda finally adopted referred simply to proposals on cooperation among all European countries in these and other fields. All mention of the future high-level meetings was likewise omitted from the general resolution and decisions of the session.

In the general debate, statements by the Community and the United States criticizing the harmful effect of events in Poland on East-West economic relations drew heated retorts from the Polish and Soviet delegations which did nothing to restore the climate of détente which those delegations claimed to be seeking.

Bull. EC 3-1983, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.8.

The texts adopted at the session reflect the international situation and restrict the scope of ECE activities to the continuation of work already under way. The general resolution again avoids any reference to peace, détente or strengthened cooperation. The decisions adopted—on energy, the environment, air and water pollution, the Mediterranean, the Decade for Women and the International Conference on Population—were mainly of a technical nature.

2.2.54. The EEC's new Executive Secretary, Mr Klaus Sahlgren, suggested that since the current climate of East-West relations precluded new initiatives, the opportunity might be taken to carry out an evaluation of the work of the various ECE bodies. This should make for more efficient operation and better use of the limited funds at the organization's disposal. The suggestion was approved by both Eastern and Western European delegations and incorporated in a separate decision on the 'concentration and integration' of the organization's programme of work.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2.2.55. The Commission sent a communication to the Council on the position to be adopted by the Community at Unctad VI, which will take place in Belgrade from 6 June to 1 July.¹

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

2.2.56. The Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea held its first session from 15 March to 8 April in Kingston, Jamaica.

The only concrete achievement at this session was the election by acclamation of a chairman, Mr Joseph S. Warioba from Tanzania.

Nevertheless, a considerable amount of preliminary work was done towards the drafting of the preparatory Commission's rules of procedure and the establishment of its organization and programme of work. This will form the basis for negotiations at the preparatory Commission's next meeting, to be held from 22 August to 16 September.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Council

- 2.2.57. At its meeting on 20 April the GATT Council adopted decisions:
- (i) setting up a working party to examine the 25th annual report by the United States on the Agricultural Adjustment Act;
- (ii) setting up, at the Community's request, a panel to pronounce on the US 'manufacturing clause' (which deals with manufacturing rights);
- (iii) setting up, at the request of the United States, a panel to pronounce on Japanese restrictions affecting trade in leather.

The Council also examined the Community's proceedings *vis-à-vis* Japan under Article XXIII(2),² the aim of which is to set up a working party to look at the problems of access to the Japanese market.

Committee on Subsidies

2.2.58. At a meeting on 21 April the Committee on Subsidies reviewed the state of play with regard to the notification of subsidies under Article XVI(1) of the General Agreement, and discussed possible improvements to the present notification system.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Committee for Agriculture

2.2.59. At a meeting in April, the OECD's Committee for Agriculture drew up a detailed plan for the implementation of a major programme of work on agricultural trade, the

Point 2.2.28.

Point 2.2.25.

aims of which were spelled out by the OECD Council in May last year. The Commission was actively involved in preparing the programme, which deals with basic issues of the OECD countries' agricultural policies, including the common agricultural policy, and it will also be involved in the studies and analyses to be carried out under the programme.

Diplomatic relations

2.2.60. The President of the Council and the President of the Commission received Their Excellencies Mr Terence Christopher O'Brien (New Zealand), Mr Sonatane Tu'a Taumoepeau (Kingdom of Tonga), Datuk Mohd Mustapha bin Datuk Mahmud (Federation of Malaysia) and Mr Fabio Carballo Montero (Republic of Costa Rica), who presented their letters of credence as Heads of Mission of their respective countries to the European Communities with effect from 26 April.

The new ambassadors succeed Mr John George McArthur (New Zealand), Mr Inoke Fotu Faletau (Tonga), Mr Mohd Hussein Kassim (Malaysia) and Mr José Luis Redondo-Gomez (Costa Rica).

3. Financing Community activities

Budget

General budget

1984 budget

2.3.1. In accordance with Article 203(9) of the EEC Treaty, the Commission stated on 25 April, after consulting the Economic Policy Committee, that the maximum rate of increase for non-compulsory expenditure in 1984 would be 11.6%.

This rate is the arithmetical average of the increase in GDP in the Community in 1982 (9.7%), the increase in the budgets of the Member States (13.4%) and the increase in the cost of living (9.5%). It applies to all expenditure in the Community budget apart from that necessarily resulting from the Treaty or from acts adopted in accordance therewith.

Discharge in respect of the 1981 budget

2.3.2. On 15 April Parliament adopted a number of discharge decisions and resolutions for 1981. It granted a discharge to the Commission in respect of the activities of the second and third European Development Funds; it also granted a discharge to the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions and to the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in respect of their budgets and appended to the decisions two resolutions embodying its comments.

Finally, it adopted a resolution on the Court of Auditors' reports on the ECSC accounts and on ECSC housing loans.

¹ Bull. EC 5-1982, point 2.2.38.

¹ OJ L 119, 6.5.1983; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

2.3.3. On 15 April Parliament also passed a resolution on ways in which it may supervise the budgetary operations associated with the activities of the European Investment Bank.¹

Own resources

Future financing of the Community

- 2.3.4. At its 25-26 April meeting the Council agreed to deal with the future financing of the Community, including the United Kingdom problem, at an informal meeting of Foreign Ministers on 14 and 15 May in preparation for the Council meeting on 24 May and the European Council meeting in Stuttgart on 6 and 7 June.
- 2.3.5. On 13 April Parliament adopted a resolution on the future financing of the Community¹ which, while not taking up a position on the basic issue, asked the Commission to clear up a number of questions.
- 2.3.6. Following the publication of the green paper in February² the Commission continued to prepare detailed proposals which it intends to lay before the Council and Parliament at the beginning of May.

ECSC operating budget

- 2.3.7. On 18 April the Commission transmitted to the Council a communication accompanied by a proposal for a Decision relating to a contribution to the ECSC budget out of the general budget of the Communities. This proposal would authorize annual transfers to the ECSC to finance social measures in support of the restructuring of the Community steel industry;³ the funds needed would be determined as part of budgetary procedure. A table of estimates for 1984 to 1986 was attached to the communication.
- 2.3.8. In its annual resolutions on the ECSC operating budget, Parliament has repeatedly called on the Commission to bring forward the date on which this budget is presented (it is now presented at the beginning of November). In practice, it wants more time to prepare its opinion for the adoption of the

ECSC budget at its December part-session, at the same time as the general budget.

On 11 April the Commission accordingly decided to change the procedure for drawing up and implementing the ECSC operating budget. To bring the timetable forward, the Commission advanced to 1 September the date for drawing up the memorandum setting out the expenditure and revenue estimates for the ECSC budget for the following year. It also decided that the reference period for determining the levy base would be the calendar year two years before the year for which the budget is established (e.g. 1982 for the 1984 budget).

Financial operations

ECSC

Loans raised

2.3.9. In April the Commission made a public bond issue of DM 200 million (the equivalent of 88.3 million ECU) with a term of 10 years. It bears an interest rate of 7.5% and was issued at 97.95%.

The Commission also concluded a number of private placings in sterling and German marks for the equivalent of 32.7 million ECU.

Loans paid out

2.3.10. Acting under Articles 54 and 56 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission made loans in April amounting to 19.36 million ECU (industrial loans and conversion loans).

Industrial loans

2.3.11. An industrial loan of 6.77 million ECU was granted to a steel company in France to construct a new power station as a replacement for an obsolete one.

Point 2.4.15; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

Bull. EC 1-1983, point 1.2.1 et seq.

See also Sixteenth General Report, point 297.

Conversion loans

2.3.12. Conversion loans (Article 56) totalling 12.59 million ECU were granted to the following firms:

Italy

Sociétà Europea Tubifici e Acciaierie Spa (SETA), Brescia.

United Kingdom

Gwent: Natural Gas Tubes Ltd, London: plant at Tafarnaubach, Ebbw Vale. Control Data Ltd, London: Brynmawr plant. Creditgrade Ltd, Ebbw Vale.

EEC-NCI

Loans raised

- 2.3.13. In April the Commission made a public issue of SFR 100 million (the equivalent of 32.7 million ECU) for a term of 10 years with an interest rate of 5.75%. It was issued at par.
- 2.3.14. The Commission also made a private placing in Dutch guilders for the equivalent of 19.6 million ECU.

Institutional and political matters

European political cooperation

2.4.1. The Foreign Ministers attending the Council meeting of 25 April adopted the following statement on recent events at the Thai-Kampuchean border:

'The Ten are following with great concern recent developments along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

They deplore the attacks of Vietnamese armed forces on camps of refugees and displaced persons, which constitute a blatant violation of fundamental humanitarian principles and of the UN Charter. Violations of the Thai border involve the risk of the conflict spreading.

The Ten note with regret that the sorely tested Kampuchean civilian population and the refugees are the first to suffer from the military operations.

The Ten appeal to Viet Nam to end its attacks and to refrain from any incursion into Thai territory. They firmly reiterate the demand contained in the joint declaration of the Community-Asean ministerial meeting of 24-25 March that Viet Nam should withdraw all of its troops from Kampuchea and that the right of the Kampuchean people to self-determination should be put into practice in the framework of the relevant resolutions of the UN.'

2.4.2. The Ministers also adopted the latest report on the application of the Code of

Conduct for European companies in South Africa and issued a press communiqué to this effect. The report was sent to the President of Parliament.

2.4.3. Parliament adopted resolutions on the assassination of Mrs Marianella Garcia Villas, President of the Commission on Human Rights in El Salvador, and on the arrest of a French doctor (Dr Philippe Augoyard) in Afghanistan.

European policy and relations between the institutions

European policy

Greek memorandum

2.4.4. The Commission took note of the letter from Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, to Mr Gaston Thorn setting out the Greek Government's official reaction to the Commission's communication

to the Council of 29 March on action to be taken in response to the Greek memorandum of 22 March 1982.¹

The Commission welcomes the Greek Government's positive reaction to the proposed approach. It is now for the Council and, if need be, the European Council to take a final decision. In the meantime the Commission will continue to develop the proposals set out in the communication.

On the question of taxation and the specific problems encountered by Greece in this area, the Commission confirms that it is willing to meet the Greek authorities to discuss a definite timetable for adapting the Greek system to Community regulations. The Greek authorities are in touch with Mr Christopher Tugendhat and Mr Richard Burke.

2.4.5. At the Council meeting on 25 and 26 April Greece's State Secretary for Relations with the Communities, Mr Grigorios Varfis, expressed his Government's satisfaction that the Commission had recognized the need for a package of measures to settle the problems raised by the Greek memorandum. Mr Burke stressed the political importance that the Commission attached to this matter and agreed that the Council must set a firm political guideline at its next meeting.

European Union

2.4.6. Parliament passed a further resolution on the draft European Act, following those adopted in July³ and october 1982.⁴ Pointing out that, in connection with the future financing of the Community, the institutional functions and powers of Parliament were becoming an increasingly important issue, the House 'calls solemnly upon the Council to bring the deliberations on the draft European Act to a swift, constructive and forwardlooking conclusion in such a manner as to ensure that it does not merely formalize what has already been sanctioned by custom but represents a major new landmark along the road to European Union'. The House also affirmed that, with regard to the role of Parliament, the European Act must take account of the resolutions already adopted by Parliament in 1980,5 19816 and 1982.7

2.4.7. At a meeting between the Council and a delegation from Parliament, 8 Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Mr Piet Dankert appraised the progress made in their institutions in reviewing the draft European Act for a solemn declaration on European Union. Mr Dankert highlighted the need to improve the conciliation procedure, initiate effective consultation with Parliament on international agreements and strengthen Parliament's role in appointing the President and Members of the Commission.

2.4.8. On 11 April Parliament passed a resolution on the adoption of a flag for the Community.⁹

Relations between the institutions

Council meets Parliament delegation

2.4.9. On 25 April the Council met a delegation from Parliament. Each institution's delegation was led by its president—Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher for the Council and Mr Piet Dankert for Parliament. The Commission was represented by Mr Gaston Thorn and Mr Frans Andriessen.

The delegations discussed the date of the 1984 elections, the uniform electoral procedure and ways and means of enabling all European citizens to cast their votes, and the Presidents of the Council and of Parliament appraised the progress made in reviewing the Genscher-Colombo Act. 10

¹⁰ Point 2.4.7.

Bull. EC 3-1983, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.13.

Point 2.4.143 OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.
 OJ C 238, 13.9.1982; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, points

^{2.4.1} and 2.4.3.

OJ C 292, 8.11.1982; Bull. EC 10-1982, points 2.4.1

and 2.4.17.

⁵ OJ C 117, 17.4.1980.

⁶ OJ C 234, 14.9.1981; Bull. EC 7/8-1981, points 2.3.4 to 2.3.8.

OJ C 66, 15.3.1982; Bull. EC 2-1982, point 2.4.4.

⁸ Point 2.4.9.

⁹ Point 2.4.16; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

2.4.10. At its 25-26 April meeting the Council again considered the question of establishing a structure for a dialogue on institutional problems between itself and Parliament (contact group), as suggested at the meeting between the ten Foreign Ministers and Parliament's enlarged Bureau on 24 January.¹

2.4.11. On 15 April Parliament passed a resolution on its relations with the European Investment Bank and ways in which Parliament may supervise the budgetary operations associated with the Bank's activities.²

Institutions and organs of the Communities

Parliament³

Strasbourg: 11 to 15 April

2.4.12. The April part-session was dominated by fresh debates on the European Act and a critical appraisal of the Commission's proposals for financing the Community. The Seveso dioxin scandal, recently front-page news, also prompted a debate in the House.

The agenda covered a wide range of matters economic (the recycling of petrodollars, pharmaceuticals strategy and a better use of energy), social (a review of public health and consumer protection policies) and political (a statement of the conditions for relaunching the Madrid CSCE review meeting and a renewed appeal for the resources needed to fight hunger in the world).

Special part-session in Brussels: 27 and 28 April

2.4.13. Parliament also held a special partsession in Brussels, when it made a searching political appraisal of strategies and measures to counter unemployment.⁴

European Council results and European Act (12 April)

2.4.14. Parliament merged into a single debate the discussion of the outcome of the

latest European Council in Brussels⁵ and of the progress of the European Act proposed by Mr Genscher and Mr Colombo.

Though Mr Genscher, the President of the Council, at the outset described the Brussels meeting as a stocktaking half way between Copenhagen and Stuttgart, from which only general guidelines rather than decisions were to be expected, the President of the Commission, Mr Gaston Thorn, deplored the meagre results and especially the failure to set out broad guidelines and make any progress on enlargement of the Community.

This feeling of disappointment with the conclusions of the Brussels European Council was widely shared and voiced in turn by Mr Ernest Glinne (Soc/B), Mr Paolo Barbi (EPP/I) and Mr Adam Fergusson (ED/UK). Certain speakers were quick to refer to the Genscher-Colombo Act, like Mrs Danielle De March (Com/F), who saw it as institutionalism running out of control, or like Mr Paolo Barbi (EPP/I), who felt it was an attempt to diminish Parliament's share in responsibility for the budget. Mr Martin Bangemann (Lib/ D), on the other hand, contended that any attack on Parliament's budgetary powers was solely the French Government's doing and that any action in respect of the institutions was welcome if it constituted progress. This was also the concern and the wish of Mr

¹ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.4.3.

² Point 2.4.18; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983.

This report was prepared from Le point de la session published by Parliament's Secretariat. The complete texts of the resolutions adopted by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 128, 16.5.1983, and the report of the proceedings is contained in OJ Annex 1-296. The Political groups of members are indicated in brackets by the following abbreviations: Soc = Socialists; EPP = European People's Party - Christian Democratic Group; ED = European Democratic Group; Com = Communists and Allies; Lib = Liberals and Democrats; EPD = European Progressive Democrats; Ind = Group for the Technical Coordination and Defence of Independent Groups and Members; NA = Non-affiliated. The countries of origin are indicated as follows: B = Belgium, DK = Denmark, D = Federal Republic of Germany, GR = Greece, F = France, IRL = Ireland, I = Italy, L = Luxembourg, NL = Netherlands, UK = United Kingdom.

Points 1.1.2 to 1.1.10; OJ C 135, 24.5.1983.

³ Bull. EC 3-1983, points 1.5.1 to 1.5.10.

Paolo Barbi (EPP/I), who would nevertheless have preferred to see the Genscher-Colombo Act buried if it confirmed the Luxembourg Agreement and the right of veto within the Council.

Taking a half-way position, Mr Christian de la Malène (EPD/F), who was not to be counted as a diehard institutionalist, believed that an intergovernmental Europe was not enough: democracy had to be strengthened by making people feel that they belonged to the Community. Otherwise, the Community would continue to shrink from within until it became an empty shell; and the proposals in the Commission's green paper were liable to hasten the process. Dissociating himself from the previous speaker, Mr Gérard Israël (EPD/ F) remarked that the Genscher-Colombo Act conferred on Parliament a special legitimacy in the development of both parliamentary and human rights. Alluding to the Fouchet plan in saying that the unification of Europe around a common foreign policy was a true Gaullist idea, Mr Israël welcomed the emphasis laid by the German-Italian initiative on finding and defining a 'common foreign policy' which would stand beside other Community policies. Mr Pierre Pflimlin (EPP/ F) claimed that the contents of the Act fell short of the ambitions of the supporters of a federal union and could not produce a new treaty by 1984, when participation in the elections to Parliament would show how much faith the public had in what the Community was doing and in the solidarity it implied.

The closing speeches were marked by the outspoken hostility of Mrs Eva Gredal (Socl DK) for what she felt was a lack of realism in the European Act and of Mr Adam Fergusson (ED/UK) for the failure of the document to protect the idea of a State's vital interests. Mrs Antoinette Spaak (NA/B) said she would be abstaining since the motion for a resolution on the Act was merely one more in a long line of reports, while Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté and Mr Gérard Israël (EPD/F) said they would abstain because the version put to the vote had too little substance. In the end, the report by the Political Affairs Committee on the draft European Act was adopted with no

major amendments by 123 votes to 27 with 39 abstentions.

Future financing of the Community (13 April)

2.4.15. As the interim report prepared by Mr Rudi Arndt (Soc/D) simply put a list of questions to the Commission without reaching any conclusions on the substance, the importance and strength of the debate were somewhat diminished. The rapporteur nevertheless put very clearly the questions begged by the Commission's proposals in its green paper: first and foremost, what the Commission understood by a balanced budget and correction of budgetary imbalances and what method of calculation it would adopt to replace the evaluation of net contributions by an assessment of the advantages and burdens that the Community brings to each Member State. He also pointed out that the changes implied by a system of financial equalization in favour of the least prosperous States and by the use of agricultural indicators would adversely affect not only the structure of the Community budget but the very nature of the Community as well.

While welcoming the green paper as being better than nothing, Mr Isidor Früh (EPP/D) none the less regretted the vagueness of the Commission's proposals. He called for the 1% ceiling on Community VAT to be removed and for a better balance to be achieved by the development of new policies. But he was opposed to the system of agricultural indicators, which to his mind simply harked back to the system of national contributions. His doubts were echoed by Mr Pietro Adonnino (EPP/I), who also took the Commission to task for acting like consultants and not providing any quantitative data. In contrast, Mr Robert Jackson (ED/UK) supported this return to the idea of contributions, where the costs were borne by those who enjoyed the benefits; he then went on to attack the common agricultural policy. But Mrs Carla Barbarella (Com/I) and Mr Vincent Ansquer (EPD/F) believed that new policies could not be erected on the rubble of the common agricultural policy and that if it had to be changed it must not be by means of

a ceiling on agricultural expenditure but by new regulations to deal with surpluses. Mr Jean Mouchel (EPD/F) pointed out that the costs of the agricultural policy might have their roots in the refusal to tax imports of vegetable oils and fats.

In the eyes of Mr Jens-Peter Bonde (Ind/DK) and Mr Louis Baillot (Com/F), to weigh up the costs and benefits of Community membership on a budgetary basis and only on the strength of the agricultural indicators was completely unjustified and unfair because it ignored the industrial and trading advantages which some Member States obtained in return. The Liberals, in the person of Mrs Christiane Scrivener (Lib/F), announced that they would be tabling amendments to make it clear that they were against reverting to any form of national contribution and were opposed to the idea of fair returns.

Answering the points raised, the Vice-President of the Commission, Mr Christopher Tugendhat, indicated that the Commission's eliminate was to budgetary imbalances by finding new own resources and not by curtailing existing policies. The concepts and criteria applied were abstract and not numerically measurable so no one could put exact figures on the costs and benefits of Community membership. His answers did not satisfy Mr Henri Saby (Soci F), who suspected that the plan was to find political solutions through the budget.

Mr Erwin Lange (Soc/D) levelled his criticisms at the Arndt report, which he found devoid of any conclusions and no more than a list of questions.

In the end, the Arndt report, carrying amendments by the Liberals and Democrats rejecting any idea of fair returns and asking about new economies of scale in the budget, and by Mr Henri Saby (Soc/F) requesting more details concerning the conditions for raising the 1% ceiling on VAT, was adopted by 157 votes to 42.

The dioxin scandal (14 April)

2.4.16. Members of all groups expressed their indignation over the Seveso dioxin

scandal, which had seen this highly dangerous waste pass unhindered across internal Community borders to be stored in an unknown site. After pointing to the culprits—the Swiss firm Hoffmann-La Roche, but also the Member States and the Community authorities for their laxity—several speakers, including Mr Gerd Walter (Soc/D), said they were astounded at the ease with which toxic waste could be exported. Mr Rogier Gauthier (EPD/ F) condemned the thoughtlessness of the manufacturers aided and abetted by the carriers, while Mr Francis Wurtz (Com/F) said that Hoffmann-La Roche, 'a notorious habitual offender', was particularly to blame and that the firm should not be allowed to continue its operations in the Community.

In reply, Mr Karl-Heinz Narjes said that the Commission had no way of demanding and even less of enforcing checks which were currently the responsibility of the Member States. Reminding the House that the Commission had sent a questionnaire to the Italian authorities last December, he pointed out that a Directive on the transfrontier shipment of dangerous waste was already before Parliament and the Council. For the Council, the German Minister, Mr Hartkopf, confessed that he did not know what had happened to the dioxin or where it had gone. The House unanimously passed a resolution urging the Commission to ascertain whether the Directive on dangerous waste was being applied and calling upon the Community institutions to adopt and apply rapidly the proposal for a Directive on the transport of toxic waste.

2.4.17. Parliament gave opinions on a number of Commission proposals including:

(i) a Decision amending the Council Decision of 11 September 1979¹ adopting a multiannual programme (1979-83) in the field of data processing:² approving the extension of the second part of the programme, the House nevertheless considered that research policy must be still

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¹ OJ L 231, 13.9.1979.

² Point 2.1.26.

more selective and avoid placing too much emphasis on outdated technologies;

- (ii) a Decision establishing a prior information and consultation procedure for tax matters: the House pointed out that the proposed procedure was in no sense a guarantee that the measures adopted by the Member States would help to bring about convergent development of tax systems in the Community;
- (iii) a Regulation on action by the Community relating to the environment (ACE);²
- (iv) a Directive on the manufacture, putting into circulation and supply of medicated feedingstuffs in the Community;³
- (v) two Regulations, one amending the Regulation on the granting of temporary and permanent abandonment premiums in respect of certain areas under vines and of premiums for the renunciation of replanting,⁴ and the other amending the Regulation on collective projects for the restructuring of vineyards;⁴
- (vi) a Regulation on the payment of financial incentives in support of certain categories of investment in the rational use of energy;⁵
- (vii) a Regulation on the implementation of the special programme to combat hunger in the world.⁶
- 2.4.18. The House also passed resolutions on:
- (i) the currency restrictions on French citizens: considering that these restrictions were contrary to both the spirit and the letter of the EEC Treaty, the House demanded that the French Government lift them immediately;
- (ii) the French Government's decision to restrict travel abroad: referring to Article 3(c) of the EEC Treaty (concerning the free movement of persons) and to the Helsinki Convention, Parliament asked the Commission to propose to the French Government that it restore freedom of travel within the Community;
- (iii) the violation of the freedom of movement of French tourists resulting from the exchange control regulations introduced by the French Government: referring in particular to Article 7 of the EEC Treaty, which prohibits any discrimination based on nationality, the House requested the Commis-

- sion to investigate whether these measures were compatible with the spirit and objectives of the Treaty of Rome and to suggest to the French Government that it take non-protectionist measures to help restore its balance of payments;
- (iv) the production and use of pharmaceutical products in the Community: the House held that the Community should develop a pharmaceutical policy which reconciled the interests of producers, who incur high research costs in a highly competitive industry, with those of the consumer and of social budgets;
- (v) health policy in the Community and the Commission's failure to act on Parliament's resolution on the social and economic integration of the disabled: concerned at the absence of a European health policy with any continuity, Parliament wanted to see a health policy implemented at Community level and action taken on the policies proposed to help the 13 to 20 million disabled people in the Community;
- (vi) the international code of marketing of breast-milk substitutes: referring to its earlier adoption of the WHO code,⁷ the House urged the Commission to make every effort to ensure that companies based in Member States and operating in developing countries complied with the code;
- (vii) cooperatives in the Community: convinced that cooperatives had an important role to play in job creation, in improving the quality of working conditions and in implementing Community regional and development policies, Parliament urged that every encouragement be given to creating cooperatives which could work towards these objectives;

(viii) organ transplants: the House called on the Commission, in the light of the study being made by the Council of Europe, to draw up within one year rules designed

¹ Point 2.1.58.

² Point 2.1.81.

³ Point 2.1.121.

⁴ Point 2.1.107.
⁵ Point 2.1.143

Point 2.1.143.
Point 2.2.36.

⁷ OJ C 287, 9.11.1981.

to improve coordination and cooperation between European organ banks;

- (ix) consumer policy in the Community: the Commission was urged to tackle with renewed vigour the implementation of the first and second action programmes and to put the proposal on substances with hormonal action to the Council as soon as possible;
- (x) protection of the European consumer against imports into the Community of products declared unfit for consumption by US legislation: the House hoped that the United States would stop exporting these products to the Community and conclude an agreement based on American and European legislation;
- (xi) the Eurocontrol air traffic control centre in Maastricht: Parliament hoped that this centre would as soon as possible be able to ensure the control of Belgian, Dutch, Luxembourg and north German air space for all civilian traffic;
- (xii) the economic and monetary consequences of instability in the world energy market: the House felt that the Community, if possible jointly with the oil-surplus countries, should set up a task force to identify worthwhile large-scale and infrastructure projects in the less-developed countries and oil-surplus countries and in the EEC itself. These projects, to which the necessary funds should be allocated, would be selected according to the contribution they could make to more rational use of the world's limited energy resources;
- (xiii) emergency aid for Ethiopia: Parliament urged that, with the drought afflicting Ethiopia, aid be granted as swiftly as possible and that the Commission make use of all the channels of distribution to ensure that the aid reached the people in need;
- (xiv) ways in which Parliament may supervise the budgetary operations associated with the activities of the European Investment Bank: considering that where the Bank used budget resources it did so under the Commission's responsibility, the House would continue to ensure that this responsibility was not called into question by the cooperation agreements between the Commission and the Bank.

- 2.4.19. Under its budgetary powers Parliament adopted a number of decisions and resolutions on 15 April winding up the procedure for granting discharge to the Community institutions and organs in respect of 1981.¹
- 2.4.20. In the field of political cooperation Parliament passed resolutions on:
- (i) the Madrid Conference on Security and Cooperation: anxious to see an agreement finally reached on cooperation on humanitarian issues and concerning human contacts between Eastern and Western Europe, Parliament called on the Foreign Ministers of the Ten to demand a satisfactory resolution of these problems;
- (ii) the arrest of the French doctor, Dr Augoyard, in Afghanistan: distressed by the flagrant violation of human rights entailed in the arrest and sentencing of Dr Augoyard, the House urged the Foreign Ministers to intervene to give him all necessary legal assistance;
- (iii) the murder of Marianella Garcia Villas: Parliament condemned this and all other murders and violations of human rights and urged the Commission and the Council to seek the assurance of the Government of El Salvador that such rights would be better protected:
- (iv) a flag for the European Community: the House decided that the European flag adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 1955 should become the flag of the European Community.

Council

2.4.21. The Council held five meetings in April. The table below lists the number, place and date of each meeting, the names of the Council President and Commission representatives and the main items of business. A more detailed account of specific items can be found in the sections of the Bulletin referred to in the footnotes.

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¹ Point 2.3.2; OJ C 128, 16.5.1983; OJ L 119, 6.5.1983.

Table 3 — Council meetings in April 1983

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
837th Luxembourg 18 April	Economic and financial	Mr Stoltenberg	Mr Ortoli	Export credits. ¹ Community position defined for Paris negotiations, 25 to 28 April.
	affairs			First-quarter review of economic situation. ²
				Williamsburg Economic Summit. Community position prepared on items likely to be discussed.
				Coordination of financial instruments. Discussed.
		ĺ		Preparations for Unctad VI.
				Consolidated accounts. ³ Agreement reached on most main rules.
			·	Direct insurance. ⁴ Statement by President.
				Financial integration. ⁵ Mr Ortoli introduced Commission communication.
			,	NCI III. ² Council reached decision following conciliation meeting with Parliament delegation.
838th Luxembourg 18 to 21 and 27 and 28 April	Agriculture	Mr Kiechle	Mr Dalsager	Prices for certain products and related measures. ⁶ Problems (especially agri-monetary) affecting prices and related measures examined again.
839th Luxembourg 21 April	Energy	Mr von Würzen	Mr Davignon	Energy strategy and situation on oil market. ⁷ Council reached conclusions.
				Solid fuels. ⁷ Work programme discussed.
				Conversion of plant to solid fuel. ⁷ Two recommendations to Member States agreed.
				Prices and tariffs for natural gas. ⁷ Recommendation adopted.
				Investment in rational utilization of energy. ⁷ Proposal examined.

Table 3 — (suite)

Date et lieu de la session	Objet	Présidence	Commission	Principaux points traités
840th Luxembourg 25 and 26 April	Foreign affairs	Mr Genscher	Mr Thorn, Mr Haferkamp, Mr Natali, Mr Tugendhat, Mr Andriessen, Mr Giolitti, Mr Pisani, Mr Burke	Greenland. Progress report for made. Revision of ERDF. ⁸ Main problems reviewed. Renewal of 1979 US Export Administration Act. ⁹ Council reiterated its serious concern. Spanish accession. ¹⁰ 15th session of ministerial conference prepared. Relations with ACP States: preparations for forthcoming negotiations. ¹¹ First substantive discussion held. Preparations for Unctad VI. Discussed. Italian trade protection measures. ¹² Meeting with Parliament. ¹³ Dialogue with Parliament. ¹³ Dialogue with Parliament on institutional questions. ¹³ Williamsburg Summit. Community position further prepared. Future financing of Community. ¹⁴ Follow-up to Greek memorandum. ¹³ Greek minister made statement on Commission communica-
841st Luxembourg 25 April	Steel	Mr Lambsdorff	Mr Ortoli, Mr Davignon, Mr Andriessen	tion. Expansion of production quotas. ³ Community steel market. ³ Restructuring of steel industry. ³ Extension of Annex I to ECSC Treaty. ³ Follow-up to Helsingør ministerial meeting. ³ 1983 external measures. Commission made oral progress report.

Commercial policy. Economic and monetary policy. Internal market and industrial affairs.

Financial institutions and taxation. Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.9.

¹ 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Agriculture.
Energy.
Regional policy.
Relations with industrialized countries.

Enlargement and bilateral relations with applicant countries.

¹¹

¹²

Development.
Commercial policy.
European policy and relations between the institutions.
Financing Community activities.

Commission

Activities

2.4.22. The Commission held three regular meetings in April and a special meeting at La Hulpe devoted mainly to the problem of new own resources.

It adopted its programme of preparations for the Stuttgart meeting of the European Council scheduled for the middle of June.

Decisions, communications and proposals

2.4.23. The Commission adopted two communications to the Council, one on financial integration within the Community¹ and the other on tax and financial measures in favour of investment.²

It also adopted a communication to the Council on promotion of employment of young people, backed up by a draft Council resolution,³ and a proposal for a Council Directive aimed at achieving complete equality of treatment between men and women in occupational social security schemes.

Applying for the first time the general decisions on the common fisheries policy adopted by the Council last January, the Commission approved proposals for the fishery arrangements for 1983 (total catches, allocation of quotas between Member States and further measures for the conservation of certain species).⁴

The Commission informed the Council of its intention to extend up to the end of 1985 the 'manifest crisis' arrangements for the iron and steel industry, including the system of production quotas.

With an eye to the next Unctad session (to be held in Belgrade next June) the Commission sent the Council a communication setting out guidelines for the Community delegation.

Discussions, policy debates and work in hand

2.4.24. Both at its regular meetings and at the La Hulpe meeting the Commission discussed in detail the proposal on new own resources to be presented to the Council early in May. It also made a good start on the preliminary draft budget for 1984, defining its general shape. Further consideration was also given to securing a tighter control of agricultural spending and production.

Mainly with a view to the coming Western Summit in Williamsburg, Mr Thorn met President Reagan in Washington on 21 April.

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2.4.25. Mr Gaston Thorn and Mr Ivor Richard received a delegation from the Youth Forum led by its President, Mr Ottario Lavaggi. The discussion bore mainly on the Commission paper concerning the promotion of employment for young people,⁵ and the Youth Forum representatives put their points of view.

2.4.26. The Commission organized a meeting with experts of the Employers' Liaison Committee and of the European Centre of Public Enterprises to brief them on intra-Community trade and the simplification of frontier formalities.

Bull. EC 4-1983

Point 1.2.1 et seq.

² Point 1.3.1 et seq.

³ Point 1.1.1 et seq.

Point 1.4.1 et seq.

⁵ Point 1.1.10 et seq.

Court of Justice¹

2.4.27. New cases

Case	Subject	Basis		
ECSC				
61/83 — Klöckner-Werke AG v Commission ¹	Decision setting steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC Treaty	of	the
75/83 — Ferriere San Carlo SpA v Commission	Decision imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC Treaty	of	the
76/83 — 1. Usines Gustave Boël SA; 2. Fabrique de Fer de Maubeuge SA v Commission	Decision imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC Treaty	of	the
Free movement of goods				
72/83 — Campus Oil Ltd and Others v Minister for Industry and Energy and Others	Does a national system requiring purchasers of petroleum products to procure a certain percentage of their supplies from a State-owned refinery fall within the scope of Articles 30 et seq. of the EEC Treaty and, if so, can such a system be justified under Article 36 of the EEC Treaty?		of	the
Customs union				
60/83 — Metro International KG v Oberfinanzdirektion München	Interpretation of tariff subheading 84.52B (electronic cash registers) and applicability of Rule 3(b) of the Rules for the Interpretation of the Nomenclature of the Common Customs Tariff (goods made up of different components) — Regulation (EEC) No 3000/80		of	the
Freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services				
64/83 — Bureau central français v Fonds de garantie automobile	Interpretation of Article 2(2) of Directive 72/166/EEC with regard to the meaning of the phrase 'provisions of its own national law on compulsory insurance' and of Article 1(4) as regards whether a vehicle which has been taken out of circulation in a Member State where it was registered may be regarded as still normally based in the territory of that State	Article 177 EEC Treaty	of	the
Taxation				
70/83 — Gerda Kloppenburg v Finanzamt Leer	Interpretation of the Sixth VAT Directive	Article 177 EEC Treaty	of	the

For more detailed information, see the texts published by the Court of Justice in the Official Journal and the European Court Reports, and the publications of its Information Office (e.g. the annual synopsis of the work of the Court or the information quarterly).

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Affaires	· Objet	Type de rec	ours	
Social security for migrant workers				
54/83 — E. Trionfetti v Commission	Application for a declaration that the social security institutions of a Member State are required to grant the assistance of an interpreter to nationals of other Member States who have applied for a pension, where such assistance is necessary for the procedure to be properly conducted — Article 7 of the Treaty, Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71		of	the
Agriculture				
59/83 — SA Biovilac NV v Commission ²	Claim for damages to make good the loss suffered because of the fact that, as a result of the sale of skimmed-milk powder at extremely low prices, the staple fodder products based on whey manufactured by the applicant have been rendered unsaleable — Regulations (EEC) Nos 368 and 443/77 and 1753 and 2923/82		of	the
62/83 — Eximo Molkereierzeug- nisse Handelsgesellschaft mbH v Commission	Claim for damages to make good the loss suffered as a result of the failure to adjust the refunds fixed in advance after 3 May 1982 (transition to a new milk year) — Regulation (EEC) No 1669/82	Article 215 EEC Treaty	of	the
Fisheries				
63/83 — Regina v K. Kirk ³	Was the United Kingdom entitled, after 31 December 1982, to implement the Sea Fish (Specified UK Waters) (Prohibition of Fishing) Order 1982, in so far as the ban on fishing under the conditions set out in the Order prohibits only vessels registered in Denmark?		of	the
Convention on Jurisdiction and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters				
71/83 — 1. Partenreederei ms. Tilly Russ; 2. E. Russ v Haven- & Vervoerbedrijf Nova NV and Goeminne Hout NV	Is the bill of lading issued by a shipping company to the shipper to be regarded as an 'agreement in writing' or an 'agreement evidenced in writing', as referred to in Article 17 of the Convention and, if so, does this apply also with regard to a third party holding the bill of lading?			
Infringements				
57/83 and 57/83 R — Commission v France	Alcohol monopoly — French measures in favour of 'liberated' alcohol	Article 169 EEC Treaty	of	the
58/83 — Commission v Greece	National measures requiring the payment of certain cash sums and an import guarantee	Article 169 EEC Treaty	of	the
74/83 — Commission v France	Infringement of Article 30 of the Treaty (requirement of double compliance of pressure vessels with national standards and those of the exporting country)		of	the

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Disputes between the Community and its staff

v Commission: 107/79 Rev., 66/83, 67/83, 68/83

v Council: 65/83

v Court of Auditors: 69/83

2.4.28. Judgments.

Date and case	Held
ECSC	
20.4.1983, 348/82 R — Industrie Riunite Odelesi SpA v Commission	Suspension of operation of Article 2 of the Commission's decision of 24 November 1982 ordered in return for payment of a bank guarantee
20.4.1983, 10/83 R — Metalgoi SpA v Commission	Suspension of operation of Article 2 of the Commission's decision of 24 November 1982 ordered in return for payment of a bank guarantee
Free movement of goods	
20.4.1983, 59/82 — Schutzverband gegen Unwesen in der Wirtschaft v Weinvertriebs GmbH	A ban on imports of vermouth whose alcohol content is less than the minimum laid down in the exporting Member State for products marketed on its domestic market, while such a minimum is not laid down in respect of the marketing of vermouth produced in the importing Member State, must be regarded as a measure having an effect equivalent to a quantitative restriction prohibited by Article 30 of the Treaty
Taxation	
26.4.1983, 38/82 — HZA Flensburg v Hansen GmbH & Co	Article 95 of the Treaty must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to benefit from a domestic tax advantage which is permissible under Community law because it is non-discriminatory, spirits imported from other Member States must satisfy all the conditions laid down in the provision governing the grant of the tax advantage in question
Agriculture	
28.4.1983, 170/82 — Office national de commercialisation des produits vitivinicoles v Les Fils d'Henri Ramel	Compliance with the reference price for wines imported from Algeria

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¹ OJ C 126, 11.5.1983. ² OJ C 119, 4.5.1983. ³ OJ C 127, 13.5.1983.

Date and case	Held
Infringements	
19.4.1983, 113/82 — Commission v Federal Republic of Germany	The Federal Republic of Germany has failed to fulfil its obligations under the EEC Treaty in that it has not ensured that the prohibition, contained in Article 4 of Council Regulation No 2253/77, of any increase in the areas planted with hops was observed by the producer groups established on its territory, in the event of the granting of aids for conversion to other varieties and for the reorganization of hop gardens
20.4.1983, 49/82 — Commission v Netherlands	The Netherlands has failed to fulfil its obligations under the EEC Treaty by permitting butter in bulk from non-member countries to be packed in small quantities in customs warehouses

Disputes between the Community and its staff

v Commission: 21.4.1983, 282/81 — Application dismissed 28.4.1983, 143/82 — Application dismissed as unfounded

Orders for removal from the Court Register

25.2.1983 - 293/82 De Compte v Parliament

23.3.1983, 6 to 17/80 and 19 to 21/80 — Dino Battaglia and Others v Commission

21.4.1983, 127/82 — Fischbach v Commission

28.4.1983, 1254 to 1296/79 and 1298 to 1321/79 — Dino Battaglia and Others v Commission

Court of Auditors

2.4.29. Following the resignation of Mr Arne K. Johansen as a Member of the Court of Auditors, the Council, after consulting Parliament, appointed Mr Keld Brixtofte to take his place from 18 April until the end of his term of office. Mr Brixtofte took the oath before the Court of Justice on 19 April.

When it met on 21 April the Court decided to give Mr Brixtofte responsibility for auditing own resources.

2.4.30. On 14 April the Court adopted a special report on the application of the Regulations of 17 May 1977¹ and 22 May 1978² introducing a system of premiums for the non-marketing of milk products and for the conversion of dairy herds.

Economic and Social Committee

207th plenary session

2.4.31. The Economic and Social Committee held its 207th plenary session on 27 and 28 April with Mr Ceyrac in the chair.

The Committee delivered five opinions, three of them after debate. It failed in the end to adopt an own-initiative opinion on young people and their role in the development of the Community, as originally planned, but it did decide to produce an own-initiative opinion on social security at its next session.

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OJ L 131, 26.5.1977.

² OJ L 134, 22.5.1978.

Opinions

Temporary work

2.4.32. In the opinion on the proposal for a Directive concerning temporary work.1 approved by 65 votes for to 44 against, with 11 abstentions, the Committee endorsed the aim of improving protection for temporary workers. To that end it called for closer controls on temporary employment agencies and suggested that placement should be carried out by non-profit-making netural agencies. Noting that provision is already made for co-liability in Belgium, Germany, France and the Netherlands, the Committee urged that user firms should be made liable for paying wages and social security contributions. It also recommended that temporary workers supplied unlawfully by an agency should be regarded as employees of the user firms.

Finally, the Committee felt that fixed-duration contracts should not be covered by the proposed Directive but should, if necessary, be dealt with in separate instrument.

The Employers' Group within the Committee was opposed to the Directive and issued a minority statement criticizing the proposed Directive as unacceptable and unnecessary. It was feared that it would introduce an element of rigidity in the labour market threatening to hamper the efficiency of trade and industry and penalize those seeking employment.

Hazardous wastes

2.4.33. In the opinion it passed, with just two abstentions, on the proposed Directive on the supervision and control of transfrontier shipment wastes,² of hazardous the Committee stressed the urgent need for Community rules in this area, a need highlighted by the recent affair surrounding the disposal of the Seveso waste. The Committee hoped that the Council would begin discussing the proposal on 16 June so that it could be brought into effect as soon as possible. It urged that particularly hazardous wastes should be shipped abroad only when they could not be disposed of without risk to man and the environment in their country of origin. It also called for a more precise indication of the national authorities to which the consignment documents would be delivered in the country of destination.

Safety and health at work

2.4.34. The Committee considered the Community's second action programme on safety and health at work³ and agreed, with no votes against and four abstentions, that more resources should be made available for this purpose, that full use should be made of new scientific and technological advances and that both sides of industry should actively participate.

The Committee also called for improved evaluation of common risks, exposure limits and preventive safety measures, recommending the creation of a data bank on occupational cancers and the preparation of a Community Directive on the safety of machinery and instruments.

2.4.35. The Committee adopted two opinions without debate. It unanimously approved the proposed Regulation on action by the Community relating to the environment.4 Reiterating its support for the principle that the polluter must pay, the Committee called for Community action in this area and urged that the financial support on the environment should be more strongly concentrated in future. It suggested that priority should be given to finance for the metalworking, tanning, textile dyeing and finishing, and other agricultural processing industries and that support for 'cleaner' technologies should come before the development of techniques for monitoring the quality of the environment, even though there was ground to be made up in the latter field.

2.4.36. The Committee also approved the proposed Thirteenth Directive on the harmonization of laws relating to VAT⁵ by 75 votes

OJ C 128, 19.5.1982; Bull. EC 4-1982, point 1.2.1 et

OJ C 53, 25.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.55.
 OJ C 308, 25.11.1982; Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.55.

OJ C 30, 4.2.1983; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.96.
 OJ C 223, 27.8.1982; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.54.

to 7, with 25 abstentions. The proposal concerns the refund of VAT to taxable persons not established in Community territory. The Committee recommended that the guiding principle for the question of the refund of VAT in relations with non-member countries should be that of reciprocity.

European Investment Bank

Operations in April

2.4.37. In April the European Investment Bank announced loans for investments within the Community totalling 234.9 million ECU. The breakdown was as follows: 148.8 million ECU for investments in France, 50 million in the United Kingdom and 36.1 million in Greece. In this total 37.2 million ECU was provided from the resources of the new Community borrowing and lending instrument (NCI). Outside the Community the Bank lent 18 million ECU for port facilities in Morocco under the Financial Protocol between Morocco and the Community.

Community

France

2.4.38. FF 1 000 million was lent in France, including 400 million to Electricité de France (EdF) for the laying of high-voltage submarine power lines with a total nominal capacity of 2 000 MW in order to link the British and French power grids. The total investment, estimated at more than 1 000 million ECU, is for eight cables over a 69-km distance, of which 45 km beneath the Channel in four 1.5-m-deep trenches between Bonningues, 8 km from Calais, and Sellindge, 24 km from Dover. The project also includes two converter stations, control centres and various ancillary installations.

The scheme is due for completion at the end of 1986 and will provide a reliable, efficient link between the two grids and connect the British power network with the whole of the Western European system. This will be the second scheme of its kind, a first cable of much smaller capacity (160 MW) having been laid on the seabed in 1961 but taken out

of service in 1981 because of its high failure rate.

The cross-Channel link will enable the two national grids to enjoy greater operating flexibility and enhance their security of supply. As such it will contribute to the quest in the Community to make more rational use of energy, with special emphasis on the reduction of imports, especially oil.

The Bank also lent UKL 30 million to the Electricity Council (United Kingdom) for onlending to the Central Electricity Generating Board, the joint promoters with EdF.

2.4.39. FF 250 million was lent to the Fonds spécial de grands travaux (FSGT) for road improvement schemes in west and south-west France, Lorraine and Corsica. The function of the FSGT, a public administrative body set up in August 1982 and managed by the Caisse des dépôts et consignations, is to contribute towards financing transport infrastructure and energy-saving schemes. This loan will finance eight bypasses around towns on major roads and will help to improve medium and long-distance links with some of the less developed regions, such as the Cotentin peninsula, Brittany, the Massif Central and the west and south-west. Three schemes will improve the road network of medium-sized towns and one will centre on the widening and realignment of a main road in southern Corsica. The European Regional Development Fund is also lending its support to these schemes, which will help boost economic development in the regions concerned.

The FSGT also received a global loan of FF 250 million from NCI resources to finance small and medium-scale investment undertaken by local authorities and public hospitals to save energy. The measures financed may involve thermal insulation of public buildings, hospitals and secondary schools, or the

¹ The conversion rates at 31 March used by the EIB in statistics for the second quarter were 1 ECU = BFR 45.32, DKR 8.11, DM 2.30, DR 68.54, FF 6.52, HFL 2.54, IRL 0.69, LIT 1 326, LFR 45.32, UKL 0.60, USD 0.97.

OJ L 298, 20.10.1978; Bull. EC 10-1978, point 2.1.10.

installation of equipment to save energy by recuperating heat, heating control systems, heat pumps and installations to utilize solar or biomass energy. The investment financed with funds provided through this global loan will help towards attaining the Community's energy goals. Finally, FF 100 million was granted to Crédit d'équipement des petites et moyennes entreprises for financing small and medium-scale industrial and hotel ventures in parts of the country with development or conversion problems; the ventures were selected in the light of their expected impact on regional development or industrial conversion.

Greece

2.4.40. Loans of DR 2 800 million were granted, of which 1 200 million for construction of two hydroelectric generating units, each with a capacity of 75 MW, on the river Acheloos, downstream of Stratos, to the north of Agrinion in west central Greece. The works comprise a dam 1 900 m long and 22 m high with a reservoir capacity of more than 80 million m³ plus auxiliary works and equipment. This power station should be connected to the national grid towards the end of 1985, allowing energy savings of around 140 000 tonnes of oil equivalent per year.

Dr 600 million has been lent to finance construction of two generating units, each with a capacity of 105 MW, at Pigai, 35 km to the north of Ioannina (Epirus). The works comprise a main dam 300 m long and 70 m high with a capacity of 260 million m³ and various auxiliary works. The power station should be connected up to the grid in 1986, allowing savings of around 44 000 tonnes of oil equivalent per year. Extensions are planned so as to increase the volume of water diverted towards the dam and thus raise electricity generation by some 65%.

The construction of these two power stations meets the Greek Government's wish to reduce the country's dependence on imports of oil, and by virtue of their location in regional development areas they will also help create the necessary conditions for promoting economic activity.

DR 1 000 million was lent in the form of a global loan to the Investment Bank to help create new activities in development areas and thus reduce regional disparities. Allocations may also be used to finance the modernization of small and medium-sized industrial firms. The Investment Bank is one of Greece's long-term finance institutions providing funds for the country's economic development; its principal shareholders are the Commercial Bank of Greece and the Ionian and Popular Bank of Greece, while banks in the Community's other member countries have smaller interests.

Outside the Community

2.4.41. The European Investment Bank made a loan of 18 million ECU to finance the extension of petroleum facilities at the port of Mohammedia, between Casablanca and Rabat, in Morocco. The loan, the first under the new EEC-Morocco Financial Protocol which came into force on 1 January 1983, will help to construct a breakwater nearly 2.6 km long and five 20-m-deep petroleum berths to accommodate vessels of up to 150 000 dwt and make for speedier discharging.

Supplementing installations at Casablanca, the port of Mohammedia will supply the local oil refinery and, in the longer term, also handle bulk goods. It is estimated that Morocco's oil imports, at present amounting to 4 million tonnes per year, will rise to 7 million tonnes in 1990 and 9 million tonnes by the year 2000.

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1. ECU

Values in national currencies of one ECU

29 April 1983 1	ı
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc (convertible)	45.1155
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc (financial)	45.1823
German mark	2.26441
	1
Dutch guilder	2.54911
Pound sterling	0.589852
Danish krone	8.05231
French franc	6.79047
Italian lira	1 345.89
Irish pound	0.716774
Greek drachma	77.2949
United States dollar	0.921054
Swiss franc	1.90059
Spanish peseta	126.000
Swedish krona	6.90054
Norwegian krone	6.54501
Canadian dollar	1.12829
Portuguese escudo	91.1843
Austrian schilling	15.9342
Finnish mark	5.00777
Japanese yen	218.750
Australian dollar	1.06112
New Zealand dollar	1.39554

OJ C 117, 30.4.1983.

NB. Explanatory notes on the ECU and 'green' rates can be found in Bull. EC 7/8-1982, points 3.1.1 to 3.1.3.

Representative rates ('green' rates)

Conversion rates into national currencies for the ECU used in connection with the common agricultural policy

April 1983			
National currency	Value in national currency of one ECU		
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc	44.9704 ³ 44.3662 ⁵ 42.9772 ²		
Danish krone	8.23400		
German mark	2.65660 ¹ 2.57524 ²		
Greek drachma	66.5526 ⁴ 71.5619 ²		
French franc	6.37174 ⁶ 6.19564 ²		
Irish pound	0.691011		
Italian lira	1 289.00		
Dutch guilder	2.81318 ¹ 2.75563 ²		
Pound sterling	0.618655		

For seeds.

For other products.

For pigmeat, olive oil, wine and fish.

For beef and veal, sheepmeat, milk and milk products.
For pigmeat, beef and veal, sheepmeat, olive oil, wine, fish, milk and milk products.

2. Additional references in the Official Journal

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 2-1983

Points 2.3.1 to 2.3.6

Final adoption of amending and supplementary budget No 1 of the European Communities for the financial year 1983 OJ L 60, 7.3.1983

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Points 2.4.25 to 2.4.32

Opinions given by the Economic and Social Committee at its plenary session on 23 and 24 February 1983
OJ C 90, 5.4.1983

Bull. EC 3-1983

Point 2.1.8

Council Directive of 28 March 1983 laying down

a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations
OJ L 109, 26.4.1983

Point 2.1.16

Commission Directive of 28 March 1983 adapting to technical progress Council Directive 78/764/ EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the driver's seat on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors OIL 109, 26.4.1983

Point 2.1.89

Second Commission Directive of 30 March 1983 adapting to technical progress Annexes II, III, IV and V to Council Directive 76/768/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products

OJ L 109, 26.4.1983

Point 2.1.133

Council Regulation (EEC) No 971/83 of 28 March 1983 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea on fishing off the Guinean coast OJ L 111, 27.4.1983

3. Infringement procedures

Reasoned opinions

3.3.1. In April the Commission delivered a reasoned opinion addressed to the Federal Republic of Germany concerning import restrictions on vermouth.

Bull. EC 4-1983



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Publications of the European Communities



Publications of the European Communities

4 - 1983

Introductory note

This catalogue includes the newly published monographs and series issued during the period to which it relates by the institutions of the European Communities, and also their current periodicals. Publications of which English versions have been issued are listed only in that language; otherwise another version, but only one, is included, in the following order of choice:

French Spanish
German Portuguese
Italian Greek
Dutch others

Danish

Where other language versions also exist, cross-references are provided by means of a code (those codes should not be used for ordering purposes):

IT: 1 - 12

which means that the Italian version is described in the Italian catalogue of January under No 12. This number is specific to each catalogue; it is a sequence number printed in consecutive order, opposite each entry in the classified list.

Arrangement

The catalogue is divided into three parts, as follows:

Part I — The classified list provides a subject classification of the titles included under 20 headings each divided into subheadings (see below).

Under each subheading, monographs and series are listed first in alphabetical order; there then follows a similar list of periodical titles.

Full entries for monographs and series appear only once; otherwise cross-references are given to the full entries identifying them by the sequence numbers already described. Periodical titles appear in the classified list only as cross-reference entries, full entries being found in Part II.

Part II — Periodicals presents full details of each current Community periodical, listed alphabetically.

Part III - The indexes of titles and series are listed alphabetically and cross-refer using the abovementioned

sequence numbers to the entries in Part I of the monthly catalogue. These indexes cumulate throughout the year.

How to obtain publications

Publications may be priced for sale, gratis, or of limited distribution. Those of the last two classes may be obtained from the issuing institutions, or, where they are published by the Information Offices of the Commission, from those offices, whose addresses are given in the lists on pp. 4 and 5. Publications of limited distribution are, however, generally only for the attention of governments of Member States, Community departments and other authorities concerned.

Orders for priced publications should be directed to the Sales Offices listed on the last page.

All orders should quote the full title, as well as the ISBN or ISSN where such a number precedes the prices in the catalogue.

Abbreviations and conventional signs

The text languages of publications are indicated by the following abbreviations:

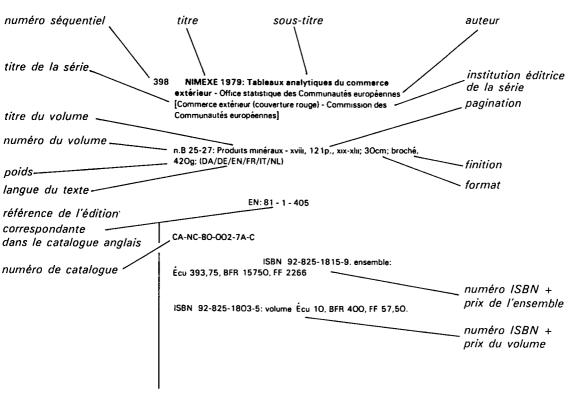
DA	Danish	GA	Irish
DE	German	ΙT	Italian
GR	Greek	NL	Dutch
EN	English	ES	Spanish
FR	French	PT	Portuguese

A string of such symbols separated by diagonal strokes denotes a publication in which different language ver sions of the same text appear under one cover.

The abbreviation 'multi' indicates a publication with a mixed multilingual text.

Prices, which exclude any value-added tax which may be chargeable, are fixed in various currencies, using the following abbreviations:

BFR	Belgian franc	HFL	Dutch guilder
DKR	Danish crown	IRL	Irish pound
DM	German mark	LIT	Italian lira
DR	Greek drachma	PTA	Spanish peseta
ESC	Portuguese escudo	UKL	Pound sterling
FF	French franc	USD	US dollar



405 NIMEXE 1979: Analytical tables of foreign trade - Statistical Office of the European Communities [External trade (red cover) - Commission of the European Communities]

n.B 25-27: Mineral products - xviii, 121p , xix-xlii; 30cm; softcover; 420g, (DA/DE/EN/FR/IT/NL)

FR. 81 - 1 - 398

CA-NC-80-002-7A-C ISBN 92-825-1815-9. set. ECU 393,75, BFR 1570, IRL 261, UKL 233, USD 497
ISBN 92-825-1803-5: volume: ECU 10, BFR 400, IRL 6 65, UKL 5-90, USD 12 70.

Institutions

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