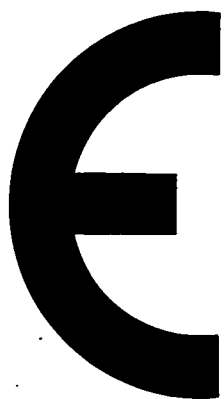


Bulletin

OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES

Commission



No 3 1983

Volume 16

The Bulletin of the European Communities reports on the activities of the Commission and the other Community institutions. It is edited by the Secretariat-General of the Commission (rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels) and published eleven times a year (one issue covers July and August) in the official Community languages and Spanish.

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The following reference system is used: the first digit indicates the part number, the second digit the chapter number and the subsequent digit or digits the point number. Citations should therefore read as follows: Bull. EC 1-1979, point 1.1.3 or 2.2.36.

Supplements to the Bulletin are published in a separate series at irregular intervals. They contain official Commission material (e.g. communications to the Council, programmes, reports and proposals). The Supplements do not appear in Spanish.



Bulletin

OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

ECSC — EEC — EAEC
Commission of the European Communities
Secretariat-General
Brussels

Sent to press in May 1983

No 3
1983
Volume 16

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- 8/82 Problems of enlargement—Taking stock and proposals

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PART ONE
SPECIAL FEATURES

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 = Franc français

HFL = Nederlandse gulden (Hollandse florijn)

IRL = Irish pound / punt

LFR = Franc luxembourgeois

LIT = Lira italiana

UKL = Pound sterling

USD = United States dollar

1. Development policy: Commission guidelines

1.1.1. The Commission sent two important communications on development policy to the Council on 24 and 29 March: the first proposes guidelines for the negotiations—scheduled to open in September—on a new convention between the EEC and 63 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) plus Angola and Mozambique (which have declared they are ready to take part);¹ the second establishes new guidelines for Community food aid to facilitate its incorporation in an overall policy and adapt it to the present economic situation.²

These communications are directly in line with the guidelines adopted by the Commission in its memorandum last September³ and represent their practical application in two essential areas of European development policy.

As Mr Edgard Pisani pointed out, the main idea behind this reshaping of cooperation policy is to give peasant farmers the central role in ensuring the nutritional balance of each country and each region. Mr Pisani also referred to the need for Europe to adopt a generous approach under the new policy, in spite of the present recession.

EEC-ACP cooperation: the importance of the forthcoming negotiations

1.1.2. The second Lomé Convention, which came into force on 1 January 1981, is due to expire on 28 February 1985. For EEC-ACP cooperation to continue beyond that date, negotiations for a new convention have to be opened in the second half of 1983.

On 29 March the Commission sent a communication to the Council containing guidelines to enable the Community to work out its approach to the negotiations in good time.

1.1.3. Instead of a convention that would have to be negotiated afresh every five years, the Commission is proposing a convention of indefinite duration, a genuine treaty between the Community and the ACP States, as a

means of underlining both the importance of the political gesture and the faith of all concerned in the durability of the existing cooperation system. This basic convention, which would lay down the ultimate aims, objectives and principles of cooperation in the fields of trade (access to the market), finance and commodities, would have implementation protocols which would be renegotiable every five years.

The Commission's proposals

1.1.4. The idea behind the Commission's proposals is to keep what has been attained in the previous Yaoundé and Lomé Conventions while at the same time improving cooperation instruments and practice where necessary to suit the present situation of the ACP countries and their international environment.

The Commission paper outlines the present situation and suggests the objectives and ultimate aims on which agreement should be sought with the ACP States and which should be included in the basic convention: to find ways of improving people's living conditions and making development more autonomous and self-sustained; to give priority to agricultural development and food self-sufficiency; to give more support to regional cooperation and regional integration efforts made by the ACP countries; and to take more account of the long-term constraints and possibilities of development (fight against desertification and large-scale endemic diseases, scientific research, etc.).

In line with the guidelines set out in the memorandum, the document then proposes the renewals, adjustments or improvements which are needed in the main areas and instruments of cooperation: trade regulations and trade promotion; principles, procedures

¹ The ACP countries include 22 of the 31 least-developed countries.

² COM(83)141 final.

³ Bull. EC 9-1982, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.11; Supplement 5/82 — Bull. EC.

and instruments of financial cooperation; commodity measures; and cooperation institutions.

A political approach

1.1.5. When presenting the policy set out in the Commission document, Mr Pisani said that the Commission would like to see EEC-ACP cooperation given a new dimension, so that it would be more than just an adaptation of the present Lomé Convention. He urged that the first phase of negotiation should endeavour to reach broad consensus on the objectives, ultimate aims and means of achieving cooperation.

The discussions already started in developing countries (OAU's Lagos Plan) and in the Community (based on the Commission memorandum on development policy)¹ indicate that the elements of such an agreement do exist.

1.1.6. The negotiations will open in September in circumstances less encouraging than those of five years ago. The facts of international life have changed and East-West confrontation has come to replace North-South dialogue as the issue of central concern. The Second Development Decade has shown us, in retrospect, that aid has been inadequate or inappropriate, and that many Third World countries have been unable to derive any real benefit from what they did get. The poorest countries' debts are eating their substance away and stand in the way of fresh investment. Regarding the Lomé Convention itself, not all the schemes it has financed have proved to be worthwhile instruments of development.

As Mr Pisani points out, the success of the enterprise is vital to the ACP countries, because if they cannot count on the Community they will have difficulty in finding a new partner willing to commit itself to a negotiated, contractually-based, lasting and politically neutral system of development cooperation. Success is equally vital to Europe, because a part of its strength in international affairs comes from its special relations with the Third World.

1.1.7. The negotiations will not be easy, because it will be difficult, in the depths of recession, to think ahead into the distant future, to come to terms with the fact that for the countries of the Third World development does not mean copying the industrialized countries and that food aid is not primarily a way of disposing of surpluses; to get it across that a million fuel-efficient stoves are worth more than one monster dam; to explain to certain governments that the fault lies in their methods or the priorities they have adopted; it will be difficult to turn the welfare cases into productive economies and foster their growth step by step.

1.1.8. However, the Community must accept this challenge. In September 1981 it published a plan to combat world hunger; a year later the Commission presented its 'Memorandum on the Community's development policy', and it has adopted a communication to the Council on 'Food aid for development'. These three papers outline or amplify to some extent the ideas to be enshrined in the convention.

Food aid for development

Chronological summary

October 1979:

The European Parliament holds its first major debate on world hunger.²

November 1981:

The Commission launches a 'plan of action to combat world hunger', with the emphasis on support for structural measures — food strategies and long-term operations to safeguard the rural environment.³

June 1982:

The Commission presents proposals for a special programme to combat world hunger, covering both immediate additional relief for

¹ Bull. EC 9-1982, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.11; Supplement 5/82 — Bull. EC.

² Bull. EC 10-1979, point 2.3.13.

³ Bull. EC 9-1981, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.8.

refugees and structural measures (the Council allowed only 115 million ECU of the proposed 184 million ECU budget for the programme).¹

Parliament holds a second major debate.²

1982:

The policy of supporting food strategies is tried out for the first time in four countries — Kenya, Mali, Rwanda and Zambia.

1981/82:

The Commission orders a full-scale evaluation of Community food aid programmes.

September 1982:

In a memorandum on Community development policy the Commission reiterates the need to reform food aid policy.³

March 1983:

The Commission proposes specific new guidelines to the Council.

Need for food aid and its aims

Need for food aid

1.1.9. Despite their own efforts and the aid they have received, most developing countries are unable to meet domestic demand for food and have to resort to imports, which can place a further strain on their balance of payments and increase their external indebtedness. The FAO estimates that by the turn of the century the developing countries' commercial cereal imports will have reached 200 million tonnes a year (compared to 42 million tonnes in 1970/71 and 100 million tonnes in 1980/81); Unicef predicts a rise in the number of seriously malnourished children from 400 million to 600 million in the next 10 or 20 years. These figures clearly show both the continuing need for food aid and the crucial importance of encouraging and helping the developing countries to put in hand veritable food and agriculture strategies.

Food aid until now

1.1.10. The evaluation undertaken in 1982 showed the Community food aid system to be inflexible, based on a concept thought up 30

years ago as a means of disposing of the industrialized countries' grain surpluses. The rules laid down a few years ago by the FAO, which have scarcely changed in the intervening years, state that food aid can only be used to top up normal commercial imports.⁴

The Community has subscribed both to those rules and to the 1967 Food Aid Convention. Since then, the Community, like other donors, has of course 'bent' the food aid rules in the interests of development proper, but the process has not gone far enough.

Aims of food aid: priority for structural aid

Structural development aid

1.1.11. The Commission feels that Community food aid should cease to be an end in itself and be integrated into comprehensive food and agriculture strategies, which offer the only hope of ending the endemic malnutrition in the developing countries. The idea is that the new food aid policy should be both wider, to take more account of the diversity of the developing countries' needs, and more flexible as regards the way in which the aid can be used.

The different forms of food aid

1.1.12. However, while regarding structural aid for food and agricultural development as a priority, the Commission is aware of the importance of aid provided for other purposes:

- (i) *emergency food aid* to provide humanitarian relief in crises and disasters;
- (ii) *nutritional aid* for refugees;
- (iii) *indirect balance-of-payments aid* — food aid can be used to reduce a country's food import bill;
- (iv) *aid for the setting up of production chains* — an example is Operation Flood, in India, where aid in the form of milk products

¹ Bull. EC 6-1982, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.7.

² Bull. EC 6-1982, point 1.3.6.

³ Bull. EC 9-1982, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.11; Supplement 5/82 — Bull. EC.

⁴ The Committee on Surplus Disposal still monitors the application of these rules.

is given as start-up assistance for an integrated project aimed at setting up local production, processing and distribution facilities.

Ways of using food aid

Satisfying immediate nutritional requirements

1.1.13. Food aid can be used in various ways to satisfy immediate nutritional requirements: free distribution or sale at reduced prices of food products; specific nutritional programmes (for children or nursing mothers, for example); provision of food products in exchange for work done.

Integrating food aid into the development drive

1.1.14. Food aid has to be one among a number of instruments serving food strategies designed to harness the energies of peasant farmers and increase local food production. Accordingly, it should not have the effect of depressing market prices or giving people dietary habits which can never be catered for by local food production and it should be integrated into a wider programme.

There are a number of ways of achieving these ends:

- (a) *Counterpart funds*, i.e. money generated by the sale on the local market of products supplied as food aid, which can be used to:
 - (i) finance the local costs of agricultural development projects;
 - (ii) constitute working capital for an intervention fund to stabilize domestic market prices;
 - (iii) set up an equalization fund so that the impact on consumer prices of an increase in producer prices can be spread over a period of time;
 - (iv) promote the processing and packaging of local products;
 - (v) contribute to the budget costs of implementing a food strategy.
- (b) *Direct use of food aid products*
 - (i) to constitute national or regional security stocks;

- (ii) to start up and support the development of agricultural processing units.

- (c) *Triangular operations*, in which food is bought in one developing country, which has an exportable availability, to be sent as food aid to a country with a shortfall.

Adapting the Community food aid system

1.1.15. While for one-off aid operations current practice can continue more or less unchanged, the system will have to be radically revised if it is to cope with aid intended as a back-up for the development of agriculture and food development.

Programming

Multiannual and contractual programming

1.1.16. Instead of the present yearly allocations, granted on the basis of essentially quantitative criteria without any real attempt being made to coordinate the way in which the aid will be used, the Commission is proposing that while quantitative criteria (structural food shortfall, extent of unmet nutritional requirements, etc.) will continue to be taken into account in allocating aid, two equally important qualitative criteria must also be considered:

- (i) whether the food aid will contribute to efforts to develop a country's own food production or marketing arrangements;
- (ii) whether the recipient country is able or willing to undertake such efforts within a coherent policy framework.

This means that before a decision is taken there will have to be detailed discussions with the recipient country aimed at integrating the planned food aid operation with its general development policy and reaching agreement on how the aid should be used. The outcome of the dialogue should be the conclusion of a food aid contract setting out the rights and obligations of the two sides over a period of several years. As well as establishing the general framework within which food aid will be integrated, the contract will specify:

- (i) the quantity and type of products to be supplied each year and the delivery arrangements;

- (ii) how the aid is to be used and for what purpose;
- (iii) how any counterpart funds are to be used.

Such a planned, contractual approach could and should make for better coordination between Community and Member State aid operations.

Suiting the products to the needs

1.1.17. In order to meet people's needs in the most appropriate way and avoid creating dietary habits which local production will never be able to satisfy, food aid will need to be less tied to the existence of disposable surpluses.

The problem differs according to the product concerned.

1.1.18. Food aid in the form of cereals will continue to be essential, as wheat, maize, rice, etc. account for over half of people's calory and protein intake in the Third World. But it is important to see that the aid supports local growers' efforts rather than discouraging them. Hence:

- (i) in the case of wheat, which is mainly used to satisfy urban demand, it would be best to sell the product on the local market in order to generate counterpart funds which can then be used either to procure local produce, to stabilize the market or to finance food production projects;
- (ii) maize (of which the Community itself has a shortfall) should whenever possible be procured locally, i.e. in neighbouring regions or countries;
- (iii) rice, which is in an intermediate situation between the two preceding ones, should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, following the guidelines for wheat or maize.

1.1.19. In order to avoid the widely criticized drawbacks of aid in the form of milk products, these should be provided only where conditions of hygiene and the economic situation permit.

In countries which themselves have a dairy sector, such aid can be used to support fledgling production or processing systems or to make up a temporary shortfall.

Elsewhere, milk products should as far as possible be supplied only as part of specific nutritional programmes implemented by specialist bodies.

1.1.20. In addition, as a way of providing extra proteins and calories without creating 'imported' dietary habits, there should be an increasing move towards back-up schemes in the form of local purchasing of food legumes, use of fishery products (dried fish or meal) and the use of locally produced oil or other types of Community-produced oils to replace butteroil.

Transport costs

1.1.21. The Community should make it a rule to cover the transport costs of all food aid operations (two thirds of aid is already transported at the Community's expense).

Distribution

1.1.22. Hitherto, a large proportion of food aid has been channelled via public international organizations or non-governmental organizations. These channels should continue to be used where they offer a guarantee of greater efficiency in the distribution of food to target sections of the population or for one-off development schemes. On the other hand, it is more difficult to assign them a role in operations to support food policies or strategies; but this should not be rejected out of hand.

1.1.23. The Community's 1982 food aid programme provided for the allocation of 1 100 000 tonnes of cereals (a little over 1% of the developing countries' import requirements), 150 000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder and 45 000 tonnes of butteroil, at a total cost of 700 million ECU (two thirds of which was for the milk products programme). The recipients are over 60 developing countries, the main ones being Bangladesh, Egypt and India, and numerous organizations (though aid to the ACP countries accounted for 36% of the 1982 programme).¹

¹ Bull. EC 4-1982, point 2.2.20.

2. The currency realignment of 21 March

1.2.1. A general realignment of the central rates within the EMS took place on 21 March. The seventh realignment since the EMS was established in 1979, it came nine months after the previous adjustment on 14 June 1982.¹ The broad pattern of the changes is fairly similar, but this time the rates of all the currencies changed against each other, and the widest divergence between two currencies was somewhat less than on the previous occasion, when it was over 10%.

The changes in the bilateral central rates are as follows:

German mark	+ 5.5%
Dutch guilder	+ 3.5%
Danish krone	+ 2.5%
Belgian franc	+ 1.5%
Luxembourg franc	+ 1.5%
French franc	- 2.5%
Italian lira	- 2.5%
Irish pound	- 3.5%

As on previous occasions, the realignment was decided upon by agreement, following a common procedure in which the Commission took part and after consultation of the Monetary Committee, by the Ministers for Finance and the Central Bank Governors of the Member States. This time the decision was a truly Community effort: both the direction and the size of the changes were the subject of intense, even difficult, discussion until unanimous agreement was reached on a balanced readjustment of the parity grid.

1.2.2. The realignment was needed largely because the European economies are out of step, the most obvious signs being the continuing wide differences between national rates of inflation and growing differences in external trade balances. The cyclical desynchronization of the French and German economies also added to the internal strains in the EMS. Against this general background—also marked by the elections at the beginning of the month in Germany and France—a wave of speculation hit all the EMS currencies, driving the German mark and the Dutch guilder apart from the others. A meeting of the Ministers for Finance and the Central Bank Governors was therefore called by Germany (holding the presidency of

the Council) on 19 March. The agreement finally reached on the new parities established currency relationships which more faithfully reflect present economic realities.

1.2.3. The countries most affected by the 21 March realignment agreed to carry out back-up policies to reinforce the positive impact of the exchange rate changes and counter unwelcome side-effects. The day before agreement was reached Germany and the Netherlands eased their monetary policies by making a large cut in their interest rates; a few days afterwards France spelled out its measures, announced at the discussions, to reduce inflation steadily and wipe out the trade deficit over two years; and Belgium and Denmark announced their resolve to pursue an even tighter austerity policy.

1.2.4. Repeated adjustments on such a scale certainly give serious cause for concern in that they threaten to undermine the credibility of the EMS. But the whole realignment process—both the way decisions were reached and the economic policy programmes to be carried out by the Member States—shows how determined the EMS members are that the system should operate smoothly and testifies to their shared concern that the economies should follow more convergent paths towards stability.

Mr François-Xavier Ortoli expressed his satisfaction at the outcome: 'Failure would have been a severe blow to the EMS and would have weakened the Community at a time when a common will for action is more than ever necessary to accentuate the role of Europe and to bring about economic recovery in the Community.'

I am therefore relieved and highly satisfied by the agreement reached. It is a practical demonstration of the political will to strive towards greater convergence through the use of that irreplaceable instrument of integration, the EMS. This search for convergence should be strengthened so as to guarantee monetary stability and to safeguard the Community's achievements to date.'

¹ Bull. EC 6-1982, points 2.1.3 and 2.1.4.

3. Integrated Mediterranean programmes

1.3.1. In its report pursuant to the mandate of 30 May¹ the Commission highlighted the specific problems of the Mediterranean regions and stated that a number of Community programmes would be implemented to improve agriculture in these regions. It also stated that, in making its contribution, 'the Community must keep two principles in mind: equivalence and equity. Equivalence means that, in line with the basic principles of the Treaties, the common agricultural policy must apply without discrimination to Mediterranean products. Equity means that change cannot be allowed to lead to a drop in living standards for those involved'.

1.3.2. The Mediterranean regions are among the least developed in the Community. Geographically remote from the heartlands of industrial development, these regions still depend heavily or predominantly on agriculture—especially products peculiar to that part of the world. Industrial structures are weak, unemployment is high, the level of activity is very low. They have benefited up to now from the measures taken to assist the Community's less developed regions. These measures have been expanded in recent years, especially since 1978; but despite the resources already deployed, it must be admitted that the development gap between these regions and the others has not closed and in certain cases has actually widened. Over the period 1973 to 1982 the total aid allocated to the Mediterranean regions from the structural Funds represents only about 31% of the overall budget for these Funds and 6% of total Community expenditure. Community action is often piecemeal, with no clearly defined overall approach. Experience has shown, especially as regards the EAGGF Guidance Section, the limitations of an approach based on sectoral measures which are not dovetailed with development strategy.

Accordingly, on 24 March the Commission sent to the Council, on the basis of the policy guidelines adopted in February² a proposal for a Regulation³ to implement the integrated Mediterranean programmes⁴ for regions in Greece, Italy and France.

Basic objectives

1.3.3. The programmes have two basic objectives: to increase incomes and to improve the employment situation. They subsume, supplement and expand a number of measures which the Commission is already carrying out or has proposed but without any overall coordination so far. They supplement the measures carried out at Community level by the Social Fund and the Regional Fund (quota and non-quota sections); they supplement, adapt and expand the measures planned under the common policy for the structures of the fishing industry, which so far have not taken sufficient account of the problems specific to Mediterranean fisheries; and they form a counterpart to the market proposals presented by the Commission in its memorandum of October 1981.⁵

Geographical scope

1.3.4. The regions in which the integrated programmes are to apply have been chosen on the basis of the factors which suggested such programmes were needed and the programmes' objectives. They are all regions that depend heavily on Mediterranean products and whose general economic situation is well below the Community average.⁶

On the basis of these criteria the Commission has selected the following areas:

- (i) France: Languedoc-Roussillon, Corsica, Provence-Côte d'Azur, Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrénées;
- (ii) Greece: the whole country;
- (iii) Italy: the Mezzogiorno, Latium, Tuscany, Umbria, Marche and Liguria.

¹ Supplement 1/81 — Bull. EC.

² Bull. EC 2-1983, points 2.1.12, 2.1.102 and 2.2.2.

³ COM(83)24 final.

⁴ The main features of each programme are described in Part Three (Documentation), points 3.4.1 to 3.4.3.

⁵ Bull. EC 10-1981, points 2.1.83 to 2.1.92; Supplement 4/81 — Bull. EC.

⁶ Point 1.3.2.

The programmes will not apply either to the major conurbations or, in the case of France and central and northern Italy, to the built-up coastal stretches in which tourism is a year-round activity.

Content of the programmes

Agriculture

1.3.5. Agricultural measures are at the heart of the programmes because agriculture is so important in the economies of the Mediterranean regions and must become more competitive in the context of the enlarged Community. The measures fall into three categories:

- (i) measures to improve the general conditions of farming (infrastructure);
- (ii) operations at farm level, involving technical and socio-cultural measures;
- (iii) back-up measures (forestry, research, vocational training).

As a general rule the agricultural measures are differentiated for inland areas (uplands) and lowland areas. This distinction divides the regions into two relatively homogeneous areas. The measures to improve the general conditions of farming and back-up measures will be applied throughout, but on a larger scale in the inland areas, which have the greatest handicaps (development of forestry, promotion of cattle farming, expansion or introduction of crops suited to the climatic and soil conditions).

Non-agricultural sectors

1.3.6. The measures for non-agricultural sectors are to create alternative job opportunities for those leaving farming and provide additional sources of income for those remaining. More generally, they must improve the socio-economic fabric of the regions by making it more dynamic.

Fisheries

1.3.7. Measures in the fisheries sector are aimed at enhancing the industry's environment and improving its general operating

conditions (infrastructure, land-based port facilities, the development of lagoons suitable for aquaculture); improving the whole production process, from fishing proper and aquaculture to the processing and marketing of the products; and providing back-up in the form of biological, technical and economic research and technical assistance to those working in the industry.

Small business and artisanat

1.3.8. The measures proposed are to enable small and medium-sized businesses to improve their management and organization capacity and obtain easier access to risk capital; to increase their penetration of the markets of non-member countries around the Mediterranean; and to obtain advice about aid schemes and assistance in utilizing them.

Tourism

1.3.9. To foster rural tourism it is planned to provide aid for investment in increased accommodation capacity; start-up aid for bodies responsible for promoting tourism; and aid for establishing the facilities and infrastructure needed for the development of tourism.

Energy

1.3.10. The energy measures will be devoted to the development of renewable energy sources, thereby increasing employment in Mediterranean firms active in this field. The projects include small hydroelectric projects, wind, biomass, solar and geothermal energy projects and water-heating by solar panels.

Implementation

1.3.11. The draft programmes were sent to the Council in the form of a proposal for a Regulation giving as much detail of the programmes as possible. Adoption of the Regulation by the Council will mean that the Member States concerned will have to establish an operational plan of campaign. This plan must be ready in a year. At Community level, the Commission will be responsible for implementation, in accordance with the procedures set out in the Regulation.

All the Member States will be associated in the implementation of the programmes through the existing Fund committees, without any change to their operating rules.

1.3.12. The Regulation also provides for machinery for cooperation and coordination with each Member State concerned, to facilitate implementation of the programmes. With the structure proposed, it should be possible to spot problems, gaps and bottlenecks in good time and resolve them

promptly, so that the programmes can be kept going at a steady pace, with changes where needed. Such monitoring of the programmes, together with other supporting measures, will facilitate the continuous assessment of the results.

1.3.13. Finally, the Commission proposes that the amounts allocated annually to the programmes should be entered in the Community budget in a single chapter entitled 'Mediterranean programmes'.

4. Commission response to Greek memorandum

1.4.1. One year after the Greek Government presented its memorandum on relations with the Community in March 1982¹ the Commission has sent the Council and Parliament its response on ways of helping Greece to tackle the economic and social problems outlined in the memorandum.

The European Council of 29 and 30 March 1982 agreed that the Commission should study the memorandum and report to the Council on it.² In an initial communication to the Council last June the Commission indicated its general agreement with the description of the economic situation given in the memorandum and stated that determined action was called for.³ The Council took note of the Commission's communication at its meeting on 20 and 21 June 1982 and agreed that the Greek Government and the Commission would remain 'in contact in order to clarify the various aspects of this question as far as possible'.³

Framework for the proposed measures

1.4.2. In accordance with the guidelines adopted in June 1982,³ the Commission does not plan any permanent exemptions from

Community rules in Greece; the idea that Greece might apply the rules of the Treaties or the Act of Accession in its own way or only in part was ruled out from the beginning. The measures proposed by the Commission are firmly within the framework of Community rules, though some temporary derogations are envisaged. The one really significant derogation concerns taxation: the Commission will refrain from instituting proceedings against Greek infringements of Article 95 of the EEC Treaty (which prohibits Member States from imposing higher taxes on imports than on similar national products), provided Greece draws up a timetable for phasing out these infringements and introducing VAT. The Commission is thus establishing a kind of special transitional period for the application of Article 95 and is placing this problem in the overall context of Greek tax reform, which will take some time.

To promote efforts to enhance the competitiveness of Greek industry, the Commission will also take a flexible approach inspired by

¹ Bull. EC 3-1982, point 2.4.1

² Bull. EC 3-1982, point 1.3.5.

³ Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.4.1.

Protocol No 7 to the Act of Accession when scrutinizing State aids.

Commission officials were sent on mission to Athens between September 1982 and February 1983, and most of the issues involved in Greece's membership of the Community were discussed; they provided the Commission with a valuable opportunity to come to a fuller understanding of the situation in Greece as it is affected by the relatively recent experience of membership.

The Commission's response looks at two main categories of measure: Community action already taken or proposed since the memorandum was presented and new proposals which the Commission will be making.

Community action already taken or proposed since the memorandum was presented

Agriculture and fisheries

1.4.3. In recent months various measures have been taken to help Greece, especially in the field of agriculture. On 19 July 1982 the Council adopted a Regulation on the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece,¹ and on 22 November it extended the more favourable conditions and rates of reimbursement applicable to certain Mediterranean areas to similar areas in Greece.² Greece should also derive particular benefit from certain existing programmes.

Greece and integrated Mediterranean programmes

1.4.4. The Commission considers that its proposal on the integrated Mediterranean programmes³ represents a direct and satisfactory response to many of the structural questions raised in the memorandum.

It is proposed that 2 542 million ECU be invested in Greece under this programme between 1985 and 1991: 1 235 million in agriculture, 120 million in forestry, 139 million in fisheries and 1 048 million for other general economic development measures (vocational training, transport

infrastructure and energy projects, Community contribution to reducing pollution in Athens).

New proposals

Five-year plan — major projects

1.4.5. The Greek authorities gave the Commission officials on mission in Greece an account of the major projects planned in the five-year economic development plan designed to reduce imbalances between the various regions and support internal agricultural revenue, which took effect on 19 January.

When these projects have been presented and examined the Commission will be ready, if necessary, to propose to the Council that special measures be added to existing Community instruments.

Agriculture

1.4.6. The Commission proposes the extension to all of rural Greece of measures concerning irrigation, forestry, infrastructure and the hiring and training of quality control personnel.

Employment and social policy

1.4.7. The Commission proposes financial aid for the construction and equipment of training centres in urban areas (similar action is already envisaged for other areas in the Mediterranean integrated programme for Greece). It also proposes financial assistance towards improvement of the arrangements for the social and occupational rehabilitation of certain categories of handicapped people. This will involve the building and equipment of hospitals and the introduction of modern techniques. These actions, which will have a duration of four years, are intended to put

¹ OJ L 214, 22.7.1982; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.125.

² OJ L 332, 27.11.1982; Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.102.

³ Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.13; points 3.4.1 to 3.4.3.

Greece in a position to make greater use of the resources of the Social Fund.

Transport

1.4.8. For 1984 and 1985 the Commission proposes a substantial measure in favour of transport infrastructure projects of interest to the Community as part of the experimental programme on transport infrastructure in the Community.¹

It is also considering a number of measures for a limited period aimed at reducing the effects of the cost of transport on productivity in Greek agriculture.

Environment

1.4.9. The Commission proposes aid to develop a comprehensive depollution programme for Athens; when the programme has been established the Commission will present proposals regarding its own involvement.

Fisheries

1.4.10. The Commission plans to special attention to Greece's requests concerning the Community's interim measures for restructuring coastal fishing and aquaculture. It will also take particular account, in implementing the integrated Mediterranean programmes,² of the structure of the Greek fleet.

Administrative assistance

1.4.11. The Commission will have a hand in the Greek Government's plan to modernize its administration and train qualified officials. It will propose a specific contribution to the Greek project to set up a national civil service college.

1.4.12. Mr Richard Burke, the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for this question, presenting the Commission's response to the press, said that the problems of Greece posed a challenge to the Community and in the first instance to the Commission. The first essential was to try to understand

the problems—and this the Commission had done in a completely unique way by sending over 200 of its officials on mission to Greece over a six-month period. Mr Burke concluded: 'The Commission's role—indeed the Community's role—is to help and to cooperate with the Greek authorities in the solution of the problems of Greece. That implies, of course, an effort on both parts. I am quite confident that a solid basis now exists for success'.

1.4.13. Mr Burke then personally presented the Commission's response to the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreou, during a visit to Athens on 10 and 11 April. He also had talks with the President of the Republic, Mr Konstantinos Karamanlis, and with members of the government.

The Greek Government issued the following statement at the end of Mr Burke's visit:

'In its response to the Greek memorandum the Commission of the European Communities has made it clear that it fully appreciates the problems facing Greece and recognizes the need for decisive action to resolve them.

While the Commission's reply is positive in many respects, some of the proposals it contains are somewhat vague. This can be put down partly to the fact that they take the form of general guidelines rather than specific proposals.

Further elucidation of certain points will therefore be required to help the Greek Government in its careful and in-depth study of the Commission's reply...

The far-reaching structural changes required to develop the Greek economy, and Greek industry in particular, coupled with the need to tackle intractable cyclical problems, cannot easily be effected in the framework of the Community. Our own efforts to resolve these problems must therefore be actively bolstered by those of the Community, in particular with regard to the balance of payments, putting Greek businesses on a sounder footing, modernizing industry and supporting agriculture.

This will necessitate, on the one hand, increased financial aid and, on the other, the piecemeal

¹ Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.156.

² Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.13; points 3.4.1 to 3.4.3.

application of certain competition rules to adapt them to the needs of the Greek economy.

Where financial support is concerned, the Commission's proposals are by and large encouraging, but our definitive stance cannot of course be formulated until these proposals take concrete shape in draft regulations which spell out the size and nature of the financial package, and until the Council has expressed the political will to approve them.

As regards the piecemeal application of the rules of competition, we feel that the Commission's

recognition of the problems that exist is a positive sign.

We should like to think that, while the positions adopted by the Commission make no provision for the necessary arrangements, they do open the way for solutions that would facilitate the unimpeded attainment of our development goals.

In the light of the above, it is to be hoped that the forthcoming consultations between the Greek Government and the Commission will make it possible to settle the outstanding issues within a short space of time.¹

5. European Council in Brussels

1.5.1. The first European Council of the year was held in Brussels on 21 and 22 March with Mr Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, in the chair. The Commission was represented by Mr Gaston Thorn and Mr François-Xavier Ortoli. This was largely a transition meeting, examination of matters of substance being deferred to the next European Council, which is to meet in Stuttgart in June. This time, the European Council merely confirmed the priority objectives it had defined in Copenhagen in December 1982 as regards the strengthening of the internal market and enlargement.¹ On the Community's financial resources, it noted the Commission's intention to bring forward specific proposals as quickly as possible. Lastly, it set out guidelines for the preparation of the next Western Economic Summit, to be held in Williamsburg in May.

Under the political cooperation head, a statement was made on the situation in the Middle East, including Lebanon and the war between Iran and Iraq.

In preparation for the European Council, the Commission presented as usual, two communications on the economic and social

situation plus two others on the Community's industrial strategy and the internal market.

Community issues: Conclusions of the Presidency

1.5.2. At the end of the meeting the Presidency issued the text set out below, covering the economic and social situation, the Williamsburg Economic Summit, enlargement, and the Community's financial resources.

The economic and social situation

1.5.3. The European Council discussed the continued implementation of the Community's comprehensive strategy for re-establishing economic stability, encouraging productive activity and contributing to a climate of expansion of markets without renewed inflation and thus to the creation of durable jobs and the possible examination of the question of working time.

In particular it agrees that all Member States and the Community must now take effective action to improve the employment situation of young

¹ Bull. EC 12-1982, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.4.

people. It notes the intention of the Commission to submit concrete proposals and invites the Council to submit a report to the European Council in June on progress made both nationally and at Community level.

The European Council welcomes the report from the General Affairs Council on the implementation of the priority goals laid down by it at its meeting in December 1982 in Copenhagen.

Concerning the internal market the European Council notes the progress made. It stresses the need for decisions before June in all the priority areas as defined in Copenhagen. The European Council notes with satisfaction that the Council's work programme includes also the areas of insurance and other services.

It asks the Council to take a position, with the same degree of priority, on the Commission proposal on the strengthening of the instruments of the common external trade policy.

The European Council notes that further concrete decisions must also be taken between now and the European Council meeting in June on energy policy, research and development policy.

It invites the Council (economic and financial affairs) to pursue its work concerning the development of investments.

The Council considers that the development of the productive capacity of European industry in the conditions required by international competitiveness must constitute a major necessity for the Community.

It notes that the Commission will in the near future make proposals enabling better conditions to be brought about for the development of new information technologies, telecommunications and biotechnology.

The European Council discussed a number of specific areas where more effective common action is urgently needed:

(i) It agrees that mutual recognition of diplomas is an important step in creating satisfactory conditions for the exercise of a number of professions. The European Council invites the Ministers for Education to speed up their work in order to create the necessary conditions for tangible results in this field.

(ii) The European Council further invites the Council to speed up the examination of a number of proposals for directives concerning the right of establishment and freedom to provide services in order to bring this work to a successful conclusion as soon as possible.

(iii) The European Council agrees that the damage done to the forest environment by acid rain makes effective joint action urgently necessary.

It therefore invites the Council to give rapid and positive attention to proposals announced by the Commission both for action in the Community and in the framework of the ECE. It requests the Council to make an interim report on the situation concerning this problem for its meeting in June.

(iv) The European Council requests the Council to expedite the development of a Community transport policy; special attention should be paid to the improvement of frontier formalities in the formulation of decisions on the internal market.

The European Council stresses the importance of decisive progress towards the successful implementation of its employment strategy. The Council should contribute to a constructive dialogue on this subject between it and the European Parliament.

The Economic Summit in Williamsburg in May 1983

1.5.4. The European Council asks the Council to prepare Community positions for the Williamsburg Economic Summit which will permit the Community to make a substantial contribution to efforts to ensure that the recovery of the international economy, which is now appearing and which is particularly important for developing countries, will be supported through the concerted policies of the Summit participants. In this context the European Council attaches great importance to the maintenance and further strengthening of world trade including trade with the Third World, as an integral part of a policy intended to bring about a favourable climate of sales possibilities without renewed inflation.

It considers in particular that a genuine dialogue between Europe and the United States on trade in agricultural products can be maintained only on the basis of mutual respect of the agreements concluded following the Tokyo Round.

The European Council considers that the falling oil prices constitute a positive contribution to world economic recovery, provided that this development and its consequences are kept under control. It is also important that steps are taken to ensure that this development does not jeopardize the successful continuation of efforts to ensure energy savings and development of energy sources.

Enlargement

1.5.5. The European Council noted the report from the Council (general affairs) on progress of work on the inventory presented by the Commission, and in negotiations with Spain and Portugal. It requests the Council to continue its work so that balanced decisions can be made.

The European Council is determined that negotiations with Spain and Portugal should now make substantial progress, and asks the Council to make every effort to this end.

The European Council expects the Council (general affairs) to be able to report before June substantial progress both on subjects dealt with in the inventory and in the negotiations with Spain and Portugal.

The European Council intends to take stock of the situation regarding the enlargement negotiations at its next meeting and to give political orientation for the completion of the negotiations.

The European Council took note of the discussions that have taken place on the adaptation of rules applicable to certain Mediterranean agricultural products.

After re-examining the dossier, it reaffirmed its view that appropriate decisions should be taken in order that the Community can make further progress in the negotiations for the accession of Spain and Portugal.

The European Council therefore asks the Council of Agriculture Ministers to adopt the necessary decisions as soon as possible, taking account of the following factors:

In the olive oil sector a long transitional period must be foreseen.

In the fruit and vegetables sector compromises should be sought on the basis of the Commission proposals supplemented by provisions ensuring that traditional trade flows with third countries are maintained and guaranteeing that the free circulation of goods is respected.

The European Council expresses its conviction that each government must be ready to make a step in the direction of the others in order to clear the way for an overall compromise.

The Community's financial resources and related problems

1.5.6. The European Council notes the report on work done on the Commission's communication on the future financing of the Community. The European Council further notes the Commission's intention to submit specific proposals as soon as possible. It expects these proposals to take account of the development of the Community's policies, the problems connected with enlargement, budgetary imbalances and the need to strengthen budgetary discipline. It invites the Council (general affairs) to discuss those proposals and to report its conclusions to the June European Council.

The European Council agrees that this report will contain conclusions also concerning the so-called

subsequent solution in accordance with the undertaking made by the Foreign Ministers on 25 May and 26 October 1982 regarding compensation to the United Kingdom. Consequential figures for 1983 will be incorporated in the draft Community budget for 1984.

Political cooperation questions

1.5.7. The European Council discussed the situation in the Middle East, including Lebanon and the war between Iran and Iraq.

Middle East

1.5.8. The Ten are deeply disturbed by the continued lack of progress towards peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours. They are convinced that all parties must seize the present opportunity to achieve the two most urgent objectives: the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and a resumption of negotiations aimed at a comprehensive peace settlement.

The Ten reaffirm their support for the sovereign and independent State of Lebanon and for its government, which should urgently be enabled to re-establish without restrictions its authority over the whole of its territory. This requires the prompt withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and PLO forces. The Ten support the efforts of the United States to achieve this objective. They call on all concerned to conclude negotiations without further delay. They continue to support the peacekeeping role of United Nations and multinational forces in Lebanon.

The principles which underlie the Ten's approach to wider peace negotiations, as set out in more than one previous statement, remain valid. A lasting peace can only be built on the right to a secure existence for all States in the region including Israel, and justice for all the peoples, including the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that this implies. These rights must be mutually recognized by the parties themselves. Negotiations will have to embrace all the parties concerned including the Palestinian people; and the PLO will have to be associated with them. The threat or use of force must be renounced by all.

President Reagan's initiative of 1 September 1982 indicated a way to peace, and the Arab summit meeting at Fez demonstrated a readiness for it. The task now is to move beyond statements of principle and find a means to reconcile and implement the various peace proposals. The conclusions of the recent meeting of the Palestine National Council can and should contribute to the peace process. The Ten therefore welcome the

discussions between Jordan and the PLO. The Palestinian people and the PLO should seize the present opportunity by declaring themselves in favour of peace negotiations. This would be a major step forward, to which the Ten would expect all concerned to respond constructively.

Then Ten look to the Arab States to play their part by supporting those who seek a solution to the demands of the Palestinian people by political means.

The efforts of the USA will continue to be indispensable to create the conditions in which negotiations can begin.

Above all the time has come for Israel to show that it stands ready for genuine negotiations on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, in the first place by refraining from enlarging existing settlements or creating new ones. These settlements are contrary to international law and a major and growing obstacle to peace efforts.

The Middle East is a region with which the Ten have long been closely associated and in whose future they have a deep interest. They intend to maintain their contacts with all the parties and to use their influence to encourage movement towards compromise and negotiated solutions. They believe that this is in the best interest of the countries and the peoples of the region, of the Ten themselves and of their mutual relations.

Iran and Iraq

1.5.9. The Ten expressed once again their growing concern at the continued conflict between Iraq and Iran, which constitutes an ever more serious threat to the security and stability of the entire region.

The Ten deeply regret that none of the peace initiatives organized hitherto has succeeded in bringing the fighting to an end. They call for a cease-fire, the cessation of all military operations and the withdrawal of forces to internationally


recognized frontiers; and for a just and honourable settlement negotiated in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council and acceptable to both parties.

Statements and comments

1.5.10. Mr Thorn and Chancellor Kohl gave a joint press conference after the meeting, continued by Mr Thorn alone at the Chancellor's request after his departure.

As regards the outcome of the proceedings, Mr Thorn, while stressing the fact that the meeting had confirmed his priorities and given reason for hope that the Stuttgart meeting would be thoroughly prepared, made no attempt to conceal his regret that it had been unable to reach a number of 'operational' decisions and above all had not tackled the fundamental question of the convergence of economic policies in the Community.

As to the currency realignment and its consequences, Mr Thorn voiced his satisfaction at seeing the European Monetary System safeguarded and confirmed, since it was an irreplaceable instrument of monetary and economic discipline and organization. He said that the EMS could not be a means of simply recording currency adjustments: the disparities that had developed between the economic situations of the Community countries had to be removed. The EMS needed to fulfil another function—that of gradually ensuring a closer convergence of economic policies—better than it had in the past.



PART TWO

**ACTIVITIES
IN MARCH 1983**

1. Building the Community

Economic and monetary policy

2.1.1. At its meeting in Brussels on 21 and 22 March the European Council examined the economic situation in the Community and agreed to the continued implementation of the Community's comprehensive strategy for restoring economic stability and encouraging productive activity without renewed inflation. The Presidency's conclusions on the proceedings of this European Council meeting are set out in full elsewhere.¹

Economic Policy Committee

2.1.2. On 16 March the Economic Policy Committee held its 130th meeting in its reduced 'budgets' composition to discuss the restructuring of public spending and to examine the implementation of budgets in 1982 and the budgetary outlook for 1983.

European Monetary System

Realignment of 20 and 21 March

2.1.3. This month saw a further realignment of the central rates within the EMS.² The details were set out in the communiqué issued after the meeting:

'On 21 March 1983 the Ministers and Central Bank Governors of EEC member countries have by mutual agreement, in a common procedure involving the Commission and after consultation of the Monetary Committee, decided on an adjustment of central rates within the European Monetary System.

Changes in central rates are the following:

German mark	+ 5.5%
Dutch guilder	+ 3.5%
Danish krone	+ 2.5%
Belgian franc	+ 1.5%
Luxembourg franc	+ 1.5%
French franc	- 2.5%
Italian lira	- 2.5%
Irish pound	- 3.5%.'

The new central rates against the ECU (in units of national currency per ECU) are as follows:

BFR	44.3662
LFR	44.3662
DM	2.21515

HFL	2.49587
DKR	8.04412
FF	6.79271
LIT	1 386.78
IRL	0.71705
UKL	0.629848.

The communiqué adds:

'Notwithstanding other provisions, Member States participating in the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS for whom monetary compensatory amounts are created or modified by these central rate adjustments will not request changes in the compensatory amounts now introduced before the end of the current agricultural price fixing round, and the Commission will not make any proposal to that effect.

In view of the particular situation within the European steel industry the Member States affected are recommended to act in such a way as to ensure that suppliers of steel in their countries will immediately bring steel prices into line with the orientation price level.'

2.1.4. Following the meeting of the Ministers, Mr Ortoli issued a statement emphasizing that the agreement was a practical demonstration of the political will to push ahead with convergence through the use of the irreplaceable instrument of integration that was the EMS; at the same time, he pointed out that this search for convergence should be strengthened so as to guarantee monetary stability and to safeguard the Community's achievements to date, which were essential conditions for reinforcing the cohesiveness of the Community.

Monetary Committee

2.1.5. The Monetary Committee held its 288th meeting in Brussels on 2 March, with Mr Camdessus in the chair. It discussed the role of monetary policy within the European Monetary System and also took an initial look at the monetary and financial problems which might arise in connection with the sixth session of Unctad.

On 19 March the Monetary Committee held a special meeting to prepare the readjustment of parities within the EMS.

¹ Point 1.5.3.

² Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.4.

Table 1 — *Central rates of EMS currencies*
(parity grid applicable from 21 March 1983)

		Amsterdam in HFL	Brussels in BFR/LFR	Frankfurt in DM	Copenhagen in DKR	London in UKL	Dublin in IRL	Paris in FF	Rome in LIT
HFL 100	+ 2.25% central rate - 2.25%	100	1 818.0 1 777.58 1 738.0	90.770 88.7526 86.780	329.63 322.297 315.13	1	29.3832 28.7295 28.0904	278.35 272.158 266.10	58 997.0 55 563.0 52 329.0
BFR/LFR 100	+ 2.25% central rate - 2.25%	5.7535 5.62561 5.5005	100	5.106 4.99288 4.882	18.543 18.1312 17.727	1	1.6530 1.61621 1.5803	15.659 15.3106 14.97	3 318.9 3 125.76 2 943.8
DM 100	+ 2.25% central rate - 2.25%	115.235 112.673 110.1675	2 048.35 2 002.85 1 958.50	100	371.40 363.141 355.06	1	33.1015 32.3703 31.6455	313.63 306.648 299.85	66 473.0 62 604.3 58 960.0
DKR 100	+ 2.25% central rate - 2.25%	31.7325 31.0273 30.3375	564.10 551.536 539.30	28.165 27.5375 26.925	100	1	9.1168 8.91396 8.7157	86.365 84.4432 82.565	18 305.0 17 239.7 16 236.0
UKL 1	central rate	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
IRL 1	+ 2.25% central rate - 2.25%	3.5600 3.48075 3.4030	63.2810 61.8732 60.4965	3.160 3.08925 3.021	11.4735 11.2184 10.9687	1	1	9.6885 9.47313 9.2625	2 053.53 1 934.01 1 821.45
FF 100	+ 2.25% central rate - 2.25%	37.58 36.7434 35.925	668.0 653.144 638.60	33.350 32.6107 31.885	121.11 118.423 115.78	1	10.7964 10.5562 10.3214	100	21 677.0 20 415.7 19 227.0
LIT 1 000	+ 6% central rate - 6%	1.911 1.79976 1.69500	33.970 31.9922 30.130	1.696 1.59733 1.504	6.159 5.80057 5.463	1	0.549015 0.517061 0.486968	5.201 4.89819 4.6130	1 000.0
1 ECU	central rate	2.49587	44.3662	2.21515	8.04412	(0.629848)	0.71705	6.79271	1 386.78

¹ Does not participate in the exchange-rate mechanism.

Internal market and industrial affairs

2.1.6. The European Council, meeting in Brussels on 21 and 22 March, stressed in its conclusions¹ concerning the internal market the need to take decisions by June in all the priority areas that were identified in Copenhagen.²

2.1.7. On 10 March Parliament adopted a resolution on the progress that needed to be made in attainment of the customs union, the internal market and the free movement of persons, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the EEC Treaty.³

Council

2.1.8. On 1 March the Council signified its agreement on the substance of the proposal for a Directive laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations. The Directive was formally adopted on 28 March; it is aimed at preventing barriers to the free movement of goods being set up by the introduction of new technical standards (by private bodies) and regulations (by public authorities).

¹ Point 1.5.3.

² Bull. EC 12-1982, point 1.2.3.

³ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

As far as standards are concerned, the Directive is intended to reduce disparities between the Member States by introducing arrangements for the submission of annual work programmes and draft standards drawn up by the standards institutes. Should a specific problem arise, one of the European standardization organizations (the European Committee for Standardization or the European Electrotechnical Standardization Committee) could be assigned the task of preparing a European standard. To facilitate such a task, the national institutes would then have to suspend their work in the area concerned for a given period.

As regards technical regulations, the Directive requires the Member States to submit to the Commission draft technical rules relating to all industrial products and not merely those covered by the 1969-73 general programme, which was nothing more than a gentlemen's agreement. The Commission and the Member States have a period of three months within which to examine such drafts. If, during this period, a Member State or the Commission puts forward reasoned objections, it is extended to six months. But if the Commission decides to prepare a proposal for a directive, the standstill period is extended to 12 months.

2.1.9. The Council continued its discussions on the formulation of a 'non-member country clause' for Community certification.¹

2.1.10. The Council examined three proposals on the simplification of trade formalities within the Community. It continued its consideration of the proposal concerning the deferred payment of VAT payable on importation² and took note of progress with regard to the proposal on the facilitation of formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States.³ Lastly, it resumed its discussions on a proposal to replace the administrative documents used for customs and tax purposes by a single document.

2.1.11. The Council reached agreement on two Directives relating to tax exemptions for certain means of transport temporarily

imported and for permanent imports of the personal property of individuals.⁴

2.1.12. Lastly, agreement was reached on increasing to 200 litres the duty-free allowance for fuel contained in the tanks of commercial motor vehicles.⁵

Free movement of persons and freedom to provide services

2.1.13. The mutual recognition of diplomas was one of the areas touched upon by the Presidency of the European Council in its conclusions on the proceedings of its meeting in Brussels on 21 and 22 March.⁶

The European Council also invited the Council to hasten its examination of a number of proposals for directives concerning the right of establishment and freedom to provide services, so that this work might be brought to a satisfactory conclusion as quickly as possible.

Mutual recognition of diplomas and access to occupations

Doctors

2.1.14. The Advisory Committee on Medical Training met on 8 and 9 March and drew up a work programme for the three years ahead. To assist it in its task, the Committee set up two working parties on basic medical training and the training of specialists. It adopted in principle a report and recommendations on specialist training. It discussed a technical report on training in occupational medicine and agreed to continue studying this topic. Views were also exchanged on methods of examining and assessing the results of training in Italy and the response to the Committee's opinion on the aims of basic medical training.⁷

¹ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.8.

² Point 2.1.42.

³ Point 2.1.144.

⁴ Points 2.1.44 and 2.1.45.

⁵ Point 2.1.46.

⁶ Point 1.5.3.

⁷ Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.19.

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical barriers to trade

Industrial products

2.1.15. On 28 March the Council amended,¹ on a Commission proposal dating from December 1980,² its Directive of 27 July 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States on clinical mercury-in-glass maximum-reading thermometers,³ making provision for EEC pattern approval.

2.1.16. On 28 March the Commission adapted to technical progress for the first time the Council Directive of 25 July 1978⁴ on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the driver's seat of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors. The purpose of this is to supplement certain requirements and bring them more closely into line with actual testing conditions.

2.1.17. A seminar on the biomechanics of impacts in road accidents was held in Brussels on 21 to 23 March.

This seminar, which was organized by the Commission, was attended by representatives of the departments concerned, the scientific bodies that took part in the research, the European motor-vehicle manufacturers and government departments in the Member States, Japan, Sweden and the United States. International organizations such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the European Experimental Vehicle Committee were also represented. Sessions focused on four main topics: pedestrian behaviour in a frontal impact; lateral impacts and injury prediction models; frontal impacts; and the

development and testing of dummies for use in side impacts.

In the course of the final discussion, guidelines and recommendations were worked out for future Community regulations on the safety of motor vehicles.

Industry

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Steel

Forward programme for steel

2.1.18. On 16 March the Commission approved at the first reading the forward programme for steel for the second quarter of 1983, on which the ECSC Consultative Committee gave its opinion on 25 March.⁵ The Commission notes that despite some faint signs of recovery, no noteworthy improvement is to be expected during the months ahead, either on the Community steel market or in the world at large. The forward programme therefore paints a gloomy picture.

Actual steel consumption during the period under consideration is estimated at 23 million tonnes, compared with 28.27 million tonnes during the second quarter of 1982. In view of a very slight increase in stocks, a slight drop in imports and the persistently low level of exports, Community crude-steel production should total 26.50 million tonnes, as against 31.25 million tonnes for the same period last year.

¹ OJ L 91, 9.4.1983.

² OJ C 356, 31.12.1980; Bull. EC 12-1980, point 2.1.11.

³ OJ L 262, 27.9.1976.

⁴ OJ L 255, 18.9.1978.

⁵ Point 2.4.34.

Table 2 — *Steel supply and demand in the Community*

(million tonnes of crude steel)

	IV/1981	I/1982	II/1982	III/1982	IV/1982	II/1983
Real consumption	27.72	28.16	28.27	22.04	21.37	23.00
Stock change	- 0.82	+ 2.09	± 0	- 1.00	- 1.50	+ 0.20
Imports	2.47	3.28	3.16	2.41	2.21	2.20
Exports	7.42	5.28	6.14	5.59	5.99	5.50
Production	31.85	32.25	31.25	24.22	23.65	26.50

The policy of imposing drastic limits on production was maintained during the first quarter of 1983 by fixing severe abatement rates for all the products covered by the crisis measures. The Commission simultaneously published a set of guide prices aimed at restoring steel prices to a profitable level. With a few exceptions, the producers have reacted favourably to this initiative, and their list prices are in line with the guide prices, especially in the flat-products category. The seasonal upturn in demand and the need to replenish stocks will exert a slight pressure on the market which could pave the way for a further hardening of prices. In these circumstances, it is essential that production remain in strict balance with demand: the initial rates of abatement for the second quarter, which were published on 17 February,¹ accordingly allowed for only marginal increases in the tonnages of steel placed on the market.

It is estimated that imports from non-member countries will be 2.20 million tonnes, a figure which reflects the new arrangements

negotiated by the Commission. Quota reductions and a number of anti-dumping cases brought against a selection of unfairly priced imports from certain countries should make it possible to contain imports within acceptable limits in terms of price and market stability.

Exports continue to suffer from the worsened world recession and from restrictions imposed on exports to the United States. The recent drop in oil prices—while reducing costs—is liable to aggravate the current world shortage of liquid assets by reducing the flow of recycled petrodollars. In these circumstances, the target figure of 5.5 million tonnes has been maintained for exports to non-member countries.

Besides the initial rates of abatement for products subject to mandatory quotas, which the Commission had already published,¹ the following rates were adopted for the products covered by the voluntary agreement scheme:

¹ OJ L 45, 17.2.1983.

Rates of abatement for products covered by the voluntary agreement scheme (%)

	Production	Proportion that may be delivered within the common market
Category II (reversing mill plate)	45	50
Category III (heavy sections)	37	50

Table 3 — *Comparative trends in production and quotas*

(*000 tonnes)

	Production			Quotas				
	II/1982	III/1982	IV/1982	II/1982	III/1982	IV/1982	I/1983	II/1983
I(a) Hot-rolled wide strip	5 650	4 200	3 400	5 584	4 420	3 880	3 465	3 535
I(b) Uncoated sheet	3 819	3 260	2 400	3 833	3 212	3 028	2 770	2 895
I(c) Galvanized sheet	1 073	755	610	1 174	900	869	780	790
I(d) Other coated sheet	619	520	430	713	634	629	600	605
IV Wire rod	—	2 100	2 270	—	2 244	2 244	2 310	2 260
V Reinforcing bars	1 524	1 570	1 530	1 929	1 534	1 567	1 640	1 620
VI Merchant bars	2 255	1 710	2 000	2 626	2 176	2 192	2 225	2 125
II Reversing mill plate	1 535	1 230	1 130	1 684	1 335	1 270	1 120	1 185
III Heavy sections	1 134	890	880	1 156	1 086	997	1 030	1 120

In view of the structural nature of the crisis in the steel industry, it is to be feared that even an improvement in the economic climate prevailing in the Community countries and the entire Western hemisphere would not suffice to bridge the gap between, on the one hand, production capacities and manning levels and, on the other hand, potential outlets.

Manning levels in the Community were reduced considerably between December 1973 and December 1982.

*Manning-level reductions in the Community
(December 1973 to December 1982)*

(*'000 workers*)

	per year	per month
1974	+ 17.4	+ 1.45
1975, 1976 and 1977	- 25.3	- 2.11
1978	- 34.2	- 2.85
1979	- 15.3	- 1.28
1980	- 72.4	- 6.03
1981	- 49.2	- 4.10
1982	- 35.2	- 2.93
	- 29.4	- 2.45

Although large numbers of workers have been made redundant, it has not been possible to ensure full-time employment: the number of workers on short time thus increased from 14 916 in 1981 to 38 044 in 1982, while idle time, which totalled 4 759 000 hours, has now risen to some 16 541 000 hours.

General Objectives for Steel (1985)

2.1.19. On 23 March the Commission adopted at the second reading a revised version of the General Objectives for Steel (1985), having consulted the ECSC Consultative Committee.¹ The General Objectives have evolved somewhat since they were first drafted.²

Surplus crude-steel production capacities in the mid-1980s have been reduced from 58 to 56 million tonnes, while those for finished products have been increased from 48 to 50 million tonnes. The Community's net trade balance with the rest of the world remains as stated in the initial document and works out

at 20 million tonnes for crude steel in 1985 and 12 million tonnes for finished products. Lastly, the final version of the General Objectives includes a chapter on the emergence of small plants and a study on research and development in the steel industry.

*

2.1.20. Following the opinion delivered by Parliament on 14 January,³ the Commission amended on 9 March its proposal for a Regulation⁴ on loans for projects covered by exploration programmes for non-energy mineral raw materials in the territories of the Member States.

Industrial innovation and the information market

Industrial innovation

2.1.21. On 11 March Parliament delivered its opinion⁵ on the proposal for a Council Decision on a plan for the transnational development of the supporting infrastructure for innovation and technology transfer.⁶

While noting that the Commission communication endeavours to meet the dual objective of assisting both innovation (in goods and services) and technology transfer within the Community, Parliament regrets that the Commission proposes action in a wide variety of industries, whereas certain aspects of the proposal deserve to be given greater priority than others (for example, the stimulation of financial assistance to high-risk projects and the improvement of data collection and circulation).

Euronet

2.1.22. On 4 March the Commission published a call for proposals for the

¹ OJ C 72, 17.3.1982; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.4.33.

² Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.15.

³ OJ C 42, 14.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.17.

⁴ OJ C 203, 6.8.1982; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.1.

⁵ OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

⁶ OJ C 187, 22.7.1982; Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.30.

promotion of high-quality information services in the agriculture and environment sectors.¹

In the context of the third three-year plan of action in the field of information and documentation, covering the years 1981-83,² the Commission wishes to speed up the development of high-quality information services in Europe in order to meet a wide variety of needs by stimulating both the public and the private sector.

The Commission will give financial support to a limited number of projects selected from among the proposals submitted; it will give preference to proposals relating to agriculture and the environment and to user-friendly and factual (data or text) information systems designed for access through Euronet-Diane. Proposals should be original and of Community-wide relevance and aim at satisfying an existing demand.

The Commission hopes that such proposals will furnish a means of enhancing European information supply, of helping to increase the information flow by enlarging the market and of contributing to the growth of Community exports. Projects should also result in a lessening of the disparities between Member States in the level of information activity and expertise.

Exploitation of research results

Promoting the utilization of the results of Community-sponsored R&D

2.1.23. In connection with the 1984-87 framework programme of Community scientific and technical activities³ and in response to the request made by the Council at the meeting of Research Ministers on 22 October 1979,⁴ the Commission transmitted to the Council and to Parliament on 7 March a communication on promoting the utilization of the results of Community-sponsored R&D, together with a draft Council resolution.⁵ This communication, which follows on from that of December 1980,⁶ aims in particular at strengthening the links between Community R&D activities and the ultimate users of their results by:

- (i) improving the protection and early exploitation of promising results that can be protected;
- (ii) improving the dissemination of results that cannot be protected;
- (iii) taking full advantage of the links established by the Community plan for the transnational development of the supporting infrastructure for innovation.⁷

These activities could be financed by making available an amount corresponding to approximately 1.5% of the Community's research and development budget.

Multilingual projects

Transfer between European languages

2.1.24. On 2 March, in the context of its third plan of action for the improvement of information transfer between European languages,⁸ the Commission published an invitation to tender⁹ for the operation and maintenance of the Systran machine translation system over a period of one year from 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1984.

The Systran system is regularly used by some Commission departments, in particular for the rapid translation of records of technical meetings. It operates between six Community language pairs, namely from English and French into French, Italian, English and German. Systran will probably continue to be used until the Eurotra research programme, which was adopted by the Council on 4 November 1982,¹⁰ has come to fruition at about the end of the decade.

¹ OJ S 44, 4.3.1983.

² OJ L 220, 6.8.1981; Fifteenth General Report, point 598.

³ Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.173.

⁴ Bull. EC 10-1979, point 2.1.135.

⁵ OJ C 99, 13.4.1983; COM(83)18 final.

⁶ Bull. EC 12-1980, point 2.1.133.

⁷ OJ C 187, 22.7.1982; Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.30.

⁸ Fourteenth General Report, point 532.

⁹ OJ C 57, 2.3.1983.

¹⁰ OJ L 317, 13.11.1982.

Customs union

2.1.25. On 10 March Parliament adopted a resolution on needed progress in attaining customs union, a common internal market and freedom of movement for persons under the relevant provisions of the EEC Treaty.¹

Simplification of customs formalities

Simplification of formalities in intra-Community trade

2.1.26. At its meeting on 1 March on the internal market² the Council resumed its examination of a Commission proposal that would replace the administrative documents needed for customs and tax purposes in intra-Community trade by a single document.³ The Council concluded its discussions by requesting the Permanent Representatives Committee to review the situation with the Commission and to establish, in the light of the Council's discussions, how progress could be made.

2.1.27. After taking note of the progress achieved with regard to the proposal for a Directive on the facilitation of formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States,⁴ the Council stressed that it attached great importance to the Permanent Representatives Committee's expediting its work with a view to submitting a draft as soon as possible on which it could act.

General legislation

Community system of reliefs from customs duty

2.1.28. On 28 March the Council adopted⁵ a Regulation setting up a Community system of reliefs from customs duty.⁶ This is a consolidation of the various existing reliefs from both import and export duties that can be granted in the Community. The provisions derive both from current international agreements in many fields and from provisions already applied unilaterally in the Member States with widely varying scope.

The adoption of this Regulation marks an important stage in bringing about full customs union. As well as contributing towards the uniform application of the Common Customs Tariff, the Regulation, which is to be implemented alongside the tax directives adopted by the Council on the same day,⁷ will ensure that Community firms are given exactly the same treatment, irrespective of the Member State in which they are located.

Common Customs Tariff

Nomenclature

2.1.29. On 28 February and 3 March the Commission adopted two Regulations for the purpose of ensuring uniform application of the Common Customs Tariff nomenclature, classifying tamarind paste in subheading 21.07 G⁸ and self-propelled container and pallet loaders in subheading 84.22 B IV.⁹

Economic tariff matters

Tariff quotas

2.1.30. In March the Council adopted a number of Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for the following products:

- (i) carrots falling within CCT subheading ex 07.01 G II, originating in Cyprus (1983);¹⁰
- (ii) certain grades of ferro-chromium falling within CCT subheading ex 73.02 E I (1983);¹⁰
- (iii) fresh table grapes falling within CCT subheading ex 08.04 A I, originating in Cyprus (1983).

¹ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

² Point 2.1.10.

³ OJ C 203, 6.8.1982; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.21; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.27.

⁴ OJ C 127, 18.5.1982; Bull. EC 4-1982, point 2.1.13.

⁵ OJ L 105, 23.4.1983.

⁶ OJ C 4, 7.1.1980; Thirteenth General Report, point 149; Sixteenth General Report, point 210.

⁷ Points 2.1.44 and 2.1.45.

⁸ OJ L 56, 3.3.1983.

⁹ OJ L 61, 8.3.1983.

¹⁰ OJ L 86, 31.3.1983.

Community surveillance of imports

2.1.31. In March the Representatives of the Governments of the ECSC Member States adopted a Decision establishing ceilings and Community surveillance for imports of certain goods originating in Yugoslavia (1983).

Competition

Restrictive practices, mergers and dominant positions: specific cases

Industrial and commercial property: copyright

Knoll/Hilfe-Form

2.1.32. An exclusive licence covering certain industrial property rights relating to design furniture was terminated following Commission intervention.

2.1.33. The agreement was between Knoll International Inc., USA, and S. Hille & Co. Ltd and its subsidiary Form Furniture (1970) Ltd, UK, both groups operating mainly in the market for high-quality design furniture used to equip public buildings, hotels and large offices. Knoll granted Hille-Form exclusive manufacturing and distribution rights for the UK and Ireland with respect to its various furniture 'programmes', which were in part covered by patents, registered designs, trade marks and, in particular, copyrights, since a number of the items concerned had been created by internationally known design artists. Under the agreement Knoll was prohibited from granting any further licences in the allotted territory and from exploiting its rights there. Hille-Form was not allowed to sell in the rest of the common market. The export ban imposed on Hille-Form covered the entire Knoll programme, even where the items concerned were not or were no longer covered by any industrial property right.

In investigating the case the Commission had serious doubts as to whether the agreement met the conditions laid down by the Court of

Justice in its *Maize Seed* judgment¹—where an exclusive licence was not considered in itself incompatible with Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty—or whether any similar conditions were met. Neither the 'newness' of the products concerned nor the amount of investment involved seemed to indicate that the exclusivity granted was indispensable to launching the products on the relevant market, at any rate not for the length of time originally envisaged (eight years).

The Commission also took the view that exemption could not be granted under Article 85(3), since both groups held significant market positions and there was in fact no independent intra-Community trade as orders were placed only after individual offers with regard to specific items.

Following the Commissions's preliminary inquiries the two parties agreed to regard the export ban as void and to allow direct sales in each other's territory. The Commission therefore terminated its investigations.

Mergers

2.1.34. On 7 March the Commission authorized, under Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty, the setting-up of a joint venture under the name British Bright Bar Ltd by British Steel Corporation, London, Guest Keen and Nettlefolds plc, Smethwick, and Brymill Ltd, Tipton.

The background to the joint venture is the structural overcapacity for bright steel bars both in the United Kingdom and in the Community as a whole. The object of the new company, which will take over the parties' existing business carried out by subsidiaries in this sector, is to rationalize production facilities and create a viable enterprise. The parent companies will withdraw from this business.

The examination of the merger under Article 66(2) centred on the question whether the parent companies will be able to procure an artificially privileged position as suppliers of hot-rolled steel bars (an ECSC product) for

¹ Case 258/78 *Nungesser and Eisele v Commission*: [1982] ECR 2015.

the production of bright bars (an EEC product). This is not the case as the additional outlets for hot-rolled bars resulting from the transaction will be minimal.

Since bright bars fall within the ambit of the EEC Treaty, the Commission checked whether Article 86 was applicable, taking into account that a concentration may constitute an abuse of a dominant position if it strengthens a pre-existing dominant position for the relevant products in a substantial part of the common market. It concluded that the merger will not have this effect.

State aids

General aids

Italy

2.1.35. On 12 January the Commission decided to drop its objections to the implementation of industrial programmes in Italy with assistance from the Fund for Industrial Restructuring and Conversion, provided the Italian Government observed certain conditions. The Fund was set up by Act No 675 of 12 August 1977.

In general the aid to be provided by the Fund may be granted only for projects of internal restructuring or conversion to other activities which do not increase capacity. The establishment of new plants in the Mezzogiorno counterbalancing the closedown of capacity in the rest of Italy may in certain cases be classed as restructuring in the form of relocation.

The aid provided by the Fund will take the form mainly of low-interest loans and interest subsidies. Outside the Mezzogiorno public credit may not exceed 50% of private credit. Fund aid may not be combined with other aid except in the case of the Mezzogiorno. The Fund has resources of LIT 3 230 000 million, 40% of which is earmarked for the Mezzogiorno.

The following guidelines have been laid down for the various industries.

Textiles and clothing. The aid is not normally to be granted to certain particularly sensitive

branches. In other sensitive branches the Commission is to be given prior notification of all aid plans relating to firms with 150 or more employees.

Footwear and leather goods. These industries will not be eligible for aid; however, approval has been granted for the proposed assistance to the tanning industry.

Motor vehicles. In view of the motor vehicle industry's situation in the Community and on the world market, the Commission requires prior notification of all cases of application of aid schemes in this industry.

Chemicals. The man-made fibres branch will not normally be eligible for aid from the Fund. Prior notification will have to be given of all significant cases of application in the other branches of the chemicals industry.

Aircraft. Since the assisted operations may help to reinforce the structure of the Community industry, and provided there is proper coordination with other initiatives in the Community, the Commission does not object to aid being granted to this industry.

Electronics. The Commission has no objection to the aid planned for data processing and microelectronics. Significant cases of application in the other branches of the electronics industry will have to be notified.

Instrument engineering. All significant cases of application are to be notified.

Paper and pulp. No aid may be granted for the production of paper in bulk. The Commission is to receive prior notification of all significant cases of application with regard to other paper pulp industry products.

Agri-foodstuffs. Specific cases are to be notified to the Commission.

Environment and recycling. The Community rules will have to be observed.

Steel. Assistance measures for this industry are subject to the Community rules for aids to the steel industry established by the Commission on 7 August 1981.¹

¹ OJ L 228, 13.8.1981; Bull. EC 7/8-1981, point 2.1.37.

United Kingdom

2.1.36. On 9 March the Commission decided to raise no objection to implementation of the Youth Training Scheme notified by the British Government under Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty.

The scheme is intended to provide all unemployed 16-year-olds and some unemployed 17-year-olds with a year's work experience and training. Any firm or group of firms which has already recruited two 16-year-olds and takes on three more eligible youngsters will receive a grant of UKL 1 850 for each of the five recruited. The organizations arranging the training and recruitment programmes, or the firms which undertake this work themselves, will be paid a grant of UKL 100 per young person to help cover administrative costs.

In view of the mounting unemployment among young people, particularly those between 16 and 18 years of age, and of the scheme's provisions relating to vocational training and adjustment to working life, the Commission decided to raise no objection to introduction of the Youth Training Scheme for one year.

Industry aids

France

2.1.37. On 9 March the Commission decided to initiate the procedure of Article 93(2) of the Treaty in respect of two Decrees issued by the French Government which extended for the period from 1983 to 1985 two aid schemes already operating in France—one for textiles and the other for clothing—financed by parafiscal charges.

The Commission first of all took note of the delay in notifying these Decrees, which had already been brought into effect. Apart from the irregularity in the notification procedure, the Article 93(2) procedure had already been initiated in respect of these schemes on 7 January 1982 and the French Government had not supplied any information which might cause the Commission to change its view as to their incompatibility with the

common market. Moreover, the Decree concerning the clothing industry includes in the scheme knitwear and hosiery, which had not previously been covered.

The aid financed by these parafiscal charges is intended in the main to cover the grant of investment subsidies for firms' modernization and rationalization. On account of the objectives and the duration of these measures the Commission considers them tantamount to operating aid. Furthermore, they may be combined with other general or specific measures of assistance for which the French textiles and clothing industries are eligible. Like the previous scheme, the two Decrees contain no provisions designed to prevent increases in production capacity in branches already experiencing surpluses, nor do they lay down conditions for reciprocal commitments on the part of the recipient firms operating in these branches which could meet the requirements and interests of the Community textiles and clothing industries.

These measures therefore help to provide the recipient industries with financial support; in view of the funds involved and the forms the assistance takes, trade is bound to be affected and conditions of intra-Community competition distorted.

United Kingdom

2.1.38. On 9 March the Commission decided to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of a scheme of assistance for investment intended to increase the production capacity for polyester film of a firm in the chemicals industry. The investment would bring about a substantial improvement in productivity and in the quality of the products to be marketed. The Commission accordingly takes the view that these circumstances favourable to the investment, and the fact that the firm already has a major plant in the area concerned, do not show that the firm in question needs the aid to conduct its business in line with the Community interest. Moreover, in view of the significant increase in capacity envisaged, the assistance is likely to affect trade between Member States to an extent contrary to the common interest.

2.1.39. By letter dated 28 September 1982 the British Government requested the Commission to approve extension of its Microelectronics Industry Support Programme; it also submitted a report on the results achieved during the first period of application approved in 1978.

At that time the Commission authorized introduction of the Programme, which was initially to run for five years, for a two-year period in view of the importance of microelectronics for general industrial development. After two years the Commission hoped to be able to compare the Programme's objectives with the relevant Community policy, which was being drawn up.

In scrutinizing the request for extension the Commission noted that implementation of the scheme announced in 1978 had been delayed and the initial allocation of UKL 70 million had been reduced to approximately UKL 55 million.

In the light of the situation of the relevant product market, the Programme's objectives and the fact that they fitted in with the objectives of Community provisions on microelectronics, the Commission informed the British Government that it had decided to raise no objection to extension of the Programme until March 1985, approving the allocation of UKL 55 million and also the maximum 33 1/3% rate of aid, which may be applied until 31 May 1983 for investments in R&D, buildings and plant instead of the normal 25% rate.

State monopolies of a commercial character

France: alcohol monopoly

2.1.40. On 2 March the Commission decided to open infringement proceedings under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty against France for failure to fulfil its obligations under Article 37.

The French alcohol monopoly buys specified quantities of alcohol of agricultural origin at guaranteed prices. These prices are calculated

in such a way that the sellers' fixed costs are covered by their sales to the monopoly alone. Any additional output, which they export, is therefore produced at low cost, thereby distorting competition on the markets of other Member States.

The Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands have complained on a number of occasions about these exports, which are rising and upsetting the balance of their markets. They have threatened to take unilateral measures under Article 46 of the Treaty. In view of the urgency of the matter the French Government was allowed two weeks to submit its observations. Since these were unsatisfactory, on 23 March the Commission decided to deliver a reasoned opinion.

Financial institutions and taxation

Financial Institutions

Insurance

2.1.41. On 2 March the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the Community concerning direct insurance other than life assurance,¹ and a proposal for a Council Directive on the implementation of the Agreement in the Member States.

The Agreement is in keeping with the insurance coordination work done at OECD and is based on the Council Directive of 24 July 1973 relating to the taking-up and pursuit of the business of direct insurance other than life assurance.²

¹ Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.54; Tenth General Report, point 177; COM(83)106 final.

² OJ L 228, 16.8.1973.

Taxation

Indirect taxes

Turnover taxes

2.1.42. The Council continued examining the Commission proposal for a Directive on the deferred payment of the value-added tax payable on imports.¹ The Commission was asked to contact certain of the delegations and clear up their remaining objections. The Permanent Representatives Committee and afterwards the Council would then be able to take the matter up again.

Tax-free allowances

2.1.43. On 28 March the Council adopted three important Directives in the field of tax-free allowances on imports.² Their purpose, in line with that of the Commission's proposals, is to help bring about a genuine internal market and benefit the man in the street, even if this still has to be within certain limits and subject to certain conditions. A fourth Directive, concerning duty-free admission of fuel contained in the tanks of commercial vehicles, was also adopted.

2.1.44. Two of these Directives, which were the subject of Commission proposals presented to the Council on 10 October 1975³ and are to be implemented by the Member States by 1 January 1984 at the latest, apply, in respect of trade within the Community only, to all indirect taxes, i.e. turnover taxes, excise duties and other consumption taxes. For these first two directives the Council adopted a definition of normal residence. The harmonization of this concept is important: it should obviate situations giving rise to double taxation where a person is claimed as a resident by more than one Member State; such situations have caused many complaints in recent years.

The first relates to the permanent importation of personal property belonging to individuals and introduces exemptions when private persons transfer their normal residence, furnish or leave a secondary residence or import property acquired by inheritance or upon marriage.

The second concerns temporary imports of certain means of transport. The Directive is confined to means of transport which have been taxed and sets period of exemption at six months in any twelve for means of transport for private use and private cars for business use. The period of exemption is increased to seven months for commercial intermediaries. Persons qualifying for exemption may make use of the exemption period in one or several stretches in any one year. Exemption is also granted to students studying abroad, who will be able to use a car registered in their country of normal residence for the effective duration of their studies, and to workers in frontier regions who use their cars to go to work in another Member State. The six-month exemption period does not apply to these two cases.

2.1.45. The third Directive adopted by the Council, on a proposal presented by the Commission on 13 June 1980,⁴ is confined to VAT. It determines the scope of Article 14 of the Sixth Directive⁵ as regards exemption from VAT on the final importation of certain goods. This Directive is the counterpart of the customs Regulation concerning non-tariff exemptions⁶ and contains an exhaustive list of imports coming either from another Member State or from non-member countries which may be exempted from VAT. The list of exemptions is a long one and includes goods imported for the benefit of charitable or philanthropic organizations, trousseaux, pupils' outfits and study requisites, and samples of little value. Conversely, imports not covered by this new text or by any Community text relating to exemptions⁷ will have to bear VAT in all the Member States. Member States are to take steps to comply with this Directive with effect from 1 July 1984.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.8.

² OJ L 105, 23.4.1983.

³ OJ C 267, 27.11.1975; Bull. EC 10-1975, points 2111 to 2114.

⁴ OJ C 171, 11.7.1980; Bull. EC 6-1980, point 2.1.37; OJ C 291, 12.11.1981; Bull. EC 6-1981, point 2.1.41.

⁵ OJ L 145, 13.6.1977.

⁶ Point 2.1.28.

⁷ Point 2.1.44.

2.1.46. The fourth Directive adopted by the Council amends the Directive of 19 July 1968 on the standardization of provisions regarding the duty-free admission of fuel contained in the fuel tanks of commercial vehicles.¹ This Directive means that from 1 July 1984 at the latest Member States will admit duty-free 200 litres of fuel carried in a fuel tank.

Excise duties

2.1.47. On 11 March Parliament adopted its opinion² on the Commission proposal for a Decision authorizing the French Republic to apply in its overseas departments and in metropolitan France, in derogation from Article 95 of the Treaty, a reduced rate of the revenue duty imposed on the consumption of 'traditional' rum produced in the overseas departments.³ With certain reservations and on certain conditions Parliament approved the prolongation of the reduced rate until 31 December 1985.

Employment, education and social policy

European Council

2.1.48. At its meeting on 21 and 22 March⁴ the European Council discussed a number of matters relating to the social situation in the Community, notably the employment of young people and the implementation of a firm employment strategy.

Employment

Employment and the labour market

2.1.49. On 24 March there was a further meeting of the Directors-General for Employment and the Directors of Employment Services of the Member States which was

devoted to discussion of young people's employment situation, working time, vocational training and long-term unemployment.

It should be noted, in particular, that all the statements made regarding policies to combat youth unemployment underlined the need to implement these measures as part of the policy to combat unemployment in general. This concern also emerged clearly in the discussion on long-term unemployment.

Agreement was also reached in principle on the formal creation of the Mutual Information System on Employment Policies (Misep), which has aroused great interest.

Manpower survey

2.1.50. The Council adopted a Regulation on the organization of a sample manpower survey⁵ to be conducted in spring 1983. This survey, which is a follow-up to similar surveys conducted every two years in the past, sets out to discover what jobs people are actually doing and what jobs they are seeking and to throw light on the vocational training and experience of unemployed persons.

Freedom of movement for workers

2.1.51. On 17 and 18 March the Directors of Employment Services of the Member States held a meeting to round off the 10 exchanges of placement staff for 1982 and put the finishing touches to the 15 exchange programmes for 1983. The meeting also marked the 10th anniversary of the first exchange of placement staff, the aim of which was to strengthen cooperation between the services both at human and at planning level.

¹ OJ L 175, 23.7.1968.

² OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

³ OJ C 107, 28.4.1982; Bull. EC 4-1982, point 2.1.21. Point 1.5.3.

⁵ OJ L 72, 18.3.1983.

Financial instruments

European Social Fund

2.1.52. The Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion¹ on 23 March on the proposals for the review of the European Social Fund.²

Measures for ECSC workers

Steel — social aspects

2.1.53. On 23 March the Commission adopted, for transmittal to the Council, a communication setting out a social support scheme for restructuring in the steel-producing areas of the Community from 1983 to 1986.³ The communication had been presented in January to the ECSC Consultative Committee,⁴ which had approved it unanimously in February.⁵

Housing

2.1.54. Under the ninth housing loan scheme (first instalment) for workers in the ECSC industries, the Commission approved loans for a total of 343 416 ECU to finance the building of 75 housing units in Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom.

Education and vocational training

Cooperation in education

2.1.55. The Commission took part in the European seminar on adult education held in Hamburg from 28 February to 4 March on the initiative of the German National Commission for Unesco and the Unesco International Institute for Educational Planning.

The aims of the seminar were to encourage the exchange of ideas and experience regarding recent developments and future trends in adult education, to pinpoint the central questions and themes for later in-depth discussion, and to foster cooperation in adult education.

The participants recognized the important part played by motivation and participation

in the implementation of an active policy of adult education. A list of nearly 40 themes was drawn up for the relevant Unesco bodies to use in preparing the fourth International Conference.

2.1.56. The Commission organized a conference held in Luxembourg from 23 to 25 March on relations between school and family, the aim of which was to discuss measures and exchange experience. After the conference, the representatives of parents' and family associations spent a further day discussing possible ways of cooperating in this field. A coordinating committee was set up to implement practical measures.

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

2.1.57. The Governing Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training met in Berlin on 17 and 18 March. The Board adopted the annual report for 1982, and considered the results of the conference held in November 1982 in collaboration with the Commission on the impact of new information technologies on vocational training and qualifications.⁶

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2.1.58. Commission representatives met on 11 March with the newly designated chairman of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, to exchange views about the most effective ways of using the financial resources made available in the Community budget on Parliament's initiative, to promote the development of minority languages and cultures.

Transition from school to working life

2.1.59. On 10 and 11 March the Union of Industries of the European Community (Unice) organized a seminar on transition from school to adult and working life, with

¹ Point 2.4.30.

² Bull. EC 10-1982, point 1.2.1 *et seq.*

³ COM(83)158.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.36.

⁵ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.4.33.

⁶ Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.47.

the aim of facilitating the exchange of information, experience and ideas between employers' representatives from the various Member States and from different industries, and the Commission. Topics discussed included youth policy at Community level, the Community's two programmes of pilot projects on transition and the linked work and training programme.

Vocational training

2.1.60. From 23 to 25 March a seminar was held in Rome on training in predominantly rural Mediterranean regions at which the following themes were discussed: vocational training requirements in rural areas and ways of using training as a means of developing and encouraging new activities in these areas. For the first time, experts from the two applicant countries (Portugal and Spain) took part in a seminar of this kind.

2.1.61. On 23 March the Economic and Social Committee unanimously approved¹ the draft Council Resolution accompanying the communication on vocational training policies in the European Community in the 1980s.²

Social security — Living and working conditions

Social security for migrant workers

2.1.62. On 29 March the Commission amended the annexes to Regulation No 574/72 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community.

Equal treatment for men and women

2.1.63. The Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men³ held its fourth meeting in Brussels on 9 and 10 March. Among the subjects discussed were parental leave, the application of the principle of equal treatment to self-employed men and women in agriculture, taxation and the employment of women, and protective legislation and positive action within the Commission itself.

Health and safety

Public health

2.1.64. The Commission recently published a report on the results of a survey carried out in the Member States on mutual medical assistance measures in the event of catastrophes, major accidents and exceptionally serious diseases.⁴ This report, which was drawn up in collaboration with experts from the Member States, lists the current national capacities. Its aim is to provide information to officials who could find themselves in the position of requesting medical assistance in the event of a catastrophe in their country.

This Commission initiative was given the support of the Council at the Ministers of Health meeting on 16 November 1978.⁵ It also answers a request made by Parliament in December 1980.⁶

2.1.65. The problems of alcoholism were examined at an international seminar held in Luxembourg from 1 to 3 March. The discussions ranged over the situation in the Member States, the absence of policy options in this area, the effectiveness of various programmes and the complex questions of methodology and research.

The conclusion of the seminar was that a real effort to coordinate should be made and that the problem of alcoholism should not be treated in isolation but as part of a more comprehensive framework embracing both educational and health aspects. In addition, a statistical data base should be established for information on the consumption, distribution and effects of alcohol in the Community.

Regional policy

Integrated Mediterranean programmes

2.1.66. On 24 March the Commission sent to the Council, on the basis of the policy

¹ Point 2.4.31.

² OJ C 306, 23.11.1982; Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.31.

³ Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.73.

⁴ EUR 8271.

⁵ Twelfth General Report, point 224.

⁶ OJ C 346, 31.12.1980.

guidelines adopted in February,¹ a proposal for a Regulation to implement the integrated Mediterranean programmes for regions in Greece, Italy and France.²

Coordination and programmes

Regional Policy Committee

2.1.67. The Regional Policy Committee met on 24 and 25 March with Mr Eysinck-Smeets, Vice-Chairman, in the chair. The Committee discussed the regional aspects of competition policy and in particular the Commission's assessment of regional aids; delivered a favourable opinion on the regional development programmes for Wallonia (Belgium), Luxembourg and the Netherlands; and supported several infrastructure project applications for ERDF grants.

Financial instruments

European Regional Development Fund

2.1.68. On 10 March Parliament adopted a resolution on the construction of an electric power line between Greece and Italy and proposed that the assistance provided by the Regional Development Fund should be increased for that purpose.³

ERDF aid: quota section

2.1.69. On 3 March the Commission decided to make a grant of 0.199 million ECU, under Article 12 of the Fund Regulation, to finance a study closely connected with Fund operations. This is a feasibility study on the tourist park Wonderworld and the development of ancillary industries at Corby in the United Kingdom.

ERDF aid: non-quota section

2.1.70. On 23 March the Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion⁴ on the second series of six non-quota measures which the Commission sent to the Council in November 1982.⁵

Integrated operations

2.1.71. On 9 March Parliament adopted a resolution on the state of agriculture in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and other severely disadvantaged regions of the Community,³ recommending that, with the benefit of experience gained from the current integrated development programmes, such programmes should be organized in the severely disadvantaged regions.

Specific measure for Northern Ireland

2.1.72. The Commission sent to the Council on 8 April a proposal for a Regulation instituting a specific measure to promote urban renewal in Northern Ireland (Belfast).⁶ This proposal provides for the financing, jointly with the national and local authorities, of an exceptional measure for urban renewal in Belfast. This measure exceeds the possibilities at present offered by the Community's financial instruments, and will thus make a more significant contribution towards solving the social and economic problems of Northern Ireland. The Community's financial contribution is put at 100 million ECU over the period 1983 to 1985.

In November 1981 the Commission had already proposed a specific measure for housing in Northern Ireland as part of an integrated operation in Belfast.⁷ That proposal was the Commission's first follow-up to Parliament's resolution of 19 June 1981 on Community regional policy and Northern Ireland,⁸ but the Council was unable to take a decision because some Member States expressed doubts about the Community financing of housing.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.2.1; Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.2.1.

² Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.13 and points 3.4.1 to 3.4.3; COM (83)24 final.

³ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

⁴ Point 2.4.32.

⁵ OJ C 15, 19.1.1983; Bull. EC 10-1982, points 1.1.12 and 2.1.48.

⁶ COM(83)163 final.

⁷ OJ C 346, 31.12.1981; Bull. EC 11-1981, point 2.1.68.

⁸ OJ C 172, 13.7.1981; Bull. EC 6-1981, point 2.1.67.

This new proposal is therefore an alternative solution with the same objective—to step up Community aid to a region beset by severe economic and social problems.

Supplementary measures for the United Kingdom

2.1.73. On 14 March the Council adopted the Regulation extending and amending the original UK supplementary measures Regulation,¹ on the Commission's amended proposal of 19 January.² The Commission acted on the Regulation at once by adopting decisions on budgetary compensation concerning the United Kingdom's contribution to the Community budget for 1982³ which release Community financial grants totalling 692 million ECU to public expenditure on seven infrastructure programmes during the United Kingdom's 1982/83 financial year.

This brings the total amount granted under the supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom to 3 933 million ECU since they were introduced at the end of 1980.⁴

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2.1.73a. On 11 March Parliament adopted a resolution on transfrontier transport policy in frontier regions, in particular regions on the Community's internal frontiers, notably the Rhine-Maas region and Euregio.⁵

Environment and consumers

Environment

Prevention and reduction of pollution and nuisances

Freshwater and marine pollution

Paris Convention

2.1.74. As part of its work under the Paris Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources, the Commission sent representatives to a further

meeting of the technical working party, held in Lillehammer, Norway, from 8 to 11 March. The working party recommended the Convention authorities to publish, as an annex to their annual report, the measurements made, or information supplied, by the contracting parties on the mercury, cadmium and polychlorinated biphenyls dumped in the Convention area.

Oslo Convention

2.1.75. Also in Lillehammer, this time in connection with the Oslo Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft, the Commission took part in the Standing Scientific Advisory Committee's meeting from 14 to 17 March. The discussion centred in particular on continuous monitoring and surveillance of the dumping grounds, on the annual report on dumping at sea and on the procedure for consultations prior to dumping.

Barcelona Convention

2.1.76. The Commission signed the Protocol concerning Mediterranean specially protected areas⁶ on the Community's behalf in Madrid on 30 March. The protocol joins the three others previously concluded under the 1976 Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution. The Decision concerning signature of the Protocol had been formally adopted by the Council on 28 March.

2.1.77. Under the United Nations environment programme, the Community took part in a further meeting of the contracting parties to the action plan for the protection of the Mediterranean, held in Dubrovnik from 28 February to 5 March. The delegates took note of the encouraging results of the recently completed first, exploratory, phase of the

¹ OJ L 73, 19.3.1981.

² OJ C 35, 8.2.1983; COM(83)30 final; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.49.

³ OJ L 98, 16.4.1983.

⁴ OJ L 284, 29.10.1980; Bull. EC 10-1980, point 2.3.46; Bull. EC 12-1980, point 2.1.65.

⁵ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

⁶ Bull. EC 9-1982, point 2.1.47; Bull. EC 2-1982, point 2.1.44.

blue plan, decided to embark on the second phase and set out the general lines to be pursued in the various areas covered.

Caribbean Convention

2.1.78. The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region¹ prepared under the United Nations environment programme was opened for signature at the conference of plenipotentiaries called for the purpose at Cartagena, Colombia. The Commission duly signed on the Community's behalf on 24 March.

Oil pollution

2.1.79. On 10 March Parliament adopted two resolutions concerning emergency measures to combat pollution of the North Sea by oil.²

Air pollution

Geneva Convention

2.1.80. The Geneva Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution came into force on 16 March, following its ratification by 24 of the 33 signatories, which include the Community and the Member States.³ This Convention, drafted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and signed in November 1979, sets out to limit and, as far as possible, gradually to reduce and prevent air pollution.

Chemicals

2.1.81. The authorities responsible for applying the Council Directive of 18 September 1979⁴ amending, for the sixth time the 1967 Directive on dangerous substances⁵ met again, in Brussels, on 10 and 11 March. Their talks concentrated on the problems of the non-disclosure of the chemical identity of the substances on the published list of notified substances and on the monitoring of the quantities placed on the market.

2.1.82. The negotiations between the Commission and the United States on the Toxic Substances Control Act⁶ also continued at an

informal meeting with the US authorities in Brussels on 9 March to examine points associated with non-disclosure of the chemical identity of the substances notified in line with the Directive of 18 September 1979.⁴

Acid rain

2.1.83. At its meeting on 21 and 22 March the European Council took note of the damage inflicted on forests by acid rain and called on the Council rapidly to examine the proposals announced by the Commission for a framework Directive on monitoring discharges from industrial installations and for measures to tighten up the standards on exhaust emissions from motor vehicles.

2.1.84. Parliament in turn decided to organize a public hearing covering all aspects of the problem in April.

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

Flora and fauna

2.1.85. On 28 March the Council formally adopted the Directive concerning the importation into Member States of skins of certain seal pups and products derived therefrom,⁷ on which it had signified its agreement on 28 February.⁸

Natural resources

Protection and management of water

2.1.86. Under Commission auspices and with Commission support, a European Institute for Water was set up in Varese, Italy, to provide the requisite training for

¹ Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.53; Bull. EC 2-1982, point 2.1.45.

² Point 2.4.14; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

³ OJ L 171, 27.6.1981; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.85.

⁴ OJ L 259, 15.10.1979; Bull. EC 9-1979, point 2.1.46.

⁵ OJ 196, 16.8.1967.

⁶ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.56; Sixteenth General Report, point 366.

⁷ OJ L 91, 9.4.1983.

⁸ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.76.

water management and protection specialists. This fills a gap in the training facilities for specialists called for by the Community and national legislation in this field. The European Institute for Water is open to non-Community countries in Europe and intends in particular to support countries planning to join the Community in their efforts to apply the Community Directives on the management and protection of water. Finally, the establishment of a documentation centre open to non-Community countries could help solve the problem of transfers of technology between Europe and countries with scant water resources, one of the projects to be carried out in the International Drinking Water Decade declared by the United Nations for 1981 to 1990.

Waste

2.1.87. At its meeting in Brussels on 15 and 16 March the Waste Management Committee reviewed the work in progress and then proceeded with a more detailed examination of the development of clean technologies and of the problem of financing demonstration projects. It also outlined the action to be taken on waste oils to follow up the Council Directive of 16 June 1975,¹ with particular reference to the Court of Justice's latest ruling in this field. Finally, the Committee called for a general policy document on waste management, which should be completed and put to the Commission as soon as possible.

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2.1.88. On 11 March Parliament adopted a resolution on the protection of Irish bogs.²

Consumers

Physical protection

2.1.89. On 30 March the Commission adapted to technical progress, for the second time, the Council Directive of 27 July 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products.³ The approved text authorizes the use of

barium, strontium and zirconium lakes, salts and pigments of a limited number of colouring agents, limits the use of 6-methylcoumarin for oral hygiene products, makes the use of silver nitrate in the manufacture of cosmetics subject to certain restrictions and conditions and permits the use of certain complexes of zirconium as antiperspirants under certain conditions.

Agriculture

Council

2.1.90. The Council discussed agricultural matters at its meetings on 8 and 9 March, 14 and 15 March and 28 March.

Acquis communautaire

2.1.91. On 8 and 9 March the Council resumed discussion, following on from its February meeting,⁴ of the adjustment of the existing rules governing fruit and vegetables and olive oil, in the context of the enlargement of the Community.

The Council concluded that there were still differences of opinion on these two sectors and agreed to report to the European Council on the outcome of its deliberations on the *acquis communautaire* and the various political and economic issues involved.

The European Council re-examined the matter and asked the Council to take the appropriate decisions, bearing in mind that a long transition period would be needed for olive oil and that compromise solutions should be sought for fruit and vegetables, together with provisions to safeguard traditional trade patterns with non-member countries and to guarantee the free movement of goods.⁵

¹ OJ L 194, 25.7.1975.

² Point 2.4.14; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

³ OJ L 262, 27.9.1976.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.78.

⁵ Point 1.5.5.

Agricultural prices and related measures

2.1.92. Most of the Council meeting on 14 and 15 March was devoted to the fixing of agricultural prices and related measures for 1983/84.¹

After giving special attention to the sectors with the most complex problems, namely milk products, cereals, rice and beef and veal, the Council held a general discussion on the overall level of prices, monetary compensatory amounts and the financial and budgetary impact of the Commission's proposals. It was agreed to resume these discussions on 28 March so that a decision could be taken in good time.

Since it had been unable to begin its substantive discussion of the 1983/84 agricultural prices in time to reach conclusions before 1 April, the Council agreed on 28 March to devote its meeting on 18 and 19 April to further consideration of this matter.

Meanwhile the Council decided² to extend the current marketing year for milk products, beef and veal, sheepmeat and goatmeat from 4 to 24 April. It also extended the Regulation fixing the flat-rate production aid and the guide price for certain dried fodder products for the period 1-24 April.²

2.1.93. In a resolution on the agricultural prices and related measures passed on 10 March, Parliament called for an average price increase of no less than 7%, the elimination of negative MCAs and a rapid reduction in the positive MCAs.³ It opposed any increase in the co-responsibility levy on milk and the extension of co-responsibility to other production sectors.

2.1.94. The Economic and Social Committee, which had already delivered its opinion on the Commission's proposals as a whole in February,⁴ adopted an additional opinion on the individual products on 24 March.⁵

2.1.95. Lastly, the question of New Zealand butter imports on special terms was settled for 1983. The Council adopted a Regulation authorizing the United Kingdom to import 65 250 tonnes of new Zealand butter over

the period from 1 April to 31 December 1983.⁶

Cereal substitutes

2.1.96. On 14 March the Council adopted a Regulation on the import system applicable to manioc for the period 1983-86.⁷ This sets the import levy at a maximum of 6% *ad valorem*, in accordance with the Manioc Agreements which the Community has concluded with Thailand, Indonesia and Brazil and the provisions applicable to non-member countries accorded most-favoured-nation treatment.

This levy on the products concerned (manioc, arrowroot, salep and other similar roots and tubers with a high starch content, excluding sweet potatoes) will apply only to the quantities fixed for each non-member country of origin as follows:

- (i) Thailand: the quantities arising from the EEC-Thailand Cooperation Agreement;⁸
- (ii) Indonesia: 750 000 tonnes in 1983 and the quantities arising from the Agreement with Indonesia⁸ for 1984, 1985 and 1986;
- (iii) other GATT contracting parties (which excludes Thailand): 132 355 tonnes for 1983 and the quantities arising from the Agreement approved by the Council Decision of 19 July 1982⁸ for 1984, 1985 and 1986;
- (iv) other non-member countries: 370 000 tonnes for 1983; for 1984, 1985 and 1986 the quantities will be determined by the Council acting on a proposal from the Commission.

The Council also stated that it would try to ensure that an additional 10 000 tonnes of manioc varieties could be imported for human consumption. To this end the Commission adopted a Regulation simplifying the import

¹ OJ C 32, 7.2.1982; Bull. EC 12-1982, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.14.

² OJ L 85, 31.3.1983.

³ Point 2.4.9; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

⁴ OJ C 81, 24.3.1983; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.4.29.

⁵ Point 2.4.26.

⁶ Point 2.1.109; OJ L 76, 22.3.1983.

⁷ OJ L 72, 18.3.1983.

⁸ OJ L 219, 28.7.1982.

arrangements for yams, tannias, dasheens and eddoes.¹

Economic aspects of the common agricultural policy

Agri-monetary measures

2.1.97. The central rates within the European Monetary System were realigned on 21 March.²

On the basis of the new central rates and of the spot market rates for sterling, the Italian lira and the Greek drachma, all the monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs) were adjusted with effect from 24 March—except for the Irish MCAs, where the adjustment was to apply from 26 March.³

Given the importance of the parity changes of 21 March, the advance fixing of MCAs in all Member States was suspended for three days thereafter in order to prevent speculation.⁴ Advance fixing of the MCAs applicable in Ireland was suspended until 26 March.⁵

To prevent speculation or deflection of trade as a result of the considerable adjustments made to the MCAs after the realignment on 21 March, the Commission adopted transitional measures concerning the application of the new MCAs;⁵ notice of these measures had already been given on 21 March.⁵

2.1.98. The Commission amended⁶ the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation of 19 May 1981,⁷ where reference periods are specified for the periodical re-examination of the list of products which are not covered by Annex II to the Treaty but are subject to MCAs.

2.1.99. On 30 March the Council decided,⁶ acting on a proposal from the Commission, to revise the representative rate for the Belgian and Luxembourg francs, which had been devalued on 19 October 1982,⁸ so that this rate was aligned on the central rate to be applied to these currencies as a result of the parity changes of 21 March. The new representative rate applies to milk and milk products from 1 April, to beef and veal and

sheepmeat from 4 April, to fishery products from 1 January 1984 and to all other products from the beginning of the marketing year.

This decision meant that the Belgian/Luxembourg MCAs were discontinued in the milk and milk products sector with effect from 1 April and in the beef and veal sector with effect from 4 April.⁹

Market organizations

Adjustments to basic regulations

Milk and milk products

2.1.100. On 8 March the Commission transmitted to the Council a proposal¹⁰ for an amendment to the basic Regulation on milk and milk products.¹¹ Under the amended regulation the granting of Community aid would no longer be conditional on the granting of national aid for the supply of milk and yoghurt to schoolchildren.

Prices and specific measures

Fresh fruit and vegetables

2.1.101. On 30 March the Commission adopted Regulations fixing the reference prices for tomatoes for the 1983 marketing year, fixing the Community offer price for tomatoes applicable with regard to Greece and laying down quality standards for tomatoes.¹² The reference prices are on average 6.5% higher than in 1982.

¹ OJ L 81, 26.3.1983.

² Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.4 and point 2.1.3.

³ OJ L 80, 25.3.1983.

⁴ OJ L 75, 21.3.1983.

⁵ OJ L 78, 24.3.1983; OJ L 87, 1.4.1983.

⁶ OJ L 85, 31.3.1983.

⁷ OJ L 138, 25.5.1981.

⁸ OJ L 295, 21.10.1982; Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.69.

⁹ OJ L 87, 1.4.1983.

¹⁰ OJ C 75, 19.3.1983; COM(83)127 final.

¹¹ OJ L 148, 28.6.1968.

¹² OJ L 86, 31.3.1983.

2.1.102. The Commission also adopted a Regulation¹ to authorize the marketing of products of quality class III in view of the considerable fluctuations in production from one marketing year to another; this will apply to lemons (June to October 1983), table grapes (May 1983 to April 1984), cherries (April to September 1983) and strawberries (April to December 1983).

2.1.103. On 8 March the Council adopted a Regulation derogating from the basic Regulation on fruit and vegetables so that apples withdrawn from the market could be placed at the disposal of charitable organizations and distributed free of charge to the people of Poland.² The Regulation is in line with Parliament's resolution of November 1982.³

2.1.104. On 24 March the Economic and Social Committee endorsed⁴ an amendment (whereby the reference price system would be extended to five new products and common quality standards would be laid down for melons) which the Commission had made⁵ to its proposal of October 1981 for changes in the basic Regulation on fruit and vegetables.⁶

Wine

2.1.105. On 9 March the Commission adopted a Regulation⁷ authorizing, pursuant to the provisions adopted in November 1982,⁸ the distillation of a quantity of table wine not exceeding 4 million hectolitres.

2.1.106. On 21 March the Commission transmitted to the Council two proposals, one for a Regulation consolidating all the rules governing the description and presentation of sparkling wines and the other for a Regulation laying down detailed rules for the use of geographical names and the specification of vine varieties, vintage years or other items of information traditionally included on the labels of sparkling wine.⁹

2.1.107. On 23 March the Commission transmitted to the Council a proposal for a Regulation on storage aid for quality wines produced in specified regions.¹⁰ This special measure would introduce private storage aid to encourage producers of quality wines psr

to carry over a proportion of their 1982 production to the following year and thus prevent any disturbance of the market in table wine, the weather conditions in 1982 having led to a record harvest of quality wines psr.

2.1.108. On 23 March the Economic and Social Committee endorsed¹¹ the proposed amendment to the Council Regulation on collective projects for the restructuring of vineyards.¹²

Milk and milk products

2.1.109. On 15 March the Council adopted a Regulation authorizing the United Kingdom to import 65 250 tonnes of New Zealand butter on special terms between 1 April and 31 December 1983.¹³ No agreement having been reached on 1983 as a whole, the quantities imported during the first three months of the year had been authorized on a month-to-month basis.¹⁴

2.1.110. Under the programme for utilization of co-responsibility levy funds in the milk sector for the 1983/84 milk year,¹⁵ the Commission adopted Regulations on the continued financing of the specific measures which have proved effective in expanding the market for milk products, namely:

- (i) promotional and publicity measures within the Community;¹⁶
- (ii) measures to promote sales of Community products outside the Community;¹⁶

¹ OJ L 86, 31.3.1983.

² OJ L 65, 11.3.1983.

³ OJ C 335, 20.12.1982.

⁴ Point 2.4.27.

⁵ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.87.

⁶ Bull. EC 10-1981, point 1.3.1 *et seq.*

⁷ OJ L 64, 10.3.1983.

⁸ OJ L 326, 23.11.1982.

⁹ COM(83)155 final.

¹⁰ COM(83)149 final.

¹¹ Point 2.4.29.

¹² Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.70.

¹³ OJ L 76, 22.3.1983.

¹⁴ Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.121; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.72; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.94.

¹⁵ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.73.

¹⁶ OJ L 71, 17.3.1983.

(iii) technical assistance for the development of the use and consumption of Community products outside the Community;¹

(iv) improvement of milk quality within the Community;¹

(v) a pilot project for the free distribution of drinking milk in schools in parts of Greece and southern Italy.²

2.1.111. On 15 March the Commission adopted a Regulation reintroducing the provisions applicable to refunds on butter exports to the Soviet Union.³

2.1.112. On 8 March the Commission transmitted to the Council a report on aid for small-scale milk producers,⁴ in accordance with the undertaking it had given at the 1982/83 farm price review. The report contains an analysis of the arrangements made by the Member States for the allocation of the 120 million ECU provided for in the Council Regulation of 18 May 1982.⁵

Beef and veal

2.1.113. On 3 March the Commission amended⁶ the Regulation fixing the buying-in prices for hindquarters of beef⁷ so as to ensure equal access to intervention throughout the Community. Only meat from male animals may be bought in for intervention storage.

Sugar

2.1.114. On 23 March the Commission amended⁸ the 1978 Regulation laying down detailed rules for the offsetting of storage costs for sugar;⁹ this authorizes the reimbursement of storage costs for coloured sugar, provided that the sugar has been coloured before the crystallization stage by means of a product derived exclusively from sucrose.

2.1.115. On 29 March the Commission also fixed the advance payment in respect of the production levies in the sugar sector for the 1982/83 marketing year¹⁰ and laid down certain rules for applying conversion rates in the sugar and isoglucose sectors.¹¹

2.1.116. Lastly, it consolidated in a single Regulation¹⁰ the various provisions (hitherto

contained in three different Regulations) on communications in the sugar sector, at the same time bringing them into line with the new common organization of the market in sugar.

Processed fruit and vegetables

2.1.117. On 8 March the Commission adopted a Regulation on the sale, at prices fixed in advance, of dried figs held by storage agencies.¹²

2.1.118. It also decided to extend by one month the time-limit (1 April) on protective measures applicable to imports of dried grapes.⁶

2.1.119. Lastly, the Commission transmitted to the Council on 23 March its report¹³ on the operation of the general aid arrangements applicable to certain fruits and vegetables under the 1977 basic Regulation¹⁴ and proposed various amendments:¹⁵ granting of the aid for the raw material used; calculation of the aid to take account of prices and outlets on the Community market; definition of Community quality standards. For dried grapes, the Commission also proposes the introduction of a minimum import price, the fixing of a guarantee threshold for sultanas and stricter quality standards.

Seed

2.1.120. On 24 March the Economic and Social Committee endorsed¹⁶ the proposal for a Regulation fixing the amounts of aid

¹ OJ L 71, 17.3.1983.

² OJ L 82, 29.3.1983.

³ OJ L 70, 16.3.1983.

⁴ COM(83)45 final.

⁵ OJ L 140, 20.5.1982.

⁶ OJ L 57, 4.3.1983.

⁷ OJ L 332, 27.11.1982.

⁸ OJ L 78, 24.3.1983.

⁹ OJ L 231, 23.8.1978.

¹⁰ OJ L 88, 6.4.1983.

¹¹ OJ L 83, 30.3.1983.

¹² OJ L 63, 9.3.1983.

¹³ COM(83)92 final.

¹⁴ OJ L 73, 21.3.1977.

¹⁵ OJ C 94, 8.4.1983.

¹⁶ Point 2.4.28.

granted for seeds for the 1984/85 and 1985/86 marketing years.¹

Structures

2.1.121. On the basis of the guidelines which it had laid down in February,² the Commission transmitted to the Council on 24 March a proposal for a Regulation on the implementation of integrated programmes to assist the Mediterranean regions of the Community in Greece, France and Italy.³

Agricultural measures are of central importance to these programmes, which aim to improve agricultural infrastructures, to introduce technical and socio-cultural measures to assist farmers and to provide some back-up for agricultural research and vocational training. Inland areas (uplands and mountainous areas) receive more favourable treatment than lowland areas. The sums allocated to these programmes will be entered each year in a separate chapter of the Community budget.

Implementation of the socio-structural Directives

2.1.122. On 16 March the Commission decided⁴ to adjust the boundaries of less-favoured areas (within the meaning of the Directive of 28 April 1975 on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas⁵) in France.

Agricultural legislation

Veterinary legislation

2.1.123. In view of the course taken by the outbreak of classical swine fever in Germany, the Commission re-established the swine-fever-free status of certain parts of the country (Stuttgart and Mittelfranken),⁶ prolonged the temporary suspension of the status of certain other parts (Münster and Cologne)⁷ and introduced a temporary suspension of status for some new areas (Unterfranken, Koblenz,⁸ Berlin, Darmstadt⁹).

2.1.124. On 25 March, in view of an outbreak of African swine fever in Sardinia

and the persistence of the disease in Piedmont, the Commission prohibited exports of pigs, pigmeat and pigmeat products (except as sterilized preserved products) from these regions to the other Member States.¹⁰

2.1.125. The Commission approved the extension of the plans submitted by Greece⁶ and Italy⁷ for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis. It also approved the plan presented by Italy for the accelerated eradication of classical swine fever.¹¹

Competition

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

Denmark

Budgets for 1983 of two parafiscal funds in the beef and veal and potato sectors.

Change in the parafiscal charge on eggs and poultry.

Belgium

Subsidies for the purchase of fuel to heat glasshouse crops, granted to persons having horticulture as their main occupation. This subsidy is consistent with the relevant Commission guidelines.

Germany

Private investment aid; rural development; aid for farms in upland or other less-favoured

¹ OJ C 31, 5.2.1983; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.77.

² Bull. EC 2-1982, point 2.1.102.

³ Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.13; points 3.4.1 to 3.4.3; COM(83)24 final.

⁴ OJ L 79, 25.3.1983.

⁵ OJ L 128, 19.5.1975.

⁶ OJ L 66, 12.3.1983.

⁷ OJ L 76, 22.3.1983.

⁸ OJ L 91, 9.4.1983.

⁹ OJ L 96, 15.4.1983.

¹⁰ OJ L 93, 13.4.1983.

¹¹ OJ L 61, 8.3.1983.

areas. The measures falling within the scope of Articles 92 and 93 relate to the following: agricultural research with a view to improving productivity and the quality of livestock products; the improvement of marketing structures for products by the granting of investment aid (maximum 20%) for the setting-up of new undertakings and producer groups or the modernization of existing undertakings or producer groups engaged in the processing and marketing of agricultural products and launching aid for producer groups; in the forestry sector, aid for forest management, the setting-up of producer groups and the construction of forest roads.

Schleswig-Holstein: draft instrument on financial assistance to help farms become viable by the purchase of extra farmland or the acquisition of properly structured holdings on relocation or the purchase of leased farmland.

Hessen: change in existing scheme for pilot holdings in the form of additional investment aid (50% maximum) and improvements to ensure the use of alternative energy sources, and thus encouraging energy saving.

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

Italy

Friuli-Venezia Giulia: bill setting out rules for financing, adjusting or supplementing aid for agriculture.

(i) *Aids on which insufficient information has been supplied for them to be considered compatible*: financing of measures relating to agricultural structures (production, processing and marketing); financing of aid to offset natural disasters (Articles 18 to 23); aid for silkworm rearers (Articles 35 and 36); aid for jointly used facilities (Articles 1 and 2).

(ii) *Incompatible aids*: aid for jointly used livestock accommodation in the form of low-interest loans to cover financial liabilities.

Sicily: act providing for changes in the regional budget.

(i) *Aids which cannot definitely be considered compatible with the common*

market: aids relating to the natural disasters occurring between January and November 1976; additional subsidy (80% maximum) to meet additional investment costs; financing of subsidies (70% maximum) for the modernization of preserving and processing plants for crop and livestock products; financing of low-interest loans for land improvements.

(ii) *Incompatible aids*: increase in the financial resources of a fund granting reduced-interest loans to cover the liabilities of stockbreeders' associations; subsidy (40% maximum) towards the cost of soil disinfection and subsidy of LIT 250 to 350 per kg of plastic used to cover glasshouses; subsidy equal to 12% of the purchase price for each 100 kg of Sicilian durum wheat bought by millers; extension of the measures on the destruction of young vine plants left unsold on the hands of growers; financing of the aid measure whereby subsidies are granted to citrus fruit growers belonging to cooperatives (this measure has already been the subject of an infringement procedure under Article 169 of the Treaty; the Commission considers that the financing in question constitutes a further infringement of the same kind).

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

Guidance Section

Decisions on reimbursement and advances

2.1.128. In the first quarter of 1983 the EAGGF Guidance Section paid 863.952 ECU to the United Kingdom, France and Luxembourg in respect of expenditure incurred in 1981 and 1982 and as an advance to France for expenditure to be incurred in 1983 pursuant to the Directive of 6 February 1979 on the programme for the acceleration and guidance of collective irrigation works in Corsica.¹

¹ OJ L 38, 14.2.1979.

Fisheries

2.1.129. On 29 March the Commission adopted two communications to the Council concerning fisheries in the context of the enlargement negotiations with Spain and Portugal respectively. In these communications the Commission draws the consequences from the agreement reached in January on the introduction of a common fisheries policy.¹ Analysing the fisheries sector in the two applicant countries, the Commission puts forward possible guidelines for a Community negotiating position.

2.1.130. The Commission took full account of the fisheries sector in its proposal for a Regulation to implement the integrated Mediterranean programmes for regions in Greece, Italy and France.² These programmes supplement, adapt and expand the measures planned under the common structures policy for fishing, which so far have not taken sufficiently into consideration the problems specific to Mediterranean fisheries.

Resources

Internal aspects

2.1.131. Although the Council has now adopted the Regulations on internal resources,³ the Commission still has the task of taking decisions on national and in particular local measures where these are authorized by the said Regulations. In this context the Commission has taken the following decisions:

On 4 March the Commission examined a United Kingdom measure prohibiting UK fishermen, with effect from 31 December 1983, from using beam trawls equipped with certain protective devices within a three-mile zone off part of the southern coast of the United Kingdom and found it compatible with Community law and the common fisheries policy in that it was a local measure covered by Article 19(2) and (3) of the Regulation of 25 January 1983.⁴

On the same date the Commission examined a Danish measure for the protection of the houting (a type of salmon) in a six-mile zone

off the North Sea coast and withheld approval from this measure under Article 18 of the Regulation of 25 January 1983⁴ on the ground that the Danish authorities had failed to prove that the species was threatened, which would have justified the adoption of urgent conservation measures. The Commission may, however, reconsider the Danish measure under that paragraph of Article 19 of the Regulation which authorizes national measures for the protection of local stocks, provided that the Danish authorities confirm that only Danish fishermen have the right to fish within the area covered by the measure.

External aspects

Bilateral relations

2.1.132. The Agreement between the Community and Guinea-Bissau on fishing off the coast of Guinea-Bissau, which was initialled on 19 November 1982,⁵ was signed in Brussels on 15 March. The Regulation concluding the Agreement was adopted by the Council on 28 March.⁶ Parliament had approved⁷ the corresponding Commission proposal⁸ on 11 March. The new Agreement covers the years 1983-85.

2.1.133. On 28 March the Council also adopted the Regulation concluding the Agreement between the Community and the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea on fishing off the Guinean coast; the Agreement had been signed in February.⁹

2.1.134. Negotiations with Mauritania were held from 17 to 23 March with a view to a fisheries agreement which would allow Community vessels to fish in Mauritanian waters.¹⁰ Although the two sides moved closer together on the technical issues, the

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

² Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.11; points 3.4.1 to 3.4.3.

³ OJ L 24, 27.1.1983; OJ L 25, 27.1.1983.

⁴ OJ L 24, 27.1.1983.

⁵ Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.112; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.147.

⁶ OJ L 84, 30.3.1983.

⁷ OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

⁸ OJ C 36, 9.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.89.

⁹ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.118.

¹⁰ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.93.

negotiations were inconclusive because of differences on the total payments required from European shipowners and the Community budget.

2.1.135. On 28 March the Council adopted a Regulation laying down, for the period from 1 April 1983 to 31 March 1984, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flags of certain non-member countries in the 200-mile zone off the coast of French Guiana.¹ Parliament had approved² the corresponding Commission proposal³ on 11 March.

2.1.136. The Agreement between the Community, Norway and Sweden regulating fishing in the Skagerrak and Kattegat in 1983⁴ was signed in Brussels on 24 March. The Council had approved the Regulation concluding the Agreement in January.⁵ Parliament had given its opinion² on the Commission proposal⁶ on 11 March.

2.1.137. The talks with Spain on the fishing arrangements applicable to Spanish vessels in Community waters were concluded on 18 March. On 28 March the Council adopted the Regulation defining these arrangements,¹ which are essentially the same as those applicable in 1982. The main changes concern, firstly, the hake quota, which has been reduced to 8 300 tonnes (from 8 500 tonnes in 1982) in accordance with the principle of gradual reductions embodied in the 1980 Fisheries Agreement, and, secondly, the number of licences for long liners, which has been reduced because of the larger catches now being taken by such vessels.

2.1.138. On 11 March Parliament delivered its opinion² on the Commission proposal of February 1979 for a Council Regulation concluding the fisheries agreement which the Community had negotiated with Finland.⁷

Markets and structures

Organization of markets

2.1.139. The Commission prepared a number of documents on the interpretation

of the new rules governing the common organization of the market which came into force on 1 January.⁸

Structures

2.1.140. As regards national aids, the Commission raised no objection to a draft amendment to a Sicilian regional law introducing measures to rationalize the fisheries sector; the law in question had already received Commission approval.⁹

2.1.141. The Commission also adopted a final decision pursuant to Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty finding against a fuel subsidy in Sicily¹⁰ and requiring that it be discontinued. The Commission's position on this matter is the same as that adopted towards similar subsidies in other Member States.¹¹

Transport

2.1.142. At the European Council meeting on 21 and 22 March the Heads of State or Government discussed transport and asked the Council to expedite the implementation of a common transport policy.¹² They felt that special attention should be paid to the easing of frontier formalities in the formulation of decisions on the internal market.

¹ OJ L 83, 30.3.1983.

² OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

³ OJ C 28, 3.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.88.

⁴ OJ L 73, 19.3.1983.

⁵ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.91.

⁶ OJ C 51, 23.2.1983.

⁷ OJ C 69, 13.3.1979; Bull. EC 2-1979, point 2.1.72; Twelfth General Report, point 342.

⁸ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 1.1.9.

⁹ Bull. EC 1-1981, point 2.1.54.

¹⁰ Bull. EC 2-1981, point 2.1.72; Bull. EC 6-1981, point 2.1.120; Bull. EC 3-1981, point 2.1.100.

¹¹ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.124.

¹² Point 1.5.3.

Transport, energy saving and transfrontier cooperation

2.1.143. On 11 March Parliament adopted two resolutions,¹ one on the more rational organization of transport, as a condition of improved energy saving in that sector, and the other on transfrontier transport policy in frontier regions, notably the Rhine-Maas region and Euregio.

Inland transport

Formalities and inspections in cross-frontier traffic

2.1.144. As part of its work on internal market questions² the Council continued examining the proposal for a Directive on the facilitation of formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States.³

Infrastructure

Fixed cross-Channel link

2.1.145. Pursuant to the Council Regulation of 30 December 1982 on the granting of limited support in the field of transport infrastructure,⁴ and as requested by Parliament,⁵ the Commission adopted a Decision on 30 March authorizing, after consultation with the Member States concerned, the negotiation and conclusion of a contract with the Franco-British group financing the cross-Channel link. The contract, for 400 000 ECU, is intended to help meet the costs incurred by the group in the study of the technical aspects of particular interest to the Community, especially those relating to project financing and the scope of existing and proposed Community instruments.

Experimental programme

2.1.146. The Transport Infrastructure Committee met in Brussels on 15 and 16 March to review various projects in the transport infrastructure experimental programme which had been sent to the Council on 10 December 1982.⁶

The meeting provided some very useful data concerning the evaluation of such projects' eligibility for possible financial support from the Community.

Infrastructure costs

2.1.147. The Committee on Infrastructure Charging held a meeting on 21 and 22 March to discuss the new system of charging which the Commission had explained in its communication of 11 February on a common policy for inland transport.⁷ The new system is based on the following three principles:

- (i) users to pay an appropriate share of infrastructure expenditure;
- (ii) transparency, i.e. the need to identify present contributors and the size of their contribution;
- (iii) the freedom of Member States to set the share of the total cost, above a common threshold value, to be borne by users.

A communication on possible courses of action reflecting the comments made at the meeting will be sent to the Council during the year, accompanied or followed by more specific proposals for each mode of transport.

Approximation of structures

2.1.148. On 28 March the Council adopted a Directive⁸ amending that of 19 July 1968 on the standardization of provisions regarding the duty-free admission of fuel contained in the fuel tanks of commercial motor vehicles.⁹ Under the amended Directive, Member States will be required, from 1 July 1984 at the latest, to admit duty-free 200 litres of fuel carried in a fuel tank.

¹ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

² Point 2.1.10.

³ OJ C 127, 18.5.1982; Bull. EC 4-1982, point 2.1.87.

⁴ OJ L 376, 31.12.1982.

⁵ e.g. OJ C 144, 15.6.1981; Bull. EC 5-1981, point 2.3.8.

⁶ Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.156.

⁷ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.128.

⁸ OJ L 91, 9.4.1983.

⁹ OJ L 175, 23.7.1968.

Sea transport

Ports

2.1.149. On 11 March Parliament adopted a resolution on the role of ports in the common transport policy.¹

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Cooperation with non-member countries

2.1.150. On 28 March the Council adopted a Decision² concluding a Community-COST agreement³ on concerted action in the field of shore-based marine navigation aid systems (COST Project 301). The agreement is designed to ensure coordination between the action decided by the Council on 13 December 1982⁴ and the corresponding programmes of non-member countries taking part in COST.

Energy

2.1.151. At its meeting on 21 and 22 March the European Council noted that before its June meeting in Stuttgart further decisions should be taken relating to energy and research.⁵

Formulating and implementing a Community energy policy

New system for coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry

2.1.152. On 29 March the Commission adopted a communication to the Council on the new system for coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry in the Community.⁶ This system was devised in view of the problems highlighted by the Commission in its communication of February 1982 on 'The role for coal in a Community energy strategy',⁷ which served as a basis for the Council's deliberations⁸ and for a meeting of Ministers held in Copengagen on 16 December 1982.⁹

Specific measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy

2.1.153. On 15 March the Council adopted¹⁰ a Regulation (on a proposal amended by the Commission on 19 January)¹¹ establishing specific measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy. Under this Regulation the Commission took two Decisions¹² granting financial assistance of 210 million ECU to the Federal Republic of Germany and of 400 million ECU to the United Kingdom for these energy projects and measures.

The energy situation in the Community

2.1.154. The Commission sent the Council a report on 'The energy situation in the Community: situation 1982, outlook 1983'.¹³ The report is essentially factual and shows that the Community's gross inland consumption of energy declined by 2% in 1982 to reach 891 million tonnes of oil equivalent, the lowest level since 1975, while the share of oil, which was 54.5% in 1979, fell to 48.7% in 1982. At its meeting on energy to be held on 21 April, the Council is to draw conclusions and to identify options for each energy sector.

2.1.155. On 11 March Parliament adopted a resolution on the preconditions for an effective energy policy in the Community.¹⁴

¹ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

² OJ L 84, 30.3.1983.

³ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.109.

⁴ OJ L 378, 31.12.1982.

⁵ Point 1.5.3.

⁶ Point 2.1.159; COM(83)174.

⁷ Bull. EC 2-1982, point 2.1.94; Bull. EC 9-1981, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.8.

⁸ Bull. EC 3-1982, point 2.1.166; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.166.

⁹ Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.169.

¹⁰ OJ L 73, 19.3.1983.

¹¹ OJ C 35, 3.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.103.

¹² OJ L 82, 29.3.1983.

¹³ COM(83)128 final.

¹⁴ Point 2.4.12; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

Specific problems

Oil and gas

2.1.156. On 29 March the Commission decided to publish the conclusions it had reached as the result of a detailed examination of the effects on the economy in general and on the energy sector in particular of the growing downward pressure on the price of oil over the last year. Although it considers that a moderate fall in the price of oil will encourage the process of economic recovery, it nevertheless fears that a price collapse could aggravate the international economic and financial situation and ultimately jeopardize the efforts of the last 10 years to reduce dependence on oil, which could even set the oil price cycle in motion again, possibly causing further serious disturbance to the world economy.

2.1.157. On 11 March Parliament endorsed¹ the proposal for a Directive on crude oil saving through the use of substitute fuel components in petrol² transmitted by the Commission to the Council on 5 August 1982. It called on Member States to take steps to protect the consumer, so that significant variations in the properties of blended fuels are reflected in prices charged at the pump.

2.1.158. On 11 March Parliament delivered a favourable opinion¹ on a Commission proposal to the Council concerning a recommendation on the methods of setting natural gas prices and tariffs in the Community in order to achieve more uniform pricing throughout the Community.³ Parliament approved the general introduction of a two-part tariff system consisting of a fixed component to cover fixed costs (notably the cost of connection to the grid) plus a component which varies with the volume of gas supplied. This would eliminate the practice of charging prices which are artificially low in relation to the market and to real costs, which in practice amounts to subsidizing certain categories of consumer or certain users, and can in the worst cases encourage wasteful use of fuels.

Coal

New system for coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry

2.1.159. On 29 March the Commission adopted a communication to the Council on the new system for coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry in the Community.⁴ The new system will operate as follows: it will be limited to five years (1984-88); the financial contribution from the Community for intra-Community trade in coking coal and coke will be 6 ECU per tonne instead of 3 ECU as at present; the contributions will be paid for out of the general budget, as Parliament had asked, and will total 180 million ECU; financial intervention will be degressive (contributions will be granted in respect of 10 million tonnes in 1984, and this will be cut by 2 million tonnes each year).

Coal research

2.1.160. On 8 March the Commission, acting under Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty, sought the Council's assent to and the ECSC Consultative Committee's opinion on a memorandum on a coal research programme.⁵ The programme is part of the Community's R&D policy and includes a study of the role of coal in the Community energy strategy. It includes two subprogrammes on mining engineering (35 projects) and on product beneficiation (29 projects) representing a total cost of 35 973 500 ECU, of which the Commission proposes to pay 21 584 100 ECU.

The coal market

2.1.161. The Commission has sent the Council a report on 'The Community coal market in 1982 and the outlook for 1983'. The document shows that the contribution to inland energy consumption, as in 1981, was

¹ OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

² OJ C 229, 2.9.1982; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.170.

³ OJ C 270, 14.10.1982; Bull. EC 9-1982, point 2.1.93.

⁴ Point 2.1.152; COM(83)174.

⁵ Point 2.1.175; COM(83)109 final.

20.5% for coal and 3.7% for lignite and that it should remain unchanged in 1983. The supply of coal was 5 million tonnes down on 1981, chiefly affecting Community suppliers. The drop in demand in the steel industry has not been offset by an increase in consumption by electric power stations, which means that coal and coke stocks are likely to increase again in 1983 as they did in 1982.

Investment in the Community's coal and steel industries in 1981

2.1.162. In 1981 investment in the coal industry decreased by 5% in real terms to a figure of 1 750.7 million ECU, after increasing by 25% in 1979 and 43% in 1980; a total of 243.9 million tonnes of coal was mined in the Community compared with 254.4 million in 1980. However, although investment expenditure in coking plant was more than 31% up on 1980 at 184.4 million ECU, investment in iron-ore mines was 23% down at 12.7 million ECU.

Finally, in spite of market conditions generally unfavourable to the steel companies in 1981, investment expenditure at current prices was 2 492.5 million ECU. This is approximately the same level as in 1980, when 2 474.7 million ECU were invested, which corresponds to a decrease of only 10% in real terms.

Energy saving and new energy sources

2.1.163. On 14 March the Council approved two Regulations—for 1983 only—as part of a programme to implement energy demonstration projects relating to the exploitation of alternative energy sources, energy saving and the substitution of other fuels for hydrocarbons, and to the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels.¹ The programme is to last for a number of years, but there was no final agreement as to a five-year period.

It was agreed that the Energy Ministers, when they met in June, would settle all the problems relating to as possible five-year programme. If agreement could not be reached, the Commission would withdraw the requests for appropriations for 1984.

2.1.164. The Commission has published a notice, for potentially interested businesses or local authorities, setting out the conditions for the grant of financial support for these projects, together with an invitation to submit project proposals.²

Research and development

2.1.165. The European Council, meeting in Brussels on 21 and 22 March, noted that specific new decisions needed to be taken by June, notably on research.³

Development of the common policy

JRC research programme

2.1.166. The Council meeting of Research Ministers on 10 March concentrated chiefly on the Joint Research Centre and the Super-Sara project. It was noted that, while JRC resources would no longer be used for the Super-Sara project, the JRC must nevertheless continue in the future to play a key role in the Community's research strategy. The Council approved the programme guidelines proposed by the Commission for 1984-87,⁴ which assigned a special role to the JRC in the field of safety. It likewise approved the Commission's intention of putting forward the Ispra establishment as a site for the installation of major projects. In this context, studies would be submitted to the Commission on the following: a laboratory to work on the development of tritium-handling techniques (fusion reactors, safety problems); a large-capacity vibration generator for research into the resistance of large nuclear or non-nuclear structures to disaster disturbances (e.g. earthquakes); increased

¹ OJ C 227, 1.9.1982; OJ C 261, 6.10.1982; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.174.

² OJ C 86, 28.3.1983.

³ Point 1.5.3.

⁴ Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.65; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.177.

JRC participation in work on the project that would succeed JET.

As regards the funding of the JRC, the Council considered the existing level of resources (700 million ECU) to be appropriate for the next four years (1984-87), with the total staff complement also pegged at its present level of 2 260.

The Council also took note of the Commission proposals¹ regarding staff mobility and renewal of skills at the JRC. As for improving the decision-making process, it approved the principle of setting up a JRC Council of Administration.

Lastly, it approved the Commission's intention to use the resources made available in 1983 (approx. 20 million ECU) for the decommissioning and conversion of the Essor reactor and for nuclear-safety measures.

Structures and procedures

2.1.167. In the light of experience gained since 1974 and in view of the new strategy established for the 1980s, notably the institution of a framework programme for 1984-87,² the Commission proposes in the communication it sent to the Council on 22 March³ that steps be taken to rationalize, by means of reductions and reorganization, the structures and procedures of the Community R&D committees, which have become too unwieldy. At the same time, the Commission is at pains to ensure the greatest possible expertise through direct and constant contacts between the Community institutions and the representatives of scientific circles and the persons responsible for national R&D policies.

To this end, the Commission proposes the setting-up of new structures:

(i) the creation of a Senior Scientific and Technical Policy Committee, which will be answerable to the Council and will combine the functions at present divided between Crest and various working groups attached to the Council. The task of this committee will be to assist the Council in taking decisions on the framework programme of

Community activities in the field of science and technology and on the sectoral programmes of action. The Committee will be composed of representatives of the Member States, chaired by a representative of the Member State holding the Council presidency. Sectorial services will be provided by the General Secretariat of the Council;

(ii) the setting-up of Management and Coordination Consultative Committees (CGSs) specific to each field of activity and answerable to the Commission. The Commission is suggesting nine such committees. These committees will replace the CREST subcommittees, the ACPMs (Advisory Committees on Programme Management), the COMACs (Concerted Action Committees) and most of the existing working parties in the field of science and technology, which will then all be dissolved. This will reduce the total number of committees from 46 to 9. The CGCs will assist the Commission in carrying out and managing Community R&D activities and in coordinating national R&D activities in the corresponding areas. The CGCs will consist of not more than three representatives of each Member State and of the Commission under chairmen elected from among the committee members. Secretarial services will be provided by the Commission.

Coordination of national policies

2.1.168. At its 90th meeting, held on 3 and 4 March, the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (Crest) endorsed the Commission communication on a Community plan of action relating to the evaluation of the results of the R&D programmes of the Community.⁴ In particular, the Committee recognized that this plan of action met a need which was being felt increasingly at both Community and national level, and it recorded its approval of the Commission's effort in this area to make Community research more efficient.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.134.

² Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.165; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.177.

³ COM(83)143 final; OJ C 113, 27.4.1983.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.110.

2.1.169. Crest also approved the publication of the annual report of its Subcommittee on R&D Statistics covering the public financing of R&D in the Member States over the period 1975-82. The report shows that if, in order to form an idea of the impact of research expenditure on the economy, we express total R&D appropriations as a percentage of gross domestic product, then the figures for the Community, the United States and Japan for 1979 are 1.9%, 2.4% and 2.1% respectively.

As between Member States, more than 80% of all expenditure on research in the Community is incurred by three countries (the Federal Republic of Germany, France and the United Kingdom), and these countries have an R&D/GDP ratio exceeding that of the Community. (Only the Federal Republic of Germany, in fact, reached a level in 1979 comparable with that of the USA.)

Cooperation with non-member countries

2.1.170. On 28 March¹ the Council approved the text of the agreement between the Community and non-member countries involved in European cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research (COST) relating to a concerted-action project in the field of shore-based marine navigation aid systems (COST Project 301)² and authorized the Community's participation in the agreement. This measure will help to reduce accident risks in coastal areas and ports and hence contribute to the safeguarding of human life, the safety of shipping and the prevention of pollution of the coast and coastal waters.

The agreement will enter into force on the first day of the month following that in which the Community and at least one participating non-member country sign the agreement and give notice of completion of the procedures required under the internal provisions governing the entry into force of the agreement.

2.1.171. On 1 March the Commission decided to sign, on behalf of the Communities, Memoranda of Understanding on:

- (i) corrosion in the construction industry (COST Project 502);
- (ii) powder metallurgy (COST Project 503);

- (iii) castings technology (COST Project 504);
- (iv) materials for steam turbines (COST Project 505).

The Director-General for Science, Research and Development was accordingly authorized to sign the four Memoranda.

The programmes relating to these projects are matters of concern for the Community, namely promotion of industrial competitiveness and innovation, and improvements in the management of raw materials and energy resources. It is therefore in the Commission's interest to obtain information on the progress of research connected with these four projects and to be able to gear them to the Community programmes. As part of its programme, the JRC envisages direct participation in COST Projects 503 and 505.

2.1.172. On 1 March the team responsible for defining NET (Next European Torus) was set up at Garching, near Munich. NET will be the first experimental fusion reactor. It is intended to succeed JET (Joint European Torus), which is currently nearing completion at Culham, near Oxford. The creation of the NET team is the subject of an agreement between the Community, on the one hand, and all the Member States plus Sweden and Switzerland (or their associated bodies in the fusion programme), on the other.

The tasks and principal aims of the NET team are as follows:

- (i) to define NET's basic objectives, to outline the main elements and to determine R&D needs for its subsequent construction;
- (ii) to play a key role in existing fusion activities, notably as regards the technology programme;
- (iii) to provide the necessary technical data to enable a decision to be taken at the end of 1984 on the strategy to be pursued and to enable the programme to be revised accordingly;
- (iv) to increase Europe's capacity for international cooperation on the 'next step';

¹ OJ L 84, 30.3.1983.

² OJ L 378, 31.12.1982; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.109.

(v) to provide future European contributions to the INIOR design study for as long as the latter continues.

The head of the NET team has been appointed. In the short term, the team should have a staff complement of between 25 and 30 physicists and engineers plus the corresponding technical and administrative support. A substantial contribution to the team's work will be made by the JRC, Ispra, notably in the field of systems and safety studies. Under the fusion programme, moreover, the team will also benefit from the cooperation of all the Community's associated national bodies.

Multiannual programmes

Energy

Solar energy — Photovoltaic pilot plants

2.1.173. One third of the 15 photovoltaic pilot plants have now been completed. These five plants are located in French Guiana, Ireland, Greece (Crete) and France (one near Nîmes and one at Nice). The total installed electric power amounts to 200 kW. The biggest single plant is to be inaugurated in mid-1983 (Island of Pellworm, Germany, 100 kW), and all pilot plants will be operational before the end of the year (total electric power of 1 MW).

Support for industrial development

ECSC research

2.1.174. On 24 March, under Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission transmitted to the Council and to the ECSC Consultative Committee for information a communication relating to a new programme on the granting of financial support for 'pilot' and/or 'demonstration' projects in the iron and steel industry.¹ The object of this programme is to promote the transfer and adoption by industry of new technologies in the iron and steel sector, with the ultimate aim of improving the industry's competitiveness.

At the same time, the programme will be concerned with process-oriented and

product-oriented iron and steel technologies of an innovatory nature. The projects will need to pursue the following objectives: lowering of production and operating costs, improvement in plant productivity, higher product quality, reduction in the capital cost of plant, development of new processes, improvement of product performance or extension of the range of product applications.

For this programme, the Commission plans to allocate a total amount of 50 million ECU for a probable period of five years; the funds to be made available annually will depend on budget constraints. For the 1983 financial year, proposals may be submitted to the Commission up to 1 July 1983.²

2.1.175. On 8 March the Commission transmitted to the Council (for its assent)³ and to the ECSC Consultative Committee (for its opinion)⁴ a memorandum concerning the implementation of a coal research programme with a view to obtaining financial aid under the terms of Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty. This programme is divided into three parts: mining engineering, use and upgrading of coal, and abstraction and translation of technical literature published in the so-called 'difficult' languages. The aid in question totals 21 798 900 ECU.

2.1.176. Lastly, the Commission decided on 23 March, after receiving the Council's assent and a favourable opinion from the ECSC Consultative Committee, to grant financial aid of 1 485 905 ECU to nine projects under the fourth medical research programme on the effects on the health of workers of physical stress and other occupational factors at the workplace.⁵

Living and working conditions

Nickel in the human environment

2.1.177. The Commission was a joint sponsor, with the French Ministry of the

¹ COM(83)135 final.

² OJ C 81, 24.3.1983.

³ COM(83)109 final; point 2.1.160.

⁴ Point 2.4.3.

⁵ Bull. EC 10-1981, point 2.1.67.

Environment and the International Agency for Research on Cancer, of a meeting on nickel in the human environment, held at Lyons from 8 to 11 March.

The main purpose of the meeting was to bring together the leading specialists on various aspects of nickel pollution, in order to review current knowledge concerning the health risks associated with exposure to nickel.

The discussions centred on the carcinogenicity of nickel. Although the carcinogenic risk associated with occupational exposure to nickel is widely recognized, it is still not clear which compounds of nickel are implicated and which types of cancer (besides lung and nasal sinus) are involved.

Allergic reactions are perhaps a less serious but more widespread consequence of excessive exposure to nickel, and there are signs that those may be increasing. Nickel exposure is particularly hazardous for cardiac patients. Possible risks from nickel to future generations require further investigation.

The meeting proved extremely useful in reviewing and discussing the latest research in this area.

Evaluation of the 1976-80 radiation protection research programme

2.1.178. In the context of the Commission's activity concerning the evaluation of Community research programmes, the 1976-80 radiation protection programme¹ has been evaluated. The evaluation panel was composed of seven independent outside experts. The aspects evaluated were the scientific outcome and value of the contract research in relation to the initial programme objectives, the programme management and the socio-economic impact of the results.

The evaluation was based on the examination of reports and publications, on interviews with scientists and on answers to a questionnaire sent out to all contractors. It is reflected in renewed support for the Commission's effort in the field of radiation protection.

The results of the evaluation of this programme will be particularly useful in drawing up and appraising the programme proposal for 1985-89 since they provide the decision-maker with a series of criteria by which to assess the scientific value of the new programme. They will also facilitate its integration into the overall field of radiation protection research. The evaluation report will be published.

Study group on accident consequence assessment

2.1.179. Evaluation of the consequences of accidental releases of radioactivity from nuclear installations is a priority area of the current 1980-84 radiation protection research programme² and the subject of a two-year research project being carried out jointly by Kernforschungsanlage Karlsruhe and the UK National Radiological Protection Board. Its purpose is to take stock of the studies conducted on the probable risk in the Member States, with due regard to the impact on siting, emergency planning, etc. Its possible implications as regards technical regulations are also of special importance to Community legislation on radioactive effluents and safety measures in nuclear installations.

¹ Tenth General Report, point 398.

² Fourteenth General Report, point 494.

2. Enlargement and external relations

Enlargement and bilateral relations with applicant countries

Acquis communautaire

2.2.1. At its meeting in Copenhagen on 3 and 4 December 1982, the European Council had stressed the importance of rapid progress on a number of important issues in order to facilitate a harmonious enlargement of the Community.¹ In particular, it had asked the Council to complete by March the revision of existing Community rules for certain Mediterranean agricultural products, namely olive oil, fruit and vegetables.

In February the Commission presented revised proposals aimed at facilitating the decisions which have to be taken to prepare the accession negotiations with Portugal and Spain.² In the light of these proposals and the positions of the different delegations, the Council identified a number of issues which it referred to the European Council at its Brussels meeting on 21 and 22 March. The text of the statement issued by the European Council is to be found elsewhere.³

Portugal

Accession negotiations

2.2.2. The 12th ministerial-level meeting of the Accession Negotiations Conference was held in Brussels on 15 March.

The Portuguese delegation hoped that the agricultural problems would be overcome as and when they occurred, without waiting for the Community's internal problems to be solved first. As regards social affairs, it felt that its memorandum on emigration and freedom of movement of workers should be sufficient to overcome any difficulties. The delegation also presented statements concerning fisheries and the approximation of laws.

2.2.3. The ministerial meeting had been preceded on 4 March by a deputy-level meeting; the Community delegation had presented a statement on the approximation of laws and external relations. The Portuguese

delegation had presented a statement on agriculture, the environment and consumer protection, and external relations.

2.2.4. Mr Natali paid an official visit to Lisbon on 4 and 5 March. He met General Eanes, the President of the Republic, Mr Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister, Mr Joel Salgueiro, the Finance and Planning Minister, and a number of other ministers. Detailed discussions were held on the progress of the negotiations and the future prospects and the question of the pre-accession measures with which Portugal would have to comply before accession.

Spain

Accession negotiations

2.2.5. On 25 March the 25th deputy-level meeting of the negotiations for Spain's accession to the European Community was held in Brussels.

The Community presented statements on taxation (tobacco), ECSC (second-quality products) and the approximation of laws.

The Spanish delegation, headed by Mr Manuel Marín, the new Minister of State for Relations with the EEC, presented statements on external relations, social policy and special requests concerning Ceuta and Melilla.

2.2.6. On 8 March, Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Mr Fernando Morán (Spanish Foreign Minister) and Mr Lorenzo Natali met in Strasbourg. The aim of the meeting was to facilitate solutions on the question of customs union at the next ministerial meeting in April.

Bilateral relations

2.2.7. On 28 March the Council adopted the Regulation laying down fisheries arrangements applying to Spanish vessels in Community waters in 1983.⁴

¹ Bull. EC 12-1982, points 1.2.4.

² Bull. EC 2-1983, points 2.1.86 to 2.1.88 and 2.2.1.

³ Point 1.5.5.

⁴ OJ L 83, 30.3.1983; point 2.1.37.

Commercial policy

Implementing the common commercial policy

Import arrangements

2.2.8. The European Council asked in the 'Conclusions' issued after its meeting in Brussels on 21 and 22 March¹ that the Council take a position by June on the proposals made by the Commission in February on the strengthening of the common commercial policy.²

Easing of restrictive measures

2.2.9. Under the Council Regulation of 4 December 1980 on import arrangements in respect of State-trading countries,³ the Commission decided on the opening of the following quotas:

Benelux — Hungary/Poland/Romania/Czechoslovakia: textiles (outward processing);⁴

France — Poland: spirituous beverages;⁵

Italy — German Democratic Republic: synthetic organic dyestuffs;

Italy — Hungary/Poland/Czechoslovakia/German Democratic Republic: aluminium alloy waste recast into ingots containing less than 97.5% aluminium.

Trade protection

2.2.10. The Council imposed definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of certain sodium carbonate originating in the United States of America and kraftliner paper and board originating in the United States of America.⁶

2.2.11. The Commission imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty on certain iron or steel coils for re-rolling originating in Argentina, Brazil, Canada or Venezuela.⁷

2.2.12. The Commission published notices of initiation of anti-dumping proceedings concerning imports of:

- (i) sanitary fixtures of porcelain or china originating in Czechoslovakia or Hungary;⁸
- (ii) caravans for camping and parts thereof originating in Yugoslavia.⁹

2.2.13. The Commission decided to accept the undertakings given in connection with the anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of ferro-silicon originating in Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Venezuela or Yugoslavia and to terminate that proceeding.¹⁰ It also accepted undertakings given in connection with the review of the anti-dumping proceeding concerning kraftliner paper and board originating in Austria, Canada, Finland, Portugal, the Soviet Union or Sweden.⁶

It also decided to terminate the anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of television image and sound recorders or reproducers originating in Japan.¹¹

2.2.14. The Commission introduced retrospective Community surveillance of imports of the following products originating in Japan: fork-lift trucks, quartz watches and high-fidelity equipment.¹²

2.2.15. On 28 March the Council introduced protective measures applying to cube and pipe fittings of malleable cast iron originating in certain non-member countries and imported into Italy.¹¹

Sectoral commercial policy measures

Textiles

2.2.16. On 7 March the Commission adopted a Regulation making the importation into

¹ Point 1.5.3.

² Bull. EC 2-1983, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.9; OJ C 83, 26.3.1983.

³ OJ L 353, 29.12.1980.

⁴ OJ C 60, 4.3.1983.

⁵ OJ C 78, 22.3.1983.

⁶ OJ L 64, 10.3.1983.

⁷ OJ L 82, 29.3.1983.

⁸ OJ C 87, 29.3.1983.

⁹ OJ C 89, 31.3.1983.

¹⁰ OJ L 57, 4.3.1983.

¹¹ OJ L 86, 31.3.1983.

¹² OJ L 77, 23.3.1983.

the Community of cotton fabrics and T-shirts originating in Turkey subject to quantitative limitation from 9 March to 15 July.¹ During this period 1 200 tonnes of cotton fabrics and 3 600 000 T-shirts may be imported.

The Commission was led to take this decision in view of the rapid increase in imports of these products, which are aggravating the market disruption in the Community, and the fact that despite the efforts which the Commission has been making for several months, it has been impossible to come to an arrangement with Turkey concerning trade.²

However, these are merely interim protective measures. They enable Turkish exports to continue within certain limits until such time as a satisfactory arrangement can be concluded between the two parties. In this connection the Commission has expressed the desire that talks with Turkish exporters and the Turkish Government can be resumed as soon as possible.

Relations with industrialized countries

2.2.17. The European Council of 21 and 22 March stated its views on the preparation of the forthcoming Economic Summit at Williamsburg in May and on the need for a proper dialogue between Europe and the United States on trade in agricultural products.³

United States

2.2.18. On 17 and 18 March Mr Haferkamp and Mr Dalsager discussed in Washington, at a political level, the progress made during the two rounds of technical discussions on agricultural problems held in January and February.⁴ These technical discussions were a follow-up to the meeting in Brussels on 10 December 1982 between a United States ministerial-level delegation led by the Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, and a Commission delegation led by Mr Thorn.⁵

The two sides decided to try to find accommodations to their bilateral agricultural problems within existing systems. They also

confirmed that no attempt had been made at this stage in these exploratory discussions to work out the details of possible arrangements, but the constructive spirit in which they had been held seemed to be a good basis for further work.

2.2.19. Still in the agricultural sector, Parliament adopted a resolution on 10 March⁶ on the sale of US agricultural products to Egypt.⁷

2.2.20. The Community and its Member States presented an *aide-mémoire* to the United States authorities on 23 March concerning the renewal of the 1979 Export Administration Act, which expires in September. President Reagan recently proposed amendments to the Act to Congress, with a view to stepping up controls over high-technology exports to the countries of the Eastern trading area. The *aide-mémoire* criticizes those aspects of the Act which give it extraterritorial application.

Canada

2.2.21. Mr William Davis, Premier of Ontario, visited the Commission on 2 March for talks with Mr Haferkamp and Mr Davignon.

Mr Haferkamp expressed the Community's concern regarding various aspects of the Canadian countervailing duty procedure in respect of Community imports—notably of Italian wine—introduced by the Ontario wine producers, and also regarding the lack of progress in the removal of discriminatory practices applied by the Liquor Board of Ontario to imported alcoholic beverages.

The discussions with Mr Davignon centred on the energy situation.

Japan

2.2.22. The export floor-price system for Japanese video tape recorders imported into

¹ OJ L 63, 9.3.1983.

² Point 2.2.27.

³ Point 1.5.4.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.2.14; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.2.23.

⁵ Bull. EC 12-1982, points 1.3.1 and 1.3.2.

⁶ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

⁷ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.2.23.

the Community came into force on 18 March. This constitutes the implementation of the assurances given by the Minister for International Trade and Industry, Mr Sadanori Yamanaka, during the talks in Tokyo in February with Mr Haferkamp and Mr Davignon.¹

The Commission also received confirmation from the European manufacturers who lodged an anti-dumping complaint in December against imports from Japan of the products concerned that the complaint would be withdrawn forthwith.

2.2.23. Following the talks in Tokyo in February between Mr Haferkamp and Mr Davignon and leading Japanese personalities,² Commission staff received senior Japanese officials on 10 and 11 March³ to explore potential cooperation in development assistance in general, and in particular to define the countries, sectors and circumstances where this cooperation might be brought about.

After detailed familiarization with each others' possibilities and constraints, the two sides concentrated on the agricultural and social sectors, where an initial cooperative project might be identified. These contacts are to be pursued.

Relations with other countries and regions

Mediterranean countries

Turkey

Meeting of the Association Council

2.2.24. The EEC-Turkey Association Council met at ambassador level on 28 March with only one major item on the agenda—the operation of the Association Agreement.

2.2.25. At that meeting the Community said it could not accept the 15% tax which Turkey had been applying since December 1982 on imports of 45 products of Community origin, notably in the steel sector.

2.2.26. It also asked for a stop to be put immediately to the difficulties encountered at the Turkish border by French exporters. Like the 15% tax, these measures are considered by the Community to be incompatible with the Association Agreement and GATT rules.

2.2.27. The Community did, however, express satisfaction at the fact that an agreement had been concluded on cotton yarn in August 1982,⁴ although certain improvements were still desirable.

The Community renewed its invitation to Turkey to conclude a comprehensive arrangement for other sensitive textile products (T-shirts, cotton fabrics, blouses and trousers), as the other Mediterranean textile-exporting countries had already done.

2.2.28. The Turkish delegation made a very general statement, dealing in turn with problems of trade, financial assistance and labour. It hoped that the Community properly appreciated, in a constructive attitude, Turkey's progress towards democracy since General Evren had come to power.

The Turkish delegation felt that the Community should review its position on the fourth Financial Protocol—which had been held in abeyance by the Community since 1981 because of the political situation in Turkey—so that it could enter into force as soon as the general elections had been held in October.

The Community delegation took note of the Turkish statement.

Cyprus

2.2.29. The Council meeting of 14 March held a detailed discussion on the progress of negotiations with Cyprus to work out contractual trade arrangements for 1983. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the matter and to report back as soon as soon as possible.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 1.2.4.

² Bull. EC 2-1983, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.6.

³ Point 2.2.54.

⁴ OJ L 246, 21.8.1982; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.2.9.

Malta

2.2.30. The Council meeting of 14 March also held a detailed discussion on the content of the new Financial Protocol which the Commission is proposing to replace the current Protocol, due to expire at the end of October. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the question further and report back as soon as possible.

Yugoslavia

EEC-Yugoslavia Business Week

2.2.31. An EEC-Yugoslavia Business Week was held in Belgrade from 7 to 11 March, under the joint chairmanship of Mr Janko Smole, Member of the Federal Executive Council, and Mr Haferkamp.

It brought together more than 400 firms from the Community Member States and Yugoslavia, and discussions were held on issues and sectors of common interest. These discussions were followed by business contacts.

This Business Week had taken the parties a year to prepare and provided a forum for firms from the two sides to look at the various possibilities and forms of cooperation, its financing, cooperation on other markets, marketing and commercial cooperation.

The discussions centred on the following areas: engineering, machine tools, the agri-foodstuffs industry, agricultural machinery, motor vehicles, mining equipment, electricity and electronics, telecommunications and chemicals. The participants were able to compare experiences, examine possibilities of cooperation and demonstrate their common resolve to overcome the economic difficulties which might prevent cooperation from developing harmoniously in the long term.

2.2.32. The Yugoslav authorities and the Community stressed their desire to continue their efforts so that the Business Week would not be merely an isolated example of cooperation but the first stage of a continuous dialogue at all levels of economic activity.

It is in this frame of mind that the two parties will be preparing the forthcoming meeting of the Cooperation Council, which is to meet for the first time under the new EEC-Yugoslavia Cooperation Agreement on 24 May.¹

2.2.33. In a resolution adopted on 9 March Parliament urged the Commission and the Council to make every effort to ensure that the EEC-Yugoslavia Cooperation Agreement becomes operational as soon as possible.²

Jordan

2.2.34. Mr Natali paid an official visit to Jordan in March. This followed similar visits by Mr Natali to Morocco, Tunisia, Israel, Algeria and Egypt in his dual capacity as Member of the Commission responsible for enlargement and chairman of the Commission's Mediterranean group.

The talks which Mr Natali had with several members of the government and Crown Prince Hassan centred on the problems which might be caused for Jordan as a result of enlargement of the Community and the Community's thinking on the overall Mediterranean policy to be pursued after enlargement.

2.2.35. During his visit, on 27 March, Mr Natali opened the European Community spring festival, which is to take place in Amman until 20 April.

Lebanon

2.2.36. On 14 March the Council decided to grant exceptional Community aid of 20 million ECU to Lebanon for a project to supply drinking water to Beirut. This decision is the practical expression of the Commission's intention, referred to on several occasions since June 1982,³ to make a contribution towards the reconstruction of Lebanon.

*

2.2.37. Parliament sent its first official delegation to Egypt and Jordan for talks at

¹ OJ L 41, 14.12.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.2.21.

² Point 2.4.14; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

³ Bull. EC 6-1982, point 1.5.4.

the highest governmental and parliamentary level. The leader of the delegation also went to Damascus. Apart from their general political significance, contacts of this nature are to be encouraged in connection with the cooperation agreements between the Community and the Mediterranean countries.

Countries of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula

Gulf Cooperation Council

2.2.38. Following the visit of Mr Abdulla Yacoub Bishara, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, to Brussels in June 1982,¹ a Commission delegation was received by the Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 20 to 22 March.

The main purpose of the visit was to find out more about the objectives and the functioning of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

During the discussions it was agreed to inaugurate a technical cooperation programme in the areas of statistics, customs, information and energy.

Asian countries

Association of South East Asian Nations

EEC-ASEAN ministerial meeting

2.2.39. An EEC-ASEAN ministerial meeting took place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 24-25 March and was opened by the Thai Prime Minister, Mr Prem Tinsulanonda. Six Community Foreign Ministers, together with representatives of the remaining Member States, and their five ASEAN counterparts participated in the fourth meeting between the two regions since 1978.

Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, President of the Council, and Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp acted as spokesmen for the Community and its Member States.

2.2.40. In a particularly friendly, frank and constructive meeting re-emphasizing the close political and economic ties between two

regions which to a large extent share a common view of the world, there were wide-ranging discussions on internal and regional issues. On the political front the main emphasis was on the Kampuchean situation and the associated refugee problem, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the outcome of the non-aligned summit.

2.2.41. On the economic side the talks centred on the international trade situation and North-South issues (including the preparations for Unctad VI), commodities and the prospects for global negotiations. The meeting also welcomed the rapid expansion and diversification of activities under the EEC-ASEAN Cooperation Agreement and emphasized the importance of increased cooperation between industrial and business sectors of the two regions.

In his opening statement Mr Haferkamp strongly defended the Community against accusations of protectionism by developing countries. The Community remained committed to an open world trading system, and the growth in ASEAN exports of manufactured goods to the Community had been impressive.

Talks with Mr Haferkamp

2.2.42. While in Bangkok for the EEC-ASEAN ministerial meeting, Mr Haferkamp held discussions with Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, Foreign Minister of Thailand. They discussed bilateral relations between the Community and Thailand, including the operation of the Tapioca Agreement, and development aid. The Thai Foreign Minister also expressed concern about the possible resumption of Community food aid to Vietnam.

Industrial conference

2.2.43. In the context of improving industrial cooperation, as provided for in the EEC-ASEAN Cooperation Agreement,² an industrial conference aimed at the machine-tool industry, processing machinery and

¹ Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.2.66.

² Fourteenth General Report, point 690.

agricultural machinery took place in Kuala Lumpur from 27 February to 2 March, inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamed. This conference, which was financed by the Community, gave some 130 European business people the opportunity to meet their ASEAN opposite numbers with a view to undertaking possible joint ventures, concluding subcontracting agreements or launching export-oriented projects.

Republic of Korea

High-level consultations

2.2.44. Under the joint chairmanship of Mr Haferkamp and Mr Lee Bum-Suk, the Republic of Korea's Foreign Minister, high-level consultations between the Community and Korea were held in Seoul on 28 March. They are the first in a series of high-level annual meetings devoted to economic relations which were agreed at the beginning of the year.¹

Korea is now the third Asian country, after Japan and China, to hold this type of meeting with the Community.

Trade relations between the Community and Korea are based on GATT most-favoured-nation treatment and on two bilateral agreements—on steel and textiles.

Korea is endeavouring to give a broader geographic spread to its economic and trade relations, which so far have been geared mainly to the United States and Japan. The government has been urging Korean economic operators to look for new markets and new suppliers. A practical example of this is the EEC-Korea symposium organized in Brussels in September 1981,² to give industrialists, bankers and businesses in Europe and Korea the opportunity of finding out about trade and investment possibilities.

2.2.45. This first consultation at ministerial level provided an opportunity to take stock of the present economic situation, both in the Community and in Korea, as well as the situation in the world at large and the prospects for revival.

The results of the GATT ministerial meeting last November,³ work connected with that meeting, and the forthcoming Unctad session were also examined.

For some years the Community has had a trade deficit with Korea of slightly more than 1 000 million ECU, and the Commission delegation remarked that there were no grounds for excessive concern provided that the deficit did not get any larger and mutual trade patterns developed harmoniously. The two delegations noted that the overall level of trade remained relatively low and that there was considerable room for expansion. The discussions centred on various questions concerned more specifically with bilateral trade (textiles, steel, footwear, shipyards, etc.).

In a brief exchange of views on science and technology it was decided to explore possible means of cooperation.

Mr Haferkamp was received by the President of the Republic and met the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Economic Planning Board, the Foreign Minister and the Minister of Trade and Industry.

Latin American countries

Europe/Latin America Institute

2.2.46. With a view to increasing communication and improving mutual understanding between the Community and Latin America, the Commission made a proposal to the Council and Parliament on 16 March that they support the establishment of a Europe/Latin America Institute.⁴

The Institute would be a centre for the exchange of information and would organize conferences and seminars, give advice and encourage studies; it would also carry out research on political and economic issues relevant to relations between the two sides. It would consist of two branches, one in the Community, the other in Latin America.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.2.29.

² Bull. EC 9-1981, point 2.2.42.

³ Bull. EC 11-1982, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.3.

⁴ COM(83)142 final.

The Institute would be run as a private, non-profit-making organization and be financed by grants, a considerable proportion of which should be covered by the Community, in the Commission's view, particularly in the early stages.

2.2.47. In its proposal the Commission recalled the views expressed by the European Council in June 1982¹ in favour of improved cooperation between Latin America and the Community. There have been a number of positive developments since then (entry into force of the EEC-Brazil Cooperation Agreement,² an increase in Community financial aid to Central America,³ talks resumed with the Andean Pact countries with a view to negotiating a cooperation agreement).⁴ The Commission considers, however, that something permanent must be done and that the Europe/Latin America Institute could play a positive role here.

Andean Pact

2.2.48. With a view to facilitating the resumption of the official negotiations for the conclusion of a Framework Agreement for cooperation between the Community and the parties to the Cartagena Agreement (Andean Pact),⁵ technical discussions were held in Lima on 14 and 15 March between a Commission delegation and representatives of the Junta of the Cartagena Agreement.

As a result of these discussions progress was made in defining the content of the suggested agreement, which should mean that negotiations can be resumed in the near future.

The Commission delegation was received by Mr Gonzalo de la Puente, President of the Commission of the Cartagena Agreement, and by the Coordinator and members of the Junta.

State-trading countries

Poland

2.2.49. On 8 March the Council authorized apples withdrawn from the market to be

placed at the disposal of charity organizations for distribution free of charge in Poland.⁶ The transport and distribution costs are to be borne by the organizations concerned.

This measure falls in with the wishes of Parliament, which adopted a resolution along these lines last November.⁷

Development⁸

2.2.50. The European Council, which met in Brussels on 21 and 22 March, issued a statement summarizing its conclusions on the Community's development policy, with a view to the Williamsburg Economic Summit and the next European Council meeting.⁹

2.2.51. The Ministers responsible for development cooperation also met informally in Bonn on 3 March. The meeting was devoted mainly to examining the effects of the drop in oil prices and to discussions on the next ACP-EEC Convention.

As regards the first point, it was agreed that the extent and nature of the fall were still uncertain and that it would have different effects in different countries. These effects would have to be taken into account when aid guidelines were drawn up, but there should be no slackening of effort to save energy or to develop alternative sources of energy; if anything, this effort should be increased.

On the second point, Mr Edgard Pisani put forward three *idées-forces* for the next Convention:¹⁰ it should be founded on certain permanent basic principles, agreement

¹ Bull. EC 6-1982, point 1.5.6.

² Bull. EC 9-1982, point 2.2.51; OJ L 281, 4.10.1982.

³ Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.2.78.

⁴ Point 2.2.48.

⁵ Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela.

⁶ OJ L 65, 11.3.1983.

⁷ OJ C 334, 20.12.1982.

⁸ See also 'Relations with other countries and regions'.

⁹ Point 1.5.4.

¹⁰ Points 1.1.2 to 1.1.8.

should be reached on development objectives and there should be scope for dialogue on policies. The Member States expressed their interest in all three ideas.

Brief discussions took place on the reform of food aid, which everyone agreed should be made more effective.¹

2.2.52. The OECD's Development Aid Committee² met on 7 March and examined Community aid to developing countries via the Commission and the EIB.

It welcomed the considerable increase in aid in 1981 and noted with interest the Community's will to step up communication with the recipients with a view to greater effectiveness.

The Group on North-South Issues also met in March.³

2.2.53. Development policy was the central theme of the meetings which Mr David Knox, Vice President of the World Bank, and Mr Stanislas Kpognon, special adviser, had with the Commission on 7 and 8 March. The discussions concerned the forthcoming political talks between donors/lenders and developing countries and the possibilities of coordinating aid (as in the food aid strategy).

The two sides also exchanged information on probable future initiatives for replenishing the resources of Sysmin, Stabex and AID and combining ODA with private finance.

As Mr Knox is responsible for West Africa, the opportunity was taken to compare analyses of the projects and programmes carried out in the region. The two sides also agreed to pursue the cooperation between their institutions and discussed the possibility of a visit of senior Commission officials to the World Bank in May.

2.2.54. On 10 and 11 March senior Japanese officials visited the Commission, at a general level, to explore the possibilities of cooperation on development aid and, more specifically, to decide which countries, sectors and cases should be eligible for cooperation. After they had examined in detail their respective possibilities and limitations, the two sides selected the agricultural and social

sectors as suitable for an initial cooperation project. It was agreed that within five weeks each party would select potentially interesting projects for the other party to examine and, subject to the agreement of the recipient State, concerted action would be arranged and implemented for one of those projects.

Food aid, emergency aid and exceptional aid

Food aid

2.2.55. The Community's food aid policy was the subject of a communication which the Commission sent to the Council on 24 March. It contains specific guidelines for the reform of this policy⁴ which are in line with the September 1982 memorandum.⁵

Emergency aid

2.2.56. On 10 March the Commission authorized the allocation of 1 000 tonnes of sugar worth 250 000 ECU and 1 000 tonnes of vegetable oil worth 450 000 ECU to Ecuador.

In December 1982 heavy flooding caused considerable damage affecting 20% of the population and destroying thousand of hectares of rice, soya, sugar cane, maize and bananas. On 28 December the government declared a state of emergency in the affected regions and launched an international appeal for aid for the disaster victims.

The Commission had already taken two emergency decisions (in January and early in March) involving a total amount of 300 000 ECU and had also decided in February to supply food aid of 5 000 tonnes of cereals worth 1 million ECU.

2.2.57. On 22 March the Commission authorized the allocation of 100 tonnes of

¹ Points 1.1.9 to 1.1.23.

² Point 2.2.83.

³ Point 2.2.82.

⁴ Points 1.1.9 to 1.1.23.

⁵ Bull. EC 9-1982, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.11; Supplement 5/82 — Bull. EC.

vegetable oil valued at 165 000 ECU and 100 tonnes of sugar valued at 25 000 ECU to the Comoros following Cyclone Elinah.

Exceptional aid

2.2.58. On 14 March the Council decided on exceptional Community aid of 20 million ECU for Lebanon for an investment project for the pumping and piping of drinking water for Beirut.

2.2.59. On 4 March the Commission approved allocations of emergency aid to Peru (100 000 ECU) and Ecuador (200 000 ECU). Torrential rain and flooding continue to devastate several areas of these two countries, causing substantial damage. Some 300 000 persons in Ecuador and 100 000 in Peru are currently in need of help. The aid in question will be assigned to the non-governmental organization Deutsche Welthungerhilfe in order to finance its aid programme (purchase of local food products, medicines, small items of equipment, etc.).

Commodities and world agreements

Sugar

2.2.61. On 14 March the Council adopted the directives to be followed by the Commission¹ for negotiating a new International Sugar Agreement. On the basis of these directives the Commission participated from 14 to 18 March in the third and last meeting of the Preparatory Committee, with a view to the opening of the formal negotiations to be held in Geneva from 2 to 20 May.

2.2.62. The delegations of the three major sugar exporting countries (Australia, Brazil and Cuba) had met a Commission delegation in Brussels at the end of February; the aim of the meeting had been to enable the Commission to explain in detail its approach to a new International Sugar Agreement, particularly as regards obligations for major exporters.

Wheat

2.2.63. At meeting of the International Wheat Council and of the Food Aid

Committee, held in London from 29 November to 2 December 1982, the texts of Protocols for the extension to the Conventions constituting the 1971 International Wheat Agreement for a further three-year period beginning on 1 July 1983 were drawn up.

On 4 March the Commission recommended that the Council should sign and deposit the declaration of provisional application of the Protocols by the Community.²

Jute

2.2.64. On 16 March the Commission proposed to the Council that the Member States and the Community should sign the International Jute Agreement before 30 June and notify their intention to apply it provisionally as soon as it enters into force.³

The Agreement, which was negotiated in the framework of Unctad in 1982,⁴ is one of a series of agreements under the integrated programme for commodities. (The others in which the Community participates are those for coffee, olive oil, rubber, tin and cocoa.)

The Agreement sets up an International Jute Council with headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which will normally meet twice a year. Its main tasks will be to prepare and approve projects in the field of research, development, trade promotion and cost reduction, with the aim of improving the competitive position of jute on world markets. The Council will also consider the question of stabilization of the market.

The Community and the Member States will participate in the Agreement as importing countries. The Agreement will come into force provisionally when three exporters (representing 85% of exports) and 20 importers (representing 65% of imports) have signed the Agreement and notified their provisional acceptance of it.

¹ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.2.36.

² COM(83) 96 final.

³ COM(83) 102 final.

⁴ Bull. EC 9-1982, point 2.2.17.

The principal exporters of jute are Bangladesh, India, Thailand and Nepal. The principal importers are the Community, the United States, Australia, Cuba, Japan, Pakistan, Egypt, Sudan and the USSR.

Commercial, industrial, financial and technical cooperation

Trade promotion

2.2.65. The Commission coordinated and financed the participation of ACP and other developing countries in Asia and Latin America in two trade events:

- (i) the International Tourism Fair in Berlin, from 5 to 13 March; 25 ACP and 10 other developing countries presented what they have to offer the tourist in a setting of three holiday villages built in the Caribbean, Pacific and African styles;
- (ii) the Forum of Nations — Holiday, Tourism and Leisure Exhibition in Brussels, from 19 to 27 March; 11 ACP States and three Asian developing countries had stands at the exhibition.

Relations with non-governmental organizations

2.2.66. At the end of March 164 eligible projects, representing 21 739 125 ECU, had been submitted to the Commission by 80 NGOs since the beginning of the year. To date, grants totalling 903 115 ECU have been committed for five projects.

In addition 148 085 ECU was spent on co-financing four campaigns to heighten public awareness of development issues.

ACP States and OCT

ACP-EEC Conventions

Negotiations for a new convention

2.2.67. On 29 March the Commission sent to the Council a communication¹ proposing guidelines, as foreshadowed in the memorandum of last September,² for the forthcom-

ing negotiations to renew the ACP-EEC Convention.

Implementation of the Convention

2.2.68. On 15 March Mr Victor Saude Maria, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, paid an official visit to the Commission, where he had separate talks with Mr Thorn and Mr Pisani.

In connection with the visit there was a general survey of cooperation between the Community and Guinea-Bissau, and the Commission said it would stress to the Member States the importance of finding rapid solutions to the serious economic problems facing that country.

On 5 March the two sides signed a new fisheries agreement for 1983-85.³ In return for the fishing opportunities granted, the Community will pay compensation of 4 275 000 ECU for the three years in question.

European Development Fund

2.2.69. In March the Commission took decisions involving the allocation of fourth and fifth EDF resources totalling 93 123 000 ECU to finance projects and programmes and emergency aid operations within its purview in the following sectors:

	<i>ECU</i>
Road infrastructure	52 500 000
Energy	37 000 000
Stockfarming	2 823 000
Emergency aid	800 000
	93 123 000

2.2.70. Emergency aid totalling 300 000 ECU was allocated to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to assist its efforts on behalf of the Ugandan refugees who are still entering Sudan.

¹ Points 1.1.2 to 1.1.8.

² Bull. EC 9-1982, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.11; Supplement 5/82 — Bull. EC.

³ Point 2.1.32.

Emergency aid of 500 000 ECU was granted to Fiji as a contribution to the government's relief programme following Cyclone Oscar, which hit the island at the beginning of March, killing several people, causing serious damage and leaving 100 000 homeless.

*

2.2.71. As part of the increased cooperation between the Community and the two largest Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, a Commission team visited Angola and Mozambique from 9 to 21 March.

Talks with the authorities of both countries centred on:

- (i) the programming of financial and technical aid under the 1983 budget appropriation for the non-associated developing countries, which includes some 5 million ECU for the two countries concerned;
- (ii) the programming of food aid for 1983 (usual programme and emergency aid following the drought);
- (iii) SADCC regional programming: this concerned the energy sector in Angola and transport and communications in Mozambique, as these two countries are the respective chairmen of the corresponding committees;
- (iv) the preparation of Angola and Mozambique for their participation in the negotiations on the future ACP-EEC Convention; their political resolve to participate actively and positively in the negotiations was once again confirmed by the two governments, which will be sending top-level missions to Brussels in May and June for preparatory talks both with the Commission and with the ACP States.

2.2.72. At the invitation of the President of the Republic, Mr Pisani paid an official visit to the Ivory Coast from 8 to 11 March. He outlined the development policy memorandum¹ to all the ministers concerned and had talks with Mr Félix Houphouët-Boigny.

Mr Pisani also visited the large palm plantation at Ehania and the current works on the road from Abidjan to Accra.

International organizations and conferences

United Nations

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Committee on Manufactures

2.2.73. Unctad's Committee on Manufactures met in Geneva from 14 to 22 March. It had before it substantial documentation from the Unctad Secretariat on a number of industrial sectors of particular interest to the developing countries: petrochemicals, fertilizers, textiles, leather and leather goods.

The industrialized countries—the Community included—pointed out that there were positive aspects to the trend of the developing countries' trade in the sectors in question, particularly in the case of textiles. It was agreed that the Secretariat would pursue its sectoral studies and, in conjunction with Unido, its examination of the trade aspects of the industrial collaboration arrangements.

With regard to the generalized preferences, the Committee on Manufactures, though unwilling to draft a detailed text as the Group of 77 had wished, acknowledged the need to improve the system and make better use of it; at the same time, it emphasized the unilateral nature of the system.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GATT Council

2.2.74. The Gatt Council met on 9 March. Among the matters discussed was the DISC² affair. The American delegate explained the broad lines of a proposal by the US Government to replace the system of DISC subsidies in the light of the criticisms made by the United States' partners in GATT.³

¹ Bull. EC 9-1982, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.11; Supplement 5/82 — Bull. EC.

² Domestic International Sales Corporation.

³ Sixteenth General Report, point 658.

With regard to the vitamin B 12 question (a panel had examined the Community's complaint against the United States), the Community indicated its intention to carry out, in accordance with Article XXVIII, a compensatory adjustment in respect of the American measures concerning this product.

The GATT Council postponed until its next meeting on 20 April decisions concerning implementation of the ministerial declaration with regard to studies on products derived from natural resources and the American proposal for a work programme on trade in high-technology products.

Committee on Trade and Development

2.2.75. The Committee on Trade and Development met on 8 March to discuss follow-up action in the light of the GATT ministerial meeting of November 1982.¹ A number of items of particular interest to developing countries were on the agenda, including the programme of consultations under Part IV of the General Agreement and a review of the 'enabling clause'. The Committee also agreed to ask the Secretariat to assemble background material for the study of possibilities of increasing trade between developed and developing countries.

Committee on Trade in Agricultural Products

2.2.76. The Committee on Trade in Agricultural Products, set up by the ministerial meeting of November 1982,¹ held its first meeting in Geneva on 2 and 3 March with the principal aim of establishing a work programme, comprising the following three stages, for the period up to November 1984:

- (i) data acquisition: the reciprocal information returns will be based on six categories of agricultural products;
- (ii) data analysis;
- (iii) recommendations to the GATT Council.

The Community delegation stated that the transparency of Community export mechanisms compared favourably with the practices followed by a number of other major exporters.

Group on quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures

2.2.77. The group on quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures, which it was decided to set up at the ministerial meeting last November,¹ held its first meeting in Geneva on 10 March. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the organization of work and in particular the procedure for the collection of information (stage I of the work programme). The next meeting was scheduled for the week beginning 10 October in order to commence stage II, the analysis of the information collected.

Committee on Tariff Concessions

2.2.78. At its meeting on 28 February the Committee on Tariff Concessions adopted the procedures which will govern negotiations under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement following the adoption of a new tariff nomenclature (harmonized system of description and codification of goods). Discussions also covered the preparation of the information required for the negotiations.

Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft

2.2.79. The Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft met from 8 to 10 March. The application of Article 2.1.2 of the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft, in respect of the abolition of customs duties and other charges on civil aircraft repairs, was clarified. The situation of the aircraft industry was also discussed.

Agreement on Government Procurement

2.2.80. By Council Decision of 10 December 1979, on the conclusion of the multilateral agreements resulting from the trade negotiations of 1973-79,² the Community concluded the GATT Agreement on Government Procurement and has been applying it, in accordance with the terms on which it was accepted, to Austria, Canada, Finland, Hong

¹ Bull. EC 11-1982, point 1.1.1 to 1.1.3.

² Thirteenth General Report, points 494 and 495.

Kong, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

The Community has extended the benefit of the Agreement to suppliers in the least developed countries which are not party to it.¹ This possibility was envisaged in Article III(11) of the Agreement.

Panel to examine French import restrictions

2.2.81. The second substantive meeting of the GATT panel which Hong Kong had asked to be set up to examine certain French import restrictions was held in Geneva on 16 March. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the rebuttals made by both parties following the first meeting on 3 February² and to clarify other questions regarding the French system of import restrictions.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Group on North-South Economic Issues

2.2.82. The Group on North-South Economic Issues, at its meeting on 15 and 16 March, put the final touches to its report on interdependence to the OECD Council. This report, which will be presented at the ministerial meeting to be held in May, draws conclusions from the work carried out by the Group over a two-year period on the various aspects of world economic interdependence. It highlights the increasing role of the developing countries in international economic relations, at the same time pointing out the difficult situation of a number of such countries and their dependence on export earnings from raw materials, market conditions and external aid. The report emphasizes the urgent need for world economic recovery as well as the need for simultaneous action in three areas: adjustment measures to be taken by the developing countries with the aim of increasing their exports and debt-servicing capacity, the continued flow of international aid resources and access to expanding markets in the developed countries.

The Group also reviewed the main items on the agenda for Unctad VI and debated the desirability of a message to be addressed to the developing countries, themselves currently engaged in the process of preparing for the Belgrade Conference (meeting of the non-aligned countries in New Delhi at the beginning of March and of the Group of 77 in Buenos Aires at the end of March). For its part, the Community explained to its OECD partners the main points of its position for Belgrade as they stood at that stage in the preparatory work.

Development Assistance Committee

2.2.83. On 7 March the Development Assistance Committee reviewed the aid which the Community provides to the developing countries via the Commission and the EIB.

It welcomed the substantial increase in this aid in 1981 and noted with interest the Community's willingness to step up its dialogue with aid recipients with the aim of improving the effectiveness of such aid.

Diplomatic relations

2.2.84. The President of the Council and the President of the Commission received Their Excellencies Mr Ibrahim Saleh Bakr (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Mr Hugo Argueta Figueroa (Republic of Guatemala) and Mr Ahmed Killy Ould Cheikh Sidia (Islamic Republic of Mauritania), who presented their letters of credence as Heads of Mission of their respective countries to the European Communities with effect from 15 March.

Mr Bahr, Mr Argueta Figueroa and Mr Ould Cheikh Sidia succeed Mr Mohamed Charara (Saudi Arabia), Mr Arturo Fajardo Maldonado (Guatemala) and Mr Boua Kane (Mauritania).

¹ OJ C 69, 15.3.1983.

² Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.2.51.

3. Financing Community activities

Budgets

General budget

Budgetary procedure

2.3.1. On 9 March Parliament adopted a resolution on the guidelines for the budgetary policy of the Communities for 1984.¹

Own resources

Future financing of the Community

2.3.2. At its meeting on 14 March the Council held a detailed exchange of views on the Green Paper on the future financing of the Community.² This gave ministers the opportunity to express their government's positions on the various possible solutions outlined in the Green Paper, so that the Commission could take account of them when preparing its formal proposals (to be presented in May).

For the Commission, Mr Tugendhat expressed his agreement on three main points:

- (i) own resources must be sufficient to carry out Community policies;
- (ii) the budgetary imbalance must be rectified;
- (iii) any increase in expenditure must be carefully looked at to ensure that the funds are put to good effect.

2.3.3. At its meeting on 21 and 22 March the European Council took note of the Commission's intention to put forward specific proposals on the future financing of the Community and asked the Council to examine the proposals and report its conclusions to the June European Council.³

Calculation of the own resources base

2.3.4. On 11 and 16 March the Commission decided⁴ to renew for 1982 the authorizations granted to certain Member States⁵ for the calculation of the VAT own resources base in respect of 1981 under the Regulation of 19 December 1977.⁶

Supplementary measures — United Kingdom and Germany

2.3.5. Following the adoption on 15 March of the Council Regulations establishing supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom and specific measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy,⁷ the Commission took decisions on 23 March granting financial assistance for 1982 under supplementary budget No 1/1983.⁸ The funds in question totalled 1 092 million ECU for the United Kingdom and 210 million ECU for Germany.

ECSC

Loans raised

2.3.6. In March the Commission concluded two private placings, one in Dutch guilders for the equivalent of 9.2 million ECU and the other in sterling for the equivalent of 2.4 million ECU.

Loans paid out

2.3.7. Acting under Articles 54 and 56 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission made the following loans in March, amounting to 89.73 million ECU:

Industrial loans

2.3.8. Industrial loans (Article 54) totalling 83.02 million ECU were paid out during the month to help finance the following projects:

Netherlands

Hoogovens Groep BV, IJmuiden: modernization and extension of coking plant I to give extra capacity of 1.2 million tonnes a year.

¹ Point 2.4.10; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

² Bull. EC 1-1983, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.15.

³ Point 1.5.6.

⁴ OJ L 108, 26.4.1983.

⁵ OJ L 320, 17.11.1982; OJ L 343, 4.12.1982.

⁶ OJ L 336, 27.12.1977.

⁷ Point 2.1.73; point 2.1.153; OJ L 73, 19.3.1983.

⁸ OJ L 82, 29.3.1983; OJ L 98, 16.4.1983.

United Kingdom

Darlington & Simpson Rolling Mills, Darlington: automation of the finishing process in Rolling Mill West and alterations to No 1 Rolling Mill West of Melting Shop South.

Germany

Thyssen Edelstahlwerke AG, Krefeld: restructuring projects in the special steels division.

France

Charbonnages de France, Paris: increase of production capacity at La Houve colliery.

Italy

Bisider Spa, Brescia: restructuring to improve the firm's competitiveness. Acciaierie di Bolzano Spa, Bolzano: restructuring of the special steels division, improvement of the firm's competitiveness.

Subsidized housing¹

2.3.9. Loans for the building of subsidized housing amounted to 0.91 million ECU, of which 0.87 million ECU was for steelworkers and 40 000 ECU for mineworkers.

Conversion loans

2.3.10. Conversion loans (Article 56) totalling 5.80 million ECU were granted to the following firms:

Germany

Westfalenbank, Bochum, for small and medium-sized firms.

Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft, Frankfurt, for small and medium-sized firms.

United Kingdom

W.G. Allen Ltd, Birmingham, for the construction of a zinc-casting works.

EEC-NCI**Loans raised**

2.3.11. In March the Commission made a public bond issue of USD 75 million (the equivalent of 79 million ECU). It has a term of 12 years with an interest rate of 10.75%. It was issued at 99.25%.

Euratom**Loans raised**

2.3.12. The Commission made two public bond issues. The first, for 50 million ECU, has term of 10 years and an interest rate of 11.625%. It was issued at 100%. The second, for DM 150 million (the equivalent of 67 million ECU), also has a term of 10 years. It has an interest rate of 7.375% and was issued at 99%.

¹ Only payments made during the month are reported in this section. Decisions to grant loans were reported in the 'Employment, education and social policy' section at the time of decision.

4. Institutional and political matters

European political cooperation

2.4.1. At its meeting on 21 and 22 March in Brussels, the European Council adopted conclusions on the situation in the Middle East, including Lebanon and the war between Iran and Iraq.¹

2.4.2. The Foreign Ministers held a political cooperation meeting in Bonn on 1 March. No communiqué was published in connection with this meeting.

At a press conference after the meeting, Mr Genscher, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, said that the discussions had dealt mainly with the Ten's relations with the East European countries and with the situation in the Middle East. The Ministers had also agreed to have more regular high-level political contacts with Japan.

2.4.3. Parliament adopted two resolutions — one on the death sentences passed on Baha'is in Iran, the other on the ostracism being suffered by members of the Maltese Nationalist Party.²

European policy and relations between the institutions

European policy

Greek memorandum: the Commission response

2.4.4. On 29 March the Commission sent a communication to the Council and to Parliament containing its response to the Greek memorandum on Greece's relations with the Community.³ In this communication, which sets out proposals aimed at helping Greece to tackle the economic and social difficulties outlined in the memorandum, the Commission recalls the Community measures decided upon or proposed since the memorandum was submitted and announces new measures that should be taken.

Uniform electoral procedure

2.4.5. On 9 March⁴ Parliament passed a resolution calling upon the Council to take a decision as soon as possible on the draft Act proposed by Parliament in its resolution of March 1982.⁵

Relations between the institutions

Institutional implications of enlargement: more flexibility in decision-making

2.4.6. The Commission transmitted to the Council on 1 March a communication on the institutional changes which would have to be made in respect of decision-making in the Council in a Community that included Spain and Portugal.⁶ This paper seeks to flesh out the ideas put forward in two earlier communications issued on 20 April 1978 (Fresco)⁷ and 12 November 1982 (Inventory).⁸

The Commission makes three suggestions:

- (i) extending the possibilities for voting by a qualified majority in cases in which the Treaties now require unanimity, e.g. Article 28 EEC (autonomous alteration or suspension of customs duties) and Article 51 EEC (coordination of social security for migrant workers);
- (ii) more systematic recourse to voting by a qualified majority where the decision to be taken is in line both with the Commission's proposal and with Parliament's opinion voiced by a majority of its members; this relates to a few provisions of extreme importance to the attainment of the integration sought by the Treaties, whose implementation is very frequently blocked by an

¹ Points 1.5.7 to 1.5.9.

² Point 2.4.15; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

³ Points 1.4.1 to 1.4.13; COM(83) 134 final.

⁴ Point 2.4.11; OJ C 96, 11.4.1983.

⁵ OJ C 87, 5.4.1982; Bull. EC 3-1982, point 2.4.3.

⁶ COM(83) 116 final.

⁷ Bull. EC 4-1978, 1.1.1 to 1.1.7; Supplement 2/78 — Bull. EC.

⁸ Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.2.1; Supplement 8/82 — Bull. EC.

insistence on unanimity, i.e. Article 57(2) EEC (taking-up and pursuit of certain activities as self-employed persons), Article 99 EEC (turnover taxes, excise duties and other forms of indirect taxation), Article 100 EEC (directives for the approximation of legal provisions in Member States);

(iii) increased use of the possibility given to the Council by Article 155 EEC to confer powers of implementation on the Commission.

Corrigendum

2.4.7. The second paragraph of point 2.4.3 in the January 1983 Bulletin to read as follows:

‘In his opening address Mr Genscher, President of the Council and German Foreign Minister, went back over the points on which the Ten had already reached agreement with regard to the German-Italian initiative on European Union, namely: strengthening of the Communities and of political cooperation (particularly on *security*), closer links between the Communities and political cooperation under the auspices of the European Council and inclusion of cultural and legal cooperation within this framework, bolstering of the position of the presidency (which provides the secretariat for political cooperation) and reaffirmation of the roles of the Commission and the Court of Justice.’

Institutions and organs of the Communities

Parliament¹

Strasbourg: 7 to 11 March

2.4.8. The March part-session was dominated by debates on budgetary matters and the Commission's agricultural price proposals for the 1983/84 marketing years, the ensuing resolutions liberally spiced with amendments.

The agenda also included a number of essentially institutional questions, such as the preparation of a uniform electoral procedure for the 1984 European elections, when

Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Council President took stock of the situation. In a debate attended by Mr Etienne Davignon, Vice-President of the Commission with special responsibility for industrial affairs and energy, the House also considered the prerequisites for an effective Community energy strategy.

Agricultural prices for 1983/84 and related measures

2.4.9. The debate on the farm prices for the next marketing year once again revealed the usual differences over the budgetary implications of the proposed measures, farmers' incomes, costs and inflation, surpluses and how to handle them, co-responsibility or production quotas and monetary compensatory amounts. The conflict of opinion was not as sharp as in previous years when many different ideas and solutions had been floated. The range of the price increases proposed was actually narrower: compared with the 5.5% proposed by the Commission—supported by the Committee on Budgets and by most of the Socialists and European Democrats—the Committee on Agriculture wanted 7% and the French Communists 8.5%. Emphasis was again laid on other points such as the need to dismantle the negative compensatory amounts, structural measures, monetary convergence and various methods for applying co-responsibility or limiting production.

At the end of the debate the House passed a resolution by 147 votes against 123 and

¹ 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 96, 11.4.83, and the report of the proceedings is contained in OJ Annex 295. 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 Defense 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, CR = Greece, F = France, IRL = Ireland, I = Italy, L = Luxembourg, NL = Netherlands, UK = United Kingdom.

8 abstentions endorsing Mr Mouchel's report with some minor amendments. The House thus called for an increase in farm prices of 7%, the amendments tabled by Mr Notenboom and Mr Jonker (*EPP/NL*) for lower and those by the French Communists for higher prices being rejected. The Member of the Commission responsible for agriculture, Mr Dalsager, had earlier defended the 'balanced' solution of the 5.5% increase, below the 7% of the objective method and the rate of inflation expected for 1983. He had also deplored the rejection of the Commission's proposal for guarantee thresholds and for extending co-responsibility. The Vice-President of the Commission responsible for the budget, Mr Christopher Tugendhat, took issue with the inconsistency of the Committee on Agriculture in rejecting the Commission's proposals which simply reflected Parliament's wishes.

Mr Brian Hord (*ED/UK*), defending the interests of New Zealand and the United States, wholeheartedly supported the Commission's proposals, while Mrs Barbara Castle (*Soc/UK*) called for a price freeze. Mr Vincent Ansquer (*EPD/F*) and Mr Charles Goerens (*Lib/L*) pointed out that this was a rare sector that was flourishing, one of the few that assured Europe a certain independence; they maintained that farmers must be given as fair a deal as other categories of producer and not have their interests artificially set against those of the consumers. Mr Bernard Thareau (*Soc/F*) said that his group was against any standard decrease in certain intervention prices and was in favour of a progressive co-responsibility levy. He also pointed out that farm prices accounted for only a tiny percentage of the price index, though both Mr Konrad Schön (*EPP/D*) and Mr André Damseaux (*Lib/B*) found this hard to believe. The Council President, in the person of Mr Josef Ertl, contended that it was not the role of the common agricultural policy to combat inflation and rebutted the idea that a generalized system of transfer of revenue would cost less than the present arrangements, since better incomes for small farmers depended on structural policies and not on pricing.

The Mouchel report was therefore adopted with the amendments by Mr Damseaux (*Lib/B*) on the qualitative aspect of products, Mr Davern (*EPD/IRL*) on the joint management of the proceeds from the co-responsibility levy and Mr Fuchs (*Soc/F*) on allowing for the effects of Community exports on the food strategies of the importing developing countries. Basically, Parliament was against an extension of co-responsibility measures and in favour of a system of market organizations for all products together with the dismantling of monetary compensatory amounts.

Budgetary guidelines for 1984

2.4.10. Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Christiane Scrivener (*Lib/F*) by a large majority with no major amendments. It emerged during the debates that the House was mainly standing by the priorities set last year in the 1983 budget, namely the fight against hunger in the world and the battle against unemployment. But budgetary policy was defined even more distinctly by the rapporteur for the 1984 budget, who saw it as the need to make coherent choices and take effective action—whether purely Community or in support of Member States' efforts—given the limited overall budget. On behalf of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs Mr Fernand Herman (*EPP/B*) approved the Scrivener report while hoping that more emphasis would be put on aid for smaller businesses and on boosting the new financial instruments and integrating borrowing and lending policy into the budget. Mrs Carla Barbarella (*Com/I*) described the increase for the Social Fund as laughable and called for a dynamic strategy of productive investment. Mr Vincent Ansquer (*EPD/F*) contended that better training and development of advanced technology industries would diminish the structural inadequacies at the root of unemployment. Mrs Kalliopi Nikolaou (*Soc/GR*) and Mr Ioannis Pasmazoglou (*NA/GR*) were convinced that an integrated Mediterranean programme would be an effective way of stimulating the Community economy. Endorsing Mrs Scrivener's analysis, Mr Christopher

Tugendhat, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for the budget, hoped that corrections would be made to the common agricultural policy, which also came under attack from Mr George Patterson (*ED/UK*).

The report finally adopted, with its few amendments, laid more emphasis on the need to consider protection of the environment, to make use of integrated Mediterranean programmes and to tighten the control procedures in order to prevent fraud under the common agricultural policy. The report also indicated that this year should see a Community solution to the problem of budgetary imbalances, in no way based on the idea of fair returns, with closer coordination of the financial instruments.

Uniform electoral procedure

2.4.11. Parliament voiced its disappointment after hearing the Council President, Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, report that no progress had been made towards establishing a uniform electoral procedure. Mr Jean Seitlinger (*EPP/F*), after recalling that in March 1982 the House had already produced a uniform procedure for 1984 as it had been required to do, went on to say that his tour of the European capitals had convinced him that a broad consensus existed in political and government circles in favour of Parliament's proposals. Several political groups would therefore be tabling a motion for a resolution exhorting the Council to initiate at once the conciliation procedure between Parliament and the Council—as laid down in the Act of 20 September 1976—on the whole of Parliament's draft Act.

Mr Mariano Rumor (*EPP/I*) and Lord Douro (*ED/UK*) held that all European citizens living in a Member State other than their home country must be able to vote. This hope was echoed by Mr Genscher, who pointed out that, because it had to secure unanimity, the Council had not yet been able to take an overall decision. Mr Niels Haagerup (*Lib/DK*), Mr André Damseaux (*Lib/B*) and Mr Yves Galland (*Lib/F*) took issue with the British electoral system and especially the British veto, which, together, gave the

United Kingdom the key to the majority in Parliament.

After questions to the Council about the fate of the uniform procedure, the House passed a resolution moved by Mr Jean Seitlinger (*EPP/F*) and Mr Ernest Glinne (*Soc/B*) on behalf of their groups deploring the fact that the Council had so far been unable to adopt the draft Act proposed by Parliament for a uniform electoral procedure, urging the Council to make every effort to adopt the draft and, for that purpose, to initiate at once the conciliation procedure laid down in the Act of 20 September 1976, which must cover the whole of Parliament's text.

Prerequisites for an effective energy policy

2.4.12. The House adopted the report by Mr Daniel Percheron (*Soc/F*) with slight amendments by Mr Rolf Linkohr (*Soc/D*), who hoped that Parliament would make regular reports on the compatibility of the various forms of energy with the needs of the environment and also proposed that agreements be concluded between the Commission and national research institutes with a view to assigning research teams to them for limited periods. In passing this resolution Parliament urged the Commission to review the objectives already agreed and to study the possibilities for a biomass strategy and for diversifying energy sources, combining rational use of energy with a major contribution from nuclear energy. All of these measures constituted the prerequisites for an effective energy policy.

The debate nevertheless revealed that some members of the Socialist Group, with Mrs Phili Vichoff (*Soc/NL*) as their spokesman, rejected those conclusions of the report which favoured a continuing policy of nuclear energy production.

Mr Felix Damette (*Com/F*) announced that his group would not support a strategy which proposed that American and South African coal replace Third World oil, in other words to switch dependence but fail in the duty of solidarity with the developing countries. Mr Etienne Davignon, Vice-President of the

Commission with special responsibility for industrial affairs and energy, had meanwhile commended Parliament's 'determined' approach and warned against any illusions based on a momentary fall in the price of oil.

2.4.13. The House gave opinions on a number of Commission proposals, including:

(i) a Decision authorizing the French Republic to apply in its overseas departments and in metropolitan France a reduced rate of the revenue duty imposed on the consumption of 'traditional' rum produced in those departments;¹

(ii) a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to claims made in the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer;² the House asked the Commission to hold this proposal in abeyance until the Directive of 18 December 1978 on labelling had been implemented in all the Member States³ and until the Council had adopted the draft Directive on misleading and unfair advertising;⁴

(iii) a Regulation laying down certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of certain non-member countries in the 200-nautical-mile zone off the coast of the French department of Guiana;⁵

(iv) a Regulation on the conclusion of the Agreement between the EEC and the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, amending the Agreement on fishing off the coast of Guinea-Bissau, signed on 27 February 1980;⁶

(v) a Regulation on the conclusion of the Agreement on fisheries between the EEC, Norway and Sweden on the regulation of fisheries in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat in 1983;⁷

(vi) a Regulation concerning the conclusion of an Agreement on fisheries between the EEC and the Government of Finland;⁸

(vii) a recommendation on the methods of setting natural gas prices and tariffs and intended to secure more consistent pricing within the Community;⁹

(viii) a Directive on crude oil savings through the use of substitute fuel components in petrol;¹⁰

(ix) a Decision concerning a plan for the transnational development of the supporting infrastructure for innovation and technology transfer (1983-85).¹¹

2.4.14. The House also passed resolutions on:

(i) progress in attainment of the customs union, the European internal market and the free movement of persons: while welcoming the fact that Council meetings devoted exclusively to realization of the internal market had recently been held, the House called for a common approach on imports from non-member countries and decisions on the 21 directives for the internal market by the end of March; the House also felt that by then the collection of taxes on imports should have been transferred from the customs to the tax authorities;

(ii) transfrontier transport policy in frontier regions, particularly in Community internal frontier regions such as the Rhine-Maas-Nord region and Euregio: Parliament believed that the package of measures it was advocating could remove the obstacles at frontiers and develop these two regions, for which it was proposing a list of improvements appropriate to their geographical configuration, into zones of European integration; to that end it wanted the resolution to be addressed not only to the Council and the Commission but also to the parliaments of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany and to the European Conference of Transport Ministers;

(iii) the catastrophes in Crete caused by ice and snow storms: the Commission was urged to contribute to compensation for Cretan stock breeders and to draw up special development programmes for the mountain villages where the breeders live;

¹ Point 2.1.47.

² OJ C 198, 6.8.1981.

³ OJ L 33, 8.2.1979.

⁴ OJ L 194, 1.8.1979.

⁵ Point 2.1.135.

⁶ Point 2.1.132.

⁷ Point 2.1.136.

⁸ Point 2.1.138.

⁹ Point 2.1.158.

¹⁰ Point 2.1.157.

¹¹ Point 2.1.21.

(iv) the state of agriculture in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and other severely disadvantaged regions of the Community: the House suggested that once experience in their implementation has been gained integrated development programmes be extended to cover the severely disadvantaged areas and that the various Community Funds should immediately be more closely coordinated;

(v) the construction of an electric power line between Greece and Italy: the House proposed that the aid provided for under the Regional Development Fund be duly increased;

(vi) emergency action on oil pollution in the North Sea: the Commission was urged to call an 'emergency North Sea conference' and prepare proposals for setting up an independent environmental control to supervise and control surface and undersea and recovery techniques and working methods;

(vii) the increasingly serious problem of oil pollution of the North Sea: the Commission was requested to arrange a hearing on the Island of Heligoland with all the institutions and parties concerned and to introduce immediate measures for surveillance pending solution of any technical difficulties after the Marpol Convention had come into force;

(viii) protection of the Irish bogs: to ensure better protection for threatened species, Parliament asked the Commission to set aside 10% of the appropriations earmarked for industrial development for nature conservation;

(ix) introduction of an indicator substance in milk intended for use as an animal feed and the use of milk powder in cheese production: in order to prevent any distortion of competition the House called on the Commission to put proposals to the Council for common rules on cheese production and banning the use of non-dairy proteins and fats in milk and dairy products. It also proposed an amendment to the Council Directive of 18 December 1978¹ on labelling foodstuffs, extending to cheese the obligations to list on the packaging all ingredients other than liquid milk;

(x) the role of ports in the common transport policy: aware of the disparities between the situation and structures of ports but concerned to eliminate any discrimination in links between ports and the hinterland the House urged the Commission to set up a special service to study all aspects of port policy with the sole aim of advancing that policy, as already called for in its resolution of 17 April 1972,² as part of the common transport policy defined in the resolution of 9 March 1982,³

(xi) a more rational transport organization: to ensure maximum efficiency of transport, in its dual role as an 'industrial sector' and a 'service', while eliminating the practices hindering free competition, Parliament asked the Council to adopt as soon as possible at least the Commission's proposal for harmonizing excise duties⁴ and for harmonizing the weights and dimensions of road vehicles used for the carriage of goods,⁵ so as not to recreate the conditions which led Parliaments to institute proceedings against the Council for failure to act;

(xii) sales of American agricultural products to Egypt: the Commission was urged to institute immediate proceedings under GATT and propose counter-measures, while the Council was asked to introduce a more dynamic export policy, particularly by implementing long-term contracts for the supply of agricultural products.

2.4.15. In the field of political cooperation Parliament passed resolutions on:

(i) the ostracism to which members of the Maltese Nationalist Party are subjected: disturbed by the harassment exercised by the Maltese Government against this opposition party, which secured a majority of votes, the House asked the Commission to withdraw its proposals to the Council for exceptional aid until all political liberties were guaranteed in Malta;

(ii) death sentences on Baha'is in Iran: condemning this renewed gross violation of

¹ OJ L 33, 8.2.1979.

² OJ C 46, 9.5.1972.

³ OJ C 87, 5.4.1982.

⁴ OJ C 92, 31.10.1973.

⁵ OJ C 16, 18.1.1979.

human rights, the House expressed its profound concern about the fate of the Secretary-General of the Tudeh party;

(iii) the situation in Yugoslavia: to enable that country to preserve its role among the non-aligned countries and dissuade it from increasing its trade with the Comecon countries, Parliament urged the Commission and the Council to implement without delay the provisions of the Cooperation Agreement concluded between the Community and Yugoslavia in January.¹

Council

2.4.16. The Council held seven meetings in March. 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.

¹ OJ L 41, 14.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.2.21.

Table 4 — Council meetings in March 1983

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
830th Brussels 1 March	Internal market	Mr Schlecht	Mr Davignon Mr Narjes	<p><i>Procedure for provision of information in field of technical standards and regulations.</i>¹ Substance of Directive agreed.</p> <p><i>Community certification for products originating in third countries.</i>¹ 'Third country clause' discussed further.</p> <p><i>Simplification of trade formalities within the Community.</i>¹ Three proposals examined (single document, deferred payment of VAT payable on importation, formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States).</p> <p><i>Tax exemptions for certain means of transport temporarily imported and permanent imports of personal property of individuals.</i>² Agreement reached.</p> <p><i>Duty-free admission of fuel contained in tanks of commercial motor vehicles.</i>² Agreement reached.</p> <p><i>Community patent.</i> Commission made status report on ratifications of Luxembourg Convention.</p>
831st Brussels 8/9 March	Agriculture	Mr Ertl	Mr Natali Mr Dalsager	<p><i>Adjustment of acquis communautaire for Mediterranean products.</i>³ Further discussions held on adjustment of existing provisions concerning fruit and vegetables and olive oil.</p>

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
832nd Brussels 10 March	Research	Mr Riesenhuber	Mr Davignon	<p><i>Manioc.</i>³ Agreement reached on substance of proposed Regulation on import arrangements for manioc from 1983 to 1986.</p> <p><i>Future activities of Joint Research Centre.</i>⁴ Conclusion reached.</p>
833rd Brussels 14 March	Foreign affairs	Mr Genscher	Mr Thorn Mr Ortoli Mr Haferkamp Mr Natali Mr Davignon Mr Tugendhat Mr Narjes Mr Pisani Mr Burke	<p><i>New International Sugar Agreement.</i>⁵ Directives for Commission adopted.</p> <p><i>Accession of Portugal.</i>⁶ Preparations made for 12th meeting of ministerial Conference.</p> <p><i>Compensation for United Kingdom.</i>⁷ Two regulations adopted.</p> <p><i>Energy demonstration projects.</i>⁸ Solution for 1983.</p> <p><i>Greenland</i></p> <p><i>Future financing of Community, including subsequent solution to United Kingdom budgetary problem.</i>⁷ Detailed review of Commission Green Paper undertaken.</p> <p><i>Preparations for European Council.</i></p> <p><i>Negotiations under GATT Article XXIV(6).</i></p> <p><i>1970 EEC-Spain Agreement.</i></p> <p><i>Steel: external aspects—arrangements with Spain for 1983.</i> Views exchanged on Commission's talks with Spain.</p> <p><i>Lebanon.</i>⁵ Exceptional aid decided.</p> <p><i>Malta.</i>⁹ Detailed discussion on content of new financial protocol held.</p> <p><i>Cyprus.</i>⁹ Detailed discussion held on progress of negotiations to define contractual trade arrangements for EEC-Cyprus trade.</p> <p><i>Voting rights of Member States' nationals.</i> Discussion resumed.</p>
834th Brussels 14-15 March	Agriculture	Mr Ertl	Mr Dalsager	<p><i>Fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and related measures.</i>³ Discussion resumed.</p> <p><i>Adjustment of acquis communautaire for Mediterranean products.</i>³</p> <p><i>New Zealand butter.</i>³</p>

Table 4 (continued)

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
835th Brussels 21 March	Economic and financial affairs			Cancelled.
836th Brussels 28 March	Agriculture	Mr Ertl	Mr Dalsager	<i>Fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and related measures.</i> ³ Postponed. <i>Exchange rates to be applied in agriculture.</i> ³ <i>Adjustment of acquis communautaire for Mediterranean products.</i> ³

¹ Internal market and industrial affairs.

² Financial institutions and taxation.

³ Agriculture.

⁴ Research and development.

⁵ Development.

⁶ Enlargement and bilateral relations with applicant countries.

⁷ Financing Community activities.

⁸ Energy.

⁹ Relations with other countries and regions.

Commission

Activities

2.4.17. The Commission played a significant part in preparing the final agreement on currency realignment on 21 March.¹

2.4.18. Mr Thorn and Mr Ortoli attended the meeting of the European Council in Brussels on 21 and 22 March.² The major items having been deferred to the Stuttgart European Council in June, the Commission resolved to draw up a detailed work programme that would enable it to discharge, in the weeks ahead, its own political responsibilities.

Decisions, communications and proposals

2.4.19. The Commission approved a report to the Council and Parliament in response to the memorandum from the Greek Government concerning Greece's future relations with the Community.³ It also approved all the integrated Mediterranean programmes.⁴

The Commission sent the Council two major communications on development policy, one of which sets out new guidelines for Community food aid to the developing countries while the other offers guidelines for the forthcoming negotiations between the Community and the ACP countries for renewal of the Lomé Convention.⁵

Two communications on fisheries were adopted in connection with the enlargement negotiations with Spain and Portugal.

Having consulted the ECSC Consultative Committee the Commission approved at a second reading the General Objectives for Steel for 1985 and the social aspects of steel policy for 1983-86. It also adopted a proposal to the Council on the new arrangements

¹ Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.4.

² Points 1.5.1 to 1.5.10.

³ Points 1.4.1 to 1.4.13.

⁴ Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.12.

⁵ Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.23.

concerning coking coal and coke for the Community steel industry.

A communication was transmitted to the Council on the structures and procedures of Community policy in the field of science and technology.

Discussions, policy debates and work in hand

2.4.20. After a searching review of the economic and energy aspects of the trend in oil prices, the Commission made public its assessment of the situation.

The Commission held a policy debate on the measures it might propose to increase employment of young people in the Community: a political undertaking by the member governments, harmonization of legislative or administrative provisions to surmount administrative obstacles to recruitment of young people, utilization of the Community Funds.

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2.4.21. Mr Tugendhat discussed the Community budget and new sources of Community financing with representatives of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

Three information meetings were held for the Employers' Liaison Committee and the European Centre of Public Enterprises on the transition from school to working life, for the Miners and Metalworkers' Free Trade Unions in the European Communities on EIB loans and for the European Committee of Food, Catering and Allied Workers' Unions and the European Federation of Agricultural Workers' Unions on Community dairy policy.

During preliminary consultations ETUC experts considered collective bargaining, energy policy, the renewal of the Lomé Convention and Community policy on consumption.

Court of Justice¹

2.4.22. New cases

Case	Subject	Basis
Customs union		
46/83 — Gerlach & Co. Internationale Expéditeur BV v Inspecteur der Invoerrechten en Accijnzen, Amsterdam ¹	Tariff classification of a fully hydrogenated animal oil made from fish liver, constituting an acyclic hydrocarbon, and possible application of Regulation (EEC) No 1775/77 to this product	Article 177 of the EEC Treaty
45/83 — Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München v HZA München-Mitte ²	Interpretation of the terms 'instruments and apparatus' in the first sentence of Article 3(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 1798/75	Article 177 of the EEC Treaty

¹ 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).

Case	Subject	Basis
Taxation		
42/83 — Dansk Denkavit ApS v Ministeriet for Skatter og Afgifter ²	Is the fact that different periods are allowed for the payment of VAT on products manufactured internally and of VAT on imports compatible with Community law?	Article 177 of the EEC Treaty
Competition		
35/83 — BAT Cigaretten-Fabrikken GmbH v Commission ³	Annulment of the Commission Decision of 15 December 1982 declaring the agreement between the applicant and Segers to be prohibited under Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty and imposing a fine on the applicant	Article 173 of the EEC Treaty
41/83 — Italy v Commission ⁴	Annulment of Decision No 82/861 concerning a proceeding under Article 86 of the EEC Treaty	Article 173 of the EEC Treaty
Agriculture		
37/83 — REWE-Zentrale AG v Director of the Landwirtschaftskammer for the Rhineland, Bonn ³	Compatibility of Article 11(3) of Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plants or plant products with Articles 190 and 30 and the EEC Treaty (plant health inspections)	Article 177 of the EEC Treaty
38/83 — Verwerkings Industrie Vreeland BV v Hoofprodukschap voor Akkerbouwprodukten ³	Interpretation of Regulations (EEC) Nos 1134/68, 653/68, 1054/78, 878/77 and 937/77 with regard to the conditions governing entitlement to cancellation of advance fixing (in respect of exports of butter in this instance) and the relevant certificates	Article 177 of the EEC Treaty
47 and 48/83 — Plumveeslachterij Midden-Nederland BV and Plumveeslachterij C. Van Miert BV v Disciplinary measure imposed by an administrative court	Are national provisions imposing quality standards in respect of poultrymeat and providing for disciplinary measures, which are not based on Community law, compatible with Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 2777/75?	Article 177 of the EEC Treaty
49/83 — Grand Duchy of Luxembourg v Commission	Partial annulment of Decisions 83/38 and 83/49 in so far as the Commission refuses to allow certain expenditure relating to the storage of wine	Article 173 of the EEC Treaty
Commercial policy		
36/83 — Mabanaft GmbH v HZA Emmerich	Are the High Authority Recommendations of 28 January 1959 and No 1/62 compatible with Article 4(a) of the ECSC Treaty and do they authorize the adoption of national measures introducing a differential duty on hard coal originating in a non-member country which is imported from a Member State in which it has been placed in free circulation?	Article 41 of the ECSC Treaty

Case	Subject	Basis
53/83 — Allied Corporation, Demufert SA, Transcontinental Fertilizer Company and Kaiser Aluminium & Chemical Corporation v Council ¹	Annulment of Regulation (EEC). No 101/83 introducing a definitive anti-dumping duty on certain chemical fertilizers originating in the USA	Article 173 of the EEC Treaty
Infringements		
44/83 — Commission v Belgium	Public contracts	Article 169 of the EEC Treaty
50/83 — Commission v Italy	Buses	Article 169 of the EEC Treaty
51/83 — Commission v Italy	Foodstuffs	Article 169 of the EEC Treaty
52/83 — Commission v France ¹	Aids in the textile industry	Article 169 of the EEC Treaty

Disputes between the Community and its staff

v Commission: 39/83³ and 43/83⁴

v Court of Auditors: 40/83⁴

¹ OJ C 112, 26.4.1983.

² OJ C 103, 16.4.1983.

³ OJ C 98, 12.4.1983.

⁴ OJ C 99, 13.4.1983.

2.4.23. Judgments

Date and case	Held
Steel	
15.3.1983, 234/82 R — Ferriere Di Roe Volciano SpA v Commission ¹	The operation of Article 2 of the Commission Decision of 13 August 1982 relating to a fine imposed on the applicant is suspended until the delivery of judgment in the main proceedings
Free movement of goods	
17.3.1983, 94/82 — Officier van Justitie, Arnhem v De Kikvorsch BV ²	The rule in <i>Cassis de Dijon</i> applies likewise to beers lawfully brewed in a Member State

Date and case	Held
<p>23.3.1983, 162/82 — Directeur des Douanes et des Droits Indirects v Paul Cousin and Others³</p> <p>Customs union</p>	<p>Commission Regulation (EEC) No 749/78 on the determination of the origin of textile products falling within Chapters 51 and 53 to 62 of the Common Customs Tariff is invalid in so far as it does not permit the process of dyeing, accompanied where appropriate by mercerizing and gassing, to confer on unbleached cotton yarn the character of a product originating in the country where such processing took place</p>
<p>17.3.1983, 294/81 — Control Data Belgium v Commission²</p>	<p>Commission Decision 81/692/EEC of 10 August 1981 establishing that the apparatus known as Control Data — Cyber 170-720; Cyber 170-750 may not be imported free of CCT duties is void</p>
<p>17.3.1983, 175/82 — Hans Dinter GmbH v HZA Köln-Deutz</p>	<p>CCT heading 16.02 must be interpreted in such a way that it also includes poultrymeat to which salt and pepper have been added but in which the presence of pepper may only be identified microscopically</p>
<p>22.3.1983, 88/82 — Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato v Armando and Ottavio Leonelli³</p> <p>Competition</p>	<p>In so far as a directive provides for a derogation from the prohibition of the levying of customs duties and charges having equivalent effect laid down by a Community regulation, the said directive applies from the date of its notification, whether or not the Member State in question has already adopted the necessary measures to comply with the directive</p>
<p>2.3.1983, 7/82 — Gesellschaft zur Verwertung von Leistungsschutzrechten v Commission⁴</p>	<p>Application dismissed (annulment of a Commission decision concerning proceedings under Article 86 of the EEC Treaty)</p>
<p>Free movement of workers</p> <p>23.3.1983, 77/82 — Anastasia Peskeloglou v Bundesanstalt für Arbeit, Nürnberg</p>	<p>Article 45(1) of the Act concerning the Conditions of Accession of the Hellenic Republic and the Adjustments to the Treaties must be interpreted as not permitting national provisions concerning the first grant of a work permit to a Greek national to be made more restrictive after the entry into force of the Act of Accession</p>

Date and case	Held
Social security for migrant workers	
10.3.1983, 232/82 — Margherita Baccini v Office National de l'Emploi ¹	Article 40(4) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 must be interpreted as meaning that the 'decision concerning the degree of invalidity' referred to in that provision concerns only the decision establishing invalidity and not a decision that there is no invalidity at a later date
Agriculture	
1.3.1983, 250/78 — CONTIFEX Getreideproduckte GmbH & Co. KG v Council and Commission ⁴	Application dismissed (transfer of entitlement to damages, possibility of compensation)
15.3.1983, 45/82 — Netherlands v Commission ⁵	Application dismissed (clearance of accounts, EAGGF Guarantee Section)
15.3.1983, 61 and 62/82 — Italy v Commission ⁵	Application dismissed (clearance of accounts, EAGGF Guarantee Section)
24.3.1983, 167/82 — Nordgetreide GmbH & Co. v HZA Hamburg-Jonas ⁶	The examination of the questions raised has not revealed any factor liable to affect the validity of Commission Regulations (EEC) Nos 851/79 and 1309/79 fixing the export refunds on products processed from cereals and rice
Environment	
10.3.1983, 172/82 — Syndicat National des Fabricants Raffineurs d'Huile de Graissage and Others v Groupe-ment d'Intérêt Economique 'Inter-Huiles' and Others ⁷	Community rules on the free circulation of goods and Council Directive 75/439/EEC do not allow a Member State to organize a system of collection and disposal of waste oils within its territory in such a way as to prohibit exports to an authorized disposal or regeneration undertaking in another Member State
Commercial policy	
16.3.1983, 267, 268 and 269/81 — Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato v SPI and Others ⁵ 290 and 291/81 — Singer SpA and Geigy SpA v Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato ⁵	Since the Community has been substituted for the Member States in relation to the fulfilment of the commitments laid down in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade with effect from 1 July 1968, the date on which the Common Customs Tariff came into force, the provisions of that Agreement fall from that date within the provisions on the interpretation of which the Court of Justice has jurisdiction to give a preliminary ruling.

Date and case	Held
<p>16.3.1983, 266/81 — SIOT v Ministero delle Finanze and Others²</p>	<p>The Tariff Protocols previously concluded under GATT by the Community also fall within that jurisdiction. These Protocols do not protect individuals against the imposition of a charge on products imported from non-member countries. After 1 July 1968, Community law did not prevent the imposition of a duty for administrative services, in so far as it was already in existence on that date</p> <p>The existence in the framework of the Community of a customs union precludes the application by a Member State to goods in its territory in transit to or from another Member State of transit duties or any other charges imposed in respect of transit, except in the case of charges or fees which represent the cost of transportation or of other services connected with transit.</p> <p>There is no rule which may be relied upon by individuals in order to contest the application to goods in transit to Austria of charges such as the loading and unloading charges levied in Italy</p>
<p>Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters</p> <p>22.3.1983, 34/82 — Martin Peters Bauunternehmung GmbH v Zuid Nederlandse Aannemers Vereniging³</p>	<p>Obligations in regard to the payment of a sum of money which have their basis in the relationship between an association and its members by virtue of membership fall within 'matters relating to a contract' within the meaning of Article 5(1) of the Brussels Convention.</p> <p>It makes no difference in that regard whether the obligations in question arise simply from the act of becoming a member or from that act and one or more decisions made by agencies of the association</p>
<p>Infringements</p> <p>1.3.1983, 300/81 — Commission v Italy⁴</p> <p>1.3.1983, 301/81 — Commission v Belgium⁴</p>	<p>Italy has failed to fulfil its obligations under the EEC Treaty by not adopting within the period specified the measures needed to comply with Directive 77/780/EEC (the taking-up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions)</p> <p>Belgium has failed to fulfil its obligations under the EEC Treaty by not adopting within the period specified the measures needed to comply with Directive 77/780/EEC (the taking-up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions)</p>

Date and case	Held
2.3.1983, 155/82 — Commission v Belgium ⁴	Belgium has failed to fulfil its obligations under Article 30 et seq. of the EEC Treaty by restricting the right of applying for the authorization or approval of pesticides for non-agricultural use and phyto-pharmaceutical products to persons established in Belgium
15.3.1983, 31/81 — Commission v Italy ⁵	Italy has failed, as regards products imported from the other Member States, to fulfil its obligations under Article 95 of the EEC Treaty by applying to spirits a differential rate of VAT
15.3.1983, 145/82 — Commission v Italy ⁵	Italy has failed to fulfil its obligations under Article 189 of the EEC Treaty by failing to adopt within the period specified the measures needed to ensure the implementation of Council Directives 65/65/EEC, 75/318/EEC and 75/319/EEC (proprietary medicinal products)
22.3.1983, 42/82 — Commission v France ⁶	France has failed to fulfil its obligations under Article 30 of the EEC Treaty and the Community rules governing the wine sector by delaying the release for consumption of table wine imported in bulk from Italy through inspection procedures
9.3.1983, 194/81 — Commission v Italy	Order for removal from the Court Register — prohibition on the importation of livestock through the customs post at Pollein (Aosta)

Disputes between the Community and its staff

v Commission: 17.3.1983, 280/81² — Application dismissed

¹ OJ C 101, 14.4.1983.

² OJ C 106, 20.4.1983.

³ OJ C 107, 21.4.1983.

⁴ OJ C 98, 12.4.1982.

⁵ OJ C 103, 16.4.1983.

⁶ OJ C 112, 20.4.1983.

⁷ OJ C 112, 20.4.1983.

⁸ OJ C 92, 7.4.1983.

Economic and Social Committee

206th plenary session

2.4.24. The Economic and Social Committee held its 206th plenary session on 23 and 24 March with Mr Ceyrac in the chair.

Opinions

2.4.25. Most of the opinions adopted this month concerned proposals for agricultural and social measures.

Agricultural prices and related measures

2.4.26. As indicated in the opinion it delivered at the February session,¹ the Committee adopted an additional opinion by 53 votes to 25 with 39 abstentions on the Commission's proposals concerning farm products—durum wheat, rye, sugar, milk and beef and veal. Departing from the position stated by the Section for Agriculture, the full Committee reaffirmed the view it had expressed in February, that:

(i) the average rise proposed by the Commission and accepted by the Committee should be adhered to;

(ii) the price ratios between the various products should be improved.

As they had done in February, the members representing the farmers issued a minority statement and made their own comments on the products in question.

Other agricultural proposals

2.4.27. The proposal to amend the basic Regulation on fruit and vegetables² was approved by a large majority, with only 8 votes against and 14 abstentions. The Committee felt that the amendment to the reference adjustment criterion was a major first step towards a better assessment of the situation and needs of Community production of fruit and vegetables.

2.4.28. On the aid for seeds for 1984/85 and 1985/86,³ the Committee, registering 58 votes for the Commission proposal and 26 abstentions, noted that the proposed increases went some way towards guaranteeing

producers a competitive price, made up of the market price plus aid. The Committee did not, however, endorse the cancellation of the aid for seeds of field peas and beans, a measure which could deprive the Community of species particularly suited to its weather conditions.

2.4.29. In its opinion on the amendment of the Regulation on collective projects for the restructuring of vineyards,⁴ the Committee noted that the Commission was now proposing a maximum area of 60 000 hectares for restructuring, which was far in excess of the percentages laid down by the Council for operations of this nature. The Commission was unanimously requested to abide by the stipulations in force, as it had done hitherto.

European Social Fund

2.4.30. With only 2 abstentions the Committee adopted *nem.con.* its opinion on the review of the ESF and on the tasks of the Fund.⁵

While it welcomed the new guidelines for the ESF, the Committee believed that it was no longer enough to press in general terms for an increase in the Fund's allocation and repeated its call for 10% of the Community budget to be allotted to the Fund. The Committee wanted to see a clearer definition of the criteria for identifying and classifying regions and subregions. It stressed the need for wage support schemes and urged that aid for training school-leavers be more closely linked to specific programmes; measures to help employees of smaller firms should be extended to cooperatives, owner-managers of small firms and training centres run jointly by several companies; 20% of the ESF budget should go to encourage innovation.

Vocational training

2.4.31. The Committee unanimously approved the Commission's communication

¹ OJ C 81, 24.3.1983; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.4.29.

² Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.86.

³ OJ C 31, 5.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.77.

⁴ OJ C 27, 2.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.70.

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

on improving vocational training,¹ presented to the Council with a draft resolution. The Committee identified three priority areas: the social and vocational preparation of young people for working life; training programmes aimed at ensuring greater equality of opportunity for women; training measures in support of social and economic change, in particular to overcome the problem of job creation. For these three areas the Committee endorsed a five-year action plan at an estimated cost of 140 million ECU. But it warned against the dangers of basing a vocational training policy merely on short-term considerations and against the illusion that vocational training would suffice to solve the central problems bound up with the introduction and application of new technologies and their repercussions on the labour market. The Committee endorsed the proposed regionalization of training and job-creation measures and the ideas for decentralizing jobs, boosting small businesses and cooperatives and setting up group training facilities.

2.4.32. The Committee also delivered opinions on:

- (i) amendment of the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer;² the Committee felt that the Directive should apply to any product containing more than 0.5% of alcohol and that the provisions for all alcoholic beverages must be brought into force simultaneously;
- (ii) the second series of specific Community regional development measures (non-quota section);³ while it hoped that more funds would be allocated for these measures, the Committee felt that a proportion of the quota-free funds should be set aside for prompt use in an emergency.

ECSC Consultative Committee

233rd meeting

2.4.33. The Consultative Committee met in Luxembourg on 25 March with Mr Rudolf Nickels in the chair.

It examined the forward programme for steel for the second quarter of 1983⁴ and a report on the Community coal market in 1982 and prospects for 1983⁵ and approved, under Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty, two steel research programmes⁶ and one coal research programme.⁷

Forward programme for steel

2.4.34. The Committee considered the Commission's production forecasts to be realistic. Some speakers called for a slight increase in the quotas for flat products, cold-rolled sheet and galvanized sheet. It was mentioned that small firms could not cope with a further reduction in quotas for long products. It was also pointed out that because stocks had not been sufficiently run down, no recovery could be expected from the stockholders.

On the prices front it was noted that the excessive supply of seconds was subjecting prices to additional pressure. Finally, following the realignment of EMS rates and in order to avoid any discrimination, it was proposed that steel prices be linked with EMS rates.

Coal market in 1982 and future prospects

2.4.35. The Committee welcomed the report on the coal market in 1982 and prospects for 1983. Some members considered that coal imports should be reduced and preference given to Community coal. However, there was some difficulty in cutting back imports: they mainly went to non-producing Member States, which resorted to imports because of cheaper prices on the world market. Other speakers stressed the connection between the coal crisis and the steel crisis and regretted that no progress had been made in switching from oil to coal as fuel. The Commission representative, while assuring the Committee

¹ OJ C 306, 23.11.1982; Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.31.

² OJ C 281, 26.10.1982; Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.62.

³ OJ C 15, 19.1.1983; Bull. EC 10-1981, points 1.1.12 to 1.1.16.

⁴ Point 2.1.18.

⁵ Point 2.1.161.

⁶ Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.184; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.140.

⁷ Points 2.1.160 and 2.1.175.

that the Commission would not remain inactive in this field, explained that the reluctance displayed by investors was also dictated by environmental considerations.

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2.4.36. The Commission also informed the Committee of the position as regards investment in the ECSC industries, which had increased by 6% in 1981 and by a little more than 6% in 1982. Investment had dropped in iron ore mines (by 23% in 1981 and 28% in 1982), where production is concentrated in France. Investment in coking plants in 1981 was 30% up on 1980. There was scarcely any increase in investment in the steel industry in 1981.

European Investment Bank

Operations in March

2.4.37. Loans announced by the European Investment Bank in March for investments within the Community totalled 238.6 million ECU,¹ broken down as follows: 157.6 million ECU in Italy, 49.9 million ECU in the United Kingdom, 24.2 million ECU in France and 6.9 million in Denmark. Of the total amount, 43 million ECU was provided from the resources of the new Community borrowing and lending instrument (NCI).² Outside the Community, the Bank lent 5 million ECU to Portugal and 500 000 ECU to three East African ACP countries.

Community

Italy

2.4.38. A total of LIT 209 100 million was lent, including LIT 35 000 million from NCI resources. Several of the loans, totalling LIT 123 100 million, carry a 3% interest subsidy from the Community budget under the arrangements adopted when Italy joined the European Monetary System³ or under the arrangements for Community assistance for reconstruction in those areas of the south hit by earthquakes in November 1980. Investments in the Mezzogiorno accounted for LIT 174 100 million.

The Cassa per il Mezzogiorno received LIT 100 100 million for water schemes. Of

this, LIT 75 000 million will be used for the construction of two plants for treating and recycling waste water as part of a major investment programme designed to reduce pollution in the Bay of Naples and improve the quality of life for over 3 million people. A further LIT 16 000 million will go to a scheme for the irrigation and drainage of almost 12 000 hectares of the Campobasso plain (Molise) and LIT 9 100 million will be used for extending and modernizing an irrigation network covering over 10 000 hectares and serving some 2 600 farms in the province of Latina (Latium).

Industrial and tourist investment accounts for LIT 86 000 million, mainly for smaller ventures. Two global loans (lines of credit) of LIT 15 000 million each have been made available to the IRFIS (Istituto Regionale per il Finanziamento alle Industrie in Sicilia) and to the Banco di Sicilia for industrial schemes, and LIT 10 000 million has gone to the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro for investments in the hotel and tourist industry. All these global loans from the EIB are to assist the Mezzogiorno. The NCI has provided LIT 20 000 million to the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro and LIT 15 000 million to EFIBANCA (Ente Finanziario Interbancario) for smaller-scale investments in central and northern Italy. These mainly concern hotels and tourism (the construction or modernization of hotels and holiday centres and other tourism schemes) and industry. The Bank also lent LIT 11 000 million for investment to promote the rational use of energy in industry. This consisted of LIT 8 000 million for the conversion of an oil-fired cement factory at Megara Giannalena (Sicily) to coal and LIT 3 000 million for similar works at Colleferro (Latium). These two projects are in line with the Community energy strategy and should save about 160 000 tonnes of oil per year.

¹ The conversion rates at 31 December 1982 used by the EIB in statistics for the current 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.

² OJ L 298, 20.10.1978; Bull. EC 10-1978, point 2.1.10.

³ OJ L 200, 3.8.1979; Bull. EC 7/8-1979, point 2.1.2.

United Kingdom

2.4.39. Loans in the United Kingdom totalled UKL 30 million, of which UKL 10 million came from NCI resources. The extension of Birmingham airport, which has now reached the saturation point and where over 60% of the traffic is with other Community countries or Spain and Portugal, both applicants for membership, accounted for UKL 10 million. This work, comprising a new terminal building, aprons, taxiways, car parks and other buildings, will directly or indirectly create about 2 700 jobs and contribute to the industrial and commercial development of the Midlands.

A further UKL 3 million was for road improvements, water supply works and port works in the Outer Hebrides, as part of the drive to promote the economic development of these islands.

A loan of UKL 2 million was made available for the modernization of the telephone system in Hull to meet the needs of private customers and business. The Bank also provided the National Westminster Bank with a global loan of UKL 5 million for small industry in assisted areas. Two more global loans, each of UKL 5 million, were made available from NCI resources to the National Westminster Bank and the Midland Bank for investments, mainly in industry, in other areas of the country. These global loans are complementary to those from the EIB's own resources, also administered by these two banks, for investments in assisted areas.

France

2.4.40. A total of FF 158.3 million was lent in France through the CAECL (Caisse d'aide à l'équipement des collectivités locales) for infrastructure work. Of this, FF 100 million will go to financing smaller-scale infrastructure projects in regions with development or conversion problems and FF 58.3 million will be used for the construction of a coal terminal at Montoir-de-Bretagne on

the Loire estuary between Nantes and St Nazaire. It will serve mainly to supply the power stations at Cordemais and Cheviré. The works include a wharf for ships of up to 140 000 tonnes, a second wharf for transfers to smaller barges, miscellaneous equipment and a storage area for 300 000 tonnes of coal. Special attention has been paid to the prevention of water and air pollution.

Denmark

2.4.41. Loans to Denmark totalled DKR 55.7 million made up of DKR 50 million to the Regional Development Board (Egnsudvilingsraadet) for smaller industrial ventures in the less-developed parts of the country and DKR 5.7 million for extensions to Tejn Harbour on Bornholm Island. The latter scheme, which is designed to encourage economic activity, will involve the construction of a 6 000 m² basin, 300 m of quays, a breakwater and earthworks. An estimated 450 jobs will be safeguarded or created.

Outside the Community

Portugal

2.4.42. Under the arrangements for pre-accession aid to Portugal, the Bank made a global loan of 5 million ECU for small-scale investments in industry and tourism to the SPI (Sociedade Portuguesa de Investimentos), a private investment company recently established in Oporto to provide increased access to medium and long-term finance in Portugal, particularly for projects in the private sector.

ACP States

2.4.43. Under the second Lomé Convention, the Bank lent 500 000 ECU from the risk capital which it manages on behalf of the Community to the East African Development Bank to finance feasibility studies into investments in industrial, mining, tourism and energy projects at regional level in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.



PART THREE
DOCUMENTATION

1. ECU

Values in national currencies of one ECU

30 March 1983 ¹	
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc (convertible)	44.3932
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc (financial)	45.2869
German mark	2.23710
Dutch guilder	2.51909
Pound sterling	0.633944
Danish krone	7.94345
French franc	6.70944
Italian lira	1 333.99
Irish pound	0.708326
Greek drachma	77.4763
United States dollar	0.923657
Swiss franc	1.91908
Spanish peseta	126.218
Swedish krona	6.93574
Norwegian krone	6.65125
Canadian dollar	1.13536
Portuguese escudo	90.5184
Austrian schilling	15.7483
Finnish mark	5.05102
Japanese yen	221.031
Australian dollar	1.06658
New Zealand dollar	1.41992

¹ OJ C 89, 31.3.1983.

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

March 1983	
National currency	Value in national currency of one ECU
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc	44.9704 ³ 44.9772 ²
Danish krone	8.23400
German mark	2.57524 ² 2.65660 ¹
Greek drachma	66.5526 ⁴ 71.5619 ²
French franc	6.37174 ³ 6.19564 ²
Irish pound	0.691011
Italian lira	1 289.00
Dutch guilder	2.75563 ² 2.81318 ¹
Pound sterling	0.618655

¹ For seeds.

² For other products.

³ For pigmeat, olive oil, wine and fish.

⁴ For olive oil.

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 12-1982

Point 2.1.20

Proposal for a Council Regulation introducing a specimen declaration form to be used in intra-Community trade

OJ C 71, 16.3.1983

Point 2.1.90

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a research programme of the European Economic

Community on forecasting and assessment in science and technology (FAST) 1983-87

OJ C 89, 31.3.1983

Bull. EC 1-1983

Points 2.4.47 to 2.4.50

Opinions adopted by the Economic and Social Committee during its session on 26 and 27 January 1983

OJ C 77, 21.3.1983

Bull. EC 2-1983

Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.9

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the strengthening of the common commercial policy with regard in particular to protection against unfair commercial practices

OJ C 83, 25.3.1983

3. Infringement procedures

Initiation of proceedings for failure to implement Directives

3.3.1. In March the Commission sent letters of formal notice to Member States for failure to implement Directives in the following two cases:

(i) Council Directive 76/207/EEC of 9 February 1976 on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions¹ (Ireland);

(ii) Council Directive 69/169/EEC of 28 May 1969 on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to exemption from turnover tax and excise duty on imports in international travel² and Council Directive 78/1032/EEC of 19 December 1978 on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to the rules governing turnover tax and excise duty applicable in international travel³ (Ireland).

Reasoned opinions

3.3.2. In March the Commission delivered 12 reasoned opinions concerning five Member States in the following cases:

(i) application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1360/78 — producer groups (Italy);

(ii) combined transport operations Germany-Italy through Lugano station (Italy);

(iii) sixth Council Directive 77/388/EEC of 17 May 1977 on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes — Common system of value-added tax: uniform basis of assessment⁴ (Italy, France, Germany);

(iv) postal distribution of newspapers and magazines (France, Ireland);

¹ OJ L 39, 14.2.1976.

² OJ L 133, 4.6.1969.

³ OJ L 366, 28.12.1978.

⁴ OJ L 145, 13.6.1977.

(v) failure to implement Article 3 of the Commission Decision of 11 October 1979 authorizing special tariff measures for the carriage of certain goods by rail and road in France (France);

(vi) marketing of apples and pears/non-returnables packagings (Netherlands);
(vii) alcohol monopoly (France);
(viii) type approval of noise suppressors (France);
(ix) marketing of potatoes (France).

4. General features of the integrated Mediterranean programmes

Greece

3.4.1. The programme covers the whole of Greece, with the exception of the prefecture of Attiki and the conurbation of Thessaloniki, although the agricultural measures may apply to the rural part of Attiki.

The aim of the programme is to promote the development of the rural areas of Greece. There are two main objectives:

(i) to modernize agriculture and fisheries in order to maintain substantial viable activity at a level compatible with the needed improvement in productivity and higher incomes, while taking market prospects into account;

(ii) to create a large number of jobs in rural zones in sectors other than agriculture to offset job losses in agriculture where this fits in with regional planning.

For agriculture the programme provides for a set of specific measures tailored to the needs of different areas. To be fully effective, the measures for conversion to other lines of production may require market policy measures, for most of which the Commission has already taken initiatives aimed at guaranteeing the farmers concerned a satisfactory income.

In order to expand employment the programme relies on the development of small and medium-sized firms and craft industries, especially in the sectors upstream and downstream of agriculture, the development of rural tourism and the exploitation of renewable energy sources. Over 40% of the funds allocated for measures outside agriculture are to be devoted to investment in production, the remainder being divided among related measures to assist undertakings in fields such as seeking out markets, management advisory services and innovation and the infrastructure required for creating jobs and making rural areas more viable.

Since those measures entail considerable additional public spending, Community aid must be increased without a proportional rise in national expenditure being expected.

The measures provided for in the programme will have a marked impact on the economy only if they produce an integrating—and thus synergetic—effect on all the national and Community inputs, both under this programme and already in existence.

So that it can help to achieve such integration, the Commission will have the means to play an active part in the implementation of the programme, in liaison with the national authorities.

As the integrated programme is part of the regional development programmes, these must be altered and articulated where necessary, to take in all the priorities and development measures in the regions concerned.

Italy

3.4.2. The programme covers (a) the whole of the Mezzogiorno,¹ except for the Rome, Naples and Palermo conurbations, and (b) the regions of Liguria, Tuscany, Umbria and Marche, except for the conurbations of Florence and Genoa and the built-up tourist area along the coast.²

Most of the operations under the programme are concentrated in the Mezzogiorno. The measures planned for the central and northern regions referred to above will be less intensive and directed at those regions' specific handicaps.

¹ For the purposes of this programme the Mezzogiorno covers the whole of Latium. For infrastructure projects, however, the areas will be those covered by the Cassa del Mezzogiorno (DPR No 1523 of 30 June 1967), hereafter referred to as 'ERDF zones'.

² Fisheries and aquaculture schemes are possible.

The aim of the programme is to promote the development of the rural areas. There are two main objectives:

- (i) to modernize agriculture and fisheries in order to maintain substantial viable activity at a level compatible with the needed improvement in productivity and higher incomes, while taking market prospects into account;
- (ii) to create a large number of jobs in sectors other than agriculture to offset job losses in agriculture where this fits in with regional planning.

For agriculture in the Mezzogiorno, a two-pronged approach is planned, based on the distinction between inland and mountainous areas, and coastal and lowland areas. In inland and mountainous areas it is planned to apply the measures more intensively in view of the low incomes there, and to ensure the survival of farming by granting an adequate compensatory allowance, infrastructure measures to improve living and working conditions and structural measures for intensifying specific non-surplus lines of production (sheep and goat farming, traditional tree-crops, etc.).

For farming in the irrigated lowland areas, the emphasis is on rationalization and conversion in order to contain the output of products with marketing problems, make qualitative improvements and encourage specialization. In the lowland areas which are soon to be irrigated, a special effort is to be made to use the newly irrigated land to grow products such as fodder, protein and other crops which will increase farmers' incomes without aggravating the market situation.

To be fully effective, the measures for conversion to other lines of production may require market policy measures, for most of which the Commission has already taken initiatives aimed at guaranteeing the farmers concerned a satisfactory income.

In order to expand employment the programme relies on the development of small and medium-sized firms and craft industries, especially in the sectors upstream and downstream of agriculture, the development of rural tourism and the exploitation of renewable energy sources. Over 50% of the funds allocated for the measures outside agriculture are to be devoted to investment in production. The remaining funds are to be divided among back-up measures for the development of undertakings in fields such as seeking out markets, management advisory services and innovation and measures for improving the infrastructure required for creating jobs and making rural areas more viable. In view of the difference in the levels of development between the central and northern regions and the Mezzogiorno

(ERDF zones) infrastructure-related measures in the former regions will be confined to the development of small industrial zones.

Since these measures entail considerable additional public spending, Community aid must be increased without a proportional rise in national expenditure being expected.

The measures referred to above will have a marked impact on the economy only if they produce an integrating—and thus synergetic—effect on all the national and Community inputs, both under this programme and already in existence.

So that it can help to achieve such integration, the Commission will have the means to play an active part in the implementation of the programme, in liaison with the national authorities.

The integrated programme comes under the regional development programmes. For the southern regions these programmes must, where necessary, be altered and articulated to take in all the priorities and development measures in the regions concerned.

France

3.4.3. The programme concerns the Languedoc-Roussillon, Corsica, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrénées regions, with the exception of the conurbations of Marseille, Bordeaux and Toulouse and the built-up tourist area along the coast.

The aim of the programme is to promote the development of the rural areas. There are two main objectives:

- (i) to modernize agriculture and fisheries in order to maintain substantial viable activity at a level compatible with the needed improvement in productivity and higher incomes, while taking market prospects into account;
- (ii) to create a large number of jobs in sectors other than agriculture to offset job losses in agriculture where this fits in with regional planning.

For agriculture the programme is in two parts.

Firstly, it provides for an integrated set of measures for the three regions that are most strongly Mediterranean in character, Corsica, Provence-Côte d'Azur and Languedoc-Roussillon. In these three regions two main areas of assistance are defined on the basis of the difference between inland and mountain areas, and coastal and lowland areas. The agricultural measures are concentrated in the inland and mountain areas, where farming needs to be maintained. This will

be done by granting adequate compensatory allowances and by structural measures for more intensive production (livestock, traditional tree-crops, medicinal and perfume plants). In the lowlands, the objective of maintaining incomes will be pursued primarily by schemes for conversion to crops for which there are real markets. To be fully effective the measures for conversion to other lines of production may require market policy measures, for most of which the Commission has already taken initiatives aimed at guaranteeing the farmers concerned a satisfactory income.

Secondly, the programme proposes more selective assistance in agriculture for the two regions whose farm products are less 'Mediterranean', Midi-Pyrénées and Aquitaine. The measures provided for aim to create—in the context of future enlargement of the Community—the conditions for broad diversification of agricultural production.

In order to expand employment the programme relies on the development of small businesses and craft industries, especially in the sectors upstream and downstream of agriculture, the development of rural tourism and the exploitation of renewable energy sources. Over 60% of the funds allocated for measures outside agriculture are to be devoted to investment in production, the remainder

being divided among measures related to the development of undertakings, such as seeking out markets, management advisory services, innovation, etc., and schemes for improving the infrastructure required for creating jobs. In view of the difference in the levels of development between the regions covered by the programme, the infrastructure schemes will relate, in the case of the areas of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur not at present covered by the ERDF, only to the development of small industrial zones.

The measures will have a marked impact on the economy only if they produce an integrating—and thus synergetic—effect on all the national and Community inputs, both under this programme and already in existence.

So that it can help to achieve such integration, the Commission will have the means to play an active part in the implementation of the programme, in liaison with the national authorities.

The integrated programme is part of the regional development programmes. As far as Languedoc-Roussillon, Corsica, Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrénées are concerned, the regional development programmes must, where necessary, be altered and articulated to take in all the priorities and development measures in the regions concerned.

Publications of the European Communities

Publications of the European Communities

3 — 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:

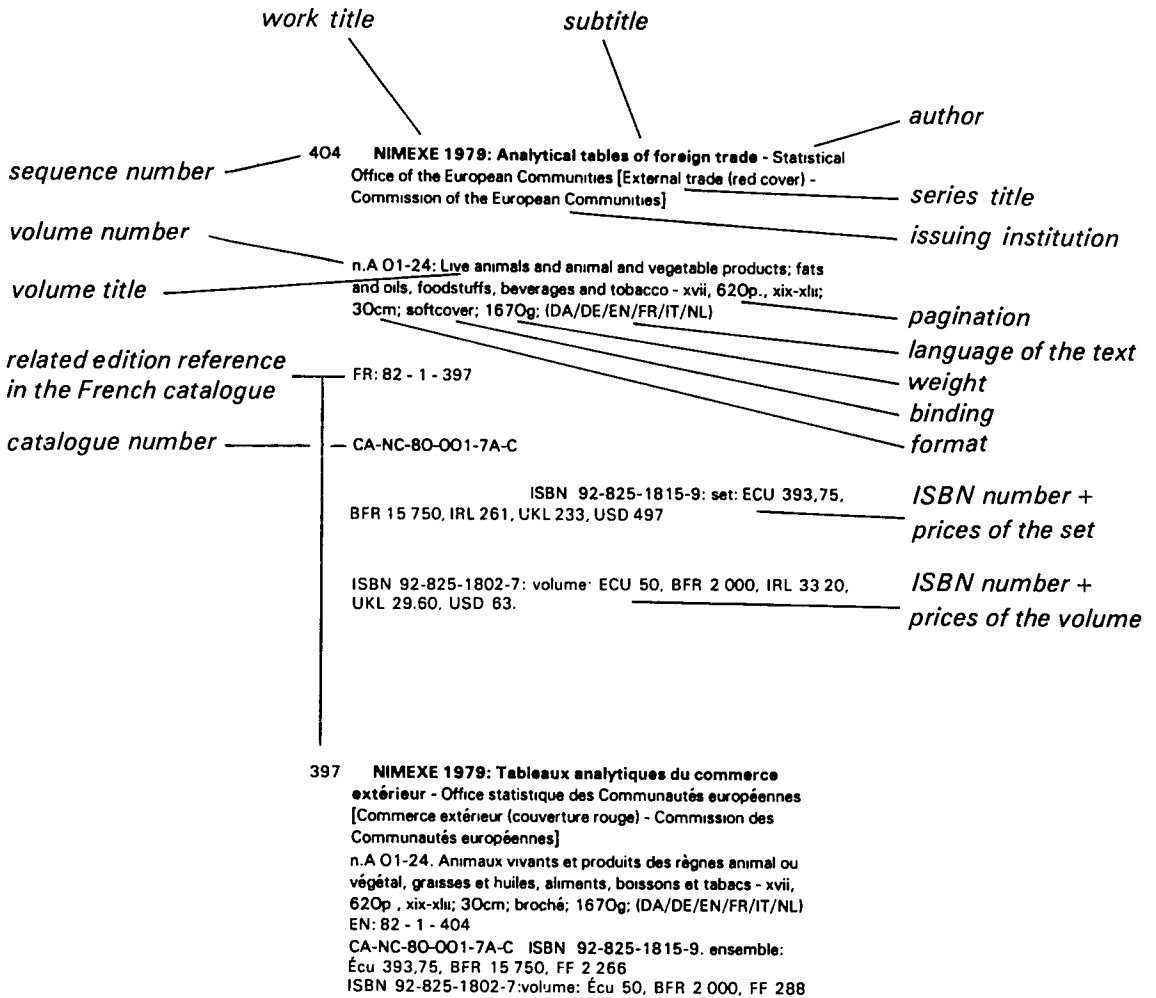
DA	Danish	GA	Irish
DE	German	IT	Italian
GR	Greek	NL	Dutch
EN	English	ES	Spanish
FR	French	PT	Portuguese

A string of such symbols separated by diagonal strokes denotes a publication in which different language versions 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



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