Bulletin

OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Commission



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Bulletin OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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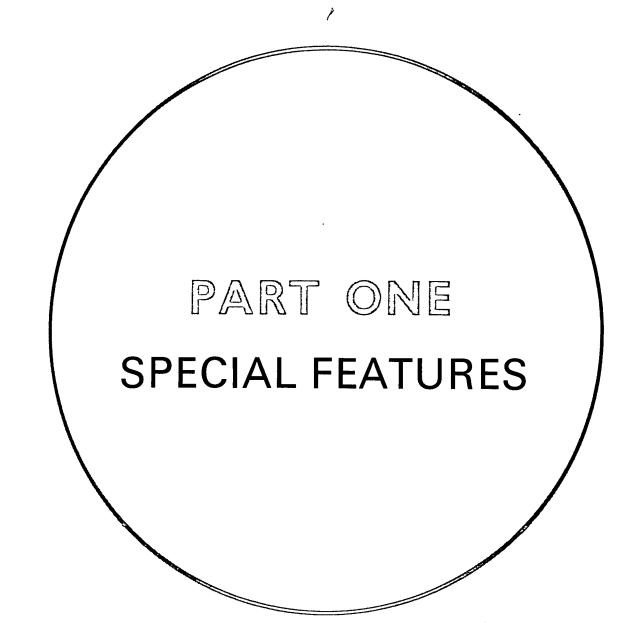
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Supplements 1984

*1/84 Unfair terms in contracts concluded with consumers

[•] In preparation.



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

ECU = European currency unit

BFR = Belgische frank / Franc belge

DKR = Dansk krone

DM = Deutsche Mark

DR = Greek drachma .

FF = 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. Draft Treaty establishing the European Union

1.1.1. On 14 February Parliament approved the draft Treaty establishing the European Union, presented by its Committee on Institutional Affairs, by 237 votes to 31 with 43 abstentions. The accompanying resolution was passed by 238 votes to 32 with 34 abstentions.

This was the culmination of well over two years' work,² which had begun with the setting-up of the Committee on Institutional Affairs in July 1981.³

The President of Parliament will now submit the draft Treaty of Union to the national governments and parliaments. The new Parliament elected in June will take whatever steps it thinks fit to take into account the views expressed by the national parliaments.

The draft will be the mainspring of the forthcoming election campaign.

There is little difference in substance between the draft Treaty as finally adopted by Parliament and the original resolution⁴ adopted in September 1983.²

However, two major changes have been made. First, there is a new section containing general and final provisions, which were deliberately left out of the resolution. They lay down the procedures for entry into force and revision of the Treaty and determination of the seat of the institutions, as well as various technical provisions.

Second, important changes have been made to the section on international relations. The distinction made in the original resolution between economic external relations on the one hand and diplomatic and political relations on the other has been altered. Whereas the resolution places the former within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Union and provided for the latter to be dealt with by cooperation between the Member States within the European Council, the draft Treaty introduces a more subtle distinction, whereby matters dealt with by cooperation could be delegated for purposes of implementation to the Commission and the Council rather than being dealt with

simply by the Member States. This would mean that the matters currently dealt with in European political cooperation could be associated more closely with the institutions of the Union than would have been the case under the terms of the resolution.

Article 82, on ratification and implementation, is undoubtedly one of the most controversial articles. Parliament has agreed that, once the Treaty has been ratified by a majority of the Member States representing two thirds of the population of the Community, their governments will meet at once to decide on the procedures and date for entry into force and on relations with the Member States which have not yet ratified. Article 23(3), which, for a transitional period of 10 years, sanctions unanimity voting within the Council of the Union in the event of a vital national interest being invoked by a Member State and recognized as such by the Commission, also caused considerable dissent.

Apart from these two major changes referred to above, the draft Treaty includes a number of other points that do not correspond entirely to the resolution, notably: deletion of the clause 'The European Council shall represent the identity of the Union' (Article 137 of the resolution); deletion of the reference to framework laws, as all laws are to be designed to leave as much leeway as possible for the authorities responsible for their implementation (Article 22 of the resolution and Article 34(1) of the draft); elimination of the reference to 'potential competence' (Article 20 of the resolution) with the introduction of a procedure for transferring new areas of competence to the Union; and tightening-up of the legislative procedure of the Union to eliminate loopholes left in the preliminary draft (Article 130 of the resolution and Article 38 of the draft).

² OJ C 277, 17.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 1.1.1 et seq.

¹ OJ C 77, 19.3.1984; for the views of the different political groups see point 2.4.12.

Bull. EC 7/8-1981, points 2.3.4 to 2.3.9.

⁴ Resolution concerning the substance of the preliminary draft of the Treaty establishing the European Union.

The texts of Parliament's resolution on the draft Treaty, of the draft Treaty itself and extracts from the speech by Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission, are given below.

Resolution on the draft Treaty establishing the European Union

1.1.2. The European Parliament,

Having regard to its decision of 9 July 1981 setting up a Committee on Institutional Affairs,1

Having regard to its resolution of 6 July 1982 concerning the reform of the Treaties and the achievement of European Union,²

Having regard to its resolution of 14 September 1983 concerning the substance of the preliminary draft Treaty establishing the European Union,³

Having regard to the report of the Commit-. tee on Institutional Affairs.

Persuaded that, having regard to the present difficulties, there is an urgent and vital need for a revival of European integration; such a revival should include a further development of existing policies, the introduction of new policies and the establishment of a new institutional balance;

Recalling that European Union has been designated as an objective by the Member States in the Treaties establishing the European Communities, at the Conference of the Heads of State or Government of 20 October 1972 and in the Solemn Declaration of 19 June 1983, as well as by the institutions of the Communities themselves;

Conscious of its historic duty as the first Assembly directly elected by the citizens of Europe, to put forward a proposal for Union:

Noting that the preliminary draft Treaty establishing the European Union submitted by the Committee on Institutional Affairs, which is based on the experience of 30 years of Community activities and on the manifest need to progress beyond the current degree of unity, is compatible with the guidelines it adopted in its resolution of 14 September 1983:

Approves the preliminary draft, which hereby becomes the draft Treaty establishing the European Union, and instructs its President to submit it to the parliaments and governments of the Member States;

Calls on the European Parliament which will be elected on 17 June 1984 to arrange all appropriate contacts and meetings with the national parliaments and to take any other useful initiatives to enable it to take account of the opinions and comments of the national parliaments;

Hopes that the Treaty establishing the European Union will ultimately be approved by all the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.

Draft Treaty establishing the European Union

Preamble

With a view to continuing and reviving the democratic unification of Europe, of which the European Communities, the European Monetary System and European Political Cooperation represent the first achievements, and convinced that it is increasingly important for Europe to assert its identity;

Welcoming the positive results achieved so far, but aware of the present need to redefine the objectives of European integration, and to confer on more efficient and more democratic institutions the means of attaining them;

Basing their actions on their commitment to the principles of pluralist democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law:

¹ OJ C 234, 14.9.1981.

OJ C 238, 13.9.1982.
 OJ C 277, 17.10.1983.

Reaffirming their desire to contribute to the construction of an international society based on cooperation between peoples and between States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, security and the strengthening of international organizations;

Resolved to strengthen and preserve peace and liberty by an ever closer union, and calling on the other peoples of Europe who share their ideal to join in their efforts;

Determined to increase solidarity between the peoples of Europe, while respecting their historical identity, their dignity and their freedom within the framework of freely accepted common institutions;

Convinced of the need to enable local and regional authorities to participate by appropriate methods in the unification of Europe;

Desirous of attaining their common objectives progressively, accepting the requisite transitional periods and submitting all further development for the approval of their peoples and States;

Intending to entrust common institutions, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, only with those powers required to complete successfully the tasks they may carry out more satisfactorily than the States acting independently;

The High Contracting Parties, Member States of the European Communities, have decided to create a European Union.

The Union

Creation of the Union

1. By this Treaty, the High Contracting Parties establish among themselves a European Union.

Accession of new members

2. Any democratic European State may apply to become a member of the Union. The procedures for accession, together with any adjustments which accession entails, shall be the subject of a treaty between the Union and the applicant State. That treaty shall be

concluded in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 65 of this Treaty.

An accession treaty which entails revison of this Treaty may not be concluded until the revision procedure laid down in Article 84 of this Treaty has been completed.

Citizenship of the Union

3. The citizens of the Member States shall *ipso facto* be citizens of the Union. Citizenship of the Union shall be dependent upon citizenship of a Member State; it may not be independently acquired or forfeited. Citizens of the Union shall take part in the political life of the Union in the forms laid down by this Treaty, enjoy the rights granted to them by the legal system of the Union and be subject to its laws.

Fundamental rights

- 4. 1. The Union shall protect the dignity of the individual and grant every person coming within its jurisdiction the fundamental rights and freedoms derived in particular from the common principles of the Constitutions of the Member States and from the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.
- 2. The Union undertakes to maintain and develop, within the limits of its competences, the economic, social and cultural rights derived from the Constitutions of the Member States and from the European Social Charter
- 3. Within a period of five years, the Union shall take a decision on its accession to the international instruments referred to above and to the United Nations Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Within the same period, the Union shall adopt its own declaration on fundamental rights in accordance with the procedure for revision laid down in Article 84 of this Treaty.
- 4. In the event of serious and persistent violation of democratic principles or fundamental rights by a Member State, penalties

may be imposed in accordance with the provisions of Article 44 of this Treaty.

Territory of the Union

5. The territory of the Union shall consist of all the territories of the Member States as specified by the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and by the treaties of accession, account being taken of obligations arising out of international law.

Legal personality of the Union

6. The Union shall have legal personality. In each of the Member States, the Union shall enjoy the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under national legislation. It may, in particular, acquire or dispose of movable and immovable property and may be a party to legal proceedings. In international relations, the Union shall enjoy the legal capacity it requires to performs its functions and attain its objectives.

The Community patrimony

- 7. 1. The Union shall take over the Community patrimony.
- 2. The provisions of the treaties establishing the European Communities and of the conventions and protocols relating thereto which concern their objectives and scope and which are not explicitly or implicity amended by this Treaty, shall constitute part of the law of the Union. They may only be amended in accordance with the procedure for revision laid down in Article 84 of this Treaty.
- 3. The other provisions of the treaties, conventions and protocols referred to above shall also constitute part of the law of the Union, in so far as they are not incompatible with this Treaty. They may only be amended by the procedure for organic laws laid down in Article 38 of this Treaty.
- 4. The acts of the European Communuties, together with the measures adopted within the context of the European Monetary System and European Political Cooperation, shall continue to be effective, in so far as

they are not incompatible with this Treaty, until such time as they have been replaced by acts or measures adopted by the institutions of the Union in accordance with their respective competences.

5. The Union shall respect all the commitments of the European Communities, in particular the agreements or conventions concluded with one or more non-member States or with an international organization.

Institutions of the Union

8. The fulfilment of the tasks conferred on the Union shall be the responsibility of its institutions and its organs. The institutions of the Union shall be:

the European Parliament, the Council of the Union, the Commission, the Court of Justice, the European Council.

The objectives, methods of action and competences of the Union

Objectives

9. The objectives of the Union shall be:

the attainment of a humane and harmonious development of society based principally on endeavours to attain full employment, the progressive elimination of the existing imbalances between its regions, protection and improvement in the quality of the environment, scientific progress and the cultural development of its peoples,

the economic development of its peoples with a free internal market and stable currency, equilibrium in external trade and constant economic growth, without discrimination between nationals or undertakings of the Members States by strengthening the capacity of the States, their citizens and their undertakings to act together to adjust their organization and activities to economic changes,

the promotion in international relations of security, peace, cooperation, détente, dis-

armament and the free movement of persons and ideas, together with the improvement of international commercial and monetary relations,

the harmonious and equitable development of all the peoples of the world to enable them to escape from under-development and hunger and exercise their full political, economic and social rights.

Methods of action

- 10. 1. To attain these objectives, the Union shall act either by common action or by cooperation between the Member States; the fields within which each method applies shall be determined by this Treaty.
- 2. Common action means all normative, administrative, financial and judicial acts, internal or international, and the programmes and recommendations, issued by the Union itself, originating in its institutions and addressed to those institutions, or to States, or to individuals.
- 3. Cooperation means all the commitments which the Member States undertake within the European Council.

The measures resulting from cooperation shall be implemented by the Member States or by the institutions of the Union in accordance with the procedures laid down by the European Council.

Transfer from cooperation to common action

- 11. 1. In the instances laid down in Articles 54(1) and 68(2) of this Treaty, a matter subject to the method of cooperation between Member States may become the subject of common action. On a proposal from the Commission, or the Council of the Union, or the Parliament, or one or more Member States, the European Council may decide, after consulting the Commission and with the agreement of the Parliament, to bring those matters within the exclusive or concurrent competence of the Union.
- 2. In the fields subject to common action, common action may not be replaced by cooperation.

Competences

- 12. 1. Where this Treaty confers exclusive competence on the Union, the institutions of the Union shall have sole power to act; national authorities may only legislate to the extent laid down by the law of the Union. Until the Union has legislated, national legislation shall remain in force.
- 2. Where this Treaty confers concurrent competence on the Union, the Member States shall continue to act so long as the Union has not legislated. The Union shall only act to carry out those tasks which may be undertaken more effectively in common than by the Member States acting separately, in particular those whose execution requires action by the Union because their dimension or effects extend beyond national frontiers. A law which initiates or extends common action in a field where action has not been taken hitherto by the Union or by the Communities must be adopted in accordance with the procedure for organic laws.

Implementation of the law of the Union

13. The Union and the Member States shall cooperate in good faith in the implementation of the law of the Union. Member States shall take all appropriate measures, whether general or particular, to ensure fulfilment of the obligations arising out of this Treaty or resulting from action taken by the institutions of the Union. They shall facilitate the achievement of the Union's tasks. They shall abstain from any measure which could jeopardize the attainment of the objectives of the Union.

Institutional provisions

The institutions of the Union

The European Parliament

14. The European Parliament shall be elected by direct universal suffrage in a free and secret vote by the citizens of the Union. The term of each Parliament shall be five years.

An organic law shall lay down a uniform electoral procedure; until such a law comes into force, the procedure applicable shall be that for the election of the Parliament of the European Communities.

Members of Parliament

15. The members of the Parliament shall act and vote in an individual and personal capacity. They may not be bound by any instruction nor receive a binding mandate.

Functions of the Parliament

16. The Parliament shall:

participate, in accordance with this Treaty, in the legislative and budgetary procedures and in the conclusion of international agreements,

enable the Commission to take office by approving its political programme,

exercise political supervision over the Commission,

have power to adopt by a qualified majority a motion of censure requiring the members of the Commission to resign as a body,

have the power to conduct inquiries and receive petitions addressed to it by citizens of the Union,

exercise the other powers attributed to it by this Treaty.

Majorities in the Parliament

- 17. 1. The Parliament shall vote by a simple majority, i.e. a majority of votes cast, abstentions not counted.
- 2. Where expressly specified by this Treaty, the Parliament shall vote:
- (a) either by an absolute majority, i.e. a majority of its members;
- (b) or by a qualified majority, i.e. a majority of its members and of two-thirds of votes cast, abstentions not counted. On the second reading of the budget, the qualified majority required shall be a majority of the members of Parliament and three-fifths of votes cast, abstentions not counted.

Power to conduct inquiries and right of petition

18. The procedures for the exercise of the power of the Parliament to conduct inquiries and of the right of citizens to address petitions to the Parliament shall be laid down by organic laws.

Rules of procedure of the Parliament

19. The Parliament shall adopt its rules of procedure by an absolute majority.

The Council of the Union

20. The Council of the Union shall consist of representations of the Members States appointed by their respective governments; each representation shall be led by a minister who is permanently and specifically responsible for Union affairs.

Functions of the Council of the Union

21. The Council shall:

participate, in accordance with this Treaty, in the legislative and budgetary procedures and in the conclusion of international agreements,

exercise the powers attributed to it in the field of international relations, and answer written and oral questions tabled by members of the Parliament in this field,

exercise the other powers attributed to it by this Treaty.

Weighting of votes in the Council of the Union

22. The votes of the representations shall be weighted in accordance with the provisions of Article 148(2) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community.

In the event of the accession of new Member States, the weighting of their votes shall be laid down in the treaty of accession.

Majorities in the Council of the Union

23. 1. The Council shall vote by a simple majority, i.e. a majority of the weighted votes cast, abstentions not counted.

- 2. Where expressly specified by this Treaty, the Council shall vote:
- (a) either by an absolute majority, i.e. by a majority of the weighted votes cast, abstentions not counted, comprising at least half of the representations;
- (b) or by a qualified majority, i.e. by a majority of two-thirds of the weighted votes cast, abstentions not counted, comprising a majority of the representations. On the second reading of the budget, the qualified majority required shall be a majority of three-fifths of the weighted votes cast, abstentions not counted, comprising a majority of the representations;
- (c) or by unanimity of representations, abstentions not counted.
- 3. During a transitional period of 10 years, where a representation invokes a vital national interest which is jeopardized by the decision to be taken and recognized as such by the Commission, the vote shall be postponed so that the matter may be reexamined. The grounds for requesting a postponement shall be published.

Rules of procedure of the Council of the Union

24. The Council shall adopt its rules of procedure by an absolute majority. These rules shall lay down that meetings in which the Council is acting as a legislative or budgetary authority shall be open to the public.

The Commission

25. The Commission shall take office within a period of six months following the election of the Parliament.

At the beginning of each parliamentary term, the European Council shall designate the President of the Commission. The President shall constitute the Commission after consulting the European Council.

The Commission shall submit its programme to the Parliament. It shall take office after its investiture by the Parliament. It

shall remain in office until the investiture of a new Commission.

Membership of the Commission

26. The structure and operation of the Commission and the Statute of its members shall be determined by an organic law. Until such a law comes into force, the rules governing the structure and operation of the Commission of the European Communities and the Statute of its members shall apply to the Commission of the Union.

Rules of procedure of the Commission

27. The Commission shall adopt its rules of procedure.

Functions of the Commission

28. The Commission shall:

define the guidelines for action by the Union in the programme which it submits to the Parliament for its approval,

introduce the measures required to initiate that action,

have the right to propose draft laws and participate in the legislative procedure,

issue the regulations needed to implement the laws and take the requisite implementing decisions.

submit the draft budget,

implement the budget,

represent the Union in external relations in the instances laid down by this Treaty,

ensure that this Treaty and the laws of the Union are applied, and

exercise the other powers attributed to it by this Treaty.

Responsibility of the Commission to the Parliament

- 29. 1. The Commission shall be responsible to the Parliament.
- 2. It shall answer written and oral questions tabled by members of the Parliament.

- 3. The members of the Commission shall resign as a body in the event of Parliament's adopting a motion of censure by a qualified majority. The vote on a motion of censure shall be by public ballot and not be held until at least three days after the motion has been tabled.
- 4. On the adoption of a motion of censure a new Commission shall be constituted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 25 of this Treaty. Pending the investiture of the new Commission, the Commission which has been censured shall be responsible for day-to-day business.

The Court of Justice

- 30. 1. The Court of Justice shall ensure that in the interpretation and application of this Treaty, and of any act adopted pursuant thereto, the law is observed.
- 2. Half the members of the Court shall be appointed by the Parliament and half by the Council of the Union. Where there is an odd number of members, the Parliament shall appoint one more than the Council.
- 3. The organization of the Court, the number and Statute of its members and the duration of their term of office shall be governed by an organic law which shall also lay down the procedure and majorities required for their appointment. Until such a law comes into force, the relevant provisions laid down in the Community Treaties and their implementing measures shall apply to the Court of Justice of the Union.
- 4. The Court shall adopt its rules of procedure.

The European Council

31. The European Council shall consist of the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Union and the President of the Commission who shall participate in the work of the European Council except for the debate on the designation of his successor and the drafting of communications and recommendations to the Commission.

Functions of the European Council

32. 1. The European Council shall:

formulate recommendations and undertake commitments in the field of cooperation,

take decisions in the cases laid down by this Treaty and in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 thereof on the extension of the competences of the Union,

designate the President of the Commission, address communications to the other institutions of the Union,

periodically inform the Parliament of the activities of the Union in the fields in which it is competent to act,

answer written and oral questions tabled by the members of the Parliament,

exercise the other powers attributed to it by this Treaty.

2. The European Council shall determine its own decision-making procedures.

Organs of the Union

33. 1. The Union shall have the following organs:

the Court of Auditors,

the Economic and Social Committee,

the European Investment Bank,

the European Monetary Fund.

Organic laws shall lay down the rules governing the competences and powers of these organs, their organization and their membership.

- 2. Half the members of the Court of Auditors shall be appointed by the Parliament and half by the Council of the Union.
- 3. The Economic and Social Committee shall be an organ which advises the Commission, the Parliament, the Council of the Union and the European Council; it may address to them opinions drawn up on its own initiative. The Committee shall be consulted on every proposal which has a determining influence on the drawing up and implementation of economic policy and policy for society. The Committee shall adopt

its rules of procedure. The membership of the Committee shall ensure adequate representation of the various categories of economic and social activity.

- 4. The European Monetary Fund shall have the autonomy required to guarantee monetary stability.
- 5. Each of the organs referred to above shall be governed by the provisions applicable to the corresponding Community organs at the moment when this Treaty enters into force.

The Union may create other organs necessary for its operation by means of an organic law.

Acts of the Union

Definition of laws

- 34. 1. Laws shall lay down the rules governing common action. As far as possible, they shall restrict themselves to determining the fundamental principles governing common action and entrust the responsible authorities in the Union or the Member States with setting out in detail the procedures for their implementation.
- 2. The organization and operation of the institutions and other matters expressly provided for in this Treaty shall be governed by organic laws adopted in accordance with the specific procedures laid down in Article 38 of this Treaty.
- 3. Budgetary laws shall be adopted pursuant to the provisions of Article 76 of this Treaty.

Differentiated application of laws

35. A law may subject to time-limits, or link to transitional measures which may vary according to the addressee, the implementation of its provisions where uniform application thereof would encounter specific difficulties caused by the particular situation of some of its addressees. However, such time-limits and measures must be designed to facilitate the subsequent ap-

plication of all the provisions of the law to all its addressees.

Legislative authority

36. The Parliament and the Council of the Union shall jointly exercise legislative authority with the active participation of the Commission.

Right to propose draft laws and amendments thereto

- 37. 1. The Commission shall have the right to propose draft laws. It may withdraw a draft law it has submitted at any time until the Parliament or the Council of the Union have expressly adopted it on first reading.
- 2. On a reasoned request from the Parliament or the Council, the Commission shall submit a draft law conforming to such request. If the Commission declines to do so, the Parliament or the Council may, in accordance with procedures laid down in their rules of procedure, introduce a draft law conforming to their original request. The Commission must express its opinion on the draft.
- 3. Under the conditions laid down in Article 38 of this Treaty:

the Commission may put forward amendments to any draft law. Such amendments must be put to the vote as a matter of priority,

members of the Parliament and national representations within the Council may similarly put forward amendments during the debates within their respective institutions.

Voting procedure for draft laws

38. 1. All draft laws shall be submitted to the Parliament. Within a period of six months, it may approve the draft with or without amendment. In the case of draft organic laws the Parliament may amend them by an absolute majority; their approval shall require a qualified majority.

Where the majority required for approval of the draft is not secured, the Commission

shall have the right to amend it and to submit it to the Parliament again.

- 2. The draft law, approved by the Parliament with or without amendment, shall be forwarded to the Council of the Union. Within a period of one month following approval by the Parliament, the Commission may deliver an opinion which shall also be forwarded to the Council.
- 3. The Council shall take a decision within a period of six months. Where it approves the draft by an absolute majority without amending it, or where it rejects it unanimously, the legislative procedure is terminated.

Where the Commission has expressly delivered an unfavourable opinion on the draft, or in the case of a draft organic law, the Council shall by a qualified majority approve the draft without amending it or reject it, in which cases the legislative procedure is terminated.

Where the draft has been put to the vote but has not secured the majorities referred to above, or where the draft has been amended by a simple majority or, in the case of organic laws, by an absolute majority, the conciliation procedure laid down in paragraph 4 below shall be opened.

4. In the cases provided for in the final subparagraph of paragraph 3 above, the Conciliation Committee shall be convened. The Committee shall consist of a delegation from the Council of the Union and a delegation from the Parliament. The Commission shall participate in the work of the Committee.

Where, within a period of three months, the Committee reaches agreement on a joint text, that text shall be submitted for approval to the Parliament and the Council; they shall take a decision by an absolute majority or, in the case of organic laws, by a qualified majority within a period of three months. No amendments shall be admissible.

Where, within the period referred to above the Committee fails to reach agreement, the text forwarded by the Council shall be submitted for approval to the Parliament which shall, within a period of three months, take a decision by an absolute majority or, in the case of organic laws, by a qualified majority. Only amendments tabled by the Commission shall be admissible. Within a period of three months, the Council may reject by a qualified majority the text adopted by the Parliament. No amendments shall then be admissible.

- 5. Without prejudice to Article 23(3) of this Treaty, where the Parliament or the Council fails to submit the draft to a vote within the time-limits laid down, the draft shall be deemed to have been adopted by the institution which has not taken a decision. However, a law may not be regarded as having been adopted unless it has been expressly approved either by the Parliament or by the Council.
- 6. Where a particular situation so requires, the Parliament and the Council may, by common accord, extend the time-limits laid down in this Article.

Publication of laws

39. Without prejudice to Article 76(4) of this Treaty, the President of the arm of the legislative authority which has taken the last express decision shall establish that the legislative procedure has been completed and shall cause laws to be published without delay in the Official Journal of the Union.

Power to issue regulations

40. The Commission shall determine the regulations and decisions required for the implementation of laws in accordance with the procedures laid down by those laws. Regulations shall be published in the Official Journal of the Union; decisions shall be notified to the addressees. The Parliament and the Council of the Union shall be immediately informed thereof.

Hearing of persons affected

41. Before adopting any measure, the institutions of the Union shall, wherever pos-

sible and useful, hear the persons thereby affected. Laws of the Union shall lay down the procedures for such hearings.

The law of the Union

42. The law of the Union shall be directly applicable in the Member States. It shall take precedence over national law. Without prejudice to the powers conferred on the Commission, the implementation of the law shall be the responsibility of the authorities of the Member States. An organic law shall lay down the procedures in accordance with which the Commission shall ensure the implementation of the law. National courts shall apply the law of the Union.

Judicial review

43. The Community rules governing judicial review shall apply to the Union. They shall be supplemented by an organic law on the basis of the following principles:

extension of the right of action of individuals against acts of the Union adversely affecting them,

equal right of appeal and equal treatment for all the institutions before the Court of Justice,

jurisdiction of the Court for the protection of fundamental rights vis-à-vis the Union,

jurisdiction of the Court to annul an act of the Union within the context of an application for a preliminary ruling or of a plea of illegality,

creation of a right of appeal to the Court against the decisions of national courts of last instance where reference to the Court for a preliminary ruling is refused or where a preliminary ruling of the Court has been disregarded,

jurisdiction of the Court to impose sanctions on a Member State failing to fulfil its obligation under the law of the Union,

compulsory jurisdiction of the Court to rule on any dispute between Member States in connection with the objectives of the Union.

Sanctions

44. In the case provided for in Article 4(4) of this Treaty, and in every other case of serious and persistent violation by a Member State of the provisions of the Treaty, established by the Court of Justice at the request of the Parliament or the Commission, the European Council may, after hearing the Member State concerned and with the approval of the Parliament, take measures:

suspending the rights deriving from the application of part or the whole of the Treaty provisions to the State in question and its nationals without prejudice to the rights acquired by the latter,

which may go as far as suspending participation by the State in question in the European Council, the Council of the Union and any other organ in which that State is represented as such.

The State in question shall not participate in the vote on the sanctions.

The policies of the Union

General provisions

- 45. 1. Starting from the Community patrimony, the Union shall continue the actions already undertaken and undertake new actions in compliance with this Treaty and, in particular, with Article 9 thereof.
- 2. The structural and conjunctural policies of the Union shall be drawn up and implemented so as to promote, together with balanced expansion throughout the Union, the progressive elimination of the existing imbalances betweens its various areas and regions.

Homogeneous judicial area

46. In addition to the fields subject to common action, the coordination of national law with a view to constituting a homogeneous judicial area shall be carried out in accordance with the method of cooperation. This shall be done in particular:

to take measures designed to reinforce the feeling of individual citizens that they are citizens of the Union,

to fight international forms of crime, including terrorism.

The Commission and the Parliament may submit appropriate recommendations to the European Council.

Economic policy

Internal market and freedom of movement

- 47. 1. The Union shall have exclusive competence to complete, safeguard and develop the free movement of persons, services, goods and capital within its territory; it shall have exclusive competence for trade between Member States.
- 2. This liberalization process shall take place on the basis of detailed and binding programmes and timetables laid down by the legislative authority in accordance with the procedures for adopting laws. The Commission shall adopt the implementing procedures for those programmes.
- 3. Through those programmes, the Union must attain:

within a period of two years following the entry into force of this Treaty, the free movement of persons and goods; this implies in particular the abolition of personal checks at internal frontiers,

within a period of five years following the entry into force of this Treaty, the free movement of services, including banking and all forms of insurance,

within a period of 10 years following the entry into force of this Treaty, the free movement of capital.

Competition

48. The Union shall have exclusive competence to complete and develop competition policy at the level of the Union, bearing in mind:

the need to establish a system for the authorization of concentrations of undertakings based on the criteria laid down by Article 66 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community,

the need to restructure and strengthen the industry of the Union in the light of the profound disturbances which may be caused by international competition,

the need to prohibit any form of discrimination between private and public undertakings.

Approximation of the laws relating to undertakings and taxation

49. The Union shall take measures designed to approximate the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings, and in particular to companies, in so far as such provisions have a direct effect on a common action of the Union. A law shall lay down a Statute for European Undertakings.

In so far as necessary for economic integration within the Union, a law shall effect the approximation of the laws relating to taxation.

Conjunctural policy

- 50. 1. The Union shall have concurrent competence in respect of conjunctural policy, with a particular view to facilitating the coordination of economic policies within the Union.
- 2. The Commission shall define the guidelines and objectives to which the action of the Member States shall be subject on the basis of the principles and within the limits laid down by laws.
- 3. Laws shall lay down the conditions under which the Commission shall ensure that the measures taken by the Member States conform with the objectives it has defined. Laws shall authorize the Commission to make the monetary, budgetary or financial aid of the Union conditional on compliance with the measures taken under paragraph 2 above.

4. Laws shall lay down the conditions under which the Commission, in conjunction with the Member States, shall utilize the budgetary or financial mechanisms of the Union for conjunctural ends.

Credit policy

51. The Union shall exercise concurrent competence as regards European monetary and credit policies, with the particular objective of coordinating the use of capital market resources by the creation of a European capital market committee and the establishment of a European bank supervisory authority.

European Monetary System

- 52. 1. All the Member States shall participate in the European Monetary System, subject to the principle set out in Article 35 of this Treaty.
- 2. The Union shall have concurrent competence for the progressive achievement of full monetary union.
- 3. An organic law shall lay down rules governing:

the Statute and the operation of the European Monetary Fund in accordance with Article 33 of this Treaty,

the conditions for the effective transfer to the European Monetary Fund of part of the reserves of the Member States,

the conditions for the progressive conversion of the ECU into a reserve currency and a means of payment, and its wider use,

the procedures and the stages for attaining monetary union,

the duties and obligations of the central banks in the determination of their objectives regarding money supply.

4. During the five years following the entry into force of this Treaty, by derogation from Articles 36, 38 and 39 thereof, the European Council may suspend the entry into force of the organic laws referred to above within a period of one month following their adoption and refer them back to

the Parliament and the Council of the Union for fresh consideration.

Sectoral policies

53. In order to meet the particular needs for the organization, development or coordination of specific sectors of economic activity, the Union shall have concurrent competence with the Member States to pursue sectoral policies at the level of the Union. In the fields referred to below, such policies shall, by the establishment of reliable framework conditions, in particular pursue the aim of facilitating the decisions which undertakings subject to competition must take concerning investment and innovation.

The sectors concerned are in particular: agriculture and fisheries, transport, telecommunications, research and development,

industry, energy.

- (a) In the fields of agriculture and fisheries, the Union shall pursue a policy designed to attain the objectives laid down in Article 39 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community.
- (b) In the field of transport, the Union shall pursue a policy designed to contribute to the economic integration of the Member States. It shall, in particular, undertake common actions to put an end to all forms of discrimination, harmonize the basic terms of competition between the various modes of transport, eliminate obstacles to transfrontier traffic and develop the capacity of transport routes so as to create a transport network commensurate with European needs.
- (c) In the field of telecommunications, the Union shall take common action to establish a telecommunications network with common standards and harmonize tariffs; it shall exercise competence in particular with regard to the high technology sectors, research and development activities and public procurement policy.

- (d) In the field of research and development, the Union may draw up common strategies with a view to coordinating and guiding national activities and encouraging cooperation between the Member States and between research institutes. It may provide financial support for joint research, may take responsibility for some of the risks involved and may undertake research in its own establishments.
- (e) In the field of industry, the Union may draw up development strategies with a view to guiding and coordinating the policies of the Member States in those industrial branches which are of particular significance to the economic and political security of the Union. The Commission shall be responsible for taking the requisite implementing measures. It shall submit to the Parliament and the Council of the Union a periodic report on industrial policy problems.
- (f) In the field of energy, action by the Union shall be designed to ensure security of supplies, stability on the market of the Union and, to the extent that prices are regulated, a harmonized pricing policy compatible with fair competive practices. It shall also be designed to encourage the development of alternative and renewable energy sources, to introduce common technical standards for efficiency, safety, the protection of the environment and of the population, and to encourage the exploitation of European sources of energy.

Other forms of cooperation

- 54. 1. Where Member States have taken the initiative to establish industrial cooperation structures outside the scope of this Treaty, the European Council may, if the common interest justifies it, decide to convert those forms of cooperation into a common action of the Union.
- 2. In specific sectors subject to common action, laws may establish specialized European agencies and define those forms of supervision applicable thereto.

Policy for society

General provisions

55. The Union shall have concurrent competence in the field of social, health, consumer protection, regional, environmental, education and research, cultural and information policies.

Social and health policy

56. The Union may take action in the field of social and health policy, in particular in matters relating to:

employment, and in particular the establishment of general comparable conditions for the maintenance and creation of jobs,

the law on labour and working conditions, equality between men and women,

vocational training and further training, social security and welfare,

protection against occupational accidents and diseases,

work hygiene,

trade union rights and collective negotiations between employers and employees, in particular with a view to the conclusion of Union-wide collective agreement,

forms of worker participation in decisions affecting their working life and the organization of undertakings,

the determination of the extent to which citizens of non-member States may benefit from equal treatment,

the approximation of the rules governing research into and the manufacture, properties and marketing of pharmaceutical products.

the prevention of addiction,

the coordination of mutual aid in the event of epidemics or disasters.

Consumer policy

57. The Union may lay down rules designed to protect the health and safety of consum-

ers and their economic interests, particularly in the event of damage. The Union may encourage action to promote consumer education, information and consultation.

Regional policy

58. The regional policy of the Union shall aim at reducing regional disparities and, in particular, the under-development of the least-favoured regions, by injecting new life into those regions so as to ensure their subsequent development and by helping to create the conditions likely to put an end to the excessive concentration of migration towards certain industrial centres.

The regional policy of the Union shall, in addition, encourage transfrontier regional cooperation.

The regional policy of the Union shall comprise:

the development of a European framework for the regional planning policies pursued by the competent authorities in each Member State,

the promotion of investment and infrastructure projects which bring national programmes into the framework of an overall concept,

the implementation of integrated programmes of the Union on behalf of certain regions, drawn up in collaboration with the representatives of the people concerned, and, where possible, the direct allocation of the requisite funds to the regions concerned.

Environmental policy

59. In the field of the environment, the Union shall aim at preventing or, taking account as far as possible of the 'polluter pays' principle, at redressing any damage which is beyond the capabilities of the individual Member States or which requires a collective solution. It shall encourage a policy of the rational utilization of natural resources, of exploiting renewable raw materials and of recycling waste which takes account of environmental protection requirements.

The Union shall take measures designed to provide for animal protection.

Education and research policy

60. In order to create a context which will help inculcate in the public an awareness of the Union's own identity and to ensure a minimum standard of training creating the opportunity for free choice of career, job or training establishment anywhere in the Union, the Union shall take measures concerning:

the definition of objectives for common or comparable training programmes,

the Union-wide validity and equivalence of diplomas and school, study and training periods,

the promotion of scientific research.

Cultural policy

61. 1. The Union may take measures to:

promote cultural and linguistic understanding between the citizens of the Union,

publicize the cultural life of the Union both at home and abroad,

establish youth exchange programmes.

- 2. The European University Institute and the European Foundation shall become establishments of the Union.
- 3. Laws shall lay down rules governing the approximation of the law of copyright and the free movement of cultural works.

Information policy

62. The Union shall encourage the exchange of information and access to information for its citizens. To this end, it shall eliminate obstacles to the free movement of information, whilst ensuring the broadest possible competition and diversity of types of organization in this field. It shall encourage cooperation between radio and television companies for the purpose of producing Union-wide programmes.

International relations of the Union

Principles and methods of action

- 1. The Union shall direct its efforts in international relations towards the achievement of peace through the peaceful settlement of conflicts and towards security, the deterrence of aggression, détente, the mutual balanced and verifiable reduction of military forces and armaments, respect for human rights, the raising of living standards in the Third World, the expansion and improvement of international economic and monetary relations in general and trade in particular and the strengthening of international organization.
- 2. In the international sphere, the Union shall endeavour to attain the objectives set out in Article 9 of this Treaty. It shall act either by common action or by cooperation.

Common action

- 64. 1. In its international relations, the Union shall act by common action in the fields referred to in this Treaty where it has exclusive or concurrent competence.
- 2. In the field of commercial policy, the Union shall have exclusive competence.
- 3. The Union shall pursue a development aid policy. During a transitional period of 10 years, this policy as a whole shall progressively become the subject of common action by the Union. In so far as the Member States continue to pursue independent programmes, the Union shall define the framework within which it will ensure the coordination of such programmes with its own policy, whilst observing current international commitments.
- 4. Where certain external policies fall within the exclusive competence of the European Communities pursuant to the Treaties establishing them, but where that competence has not been fully exercised, a law shall down the procedures required for it to be fully exercised within a period which may not exceed five years.

Conduct of common action

- 65. 1. In the exercise of its competences, the Union shall be represented by the Commission in its relations with non-member States and international organizations. In particular, the Commission shall negotiate international agreements on behalf of the Union. It shall be responsible for liaison with all international organizations and shall cooperate with the Council of Europe, in particular in the cultural sector.
- 2. The Council of the Union may issue the Commission with guidelines for the conduct of international action; it must issue such guidelines, after approving them by an absolute majority, where the Commission is involved in drafting acts and negotiating agreements which will create international obligations for the Union.
- 3. The Parliament shall be informed, in good time and in accordance with appropriate procedures, of every action of the institutions competent in the field of international policy.
- 4. The Parliament and the Council of the Union, both acting by an absolute majority, shall approve international agreements and instruct the President of the Commission to deposit the instruments of ratification.

Cooperation

66. The Union shall conduct its international relations by the method of cooperation where Article 64 of this Treaty is not applicable and where they involve:

matters directly concerning the interests of several Member States of the Union,

or fields in which the Member States acting individually cannot act as efficiently as the Union,

or fields where a policy of the Union appears necessary to supplement the foreign policies pursued on the responsibility of the Member States,

or matters relating to the political and economic aspects of security.

Conduct of cooperation

- 67. In the fields referred to in Article 66 of this Treaty:
- 1. The European Council shall be responsible for cooperation; the Council of the Union shall be responsible for its conduct; the Commission may propose policies and actions which shall be implemented, at the request of the European Council or the Council of the Union, either by the Commission or by the Member States.
- 2. The Union shall ensure that the international policy guidelines of the Member States are consistent.
- 3. The Union shall coordinate the positions of the Member States during the negotiation of international agreements and within the framework of international organizations.
- 4. In an emergency, where immediate action is necessary, a Member State particularly concerned may act individually after informing the European Council and the Commission.
- 5. The European Council may call on its President, on the President of the Council of the Union or on the Commission to act as spokesman of the Union.

Extension of the field of cooperation and transfer from cooperation to common action

- 68. 1. The European Council may extend the field of cooperation, in particular as regards armaments, sales of arms to nonmember States, defence policy and disarmament.
- 2. Under the conditions laid down in Article 11 of this Treaty, the European Council may decide to transfer a particular field of cooperation to common action in external policy. In that event the provisions laid down in Article 23(3) of this Treaty shall apply without any time-limit. Bearing in mind the principle laid down in Article 35 of this Treaty, the Council of the Union, acting unanimously, may exceptionally authorize one or more Member States to

derogate from some of the measures taken within the context of common action.

- 3. By way of derogation from Article 11(2) of this Treaty, the European Council may decide to restore the fields transferred to common action in accordance with paragraph 2 above, either to cooperation or to the competence of the Member States.
- 4. Under the conditions laid down in paragraph 2 above, the European Council may decide to transfer a specific problem to common action for the period required for its solution. In that event, paragraph 3 above shall not apply.

Right of representation abroad

- 69. 1. The Commission may, with the approval of the Council of the Union, establish representations in non-member States and international organizations.
- 2. Such representations shall be responsible for representing the Union in all matters subject to common action. They may also, in collaboration with the diplomatic agent of the Member States holding the presidency of the European Council, coordinate the diplomatic activity of the Member States in the fields subject to cooperation.
- 3. In non-member States and international organizations where there is no representation of the Union, it shall be represented by the diplomatic agent of the Member State currently holding the presidency of the European Council or else by the diplomatic agent of another Member State.

The finances of the Union

General provisions

- 70. 1. The Union shall have its own finances, administered by its institutions, on the basis of the budget adopted by the budgetary authority which shall consist of the European Parliament and the Council of the Union.
- 2. The revenue of the Union shall be utilized to guarantee the implementation of common actions undertaken by the Union.

Any implementation by the Union of a new action assumes that the allocation to the Union of the financial means required shall be subject to the procedure laid down in Article 71(2) of this Treaty.

Revenue

- 71. 1. When this Treaty enters into force, the revenue of the Union shall be of the same kind as that of the European Communities. However, the Union shall receive a fixed percentage of the basis for assessing value added tax established by the budget within the framework of the programme set out in Article 74 of this Treaty.
- 2. The Union may, by an organic law, amend the nature or the basis of assessment of existing sources of revenue or create new ones. It may by a law authorize the Commission to issue loans, without prejudice to Article 75(2) of this Treaty.
- 3. In principle, the authorities of the Member States shall collect the revenue of the Union. Such revenue shall be paid to the Union as soon as it has been collected. A law shall lay down the implementing procedures for this paragraph and may set up the Union's own revenue-collecting authorities.

Expenditure

- 72. 1. The expenditure of the Union shall be determined annually on the basis of an assessment of the cost of each common action within the framework of the financial programme set out in Article 74 of this Treaty.
- 2. At least once a year, the Commission shall submit a report to the budgetary authority on the effectiveness of the actions undertaken, account being taken of their cost.
- 3. All expenditure by the Union shall be subject to the same budgetary procedure.

Financial equalization

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73. A system of financial equalization shall be introduced in order to alleviate excessive

economic imbalances between the regions. An organic law shall lay down the procedures for the application of this system.

Financial programmes

- 74. 1. At the beginning of each parliamentary term, the Commission, after receiving its investiture, shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council of the Union a report on the division between the Union and the Member States of the responsibilities for implementing common actions and the financial burdens resulting therefrom.
- 2. On a proposal from the Commission, a multiannual financial programme, adopted according to the procedure for adopting laws, shall lay down the projected development in the revenue and expenditure of the Union. These forecasts shall be revised annually and be used as the basis for the preparation of the budget.

Budget

- 75. 1. The budget shall lay down and authorize all the revenue and expenditure of the Union in respect of each calendar year. The adopted budget must be in balance. Supplementary and amending budgets shall be adopted under the same conditions as the general budget. The revenue of the Union shall not be earmarked for specific purposes.
- 2. The budget shall lay down the maximum amounts for borrowing and lending during the financial year. Save in exceptional cases expressly laid down in the budget, borrowed funds may only be used to finance investment.
- 3. Appropriations shall be entered in specific chapters grouping expenditure according to its nature or destination and subdivided in compliance with the provisions of the Financial Regulation. The expenditure of the institutions other than the Commission shall be the subject of separate sections of the budget; they shall be drawn up and managed by those institutions and may only include operating expenditure.
- 4. The Financial Regulation of the Union shall be established by an organic law.

Budgetary procedure

- 76. 1. The Commission shall prepare the draft budget and forward it to the budgetary authority.
- 2. Within the time-limits laid down by the Financial Regulation:
- (a) on first reading, the Council of the Union may approve amendments by a simple majority. The draft budget, with or without amendment, shall be forwarded to the Parliament;
- (b) on first reading, the Parliament may amend by an absolute majority the amendments of the Council and approve other amendments by a simple majority;
- (c) if, within a period of fifteen days, the Commission opposes the amendments approved by the Council or by the Parliament on first reading, the relevant arm, of the budgetary authority must take a fresh decision by a qualified majority on second reading;
- (d) if the budget has not been amended, or if the amendments adopted by the Parliament and the Council are identical, and if the Commission has not exercised its right to oppose the amendments, the budget shall be deemed to have been finally adopted;
- (e) on second reading, the Council may amend by a qualified majority the amendments approved by the Parliament. It may by a qualified majority refer the whole draft budget as amended by the Parliament back to the Commission and request it to submit a new draft; where not so referred back, the draft budget shall at all events be forwarded to the Parliament;
- (f) on second reading, the Parliament may reject amendments adopted by the Council only by a qualified majority. It shall adopt the budget by an absolute majority.
- 3. Where one of the arms of the budgetary authority has not taken a decision within the time-limit laid down by the Financial Regulation, it shall be deemed to have adopted the draft referred to it.
- When the procedure laid down in this Article has been completed, the President of

the Parliament shall declare that the budget stands adopted and shall cause it to be published without delay in the Official Journal of the Union.

Provisional twelfths

77. Where the budget has not been adopted by the beginning of the financial year, expenditure may be effected on a monthly basis, under the conditions laid down in the Financial Regulation, up to a maximum of one-twelfth of the appropriations entered in the budget of the preceding financial year, account being taken of any supplementary and amending budgets.

At the end of the sixth month following the beginning of the financial year, the Commission may only effect expenditure to enable the Union to comply with its existing obligations.

Implementation of the budget

78. The budget shall be implemented by the Commission on its own responsibility under the conditions laid down by the Financial Regulation.

Audit of the accounts

79. The Court of Auditors shall verify the implementation of the budget. It shall fulfil its task independently and, to this end, enjoy powers of investigation with regard to the institutions and organs of the Union and to the national authorities concerned.

Revenue and expenditure account

80. At the end of the financial year, the Commission shall submit to the budgetary authority, in the form laid down by the Financial Regulation, the revenue and expenditure account which shall set out all the operations of the financial year and be accompanied by the report of the Court of Auditors.

Discharge

81. The Parliament shall decide to grand, postpone or refuse a discharge; the decision

on the discharge may be accompanied by observations which the Commission shall be obliged to take into account.

General and final provisions

Entry into force

82. This Treaty shall be open for ratification by all the Member States of the European Communities.

Once this Treaty has been ratified by a majority of the Member States of the Communities whose population represents two-thirds of the total population of the Communities, the governments of the Member States which have ratified shall meet at once to decide by common accord on the procedures by and the date on which this Treaty shall enter into force.

Deposit of the instruments of ratification

83. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the government of the first State to have completed the ratification procedure.

Revision of the Treaty

84. One representation within the Council of the Union, or one-third of the members of the Parliament, or the Commission may submit to the legislative authority a reasoned draft law amending one or more provisions of this Treaty. The draft shall be submitted for approval to the two arms of the legislative authority which shall act in accordance with the procedure applicable to organic laws.

The draft, thus approved, shall be submitted for ratification by the Member States and shall enter into force when they have all ratified it.

The seat

85. The European Council shall determine the seat of the institutions. Should the European Council not have taken a decision on

the seat within two years of the entry into force of this Treaty, the legislative authority shall take a final decision in accordance with the procedure applicable to organic laws.

Reservations

86. The provisions of this Treaty may not be subject to any reservations. This Article does not preclude the Member States from maintaining, in relation to the Union, the declarations they have made with regard to the Treaties and conventions which form part of the Community patrimony.

Duration

87. This Treaty is concluded for an unlimited period.

During the debate Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission, had this to say:¹

1.1.3. '... Admittedly, Mr President, support for your political venture, identification with your ideals, does not mean that we can give our unqualified approval to each and every one of the provisions in your draft Treaty.

My colleague, Mr Andriessen, and I did not fail last September in this very place to tell you, with the candour we owe the House, on which points the Commission's view differed from yours. And, for my own part, I share some of the regrets expressed today, particularly by Mr Pfennig.

The work which produced today's draft Treaty from September's resolution took account of some of the Commission's observations, and there we can only applaud.

However, some of the reservations made by the Commission in September still stand. This is particularly true—let me quote this one example only—with regard to the provisions which, albeit for a limited period, allow Member States to block a decision by pleading a vital interest.

I am not going to reiterate all the considerations that I put to the House at length in September. But I must say again loud and clear that that any move on your part, even with built-in limitations and qualifications, to sanction the possibility of pleading vital interest to block decisions is to my

¹ Provisional translation. Final version to be published in O J Annex 1-309.

mind an unwarranted concession to a pernicious practice that Parliament and Commission have both hitherto condemned.

That said, Mr President, your Treaty is indisputably a good Treaty, a fine draft.

It is gratifying for the Commission to recognize in it the underlying principles and key elements of its 1975 report on European Union.

And it is pleasing for me to find my own philosophy reflected in it.

I think you were right to break with what has so often been called the "softly, softly" approach which consisted of expanding and enchancing Parliament's role without ever overstepping the institutional bounds imposed by the Treaties. It did indeed produce results in its time, but it has now clearly run out of steam. Though the Commission has always been ready to go along with any improvement in institutional relations compatible with the Treaties, it would seem that the Council is now unwilling or unable to commit itself further, in the absence of truly binding legal provisions.

And you were right too not enlist the assistance of the Member States in elaborating the small print of the Constitution of European Union but to press on and incorporate it yourselves in a draft Treaty in due and proper form.

In so doing you have shown that the debate between representatives of the people and between transnational political forces can be more fruitful than negotiations between representatives of governments. I believe this was essential.

You also got the timing right, since after some three years' work your draft is now ready just as the failure at Athens has removed any possible lingering doubts that Europe stands in need, in desperate need, of renewed ambition.

I must sadly admit that you have read the cards all too well.

Finally, you were right too to temper ambitious vision with realism and not to try to start from scratch.

I think that it is perfectly realistic today to think in terms of Parliament sharing the legislative power with the Council. A quarter of a century has already passed since the first moves were made towards integration, and Parliament now commands full democratic legitimacy. And you have succeeded in democratizing the legislative process without blunting its edge.

It seems to me no less realistic to integrate political cooperation into the Union's institutional machinery. Similarly, it makes sense to limit the powers vested in the Union to those it can exercise more effectively than the States and to widen the exercise

of those powers gradually in order to ensure a smooth changeover.

What the Community has achieved you have respected and even consolidated, especially—and this I must acknowledge and emphasize—with regard to the role of the Commission. By allowing it a prominent part in legislative initiative and by entrusting it with the stewardship of common action you have endorsed the political nature and irreplaceable function of the institution which makes a substantial contribution to the originality of the Community venture.

Let me speak as I find. Those who in the early stages of the election campaign are saying in the same breath that they want to relaunch Europe but with the Commission playing a purely technical and administrative role have not learned the lessons of contemporary history or of 25 years of Community experience, since all they really want is to turn the Community into an intergovernmental institution. To negate the political role conferred on the Commission by the Treaty is to negate the very nature of the Community...

Soon the election campaign will be in full swing and your draft Treaty will surely be its star attraction. And then it will be for the new Parliament to ensure that the Treaty is ratified by the States. That will be the moment of truth, when the uphill struggle begins in earnest.

You have thus embarked on an ardous fight for the future of Europe. I can assure you that the Commission will always be right behind you. We, in turn, are counting on your support in our struggle day-in day-out to keep our ailing Community alive and kicking.

A struggle, Mr President, that is often unrewarding but, believe me, no less vital for that. The advent—soon, we hope—of a European Union based on a new Treaty must not be allowed to serve as a pretext or an excuse for failing to deal with the immediate issues, to face up to the here-and-now.

Our present Community must be resurrected straightaway if it is to live to keep the momentous appointment you are making for it today.

Our task here is twofold:

- (i) we must adapt what we have already achieved, concentrating on reforming the common agricultural policy and restoring peace on the budgetary front;
- (ii) we must engage the Europe of the Treaties in a new phase of development, through enlargement, through the creation of a European economic and industrial area and through the provision of adequate resources.

But if progress is to be lasting rather than transient we must return to the paths of institutional orthodoxy and regain the ability, lacking today more than ever before, to take decisions and, above all, to take them in good time. The decision-making mechanism rusted over the years by the practice of unanimity must be made to work smoothly again...

So we have a dual struggle on our hands: to keep the Community alive and viable and to prepare for its conversion into a true European Union.

These are not conflicting tasks; nor are they separate. They are simply two sides of the same coin.

In that struggle, Mr President, Parliament and the Commission, by the very roles in which they are cast and by the interests which they represent, can only be natural allies.

For this House represents the people of Europe, and they—as all the opinion polls demonstrate—want integration, and quickly.

The Commission for its part is an institution independent of the Member States whose role it is to identify, interpret and make good the common interest.

I am therefore convinced, ladies and gentlemen, that a joint attempt to tackle the complementary tasks of our two institutions offers the best guarantee for the immediate future of Europe.

So let me wish you, and by the same token us, good cheer, a good fight and every success.'

2. Preparations for the Brussels European Council

1.2.1. The future financing of the Community, which will be at the centre of the stage at the European Council in Brussels on 19 and 20 March, has three aspects: budgetary discipline, the correction of budgetary imbalances and increased own resources.

In February the Commission sent the Council communications on two of these. The first, on budgetary discipline, clarified and amended the proposals made last November and added special provisions for the agriculture sector. The second, on new own resources for the Community, amended the proposals made in May 1983. By sending the Council its own proposals, which will form the sole basis for discussion, the Commission intends to ensure that preparations for the Brussels European Council are carried out strictly in accordance with Community rules.

1.2.2. In its communication on budget discipline the Commission proposed certain improvements to the existing budgetary

procedures of a kind which complement, while still respecting, the provisions of the Treaty in this field.

One of the proposals was for a prior phase of conciliation between the Council, Parliament and the Commission, before the beginning of the budget procedure proper, on the structure and volume of the Community's budget for the coming year. The Commission also suggested the introduction of specific rules for the various types of Community expenditure. For agricultural expenditure, which currently represents nearly two thirds of the Community budget, the Commission proposed as a guideline keeping its growth, expressed as a three-year moving average, below the growth of the Community's own resources. If, in the Commission's view, the Agriculture Ministers looked like reaching a decision whose cost would

¹ COM(84) 83 final/3.

COM(84) 140 final.

³ Bull. EC 5-1983, point 1.1.1 et seq.

exceed the Commission's initial proposals, the decision would be remitted to a special Council meeting of Foreign and Agriculture Ministers.

In the Commissions's opinion, agreement on budget discipline would assist agreement on the other two aspects. Guarantees that the management of expenditure was subject to fair and binding rules would act as a powerful stimulus for agreement on the Community's financial resources.

1.2.3. In sending the Council amended proposals on new own resources, the Commission recognized that its May 1983 proposals to remove the ceiling on VAT own resources did not have adequate support in the Council. It therefore agreed to amend them by accepting the principle of a new ceiling, while arguing in favour of a sufficiently high figure. If the ceiling were set at 2%, instead of the present 1%, the Community would have sufficient resources for a considerable period, as happened following the 1970 decision, which has proved adequate to meet Community expenditure until now.

Budget discipline

'The need for discipline which applies to the Community as much as to its Member States is of a general nature. Optimum use of the Community's resources can be ensured only if the budget as a whole is managed in a rigorous fashion, in line with clearly defined forecasts and priorities and on the basis of precise rules applicable to all types of expenditure. Such a discipline has to be imposed in agreement with Parliament, given the role which the latter plays in the budget procedure.

In the Commission's view there would be advantage in introducing certain improvements into the existing budget procedure which, while complying with the Treaty, would enable a better choice of budgetary options to be made on the basis of the Community's aims and priorities. The Commission is therefore proposing a set of rules to be applied to the whole of the budget which will be supplemented by special rules relevant to the nature of the particular expenditure or new development of the Community in question. Thus as regards agricultural expenditure the Commission is asking the European Council to approve the financial provision which it has proposed and

which it has refined by the incorporation of certain adjustments the need for which has become apparent during the course of discussion (see 'Common agricultural policy: Financial guidelines' below).

As regards other types of expenditure, the Commission proposes to introduce certain specific forms of framework, by drawing a distinction between expenditure whose normal rhythm is stable (administrative appropriations), expenditure which can be the subject of qualitative guidelines (in particular structural expenditure) and finally expenditure which by its nature is dependent upon multiannual programming. The aim is that the budget authority should be provided, on the basis of a proposal from the Commission and before the start of the budget procedure proper, with all the information necessary in order to define the priorities in the Community's objectives and to assess the means required in order to attain them.

The Commission therefore submits the following draft conclusions for adoption by the European Council.

1. The European Council requests the Council to agree with Parliament and the Commission on an improvement in the budget procedure (with due respect for Article 203, and in particular paragraph 9 thereof) so as to provide a greater rationalization of budgetary options in line with the objectives of the Community.

To this end it submits the following provisions:

- 2. Before the opening of the budget procedure proper a conciliation between the three institutions will take place, on the basis of a report from the Commission quantifying the main budget components for the year ahead: the estimated revenues and volume of the budget as a whole compared with the previous year, together with the estimated volume compared with the previous year of each of the major budget parameters.¹
- 3. As regards agricultural expenditure, the European Council endorses the financial guidelines proposed by the Commission with regard to agricultural expenditure, in the form in which the Commission has refined them as a result of the Council's discussions (see 'Common agricultural policy: Financial guidelines' below). In this way the common agricultural policy will be better integrated into the budget procedure of the Community.

The Commission's forecasts will be drawn up in accordance with the guideline thus laid down.

¹ The report will be drawn up within the context of the three-year forecasts which the Commission submits each year for the three financial years following.

4. As regards other expenditure:

- (i) The Council will seek with Parliament, on the basis of proposals from the Commission, agreement on multiannual programming in all fields where this is appropriate, in line with Community objectives.
- (ii) In the case of actions or policies which have already been the subject of such multiannual programming, or which have been subject to qualitative guidelines (to be established also through conciliation between the Council, Parliament and the Commission), the main budget parameters will be costed on the basis of a normal implementation of these programmes or guidelines.
- (iii) In the case of other actions (including new actions) the main budget parameters will be costed on the basis of the clearly defined aims which the Commission proposes should be achieved. In proposing these aims the Commission will take proper account of the need to apply to the Community budget a discipline compatible with that applied to the budgets of its Member States.

If the total volume of non-obligatory expenditure costed in the above manner would lead to the maximum rate being exceeded, the Commission will submit a full and reasoned justification, taking into consideration not only the requirements of the development of the Community but also the economic and financial situation of the Community and the Member States.

5. The aim of the conciliation is to secure the greatest possible measure of agreement among the institutions on the structure and volume of the budget.

The Commission shall draw up the preliminary draft budget upon completion of the conciliation, within the limits of the total volume of expenditure proposed in its report; it shall incorporate the points on which agreement had been reached and shall take account of the discussions which will have taken place on other issues.

- 6. The preliminary draft budget shall also contain a contingency reserve. The primary purpose of this reserve shall be to provide for conjunctural fluctuations in agricultural expenditure; but it shall also be available in the case of a shortfall in the actual receipts from the Community's own resources by comparison with the budget forecasts.
- 7. The Commission will continue to report regularly to the Council and Parliament on the implementation of the budget, as regards both agricultural and non-agricultural expenditure. In the event of an overrun or the likelihood thereof it shall submit appropriate proposals to the Council and Parliament.'

Common agricultural policy: Financial guidelines

- 1. 'The amendments which the Commission has proposed to the rules governing the various common agricultural market organizations will, if implemented, ensure control of agricultural expenditure and act as a brake on its future growth. It is on the assumption that the Council will endorse all these measures that the Commission now submits the following financial guidelines.
- 2. The Commission will give the European Council an undertaking to adopt a qualitative guideline with respect to its own management, namely that the rate of growth of agricultural expenditure, as an average calculated over several years, is to remain below the rate of growth of the Community's own resource base calculated on a similar basis. The average in each case shall be that of the current year and the two preceding years.
- 3. The Commission suggests that the European Council expressly request the Council to adopt the

¹ The amounts to be taken into account are the expenditure chargeable to Section III, Part B, Titles 1 and 2 (EAGGF Guarantee) of the budget. This expenditure is currently presented in the budget in a manner which includes 'negative expenditure', i.e. is already reduced by the incidence of the financial contribution by milk producers (co-responsibility levy). The calculation of agricultural expenditure for the purposes of the guideline shall be this expenditure, further reduced by the sum of amounts corresponding to the marketing of ACP sugar and refunds in connection with food aid, the payments by producers in respect of the sugar and isoglucose levies as well as the revenues from any future internal agricultural charges.

The amounts to be taken into account are the potential revenues upon which Titles 1 and 2 of Section III (Revenue) of the budget are determined. The calculation of the Community's own resource base for the purposes of the guideline shall be the total VAT base upon which the VAT rate of the year in question is calculated, the amount of financial contributions (if any) included in the budget of the year together with the own resources, other than those derived from VAT, set out in Revenue Title 1 less the sugar and isoglucose levies. For the purpose of calculating the VAT base account shall not be taken of any abatements on the VAT payments of individual Member States.

³ In calculating the rates of growth in the own-resource base and in agricultural expenditure, due account will need to be taken of:

(i) Changes in the own-resource base, e.g. as a result of an increase in the VAT ceiling;

(ii) any discrepancy in timing between the full availability to the Community of the additional own resources derived in the two new Member States and changes in agricultural expenditure occasioned by their accession. (One possible solution would be the neutralization, for the purposes of the calculation of this guideline, of the effects of enlargement during the first years of the transitional period.)

same qualitative guideline in the decisions falling within its competence.

- 4. The Commission requests the Council to adopt special procedural rules in order better to ensure strict budget discipline in the management of the common agricultural policy.
- 5. As regards the decisions which have a determinant effect on the volume of agricultural expenditure, that is the decision on agricultural prices which the Council of Agriculture Ministers must take each year on a proposal from the Commission, the Commission proposes the following rules:
- (a) When submitting its agricultural proposals the Commission will supply a quantified estimate of their budget impact in relation to the movement in the growth of the Community's own resource base calculated according to a common and constant formula, namely the sliding average of the growth rates for the current year, the year immediately preceding and the year ahead. These figures will allow a judgment to be made of the compatibility of the proposals with the guideline referred to in paragraph 2 of this section.
- (b) The Commission will draw up its proposals on prices (and related measures) in the light of the guideline referred to in paragraph 2. To this end the Commission confirms that it intends in the coming years to pursue a restrictive price policy for sectors in surplus and for those where a rapid growth in expenditure is coupled with limited outlets for disposal.
- (c) On this basis the Commission suggests that the European Council request the Council to adopt the following rule: if in the Commission's opinion the Council of Agriculture Ministers seems likely to take decisions whose cost would exceed that of the original proposals of the Commission, the final decision must be referred to a special Council session attended by both Finance and Agriculture Ministers and can be taken only by that special session.
- 6. As regards the preparation and implementation of the budget the Commission proposes the following rules:
- (a) In submitting its budget proposals in the context of its preliminary draft budget the Commission will take account of all foreseeable expenditure in the budget year concerned, including that stemming from its price proposals.

The aim of the Commission and the Council will thus be to keep EAGGF Guarantee expenditure within the appropriations for the year.

(b) The Commission will institute an early-warning procedure enabling it to detect promptly any risk during the year of budgetary overruns and report to the Council and Parliament forthwith.¹

It will in any event report to the Council and Parliament each month on the trend of agricultural expenditure.

After making use of all the opportunities afforded by the routine management of the CAP it will if need be propose to the Council and Parliament measures designed, without detriment to the principles of the CAP, to restrict increases in agricultural expenditure. It will be incumbent on those institutions to take the necessary decisions as speedily as possible so that these measures can achieve their purpose. Where appropriate the Council's decisions could be taken at a special session of the kind referred to in paragraph 5(c).

The Commission will not introduce a supplementary budget until it has exhausted all the opportunities for savings afforded by the routine management of the CAP and by any additional Council decisions.

(c) In the event of failure to respect the qualitative guideline referred to in paragraph 2 (by reason either of a special Council decision [5(c)] or of a supplementary budget), adherence thereto will mean that both the Council and the Commission must during the following two financial years ensure that, barring aberrant developments, agricultural expenditure is brought back within the limits imposed by the qualitative guideline. In so doing they must concentrate primarily on the production sectors responsible for the failure to adhere to the guideline.

Future financing of the Community

'The Commission proposed in May 1983 that under the 1970 decision on own resources a new Community decision-making procedure should be instituted for setting the rate of call-up applicable to the basis of assessment for VAT.

The procedure would be operated for the first time before the setting of a VAT call-up rate above 1.4%.

The Commission's proposal received the support of the European Parliament, with the qualification that the matter must be dealt with in the frame-

¹ Apart from a Council decision on prices in excess of the Commission's proposals (when the special decision-making procedure in paragraph 5(c) would apply), such 'overruns' could only occur as a result of compelling economic developments which could not have been foreseen when the budget was adopted.

work of the powers pertaining to national ratification procedures. From the Council discussions it emerged that the overwhelming majority of the Member States wished to continue the principle of a ceiling rate laid down in the 1970 decision and the requirement that any increase in the ceiling rate is to be agreed by the Member States unanimously and ratified by the national Parliaments.

This being so, the Commission would now make the point that the Community is consequently in the same position as at the time of the 1970 decision; the Community has accordingly to set a new ceiling on the increase of VAT own resources.

The 1970 decision gave the Community financial security for 13 years. A decision of like scope is called for now, taking account of a number of considerations that did not apply when the 1970 decision was taken.

Future development of the Community budget in the context of budget discipline

1. Raising the own-resources ceiling is this time part and parcel of a set of arrangements proposed by the Commission for containing farm spending and establishing strict budget discipline generally.

The strict budget management guaranteed by the decisions which the Council takes on the basis of the Commission's proposals will ensure that the new resources are of a permanent nature by enabling the growth of the Community budget to be kept within bounds.

At the same time the European Council's decision on the future financing of the Community must show a dynamic approach and offer a real prospect of further development in the medium term.

For there are cases where joint action by the Member States is more effective and economical than piecemeal national measures. With all due respect for the constraints on public spending throughout the Community, the financing system of the Community must therefore be given sufficient flexibility to take on further developments in line with these economy requirements, particularly as they mean in practice that the demands on the national budgets are less.

Enlargement

2. The raising of the own-resources ceiling must also enable the Community budget to cover the financial implications of Spanish and Portuguese accession.

The annual profile of the budgetary effects of enlargement cannot be determined at the present stage of the negotiations with Spain and Portugal. To start with, the increase in Community expenditure will stem mainly from higher structural expenditure for the benefit of the acceding countries and the Mediterranean regions of the Community; later on, enlargement might involve a net increase in the Community budget of 0.1-0.2% of VAT.

Rate of growth of own resources

3. Prudence demands that we should not bank on a real growth rate in Community GDP of more than 2.5% p.a. over the coming years.

The average annual growth in the VAT basis of assessment should not exceed that in GDP. Moreover, the trend in movement of the other revenues is sluggish: in fact in real terms their value has actually declined.²

In 1978 customs duties and the other common policy-related revenues accounted for 45% of available own resources, but in 1984 the figure is only 42%.

This trend can be expected to continue, and indeed to gather pace, in the years ahead. Most customs duties are bound in GATT and come under a dismantling schedule which could be speeded up in accordance with the progress of world efforts to liberalize international trade.

As for the agricultural levies, they are a particularly erratic source of finance, whose yield will be adversely affected by the implementation of the Commission's proposed CAP reforms.

Care must be taken therefore not to equate an increase in the Community budget with an increase in the VAT revenues required. The relative diminution in the other resources automatically involves, for a given real increase in the budget, a faster increase in the VAT revenues called up. Thus is has been estimated that tariff dismantling and the fall in the agricultural levies consequent on CAP

Whereas in 1981 the VAT call-up rate was still the same as in 1979, namely, 0.78, in 1982 it suddenly moved to over 0.9. Since 1983 the Community budget has been up against the own-resources ceiling, as the combined result of farm spending and offset payments to correct the imbalances in the distribution of budget charges. (Had it not been for the offset payments the 1983 call-up rate would have been 0.875.)

The traditional own resources (agricultural levies, sugar and isoglucose levies, customs duties) rose in face value by an average 6.8% p.a. in the period 1978-83, while during the same period GDP implied prices rose by 8.9% p.a. The real value of the traditional own resources thus fell by an average 1.9% p.a. during those five years.

reform could mean, at a time-scale of 10-15 years, a 0.2% increase in the VAT call-up rate merely to maintain the real value of available own resources.

Time needed

4. To gain the Council's agreement to a proposal for going above the own-resources ceiling, and after that to obtain ratification by the national parliaments (12 of them after enlargement), will take at least two years. This cuts two years off the period during which the higher own-resources ceiling will allow trouble-free Community budgeting.

Moreover the credibility of the Community system would suffer severely if the national parliaments had to be constantly applied to in order to obtain the wherewithal to go ahead with the common venture.

In the two financial years that will elapse between the exhaustion of own resources within the 1% ceiling and the advent of the new resources, budget growth will be completely straitjacketed. Hence there is bound to be an accumulation of commitments and deferments of expenditure which will have to be honoured later. This is inevitable even if the Commission's proposals for the reform of the CAP are adopted in full in principle by the Brussels European Council in March, for even then it would still take time to turn the decisions-inprinciple into operational regulations, and time again for the regulations to have their full budgetary impact. So it could be that the Community budget will have to be temporarily increased for so long as it takes to implement the arrangements for properly containing farm spending. This factor, which may be discounted in a long-term context, would become very relevant indeed if the new

own-resources ceiling were not consonant with the long-term context and in fact only afforded the Community a breathing space.

5. In view of the foregoing, the Commission is proposing that the Council today take a decision of like importance to that of 1970, raising by one point the maximum rate determining the revenue from value-added tax which may be assigned to the Community.

The Commission is of the opinion that this increase of the ceiling rate from 1 to 2% of the basis of assessment for VAT would give the Community secure financing for long enough to cover the whole transitional period of its enlargement to include Spain and Portugal.¹

In asking the European Council to give the Community this financial security — monitored in accordance with the budget discipline rules — it is thus asking the Member States to have the same degree of confidence in Europe as they did in 1970.

It is not asking them to accept the principle of automatic, regular increases in Community revenue-generation.

By deciding to make available to the Community a certain range of potential resources the Member States will not be authorizing their deployment; the actual expenditure and revenue of the Community will be determined through the annual budget procedure, strictly within the framework of the rules on budget discipline proposed by the Commission.'

¹ During that period it is also necessary to allow for the effects, at the appropriate time, of budgetizing the EDF.

Information technology

Adoption of the first phase of the Esprit programme

1.3.1. On 28 February the Council adopted a Decision setting out the European strategic programme for research and development in information technologies (Esprit)¹ after the last reservations about the appropriations for the first phase (1984-88) had been overcome.² It also adopted the work programme for 1984.³

Esprit is a 10-year programme which should enable Europe to close the technological gap and perhaps overtake its American and Japanese competitors in this key area of strategic importance for the Community. It calls for cooperation between industry, universities, and research centres and laboratories. The total outplay in the first years will be 1500 million ECU, evenly divided between the Community budget and contractors.

As was made clear in the Commission's proposals, Esprit is not a scheme for aiding research already in progress but a completely new instrument to encourage cooperation between the Community's computer industries on agreed topics following a consistent strategy and a coordinated and selective approach.

The first phase of the programme will represent some 10000 man-years of scientific and technical work. Research will centre on generic information technologies (microelectronics, advanced information processing and software technology) and two fields of application (office systems and computer-integrated manufacturing).

Expressing his satisfaction at the Council Decision, Mr Davignon described the adoption of this programme as the first optimistics decision taken in 1983-84, adding that the Community had set its sights on a level of activity matching that of Japan and the United States, and had given itself the ressources to succeed.

The need for a programme

One fact justifies the special effort to be put into information technology as the industry of the future: in a world of fast-moving industrial change Europe, for the first time in the industrial age, is no longer the main source of scientific and technological innovation. In most of the advanced technologies that will shape tomorrow's industry it has been far outstripped by its US and Japanese competitors. The European IT (information technology) industry now holds only 10% of the world market, and Europe has to import most of its data-processing hardware and more than three quarters of its consumer electronics products.

The bare fact that Europe has fallen behind in this field needs to be qualified, however. On the credit side the Community has a research capacity twice that of Japan and equal to that of the United States, while on the debit side its weakness is structural: its research is fragmented and there is a lack of industrial and technological cooperation between public institutions and private industrial firms. Also, links between research and industrial application are not effective enough. Few research programmes extend beyond national boundaries, and projects do not have sufficient industrial relevance or a big enough commercial spin-off.

Esprit tackles these two shortcomings by bringing potential users into the programme and giving them a financial stake in it. With the resources and machinery at its command, Esprit is designed to promote the competitiveness of IT in Europe and thereby provide support for the companies' own innovation efforts.

¹ OJ L 67, 9.3.1984.

² Point 1.3.11.

³ OJ L 81, 24.3.1984.

The content of the programme

1.3.3. The Esprit programme, the first phase of which runs from 1984 to 1988, comprises precompetitive R&D projects carried out by means of contracts to be concluded with companies, including small firms, universities and other bodies established in the Community, and the coordination of R&D activities carried out under Member State and Community programmes. The projects are included in an annual work programme drafted by the Commission, the first of which (for 1984) was adopted by the Council on 28 February.¹

The projects will as a rule be submitted in reply to an open invitation and involve the participation of at least two independent industrial partners, not all established in the same Member State. Each contractor will be expected to bring a significant contribution to the project and to bear a substantial proportion of the costs, 50% of which may normally be put up by the Community.

The Esprit programme will be reviewed either after 30 months or as soon as 60% of the amount has been committed.

1.3.4. The programme covers the following areas of R&D activity and infrastructure actions:

Advanced microelectronic capability

1.3.5. The main objective is to provide the technological capability to design, manufacture and test the very high-speed and very large-scale integrated circuits (VLSIC) that will be needed in the next two decades.

A concurrent objective is to stimulate R&D on novel materials and devices for special applications (including optical switching and storage and the use of novel organic and inorganic materials).

Software technologies

1.3.6. Software technology aims at providing the basic engineering, methods and tools that are needed in the software development process, the management principles

for IT and the scientific knowledge underlying them, and integrating them into a consistent technology. It is founded on traditional mathematics, economics and engineering practices.

Three complementary research approaches will have to be combined. These emphasize:

- (i) the scientific foundations (formal mathematical techniques, taxonomy and metrics, including empirical techniques and modelling);
- (ii) the software production process (methods and tools in software engineering, integration into complete systems for software production);
- (iii) the development of software as a product (interdependence of the commercial goals and the technical characteristics and performance requirements of software).

Advanced information processing

1.3.7. The objective is to create an industrial exploitation basis for the transition from data processing to knowledge processing, which is the key to the next computer generation.

Objectives include the provision of more user-friendly interfaces to non-expert users, intelligent sensors and utilization of VLSI circuits.

Office systems

- 1.3.8. The objective is to carry out research on the information systems that will support the wide range of non-routine tasks performed by humans in the office environment. The R&D activities to be pursued include:
- (i) description of office procedures, definition of standards and the design of office products;
- (ii) document description languages, document creation and distribution;
- (iii) office communication systems;
- (iv) office filing and retrieval systems;

OJ L 81, 24.3.1984; OJ C 47, 20.2.1984.

(v) human factors (man/machine interaction, communications between people).

Computer-integrated manufacture

1.3.9. The objective is to establish the technology base for progressive introduction of IT to all phases of the manufacturing cycle leading ultimately to fully integrated production systems.

The main emphasis will be on manufacturing elements as they are needed for discrete batch manufacturing, as this is technologically the most demanding problem.

The R&D will concentrate mainly on:

- (i) computer-aided design, engineering, manufacture, test and repair systems;
- (ii) real-time control of machines and systems (including automated assembly, robots, numerically controlled machine tools and entire flexible manufacturing systems);
- (iii) subsystems and components (real-time imaging and control systems, microelectronic subsystems, sensor systems);
- (iv) demonstration models of computer-integrated manufacture for experiments in real-life situations.

Infrastructure actions

- 1.3.10. The infrastructure actions that will enable maximum benefit to be obtained from Esprit programme as a whole include;
- (i) coordination of Community and Member States' R&D programmes, acquisition of information, both within Esprit and from the world at large, and its appropriate dissemination;
- (ii) coordination and documentation of standards within Esprit and their relationship with national and international standards;
- (iii) an information exchange system (IES) for the good technical execution and management of projects and the dissemination of their results, with the aim of achieving direct computer communication and distributed software development.

The background to the programme and its adoption

1.3.11. In 1982, working closely with representatives of the industry and in consultation with the Member States and other interested circles, the Commission identified five priority areas of IT justifying a special Community effort: advanced microelectronics, software technology, advanced information processing, office systems and computer-integrated manufacture (robotics). In August 1982 it proposed to the Council a pilot scheme to help finalize cooperation and management arrangements for the Esprit programme, which was decided on by the Council in December 1982² and ran throughout 1983. From June onwards, 38 projects were launched, 50% of the funds coming from the Community budget and the remainder from industry and other contracting bodies.³

In May 1983 the Commission sent the Council a proposal for the first European strategic programme for research and development in information technologies.⁴ Although planning a 10-year programme, the Commission nevertheless requested financing (750 million ECU) only for the first phase (1984-88) on the grounds that reliable forecasts could not be made more than five years ahead because of the technological requirements and the scale of the work to be done.

The Council at once recognized the need for a programme of this kind and endorsed the priorities and goals set by the Commission. Although the operational aspects of the programme (management, beneficiaries, level of Community aid, etc.) were settled without great difficulty, the appropriations for Esprit were long a stumbling block. Certain Member States linked the funds to be allocated to Esprit with the debate on

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Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.183.

² OJ L 369, 29.12.1982.

³ Bull. EC 4-1983, point 2.1.25; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.24.

OJ C 321, 26.11.1983; Supplement 5/83 — Bull. EC; Bull. EC 5-1983, point 2.1.34.

the reform of the Community's budget. Eventually the initial proposal for a 750 million ECU Community contribution was accepted after the last reservations were withdrawn and the Commission had undertaken to manage payment appropriations in 1984 and 1985 in such a way that the programme would not cause any increase in total spending.

After the Council meeting, Mr Laurent Fabius, French Minister for Industry and Research and current President of the Council, thanked Mr Etienne Davignon, whose stubborn perseverance had finally overcome the financial difficulties.

For his part, Mr Davignon said that the adoption of the Esprit programme heralded 'the reawakening of ambition in Europe'.

'It is a far-reaching decision, the first optimistic decision of 1983-84, and it will impress our American and Japanese partners, aware as they will be that the Esprit programme is evidence of a new

lease of life for Europe. We have set our sights on a level of activity matching that of Japan and the United States and given ourselves the resources to succeed.

Today the Commission has so to speak obtained its credentials: now, when we come up with practical activities in telecommunications or biotechnology we can no longer be fobbed off with excuses about the scale of these programmes.

It is significant of the excellent atmosphere at this Council meeting that the decision on Esprit was taken without hesitation and without linking it to the general budget issue now the centre of controversy in the Community. It has been proved to be genuinely a strategic programme; the management of Esprit will be entirely concentrated on the objectives to be attained. The amount allocated to it is not just another subsidy or fund for handouts. Esprit will make possible major innovations by small businesses owing to the existence and infrastructure of the large projects.

All this shows that when the repercussions of the failure to take a decision can be clearly bought home to governments good sense will prevail.'

4. Future relations with Greenland

1.4.1. On 20 February the Council reached agreement on future relations between Greenland and the Community. A broad consensus had already been reached on the main aspects—the granting of OCT status to Greenland; free access to the Community for Greenland fishery products in exchange for a satisfactory agreement on access to Greenland fishing waters for Community fishermen; and a specific agreement to this effect, laying down the Community's quotas and Greenland's financial compensation.

The agreement now obtained fits into this general pattern and was based on the Commission's latest proposals of 8 February² and on what emerged from the Council

discussions on the questions still pending, mainly the fishery agreements between the two parties. It increased some of the fishing quotas proposed by the Commission, laid down a number of general principles concerning a future increase in Community quotas in the event of an increase in TACs and, in exchange, raised the financial compenstion for Greenland from the 18.5 mil-

¹ The instruments embodying the new relationship between the Community and Greenland were signed on 13 March by the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, the Danish Government and the Local Government of Greenland; those concerning fisheries were also signed by Mr Richard Burke, representing the Commission.
² OJ C 73, 14.3.1984; COM(84) 68 final; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.114.

lion ECU a year proposed by the Commission to 26.5 million ECU.

The legal instruments concerning the future relationship between Greenland and the Community will be submitted for ratifiction to the parliaments of the Member States so that they can enter into force on 1 January 1985. Ratification is necessary since the withdrawal of territory hitherto forming part of the Community and its inclusion in a different system (OCT status) means that the Treaties have to be amended.

Greenland expressed its wish to change its status with regard to the Community in February 1982, and in May that year the Danish Government submitted to the Council a memorandum on the future status which it wanted Greenland to be given. In accordance with the Treaties, the Commission and Parliament gave their opinions on the Danish Government's request in February and June 1983 respectively, and it was on that basis that the Council examined the problems of substance involved until final agreement was reached.

Mr Richard Burke, the Member of the Commission with special reponsibility for the question of Greenland's withdrawal, welcomed the completion of the negotiations, stating that Greenland's wishes and the Community's interests had both been respected.

The agreement

- 1.4.2. The instruments approved on 20 February were:
- (i) a Treaty amending the ECSC, EAEC and EEC Treaties whereby Greenland will withdraw from the Communities on 1 January 1985;
- (ii) a Protocol on special arrangements for Greenland;
- (iii) an Agreement on fisheries, a Protocol on the conditions relating to fisheries, and a regulation laying down certain specific measures in connection with the special arrangement on fisheries applicable to Greenland.

The Agreement on fisheries is a 10-year framework agreement which will be automatically renewed for periods of six years unless expressly denounced by the two parties. The Protocol to the Agreement lays down for the next five years the actual quotas allocated to the Community, the corresponding financial compensation and the minimum quantities guaranteed to Greenland if TACs fall.

- 1.4.3. The special arrangements to apply from 1 January 1985 will involve the inclusion of Greenland among the overseas countries and territiories associated with the Community, a relationship governed by the decision of 16 December 1980. However, the Council made a statement to the effect that Greenland would not receive financial aid as a result of its OCT status during the five-year term of the first Protocol to the Agreement on fisheries.
- 1.4.4. Imports into the Community of fishery products originating in Greenland must conform to the mechanisms of the common market organization but will be exempt from customs duties and charges having equivalent effect and will not be subjet to quantitative restrictions or measures having equivalent effect provided that the access to Greenland fishing zones granted to the Community pursuant to an agreement to be concluded between the Community and the authority responsible for Greenland is satisfactory to the Community.
- 1.4.5. The Agreement on fisheries establishes the principles and rules which will govern the fishing activities of Member States' vessels in Greenland waters.

It takes account of the fact that fishing is an essential economic activity of vital importance to Greenland and of the fact the maintenance of Community fishing activit-

Bull. EC 2-1982, point 2.4.1.

² Bull. EC 5-1982, point 2.4.1.

³ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 1.3.1 *et seq.*; Supplement 1/83 — Bull. EC.

⁴ OJ C 184, 11.7.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.4.7.

ies in Greenland waters plays an essential part in the proper functioning of the common fisheries policy. It emphasizes the two parties' mutual interest in the conservation and rational management of fish stocks in the waters off Greenland.

The Agreement will enable the Community to maintain its fishing activities in Greenland waters and, under certain conditions and with the agreement of Greenland, to develop them.

The Protocol, which covers fishing activities until 31 December 1989, grants the following annual quotas:

	Western stock (NAFO 0/1)		
Cod	12 000 tonnes	11 500 tonnes	
Redfish		57 820 tonnes	
Greenland halibut	1 850 tonnes	3 750 tonnes	
Halibut	200 tonnes		
Shrimps	1 300 tonnes	3 050 tonnes	
Catfish	2 000 tonnes		
Blue whiting	—	30 000 tonnes	

In addition to the annual quotas, Greenland will each year contribute the following catches of the species specified towards establishing a balance between the reciprocal fishing possibilities of the Community and the Færoe Islands, a provided for in the EEC-Færoes Fisheries Agreement:

	Western stock (NAFO 0/1)	Eastern stock (ICES XIV/V)		
Shrimps	475 tonnes	675 tonnes		
Greenland halibut	150 tonnes	150 tonnes		
Redfish	<u></u>	500 tonnes		
Capelin	<u> </u>	10 000 tonnes		

In return, the Community will pay Greenland financial compensation — 26.5 million ECU a year — during the validity of the Protocol. If the Community is granted and uses additional quotas, this amount will be adjusted in proportion. The current quotas allocated to the Community will serve as a basis in negotiating new quotas when the first Protocol expires after five years.

If the catch possibilites exceed the quotas laid down in the Protocol and the catch capacities of the Greenland fleet, Greenland will give the Community special priority for these additional quantities, against appropriate payment. The Community will receive at least 20% of an increase in the TAC above 75 000 tonnes for Western stock cod.

On the other hand, if biological circumstances do not enable Greenland to comply with the annual quotas agreed with the Community and at the same time to maintain its fishing activities at a level corresponding to certain pre-established minimum quantities, the quotas will be reduced accordingly.

5. Commission programme

- 1.5.1. On 15 February Mr Thorn, the President of the Commission, presented to Parliament the Seventeenth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities and gave an address outlining the Commission's priority objectives for 1984.¹
- 1.5.2. Remarking upon the special circumstances in which he was appearing before the House (with the present Commission beginning its last year of office, the European elections only a few months ahead and a crucial European Council impending), Mr Thorn stressed the Commission's determination to fight to the bitter end to get the Community moving again.

Mr Thorn then went on to take stock of the situation: the Community had to be able to tackle the enormous challenges offered by unemployment (especially among young people), industrial change, technological progress and international competition. Only if these challenges were met could it pursue its historic mission of uniting the peoples of Europe—a venture that was a vital as ever.

It was true that the Community's achievements had been preserved, and its record in combating the European economic crisis (preserving the common market and a Community framework for industrial restructuring, maintaining a united trading front, preserving monetary stability and the common agricultural policy) should not be denigrated: it was a good omen.

However, 'even these modest achievements will come under threat if the Community persists in displaying an inability to adapt to change and face up to the new challenges posed by the march of time'.

1.5.3. In its programme for 1984, the Commission plans to impart three main thrusts to its action: to break the deadlock in the Community by solving four of the five 'most pressing problems' pinpointed in Stuttgart,² to give it fresh impetus through the measures advocated in the papers presented by the Commission during preparations for the Athens European Council, and

to strengthen the Community's impact on the international scene on the basis of what has already been done in external relations and development policy.

- (i) The means of breaking the deadlock should be sought in dealing with the following issues: rationalization of the common agricultural policy, reform of the structural Funds, future financing and enlargement.
- This planned new impetus for the Community, whose broad lines should be fixed at the forthcoming European Council, ought to open up new avenues for European agriculture beyond its much-postponed reform. It should lead to the organization of Community schemes to restore the industrial and technological strength of Europe and increase independence in energy supplies, through flanking policies and suitable strategies, and to the establishment of instruments which, by improving the general environment, will make it possible to bring economic and social policies more closely into line in order to present a united front to the unemployment which is undermining our societies and boost the 'development of the less-prosperous regions of the Community'. And it should facilitate consolidation of the internal market, which 'must be given an industrial dimension covering standardization, industrial cooperation and joint technological development'.
- (iii) Lastly, the planned revitalization of the Community goes hand in hand with boosting Europe's role in the world. The Community, while continuing to meet its two priority requirements—the need to preserve and strengthen the open world trading system and to maintain and improve relations with its main trading partners—will, where necessary, coordinate efforts at world level to combat underdevelopment and hunger in the world.

² Bull. EC 6-1983, points 1.5.3 to 1.5.8.

¹ The address is published in the brochure *Programme of the Commission for 1984*, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985 Luxembourg.

PART TWO

ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY 1984

1. Building the Community

Economic and monetary policy

Council

2.1.1. At its meeting on 6 February the Council took note of the Presidency's proposed programme, which takes account of the Community's internal work (development of new policies, financial integration, European monetary cooperation etc.) and the timetable of international meetings. It also held a detailed exchange of views on the international economic outlook for 1984. Lastly, it took note of a communication from the French delegation on the problems encountered in connection with the seventh replenishment of the International Development Association (a World Bank affiliate). 3

Economic situation

International economic situation

2.1.2. On 6 February, on the basis of a report from the Chairman of the Coordinating Group for Economic and Financial Policies and of a statement by Mr Ortoli, the Council held an exchange of views on the short-term international economic outlook.

Mr Ortoli stated that the recovery, though modest, was continuing and that the Commission had revised upwards its growth forecasts for 1984. He considered that this trend would probably last for a number of years and that investment intentions in the Community would strengthen by 10% in 1984 (as against 3% in 1983). Nevertheless, the unemployment situation remained worrying even if, in the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom, there was some easing in the deterioration on the labour market. This being so, an improvement in the Community's economic situation should not result in any relaxation of budgetary discipline, since the public debt burden remained very worrying, nor should the growth of incomes be allowed to impede the improvement in industrial competitiveness.

Promotion of investment

2.1.3. On 16 February Parliament adopted⁴ a resolution on investment policy in the Community.⁵

European Monetary System

2.1.4. On 16 February Parliament adopted⁴ a resolution on the consolidation and completion of the European Monetary System within the framework of the proposals made by the Commission in March 1982.⁶

Free movement of capital

2.1.5. On 16 February Parliament adopted two resolutions⁴—one on financial integration in the Community⁷ and the other on the creation of a single European capital market.

Monetary Committee

2.1.6. On 27 February the Monetary Committee held its 499th meeting in Brussels with Mr Camdessus in the chair. It reviewed in detail the first five years of operation of the European Monetary System. It also discussed preparation of the work of the Group of Ten.

2.1.7. On 13 February Parliament adopted a resolution on the role and functions of the international financial institutions in the present monetary situation.⁴

Point 2.4.16.

Point 2.1.2.

³ Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.4; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.2.47.

⁴ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

⁵ Bull EC 10-1982, points 1.1.2 to 1.1.6; Bull. EC 4-1983, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.5.

⁶ Bull. EC 3-1982, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.4.

⁷ Bull. EC 4-1983, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.9.

Internal market and industrial affairs

Strengthening of the internal market¹

Easing of border formalities

2.1.8. The traffic disruptions in February at the Brenner and other frontier crossing points led the Commission to reaffirm the increasingly urgent need for progress towards a real internal market. The following statement was issued:

'The Commission is extremely concerned about the disruption to traffic flows, that is now widespread in the Community, which is having a serious effect on intra-Community trade. When things go wrong like this it illustrates vividly how far we have to go before we have the fully effective internal market which is so important for the competitiveness of Community industry and commerce and for overcoming today's economic problems.

The Commission has traditionally had among its major objectives the further development of the internal market and in particular the reduction of border formalities. It has made a series of proposals to this end, notably in 1982. One of these, on the easing of border formalities for road haulage, has been recently accepted and will go some way to alleviate a number of difficulties when it is applied.² The Commission demands that this measure be implemented without further delay and that any derogation be avoided or limited to the utmost. Other proposals concern:

- (i) the introduction of a single document for intra-Community trade which would replace the great variety of existing national documents;³
- (ii) deferring VAT payment for intra-Community imports, which at present takes place at the internal frontiers, in the context of the normal tax assessment procedures;⁴
- (iii) the easing of intra-Community controls of European citizens.⁵

All these proposals lie on the table of the Council, and the Commission requests their urgent adoption. The same holds for a number of measures concerning road transport which would facilitate the movement of intra-Community trade.

Current traffic disruptions at borders highlight the benefits of accelerating the frightfully slow decision-making process in the Community concerning internal market liberalization measures and transport policy. In the period leading up to the European elections, the adoption of many of these measures would strongly contribute to spreading the message that European integration is on the move again in areas of direct concern to all citizens of the Community.'

2.1.9. In addition Mr Karl-Heinz Narjes and Mr Giorgios Contogeorgis, Members of the Commission with responsibility for the internal market and transport respectively, sent the following message to the Italian Minister of Finance, the Minister of Transport and the Minister for the Coordination of Community Policies:

'The attitude of Italian customs officers during the strike at various frontier crossing points in the Alps has seriously impeded goods traffic within the Community. Numerous political moves and complaints have drawn the Commission's attention to the serious hardships suffered by lorry drivers held up for several days in the depth of winter.

The Commission appeals to you and your government to make every effort to restore as rapidly as possible normal customs clearance conditions allowing the free movement of goods.

We wish to take this opportunity of pointing out that, had the Commission's proposals to the Council on the easing of frontier controls been accepted in full, this situation could have been avoided.'

2.1.10. On 16 February Parliament adopted a resolution on goods processing at the frontier post on the Brenner Pass,⁶ and the Economic and Social Committee has called for the completion of a true internal market.⁷

2.1.11. These border disruptions have focused attention on the urgent need to eliminate conditions hampering the crossing of the Community's internal frontiers. At

Point 2.4.28.

See also point 2.1.35.

OJ L 359, 22.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.190. This Directive will be applicable in the Member States from 1 January 1985.

³ OJ C 203, 6.8.1982; Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.10; OJ C 71, 16.3.1983; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.20; OJ C 102, 15.4.1983; OJ C 209, 5.8.1983.

⁴ OJ C 203, 6.8.1982; Bull. EC 6-1982, points 2.1.10 and 2.1.57.

⁵ OJ C 197, 31.7.1982; Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.10.

Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

its meetings on 8 March (internal market) and 22 March (transport) the Council will consider these questions.

Free movement of persons and freedom to provide services

Mutual recognition of diplomas and access to occupations

Veterinary surgeons

2.1.12. The Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training, meeting on 28 and 29 February, continued its analysis of the survey it had decided to undertake on 14 and 15 September 1982. The object of the exercise is to assess the level of training given in the several Member States and to make such recommendations as may be needed for the quantitative and qualitative harmonization of the subjects listed in the study programme annexed to the Council Directive of 18 December 1978 on the coordination of provisions relating to veterinary surgeons. ²

2.1.13. Concerned at the restrictive provisions on exports of currency for tourist purposes and for the procurement of services abroad adopted by some Member States, Parliament adopted on 16 February a resolution on the free movement of persons, goods and services in the Community.³

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical and administrative barriers to trade

Foodstuffs

2.1.14. The Council again amended⁴ its 1964 Directive concerning the preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption,⁵ extending the authorization of thiabendozole from 16 February to 16 April 1984 so as to avoid any break in the traditional patterns of trade in citrus fruit and bananas.

2.1.15. On 6 February the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Directive designed to enable Community methods of analysis for food to be adopted, where necessary, by a rapid, simplified procedure. This establishes close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission within the Standing Committee for Foodsruffs.

Industry

Steel

General objectives for steel (1986)

2.1.16. On 14 February the Commission approved a new communication on the general objectives for steel⁷ which updates the version prepared in October 1982 and adopted in March 1983.⁸ It reassesses the industry's prospects up to 1986 and brings the output forecast down from 120 million tonnes of crude steel in 1985 to around 116 million tonnes with a capacity utilizition rate of only about 65%.

This downward revision is due mainly to the fact that the upswing in economic activity expected in 1982 did not materialize; instead there was zero growth in GDP with falling investment, resulting in sluggish activity in several steel-using industries.

The new communication, which takes these facts into account, was sent on 20 February to the ECSC Consultative Committee for its opinion and to the Council and Parliament. The Commission will shortly be examining the practical conclusions it can draw from

¹ Bull. EC 9-1982, point 2.1.5.

² OJ L 362, 23.12.1978.

³ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

⁴ OJ L 357, 21.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.10.

OJ 12, 27.1.1964.

⁶ OJ C 53, 24.2.1984; COM(84) 39 final.

⁷ COM(84) 89 final.

⁸ Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.19.

these forecasts, the main features of which are set out below.

Steel consumption in the Community

The current forecasts are based on a mean annual growth of 1.9% in GDP over the period 1983 to 1986, supported by an increase of 2.6% per year in investment, which is the result of the policies to encourage investment adopted by several Member States.

Owing to the relative expansion of investment, this could result in a similar growth (+1.6%) in the activity of steelusing industries, though their continuing efforts to use steel more efficiently will lead to an annual loss of 0.8% of steel consumption. Overall steel demand is unlikely to grow by more than a little over 1% a year up to 1986.

The situation forecast in the general objectives for 1985 will not be attained even in 1986 and any recovery on the steel market would first benefit the category of flat products, especially the shapes and qualities with a higher value-added (e.g. coated sheet).

Foreign trade in ECSC products

The general objectives for 1985 were based on a net trade balance in ECSC products of 12.1 million tonnes in 1985. The figure was only 10.1 million in 1982, and for the first three quarters of 1983 the situation improved only on the import side.

The growth in the world market will, however, remain modest for some years to come and will be concentrated in the developing countries, while overcapacity will be widespread. Assuming that the trade balance, in particular exports, can only be improved in quantitative terms at the expense of profitability, a net balance of 12.1 million tonnes is an optimistic scenario; a figure of 10.1 million tonnes (equal to the 1982 outturn) has been taken as a reference (mean hypothesis) in the forecasts.

Production

The internal and external market conditions described above would (depending on whether the net trade balance was 10.1 or 12.1 million tonnes) call for an output of 100.4 to 102.4 million tonnes of ECSC products in 1986, against 104.3 million tonnes initially forecast for 1985.

In terms of crude steel, taking account of the growth in continuous casting, this means a 1986 production of at most 116 million tonnes against 120 million tonnes initially forecast for 1985.

Capacity utilization

This would be unsatisfactory assuming that the reductions in capacity are limited to the 26.7 million tonnes upon by the Commission on 29 June 1983¹ in application of the aids code. On the basis of the mean hypothesis for the net trade balance, only 92.1 million tonnes of hot-rolled steel would be produced in plant with a total capacity of 141.9 million tonnes, which represents a utilization rate of only 65%. The production initially forecast for 1985 (96.9 million tonnes) would have given a capacity utilization of close to 70%.

Table 1 — Consumption of ECSC steel in the Community (not including Greece)

			mıl	lion tonnes
	1980	1982	1985	1986 (new forecasts)
Liquid steel, ingots,				
semis	11.7	11.1	11.0	11.0
Bars and sections	34.6	29.4	31.2	29.3
Flat products	48.4	45.1	50.0	50.0
Total	94.6	85.7	92.2	90.3

OJ L 227, 19.8.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 1.1.2.

2.1.17. On 16 February Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation of the iron and steel market.1

Crisis measures

Production quotas

2.1.18. On 24 and 29 February the Commission approved provisional rates of abatement² in relation to the reference tonnages for the second quarter of this year for products subject to compulsory quotas under the Decision extending the system of monitoring and production quotas (234/84/ECSC).³ These allow slightly higher production than in the first quarter of 1984 and last quarter of 1983 (Tables 2 and 3). They were fixed partly on the basis of information supplied by producers, users and dealers, who confirmed a slight improvement in market trends for some products, and partly in the light of normal seasonal variations which affect mainly the building and motor industries in the spring and early summer.

The Commission thought it essential to keep the abatement rates to a fairly restricive level so as to maintain the price improvement brought about by the introduction of minimum prices4 and a guarantee and verification system4 together with the establishment of a production certificate and accompanying document4 for trade within the Community and finally the extension of the quota system to the end of 1985.5

Table 2 — Rates of abatement for the establishment of production quotas for the second quarter of 1984 and comparison with previous quarters

Product	Quarter				
	11/84	1/84	IV/83		
a Hot-rolled wide strip	41%	43%	43%		
b Uncoated flat products	34%	37%	37%		
c Galvanized sheet	17%	20%	18%		
d Other coated flat products	+ 42%	+ 32%	+ 36%		
I Reversing-mill plate	48%	50%	50%		
II Heavy sections	42%	42%	37%		
V Wire rod	28%1	35%2	39%		
V Reinforcing bars	42%	42%	40%		
VI Merchant bars	38%	39%	41%		

Originally set at 33%, this rate was changed on 29 February (OJ L 62, 3.3.1984). Originally set at 37%, this rate was changed in January (OJ L 22, 27.1.1984).

Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

OJ L 47, 17.2.1984; OJ L 62, 3.3.1984.

OJ L 29, 1.2.1984; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 1.2.1 et seq.

OIL 373, 31.12.1983.

OJ L 29, 1.2.1984.

Table 3 — Rates of abatement for the establishment of the part of the production quotas which may be delivered in the common market and comparison with previous quarters

Product	·	Quarter				
Froduct	II/84	I/84	IV/83			
Ia Hot-rolled wide strip	43%	44%	45%			
Ib Uncoated flat products	33%	35%	34%			
Ic Galvanized sheet	22%	25%	25%			
Id Other coated flat products	+ 42%	+ 33%	+ 36%			
II Reversing-mill plate ¹	52%	52%	52%			
III Heavy sections ¹	49%	49%	47%			
IV Wire rod	30% ²	37%3	41%			
V Reinforcing bars	44%	47%	47%			
VI Merchant bars	42%	45%	48%			

For Category II and III products, a voluntary production restraint arrangement applied up to the fourth quarter of 1983. Originally set at 39%, this rate was changed on 29 February (OJ L 62, 3.3.1984). Originally set at 39%, this rate was changed in January (OJ L 22, 27.1.1984).

Minimum prices

2.1.19. On 29 February the Commission decided to make increases of 9 ECU per tonne (an average of 2.72)¹ in the minimum prices for certain steel products² from 1 April.

The fears that had led it to set the minimum prices applicable from 1 January at a very low level had been allayed with the extension of the system of monitoring and production quotas to 31 December 1985³ and the adoption at the end of December of the arrangements to verify production and deliveries of steel products.

Table 4 — Minimum prices of ECSC steel products from 1 April 1984

·	Guidance price	Maximum rebate	hate Current sehate	New minimum price	Correction		
		at minimum price	at 1 April		ECU	%	
Hot-rolled wide strip	380	- 53	327	- 44	336	+ 9	+ 2.7
Hot-rolled narrow strip	380	- 22	358	- 22	358	_	<u> </u>
Narrow strip obtained by slitting hot-rolled wide strip	380	- 49	331	- 40	340	+ 9	+ 2.7
Hot-rolled sheet obtained by cutting hot-rolled wide strip	380	- 49	331	- 40	340	+ 9	+ 2.7
Reversing-mill plate	397	- 66	331	- 57	340	+ 9	+ 2.7
Cold-rolled sheet	459	- 35	424	- 26	433	+ 9	+ 2.1
Heavy sections and beams in Category I	326	- 35	291	- 26	300	+ 9	+ 3

OJ L 61, 2.3.1984.

OJ L 373, 31.12.1983.

OJ L 29, 1.2.1984; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 1.2.1 et seq. OJ L 373, 31.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.12 et

2.1.20. On 10 February the Commission adopted a communication amending the basic prices for certain steel products.¹

Restructuring

National plans

2.1.21. The Commission started to analyse the industrial and financial aspects of the restructuring and closure plans which it had asked Member States to supply by 31 January in its decisions of 29 June last.²

It approved the final restructuring plan submitted by the Luxembourg Government, which is in line with the conditions set last June and provides reductions in hot-rolled product capacity from 5.215 to 3.920 million tonnes and in cold-rolled product capacity from 400 000 to 360 000 tonnes. Judging from the scope of this restructuring operation and the information it has on the financial situation of ARBED-MMRA, the Commission considers that there are good prospects of restoring viability by the end of 1985. Consequently, under the aids code it has authorized Luxembourg to pay aid totalling approximately LFR 18 000 million.

International relations

2.1.22. Steel arrangements, the renewal of which was negotiated by the Commission

under a brief given by the Council on 29 November 1983, were signed with South Africa (14 February), Czechoslovakia (16 February) and South Korea (17 February) and initialled with Bulgaria (3 February) and Australia (20 February).³

2.1.23. On 6 February the Council adopted retaliatory measures in response to the measures taken by the United States for special steels which come into effect on 1 March.⁴ The United States has challenged these measures and requested a special meeting of the GATT Council.⁵

2.1.24. According to provisional statistics for 1983, world crude steel production last year was 664 million tonnes, 19 million up on 1982. The Community played no part in this increase and, apart from Japan, was the only economic area to record lower production than in 1982.

Table 5 — World crude steel production in 1983

			. <u> </u>		million tonnes
	1983	1982	1979	% change 1983/82	% change 1983/79
World	663.9	644.8	746.7	+ 2.9	- 11.1
Western World	406.6	398.1	497.0	+ 2.1	- 18.2
Industrialized countries	343.0	337.8	442.5	+ 1.6	- 22.5
of which:					
Community	109.4	111.4	141.1	- 1.8	- 22.4
United States	76.6	67.6	123.7	+ 13.2	- 38.1
Japan	97.2	99.5	111.7	- 2.4	- 13.1
Developing countries	63.6	60.3	54.5	+ 5.4	+ 16.6
USSR and Comecon	211.1	203.5	209.4	+ 3.7	+ 0.8
China and North Korea	45.8	42.9	39.9	+ 6.8	+ 14.6

¹ Point 2.2.11; OJ C 37, 11.2.1984.

² OJ L 227, 19.2.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 1.1.1 et seq.

Point 2.2.9.

⁴ Point 2.2.12 and 2.2.18; OJ L 40, 11.2.1984.

⁵ Point 2.2.52.

Table 6 — Crude steel production in the Community (by Member State, excluding Greece and Ireland)

1000 tonnes % change December 1983/ % change 1983/82 1983 1982 December 1982 Belgium 10 155 10 306 1.5 + 26.7Denmark 493 560 12.1 # 21.1 Germany (FR) 35 727 35 880 0.4 + 24.8France 21 674 23 981 9.6 + 39.2 Italy 21 674 23 981 9.6 + 2.7 Luxembourg 3 295 3 509 6.1 + 66.1 Netherlands 4 478 4 346 3.0 + 74.9 United Kingdom 14 987 13 755 9.0 + 37.4Total 108 423 110 749 2.1 + 26.2

Shipbuilding

2.1.25. The Commission has proposed to the Council that the fifth Directive on State aid to shipbuilding be extended to the end of 1986.¹

Electronics and information technology

Esprit

- 2.1.26. On 28 February the Council approved the first European strategic programme for research and development in information technology (Esprit),² covering 1984-88, together with the work plan for 1984 which the Commission had sent it on 17 February.³
- 2.1.27. On 16 February Parliament had again expressed its interest in Esprit and urged the Council to adopt the programme rapidly.⁴

Multiannual data-processing programme

2.1.28. On 28 February the Council approved the extension⁵ on the second part of the multiannual programme in the field of data processing adopted in 1979.⁶ The aim

is to strengthen the competitiveness of the Community's software industry.

The Council agreed to examine the programme by the end of the year with a view to coordinating these activities with the Esprit programme.

2.1.29. The Economic and Social Committee endorsed the Commission proposal on this matter on 29 February.

Biotechnology

2.1.30. On 28 February the Council held a detailed and positive exchange of views on the Commission communication of 29 September 1983 on the development of biotechnology in the Community.⁷

It reached the following conclusions:

(i) Horizontal projects should be put in hand as a matter of priority in the field of

Point 2.1.48.

² Point 1.3.1. et seq.; OJ L 67, 9.3.1984.

OJ L 81, 24.3.1984; COM(84) 56 final.

Point 2.4.14; OJ L 77, 19.3.1984.

⁵ OJ C 193, 28.7.1982; Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.28; OJ C 334, 10.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.26.

⁶ OJ L 231, 19.9.1979; Bull. EC 7/8-1979, point 2.1.19.

Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.25.

research with regard to training, information, basic research and the setting up of networks of teams and laboratories; the establishment of a European network of biological resources banks and biotechnological data banks.

- (ii) In the second place, steps should be taken to improve the relevant and regulations, including those concerning intellectual property rights, with a view to facilitating the production, marketing and utilization of biotechnology products.
- (iii) The role played by the conditions of access to raw materials of agricultural origin in this field is very important. In this regard the Commission is requested to formulate proposals aimed at securing competitive conditions for European industry.
- (iv) The close association of laboratories and undertakings in devising and executing such a programme must form the subject of a supplementary evaluation. The Commission will study the possible details.

It is essential, from the standpoint of effectiveness, for proper concertation to be established between the national policies pursued by each Member State and for any unnecessary duplication to be avoided in the Community programme.

The Council requests the Commission to continue its work in close liaison with the Member States on the basis of the above guidelines, with a view to submitting suitable proposals to it for the development of biotechnological activities in Europe and the relevant financial estimates. These proposals will have to be drawn up by the Commission so as to enable the Council to take a decision at its meeting on 29 May 1984.

Other industries

Chemicals

2.1.31. On 17 February Parliament adopted a resolution on the European petrochemical industry.¹

Industrial innovation and the information market

Transnational technological cooperation

- 2.1.32. The Consultative Committee on Innovation and Technology Transfer set up by the Decision of 25 November 1983² to assist the Commission in carrying out the plan for the transnational development of the supporting infrastructure for innovation and technology transfer met for the first time on 15 February in Luxembourg. It approved the provisional priorities selected by the Commission for 1984:
- (i) support for the establishment and initial activities of liaison mechanisms between bodies working in the field of innovation and technology transfer in the Member States;
- (ii) support for better use of Communitywide protection of industrial and commercial property rights;
- (iii) organization of the Community-wide supply and dissemination of information on supply and demand in respect of technology under licence, transnational cooperation of small and medium-sized undertakings, market surveys and studies, technology assessment and trends and R&D results.

Information market

2.1.33. On 9 February the Commission sent the Council a communication together with a proposal for a Decision on the conclusion of an agreement between the Community and Austria on the interconnection of the Austrian national data network and Euronet.³ This bilateral agreement, which is similar to those signed with Switzerland,⁴ Sweden⁵ and Finland,⁶ will give both parties rapid access to the scientific, technical,

¹ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

² OJ L 353, 15.12.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.32.

³ COM(84)48 final.

OJ L 214, 22.8.1979; Bull. EC 7/8-1979, point 2.1.109.

⁵ OJ L 385, 31.12.1981; Bull. EC 12-1981, point 2.1.19.

⁶ OJ L 345, 6.12.1982; Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.23.

economic and social information available on the networks.

At the same time the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Decision on the conclusion of a multilateral protocol¹ between Euronet and its four partners. This will provide a legal framework for relations between the interconnected data networks.

Exploitation of research results

2.1.34. In Birmingham from 22 to 25 February Barclays Bank plc sponsored an exhibition entitled 'Barclays Techmart' — the first of its kind in the United Kingdom — to show the most recent developments of new technologies throughout the economy. The Commission exhibited eight inventions stemming from Community research.

The Commission had long been advocating an exhibition of this type to encourage a better exchange of technologies within the Community and was consulted at length on its potential development.

Customs union

Simplification of customs formalities

International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods

2.1.35. On 1 February the Community and its Member States signed the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, adopted in Geneva on 21 October 1982.

The purpose of the Convention is to make customs formalities and other controls on goods at frontiers less burdensome, and it will thus be valuable mainly in the context of the Community's external trade. It also further enhances the Community's status as a participant in the international legal order.²

General legislation

Classification of goods in the customs nomenclature

2.1.36. The Commission amended its proposal for a Council Regulation on the information provided by the customs authorities of the Member States concerning the classification of goods in the customs nomenclature.³ The changes made are essentially intended to improve the presentation of the original proposal⁴ so that tariff information can be used to best advantage by Community traders, as Parliament had asked in January.⁵

Payment of customs debt

2.1.37. On 17 February Parliament endorsed⁶ a proposal for a Council Regulation on the security to be provided to ensure payment of a customs debt.⁷

Common Customs Tariff

Suspension of concessions; tariff increases

2.1.38. On 6 February the Council adopted a Regulation suspending tariff concessions and increasing duties under the Common Customs Tariff with regard to certain products, and establishing quantitative restrictions with regard to other products, originating in the United States.⁸

The tariff measures involve the raising of duties on methanol, vinyl acetate and certain types of burglar or fire alarm.

Nomenclature

2.1.39. In February the Economic and Social Committee endorsed a proposal⁹ to amend the Regulation of 16 January 1969

COM(84) 48 final.

Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.28.

COM(84) 111 final.

⁴ OJ C 256, 8.10.1981; Bull. EC 9-1981, point 2.1.25.

OJ C 46, 20.2.1984; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.1.27.

⁶ OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

⁷ OJ C 30, 4.2.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.21.

⁸ Point 2.2.18; OJ L 40, 11.2.1984.

⁹ OJ C 317, 23.11.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.40.

on measures to te taken for uniform application of the CCT nomenclature.¹

Economic tariff matters

Tariff quotas

2.1.40. On 6 February the Council adopted a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain spiced and salted herrings falling with CCT subheading ex 16.04 C II.²

2.1.41. On 21 February the Council adopted a Regulation increasing the Community tariff quota opened for the period 1 July 1983-30 June 1984 for certain eels falling within CCT subheading ex 03.01 A II.³

Competition

General rules applying to undertakings

2.1.42. On 7 February the Commission amended⁴ for the second time⁵ its proposal for a Regulation on the control of concentrations between undertakings.⁶ Incorporating the amendments called for by Parliament,⁷ the proposal now refers to competition not only on Community but also on world markets and provides for the regular publication by the Commission of its merger control criteria.

Restrictive practices, mergers and dominant positions: specific cases

Joint ventures

Formation of Segal

2.1.43. On 6 February the Commission, acting under Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty, authorized the joint formation of Société européenne de galvanisation (Segal and Segal Commercial by Phénix Works SA, Hoogovens Groep BV and Sidmar NV.

Segal is to set up at Flémalle in Belgium a galvanizing line with a capacity of 260 000 tonnes per year, producing mainly sheet galvanized on one side and, in so far as it will be necessary to utilize the plant fully during the start-up period, sheet galvanized on both sides. The proposal to manufacture sheet galvanized on one side, which will have priority, is in response to increasing market demand, particularly from the motor industry.

The formation of Segal will enable the three parent companies to use the galvanizing line jointly. Each will have available a third of the line's capacity. Each will provide the raw material sheet and each will market the galvanized sheet.

There is keen competition on the market in galvanized sheet — one of the few steel markets which is still growing. Taking into account the production plans of other steel-makers and the structure and growth of the market, a comparison of the 1982 output and the 1986 production capacity of galvanized sheet producers in the Community shows that the three companies in question and their respective groups (Cockerill-Sambre, Hoogovens and Arbed) will not acquire a dominant position after Segal has been set up. Overall, the relative positions of the major galvanized sheet producers will remain the same.

State aids

General aids

Aids to industry

France

2.1.44. On 22 February the Commission decided to initiate the Article 93(2) proce-

¹ OJ L 14, 21.1.1969.

² OJ L 36, 8.2.1984.

³ OJ L 51, 22.2.1984.

⁴ OJ C 51, 23.2.1984; COM(84) 59 final.

OJ C 36, 12.2.1982; Bull. EC 12-1981, point 2.1.31.
 OJ C 92, 31.10.1973; Bull. EC 7/8-1973, points 1401 to

⁷ OJ C 322, 28.11.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.43.

dure in respect of various types of special loans to industry introduced by the French Government. These involve special investment loans, concessionary loans for firms, special refinancing loans and technological participatory loans from the FIM (Fonds industriel de modernisation). Under the scheme, firms may be granted long-term loans at rates of 9.75% or 11.75%. The Commission takes the view that despite a number of requests for additional information, the French Government has not put the Commission in a position to assess whether these loans are compatible with Article 92 of the EEC Treaty.

In the specific case of the refinancing loans, the Commission is unable, on the basis of the information provided by the French Government, to assess the extent to which the tests for exemption under Article 92(3) are satisfied. In particular, it is not in a position to check that, in significant cases of application, the aid does not adversely affect trading conditions to an extent contrary to the common interest.

The FIM is reported to have already made technological participatory loans last December to two firms in the motor industry. This aid had therefore been granted without the Commission having taken a decision on the FIM loans generally or on individual notification of those two loans.

In the Commission's view, the four categories of special industry loans made by specialized credit institutions constitute State aids within the meaning of Article 92(1). They have the common feature of being made to industry at below market rates for specific purposes. The aid may be granted in two different forms:

(i) either through an interest subsidy for which the government has set aside appropriations in the central government budget and which is applied to the special and concessionary loans; the Commission considers that special or concessionary loans granted at preferential rates exclusively by means of an interest subsidy of this kind constitute an existing aid scheme and sig-

nificant cases must be notified to it in accordance with the criteria and procedures set out in its letter of 14 September 1979;

(ii) or through the payment of the proceeds of savings deposits (Codevi) to specialized credit institutions; this is how all the FIM technological participatory loans and part of the special and concessionary loans are financed; the Commission considers that these loans constitute new aid within the meaning of Article 93(3); they are payable to specific firms selected on criteria laid down by the French Government in the light of national industrial priorities at rates well below the normal long-term rates, the funding coming from new resources.

With regard to the criteria for granting these loans, the French Government has simply notified the Commission of very general criteria which do not enable it to assess whether the aid is compatible with Article 92, particularly as the loans in question are not intended for any specific industry or region.

The Commission has therefore decided to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of these aids and given notice to the French Government to submit its comments. The governments of the other Member States and other parties concerned have also been asked to comment through a notice in the Official Journal.

Regional aids

United Kingdom

2.1.45. The Commission has approved the following aids to industry in Northern Ireland: exemption from local property taxes, refunds of up to 80% of the tax on profits from new investments and a 30% grant towards investment in energy-saving projects. These aids will not exceed the ceilings laid down in the principles of coordination. The Commission has accepted the operating aid element of the property tax exemption because of the serious economic situation and the civil unrest in Northern Ireland. It

has asked for an annual report to be drawn up on the situation to enable it to assess whether the aid need be continued.

Industry aids

Steel

2.1.46. On 8 February the Commission adopted its fifth report to the Council on the application of the rules for aids to the steel industry, 1 covering 1983 and January 1984 to coincide with the deadline fixed last June² for the submission of Member States' final restructuring plans.

The new aid arrangements provide that, from 1 February, new aid tranches may be released only if the Commission has received a restructuring plan and financial questionnaire guaranteeing the return of the undertaking concerned to viability by 1985 and justifying the aid by a sufficient reduction in production capacity. Under the previous arrangements, a reduction in capacity was required, but not necessarily proof of future viability. The previous report having set out the criteria and procedures adopted by the Commission and the way in which it interprets and applies them,3 the new one simply provides the latest figures for capacity reductions and aid given, separately identifying aid which can be regarded as compatible only if reductions still to be made actually materialize.

2.1.47. The Commission has also embarked on the wide-ranging task of analysing the final national restructuring plans. It has approved the plan submitted by Luxembourg.⁴

Shipbuilding

2.1.48. On 15 February the Commission adopted for transmission to the Council a proposal⁵ for extending until 31 December 1986 the fifth Council Directive of 28 April 1981 on aid to shipbuilding.⁶

Since the Council Decision of December 1982, the crisis in the Community shipbuilding industry has deepened: there has been a

marked drop in orders since the beginning of 1983, particularly in orders with the larger yards in the Member States. With some of these yards in danger of running out of work, leading to large-scale redundancies, Member States' central and regional authorities are tending increasingly to resort to emergency aid either to create demand or simply avoid closing yards.

Experts consider that the 'crisis within a crisis' which the Community shipbuilding industry is now going through will last at least until 1986, when some recovery should begin to be felt in the industry worldwide. If this forecast is accepted, it would be inappropriate to introduce a sixth Directive in 1985, straight after the expiry of the fifth Directive, because the new Directive would then be either too centred on the needs of the moment amid the 'crisis within a crisis' or unsuitable for dealing with the present situation because it tried to offer a mediumterm policy. Consequently, it was considered preferable to propose that the fifth Directive be extended until the end of 1986 and to plan for a sixth Directive entering into force on 1 January 1987.

It is therefore difficult to expect any reduction in the level of direct or indirect aid given to the Community shipbuilding industry over the next two or three years. But it is important to ensure that the granting of such aid does not affect competition between yards in the Member States, and it is essential that aid which Member States intend to grant to the industry continues to be linked to restructuring objectives involving further capacity cuts and does not trigger an escalation of aid levels or cheat the Member States whose yards have already made the biggest cuts of the reward of their sacrifices. It must also be shown that the

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

OJ L 227, 19.8.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 1.1.1 et seq.

Bull. EC 4-1983, point 2.1.52. Point 2.1.21.

⁵ COM(84)73 final.

⁶ OJ L 137, 23.5.1981; Bull. EC 4-1981, point 2.1.20; OJ L 371, 30.12.1982; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.45; Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.26.

aid is really intended to support the restructuring process and does not serve to stimulate demand for new vessels artificially.

The Commission proposal therefore makes it clear that the shipbuilding industry is being given two more years' respite to complete its restructuring and raise its productivity by eliminating a major part of the cost of preserving the present overcapacity, and by rationalizing the Community yards. In this way, the Community should be able to look forward by 1987 to a shipbuilding industry whose competitiveness is a great deal closer to that of its most efficient rivals and whose cost in terms of public support needed to preserve an essential shipbuilding capability has been brought down to acceptable levels both from the point of view of the cohesion of intra-Community competition and from that of budgetary needs and resources.

France

- 2.1.49. On 8 February the Commission decided not to raise objections to the shipbuilding aid scheme notified by the French Government for 1983 and 1984. Three kinds of aid are planned:
- (i) restructuring aid in the form of premiums paid, when yards amalgamate, to each of the two new groups: FF 180 million to the Nord-Méditerranée Group and FF 200 million to the Alsthom-Atlantique Group;
- (ii) production aid: 20% of the contract price for large and medium-sized yards and 10% of the contract price for small yards;
- (iii) commercial risk cover: it is planned that the general system under which a public body provides insurance cover against commercial risk, i.e. increases in certain costs due to inflation in France, in respect of export contracts for plant and machinery should be extended to ships.

The Commission has taken the view, first of all, that the restruturing premiums which the French Government intends to grant in connection with amalgamation projects constitute aid which meets the objectives recommended by the fifth Directive and

should promote both the reorganization of the industry and the maintenance of some jobs. With regard to the production aid, although the new scheme does not provide for any real scaling down compared with the previous arrangements, there has been no increase in the budgetary resources allocated. The Commission has therefore decided not to object to this aid, while noting that the tonnage to be built with production aid must be limited to 250 000 cgrt per year until the French authorities are able to adopt new restructuring measures to take account of the worsening crisis since the beginning of 1983. Finally, with regard to cover against the commercial risk of cost escalation, the Commission has taken account of the assurances given by the French Government that the system will not normally be drawn upon and has therefore decided not to object to it at this stage. It has asked the French Government to provide details of the way in which the system will operate and of the price guarantee contracts signed during the period the arrangements are in force so that it can assess whether the system is likely to distort competition between Community shipyards.

Textiles

Belgium

2.1.50. In accordance with Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty, the Belgian Government notified the Commission by letter dated 8 December 1983 of its proposal to extend for the last time, after amendment, the aid programme for the textile and clothing industry which had been in force in 1982¹ and 1983.² At the Commission's request, the Belgian Government provided additional information on its plans on 3 January 1984. Under the programme, which is to apply for 12 months, investments in the extension. modernization or conversion of textile and clothing companies may be assisted for five years through interest relief grants of up to 7

Bull. EC 12-1981, point 2.1.46.

Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.39.

percentage points on loans made at market rates and covering 75% of the total cost, or through equivalent cash payments. The budget is to be BFR 1300 million.

After examining the proposed programme, the Commission concluded that, given the development of the textile and clothing industry in Belgium, the scheme appeared to be incompatible with the Treaty provisions on State aids, since it was a repetition of previous programmes and would not be consistent with certain aspects of the Community textile aids code or with other principles applicable to such aid.

The Commission therefore decided on 8 February to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure and requested the Belgian Government, the other Member States and interested parties to submit their comments. Under the terms of the EEC Treaty, the scheme may not be implemented until the Commission has adopted a final decision.

Synthetic fibres

Belgium

2.1.51. In response to the Commission's request, the Belgian Government informed it by letter dated 18 November 1983, supplemented by further details communicated later, that under the transitional aid scheme for the textile and clothing industry, which had been authorized by the Commission for the first quarter of 1983, aid had been granted to a textile and carpet manufacturer for the purpose of setting up a plant producing polypropylene and yarn. The aid, which was granted in March 1983, amounted to BFR 224 millions.

After examining the aid in question, the Commission took the view that it did not take account of the conditions laid down for the implementation of aid programmes for the textile and clothing industry, that it was likely to affect trade to an extent contrary to the common interest and that it was incompatible with the common market within the meaning of Article 92 of the EEC Treaty, in that polypropylene producers were faced with serious problems of overcapacity.¹

The Commission therefore decided on 8 February to initiate the Article 92(2) procedure. It requested the Belgian Government, the other Member States and interested parties to submit their comments.

Ireland

2.1.52. By letter dated 22 December 1983, supplemented by additional information communicated later, the Irish Government notified the Commission in accordance with Article 93(3) of the Treaty of its proposal to grant aid amounting to IRL 2.9 million to a US-based company which wished to take over a polyester yarn production plant at Letterkenny. The aid would be granted for investment aimed at securing the viability of the plant and safeguarding jobs.

Having examined the proposed aid, the Commission concluded that, while it would not increase polyester yarn production capacity at the plant in question, it would not help to restructure the company in the way set out in the Commission's letter of 8 August 1983 (by which it had informed Member States of the extension of the system for controlling aid to the synthetic fibres industry); nor would it lead to any reduction in capacity or conversion away from synthetic fibres. The Commission also considered that the aid would jeopardize the efforts made by other synthetic fibre producers to adapt to the present market situation by considerably reducing capacity and that it would affect trade between Member States to an extent contrary to the common interest.

The Commission therefore decided on 29 February to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure and invited the other Member States and interested parties to submit their comments.

United Kingdom

2.1.53. On 29 February the Commission decided to initiate the Article 93(2) proce-

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.46.

dure in respect of the regional aid granted to a firm in Stanley, Co. Durham, for the setting up of a plant to produce polyester yarn (POY). It informed the United Kingdom authorities that it reserved the right, after examining the situation, to request that the aid already paid be refunded if need be. On the basis of the information provided by the United Kingdom Government, the Commission concluded that the aid had been notified late and that it would create new capacity in an industry which already had surplus capacity and which was required to reduce overcapacity under a programme in force in the Community since 1977.1

Microelectronics

United Kingdom

2.1.54. On 22 February the Commission decided to raise no objection to the extension until 1990 of the United Kingdom's microelectronics industry support programme, which had been approved in 1978 and had already been extended until March 1985.2 Additional funds of UKL 120 million have been made available pursuant to the Industrial Development Act 1982 for development and investment projects, particularly those relating to data-processing equipment, advanced semiconductor processes, relay and system components and ancillary hightechnology equipment. The maximum rate of aid is 33 1/3% of eligible costs.

After examining the proposals and comparing them with the objectives of the Esprit programme,³ the Commission decided that, in view of the strategic nature of the industry concerned, the situation on the market, the development outlook and the prevailing competitive conditions, it was not opposed to the programme being extended until 1990. The Commission is to receive an interim report in 1987 on the results obtained and the case for continuing the scheme beyond that date.

Machine tools

United Kingdom

2.1.55. On 22 February the Commission decided to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of a United Kingdom plan to grant UKL 5.2 million, under the scheme for assisting flexible production systems, towards the setting up of a fully automated machine tool factory by a Japanese company.

At the present time the Commission is doubtful whether the plan conforms to the criteria laid down for applying the aid scheme for flexible production systems. It has also taken account of the situation in the machine tool industry in the Community and of market prospects.

Small businesses

Italy

2.1.56. On 8 February the Commission decided to raise no objection to the implementation of an Italian scheme, notified to it at the end of 1983, for assisting small businesses to aquire new high-technology machinery and equipment through the Innovation Fund. However, the following conditions were set: the aid was to be granted only for the purchase of two machines per firm, and the maximum amount for a firm situated in central or northern Italy was not to exceed LIT 343 million.

State monopolies of a commercial character

France: alcohol monopoly

2.1.57. On 13 February the Commission, acting under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty, addressed a letter of formal notice to the French Government asking it to submit its observations concerning the alcohol monopoly. The Commission regards the prac-

Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.46.

² Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.39.

Point 1.3.1 et seq.

tice of subjecting alcohol imported from other Member States to an 'adjustment' (soulte) accruing to the Treasury as discrimination which is incompatible with Article 37 of the Treaty. Imported products are thus placed at a disadvantage compared with products resold by the French 'Service des Alcools' without benefiting from the French domestic arrangements. The marketing of domestic products is facilitated by the application of an equalization system, financed by a levy on those products that is paid direct to an equalization fund administered by the 'Service des Alcools'.1

Financial institutions and taxation

Taxation

Cooperation between firms in different Member States

2.1.58. In a communication to the Council, Mr Tugendhat has urged the early adoption of Commission proposals concerning tax measures aimed at encouraging cooperation between firms in different Member States.2

The document stresses the Commission's view that for this objective to be achieved, the Council must adopt, besides the Regulation creating the legal structure of a European cooperation grouping,2 three proposals for Directives — on the introduction of a common system of taxation applicable to mergers, divisions and contributions of assets occuring between companies of different Member States;³ on the introduction of a common system of taxation applicable to parent companies and subsidiaries of different Member States;3 and on the elimination of double taxation in connection with the adjustment of transfers of profits between associated enterprises.4

Until such cooperation among firms has been established, it will not be possible to make full use of the potential of the wider European market; the Commission is therefore requesting the Council to give a firm political commitment to move in this direction.

Indirect taxes

Turnover tax

2.1.59. On 6 February the Council adopted a Decision⁵ proposed by the Commission⁶ authorizing Italy to derogate until 31 December 1983 from the value-added tax arrangements in the context of aid to earthouake victims in the south of the country.

2.1.60. On 20 February the Commission amended⁷ its proposal for a 12th VAT Directive designed to establish at Community level the items of business expenditure not eligible for deduction of VAT.8 The amendments, which take account of the opinion of Parliament,9 would: limit the exclusion from the right to deduct input tax in respect of expenditure on passenger cars, motorcycles and transport of persons; provide for a four-year transition period allowing gradual adaptation of national laws; and reintroduce the right to full deduction of input tax in respect of expenditure relating to aircraft, vessels, passenger cars and motorcycles, transport expenses, and expenditure on accommodation, food and drink, provided the firm can furnish proof that the expenditure has been made exclusively for business purposes.

Tax-free allowances

Tax reliefs for small consignments

2.1.61. On 29 February the Economic and Social Committee endorsed a proposal¹⁰ for

Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.40; Bull. EC 4-1983, point

OJ C 14, 15.2.1974; OJ C 103, 28.4.1978.

OJ C 39, 22.3.1969. OJ C 301, 21.12.1976.

OJ L 40, 11.2.1984.

Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.57.

OJ C 56, 29.2.1984; COM(84) 84 final.

OJ C 37, 10.2.1983; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.50. OJ C 342, 19.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.59.

OJ C 3, 6.1.1984; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.58.

a fourth Directive to amend the Directive of 19 December 1974¹ by introducing a multiannual programme of increases in the relief allowed on the importation of goods in small consignments of a non-commercial character within the Community.

Tax-free allowances for travellers

2.1.62. On 29 February the Commission amended² its proposals for a sixth and a seventh Directive on duty-free allowances for travellers, which it had sent to the Council on 8 and 11 April 1983.³ The amendments go some way towards meeting the recommendations made in the opinions of Parliament, delivered on 14 December,⁴ and the Economic and Social Committee, delivered on 25 January.⁵

The amendment to the proposal for a sixth Directive, on higher allowances in travel within the Community, specifies more clearly the quantities of distilled beverages and spirits that may be imported duty-free.

In the case of the seventh Directive, on sales in tax-free shops, two changes have been made: the first makes it clear that the value of goods qualifying for quantitative exemptions is not to be included in the value-based allowance; the second requires Member States to take the necessary steps to ensure that the limits laid down in the proposal are complied with, that supporting documents are issued, and that buyers are informed of the limits and conditions applicable to purchases which they may make tax-free.

Employment, education and social policy

Employment

Employment and the labour market

2.1.63. In February both the Commission and Parliament expressed their concern at the problem of unemployment among women: the Commission presented a draft resolution to the Council proposing meas-

ures to combat such unemployment,⁶ and Parliament adopted a resolution on the question.⁷

OECD Ministerial Conference

2.1.64. An OECD Conference on Employment Growth in the context of Structural Change, at which the Commission was represented by Mr Ivor Richard, was held in Paris from 6 to 8 February.⁸

Free movement of workers

2.1.65. On 16 February Parliament adopted a resolution on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.⁷

Financial instruments

Special measures of Community interest in the field of employment

2.1.66. Taking account of the views expressed by the Committee on Budgets, pending Parliament's opinion, the Commission sent the Council on 28 February an amended proposal⁹ for a Regulation establishing special measures of Community interest in the field of employment.¹⁰

Education and vocational training

Cooperation in education

2.1.67. At its meetings on 2 and 3 February and 24 and 25 February the Education Committee prepared the subjects to be dealt with at the next session of the Council and of the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council in May.

¹ OJ L 354, 30.12.1974.

² OJ C 81, 22.3.1984; COM(84)103 final; OJ C 72, 13.8.1984; COM(84)102 final.

³ OJ C 114, 28.4.1983; Bull. EC 4-1983, point 2.1.60.

⁴ OJ C 10, 16.1.1984; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.61.

⁵ OJ C 57, 29.2.1984, Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.1.36.

⁶ Point 2.1.73.

⁷ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

⁸ Point 2.2.55.

⁹ Point 2.3.3; COM(84)150 final.

¹⁰ OJ C 348, 23.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.71.

The Committee took note of the report evaluating pilot projects partly financed by the Commission during the period 1976-82 in the field of the education of migrant workers' children. This led it to consider measures to check the current rise in illiteracy in the Community and promote the integration of handicapped children in schools.

The teaching of foreign languages was discussed, and it was agreed that there was a need for better basic and further training for teachers and for information centres to be set up in each Member State for the teaching of foreign languages.

2.1.68. At its meeting in Brussels from 15 to 17 February the European Committee for School Television finalized its series of programmes for schools introducing and explaining the European elections which are due to be broadcast a few weeks before this year's elections.

Education and training of migrants

2.1.69. On 16 February the Commission transmitted to the Council its first report¹ on the implementation of Directive 77/486/ EEC on the education of the children of migrant workers.² The Directive, which represents a major contribution towards freedom of movement in the Community, requires Member States to ensure that the children of migrant workers are offered tuition to facilitate initial reception which is adapted to their specific needs, including proper instruction in the language of the host country, to provide training and further training for teachers responsible for such children and to promote, in cooperation with the country of origin and as part of the normal timetable, the teaching of the mother tongue and native culture.

In its report the Commission gives an initial assessment of the steps taken by the Member States to implement the Directive. At the same time, the Commission is writing to Member States to draw their attention to any failures to fulfil their obligations under the Directive.

On 9 and 10 February Commission and Council of Europe officials met in Strasbourg to exchange information in the fields of education, training, minority languages and cultures, foreign language teaching and the teaching of handicapped persons. This meeting was the first of the regular exchanges of information between the two institutions at which subjects other than education were discussed.

Transition from school to working life

2.1.70. On 27 and 28 February the Commission held a coordination meeting in Brussels on the 'information for young people' projects which it is currently supporting under its 'transition from school to working life' programme. The aim of the projects, which are located in Denmark, Italy and Scotland, is to help young people to organize their own information services on relevant subjects in the most appropriate way.

Vocational training

On the Commission's initiative, the senior officials responsable for vocational training in the Member States met for the first time on 2 and 3 February. The Council resolutions of 11 July 1983 concerning vocational training policies in the European Communities in the 1980s³ and the measures relating to training in the new information technologies⁴ served as a basis for this initial exchange of views and information. The meeting represented the first step towards establishing a proper framework for cooperation between the Commission and the Member States in implementing new programmes in the field of vocational training.

2.1.72. On 17 February Parliament gave its opinion⁵ on the proposal for a Council Decision on the comparability of vocational

¹ COM(84)54 final.

² OJ L 199, 6.8.1977.

OJ C 193, 20.7.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.61.

⁴ OJ C 166, 25.6.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.81.

⁵ OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

training qualifications between the Member States. It calls on the Commission and the Council to speed up the whole process of establishing such comparability throughout the Community by adopting a precise timetable.

Living and working conditions and social protection

Equality between men and women

2.1.73. On 22 February the Commission transmitted to the Council a draft resolution concerning action to combat unemployment among women.² This follows up the Commission's communication to the Council on the subject³ which was presented to the Standing Committee on Employment in November 1983 and is based largely on the conclusions reached by the chair. The draft resolution underlines the need to adopt measures capable of reducing unemployment and helping to improve job prospects for women. Measures envisaged relate to recruitment and job creation, vocational guidance and training, working conditions and all aspects of employment policies which would facilitate the occupational integration of women.

2.1.74. On 9 February the group of experts responsible for monitoring the application of the equal treatment Directives examined a preliminary report one of whose aims is to pinpoint problems of indirect discrimination. In the course of the year this group will examine in greater detail a number of areas, such as access to jobs, working conditions, work of equal value and social security.

2.1.75. Parliament's Committee of Inquiry on the Situation of Women in Europe met on 31 January and 1 February, the main item on the agenda being the interim reports on the application in the Member States of Directive 79/7/EEC of 19 December 1978 on equal treatment in matters of social security⁵ and on the implementation of the action programme on the promotion of equal opportunities for women.⁶ The Committee

also adopted an opinion on the proposal for a Directive on parental leave and leave for family reasons.⁷

Social integration of handicapped persons

2.1.76. On 23 and 24 February the Commission held a plenary meeting in Brussels of the Community network of rehabilitation centres. The network launched its programme to circulate the results of its work and went further into the question of adapting training programmes to the new employment situation.

Social security

2.1.77. At a meeting of the Working Party on the Concertation of Social Protection Policies on 2 February the senior social security officials of the Member States examined the results of the informal meeting of Ministers of Social Affairs held in Athens on 7 November 1983.8 Problems connected with the financing of social security and demographic trends were singled out as possible subjects for discussion at future meetings of Ministers responsible for social security.

Paul Finet Foundation

2.1.78. At its 58th meeting the Executive Committee of the Paul Finet Foundation examined 421 applications for financial aid for the children of ECSC workers who had died as a result of an accident at work or occupational disease and approved 330 financial aids totalling BFR 5.4 million.

OJ C 264, 4.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.48.

² OJ C 65, 6.3.1984; COM(84)74 final.

Bull. EC 11-1983, points 1.3.1 and 1.3.2.

⁴ Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.62.

⁵ OJL 6, 10.1.1979.

⁶ OJ C 22, 29.1.1982; Supplement 1/82 — Bull. EC.

⁷ OJ C 333, 9.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.80.

⁸ Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.61.

Health and safety

Health and safety at work

2.1.79. On 28 February the Council adopted¹ a resolution on a second Community action programme on safety and health at work.²

Health and safety (Euratom)

2.1.80. As provided in Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty, the Commission delivered a favourable opinion on the plan for the disposal of radioactive waste by the Paluel nuclear plant (France).

Regional policy

Coordination and programmes

Regional development studies

2.1.81. On 6 February the Commission decided to publish a study on the regional impact of the Community's external trade policy. The study examines the present pattern of trade in Community manufactures with the rest of the world and the differences between Member States as regards their specialization in certain branches and hence their performance in external trade; it looks at regional structures and regional adaptability to those trade flows; and it assesses the regional impact of external trade in agricultural products, gauges the indirect effects of such trade and maps out the possibilities of using a regionalized econometric model.

The purpose of studies of this kind is the systematic regional impact assessment of the Community's main policies so that either they can be adjusted to take account of their regional dimension or action can be taken to counter any adverse regional impact they may have.

Regional Policy Committee

2.1.82. At its 46th meeting, held on 10 February with Mr Bernard Attali in the

chair, the Regional Policy Committee elected Mrs Andreasen, of Denmark, its Deputy Chairman. The meeting was devoted to a further examination of the Commission's draft second periodic report on the social and economic situation and development of the regions of the Community.⁴ The Commission is expected to adopt the report in March.

Financial instruments

Integrated operations

2.1.83. On 7 February the Commission granted 72 000 ECU (DR 6 million) for a study to be carried out in preparation for an integrated operation at Grevena in Macedonia, Greece. The Community's contribution will cover 75% of the cost of the study, the remaining 25% being met by Greek authorities. The study, which should be completed by March 1985, is to consider how an integrated approach could foster the development of natural and other indigenous resources at Grevena and thereby improve the socio-economic situation of the inhabitants.

Supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom

2.1.84. On 7 February the Commission sent the Council and Parliament the sixth report⁵ on the implementation of the Regulation of 27 October 1980 establishing supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom.⁶ The report covers the period from 1 July to 31 December 1983.

Disaster relief

2.1.85. On 5 February the Commission decided to grant emergency relief of 350 000 ECU (some DR 29 million) to the victims

¹ OJ C 67, 8.3.1984.

² OJ C 308, 25.11.1982; Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.55.

Studies Collection, Regional Policy Series No 25.

Seventeenth General Report, point 355.

⁵ COM(84) 45 final.

⁶ OJ L 284, 29.10.1980.

of last December's exceptional snowfalls in northern Greece, which caused extensive damage, especially to many small rural settlements.

2.1.86. On 16 and 17 February Parliament adopted two resolutions on the damage caused by the bad weather in Belgium and a third resolution on the solidarity and mutual assistance between the Member States in the event of large-scale disasters and the establishment at Community level of a European disaster relief programme.¹

Environment and consumers

Environment

Prevention and reduction of pollution and nuisances

Freshwater and marine pollution

Protection of the Rhine

2.1.87. On 10 February the heads of the delegations on the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution met in the Hague, where thermal pollution and pollution caused by discharges of chlorides were the main items on the agenda. In addition they adopted a recommendation on cadmiun discharges and took note of the progress made on water supplies, hygiene and sewage treatment.

London Convention

- 2.1.88. Commission representatives sat in as observers at the latest meeting of the contracting parties to the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter, held in London from 20 to 24 February. The main conclusions reached were that:
- (i) no amendments will be made to the Annexes to the Convention in the immediate future; a team of scientists will be set up to work out the selection criteria to be applied when deciding which substances to include in the Annexes;

- (ii) terms of reference were agreed for the impact assessment of discharges of low-level radioactive wastes commissioned at a previous meeting;
- (iii) finally, meetings of this type between the contracting parties were an ideal international forum for studying the burial of high-level radioactive wastes in the seabed; no further dumping would be allowed until the practice had proved not only technically feasible but also tolerable for the environment and monitoring arrangements based on the Convention had been made.

Chemicals

2.1.89. The authorities responsible for implementing the Council Directive of 24 June 1982 on the major accident hazards of certain industrial activities² held their first meeting in Brussels on 28 and 29 February. The deadline for transposition of the Directive into national law was 8 January, and the aim now is to ensure that it is applied uniformly and as fast as possible. The participants reported on the steps taken to give effect to the Directive in each Member State and discussed arrangements for exchanging information and the interpretation to be given to some of the Articles.

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

Flora and fauna

2.1.90. Parliament adopted a resolution on the protection of the monk seal on 17 February.¹

Natural resources

Use of sewage sludge in agriculture

2.1.91. Also on 17 February Parliament endorsed,³ subject to a number of technical amendments, the proposal for a Directive

Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

² OJ L 230, 5.8.1982; Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.92.

³ OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

on the use of sewage sludge in agriculture, which the Commission put to the Council in September 1982. Parliament particularly stressed the need to specify uniform compulsory procedures for taking and preparing samples and for analysing soil and sludge.

International cooperation

2.1.92. A further meeting in the series started in 1974 to promote cooperation between the Commission and the US authorities on environmental matters² took place in Washington on 2 and 3 February. Three rounds of talks were held under the negotiating directives issued by the Council on 30 May 1978.3

The first, at the State Department, concentrated primarily on general international issues. The second, at the Office of the US Representative for Trade Negotiations, centred on how the US Toxic Substances Control Act and the Council Directive of 18 September 1979⁴ amending for the sixth time the 1967 Directive on dangerous substances⁵ were likely to affect trade. Finally, the third round, at the Environmental Protection Agency, allowed time to look into some of the technical problems relating to environmental protection.

Consumers

Implementing the second programme on consumer protection

At its 12 December 1983 meeting 2.1.93. on consumer protection, the Council called on the Commission to report to it on progress in implementing measures provided for by the second programme (1981-86).6 To a great extent the efforts made over the past three years derive from the principles and priorities adopted when the preliminary action programme was drawn up,7 the second programme being a reaffirmation of and a follow-up to the earlier one. It was for that reason that the Commission, in the communication it put before the Council on 24 February, enumerated the main developments since 1973 and placed them in their economic and political context, analysing the results achieved and the problems encountered in implementing Community consumer policy. The Commission likewise spelled out the guidelines for the concluding phase of the second programme.

Protection of consumers' economic and legal interests

Unfair terms

2.1.94. On 14 February the Commission put before the Council a communication on unfair terms in contracts.8

The document first outlines the current situation in the Member States: only six of them (France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and Luxembourg) have legislation covering unfair contract terms; in one (the Netherlands) a bill is now before parlia-

It then goes on to discuss what steps might be taken at Community level, detailing two options—a directive or non-legislative action. It suggests that the directive could set out the main rules, while leaving the Member States considerable latitude as to how they are implemented. Non-legislative action could be taken as an alternative to or in parallel with a directive. For instance, along the lines of what has been done in the United Kingdom and Denmark, a public authority could be set up to organize and monitor talks between representatives of the consumers on one side and of trade and industry on the other. Another possibility would be the introduction of standard form contracts that would make it easier for consumers to compare terms. In conclusion, the

OJ C 264, 8.10.1982; Bull. EC 9-1982, point 2.1.50.

Bull. EC 7/8-1974, point 2231.

Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.56.

OJL 259, 15.10.1979.

OJ 196, 16.8.1967.

OJ C 133, 3.6.1981. OJ C 92, 25.4.1975.

Supplement 1/84 — Bull. EC; COM(84) 55 final.

Commission invites comment from interested parties, notably consumer organizations and trade associations.

Agriculture

Council

2.1.95. Agricultural matters were discussed at Council meetings on 6 and 7 February and 27 and 28 February. In addition to a general review of the price proposals, the Council held detailed discussions on monetary compensatory amounts and the special problems of the milk sector.²

It also approved the proposed extension of the common measure for the acceleration of agricultural development in Greece,³ a six-month extension of the socio-structural Directives⁴ and a one-month extension of the Regulation concerning United Kingdom imports of New Zealand butter.⁵

Agricultural prices and rationalization of the common agricultural policy

2.1.96. Examining the question of agricultural prices⁶ in conjunction with that of the rationalization of the CAP,⁷ the Council acknowledged the close interdependence of the various proposals made by the Commission in recent months. thus confirming the position adopted in January both by itself and by the Council meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs,⁸ namely that all the main issues should be treated at the appropriate level and in accordance with the customary Community procedures. The main agenda items were the general level of prices, the monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs) and milk.

On the general question of prices, positions continued to differ widely. Although no Member State formally requested an overall price increase, most delegations stressed the social consequences of a restrictive policy and the need to provide farmers with a fair income. The northern countries favoured a more stringent approach, some recommending uniform increases to ensure stability in all sectors, including Mediterranean products.

Mr Dalsager, the Commission Member with special responsibility for agriculture, pointed out that certain Member States were still pressing for increases for given products at Council meetings of Agriculture Ministers, while at the same time insisting, in the European Council, that budgetary resources could not be increased unless the CAP was adapted.

On the agrimonetary questions, the German delegation proposed a solution whereby the MCAs would be calculated by reference to the currency which had appreciated most. New positive MCAs would thus be avoided and the existing positive MCAs would become negative. Several Member States, while accepting the Commission's proposals, 9 declared their willingess to seek a solution on the basis of the German formula.

The Commission recalled its proposals and pointed out that, if the Council decided in favour of the German formula, a precise timetable would have to be set for dismantling the positive and negative MCAs. Mr Dalsager stressed that the conversion of positive MCAs into negative MCAs was no panacea: in economic terms, it would be equivalent to an increase in the common price in ECU with a corresponding reduction in the positive MCAs. Such a solution would also have consequences for the Community budget.

The discussions on milk were concerned with the principle of introducing production quotas and with the level of the quotas and the management of the system. On this last point there were two opposing views—one in favour of individual quotas per holding, the other perferring the allocation

¹ Point 2.4.16.

² Point 2.1.96.

³ Point 2.1.118.

⁴ Point 2.1.116.

⁵ Point 2.1.106.

⁶ Bull. EC 1-1984, point 1.1.1 et seq.

⁷ Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 1.1.1 *et seq.*; Supplement 4/83 — Bull. EC; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 1.4.3; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.123.

⁸ Bull. EC 1-1984, points 2.1.67 and 2.4.3.

⁹ Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.102 et seq.

of overall quotas to dairies. Several delegations would accept a quota system only if no national exemptions were granted.

2.1.97. On 1 March the Economic and Social Committee gave its opinion on the agricultural price projects and related measures for 1984/85.¹

Economic aspects of the common agricultural policy

Situation as regards agricultural holdings and incomes

2.1.98. To enable existing data on the structure of agricultural holdings to be brought up to date, the Commission proposed that the Council should organize a survey in the Member States covering the farm years corresponding to the 1985 and 1987 harvests.² Earlier surveys were carried out in 1977, 1979/80 and 1983.³

Market organizations

Adjustment of the basic regulations

2.1.99. On 17 February Parliament delivered a favourable opinion⁴ on the proposals to discontinue the public storage of pigmeat,⁵ to introduce guarantee thresholds for sunflower seed and durum wheat,⁶ to extend the intervention system to cover sorghum⁷ and to apply certain quality standards to fruit and vegetables on wholesale markets.⁸

2.1.100. On 1 March the Economic and Social Committee delivered opinions⁹ on a number of proposals—concerning the introduction of guarantee thresholds for sunflower seed and durum wheat,⁶ processed fruit and vegetables,¹⁰ wine,¹¹ milk¹² and monetary compensatory amounts.¹³

New market organizations

2.1.101. The Commission transmitted to the Council on 10 February a new estimate of the cost of operating a market organization in ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin;¹⁴

this supplements the Commission's earlier proposals. 15

Prices and specific measures

Pigmeat

2.1.102. In January, to deal with the rapidly deteriorating situation on the market in pigmeat, the Commission reintroduced the granting of private storage aid and maintained, increased and extended the additional amounts charged on imports of live animals and of boned and other meats.¹⁶

Now that these measures have been in force for almost two months, there is tentative evidence that they have had the desired effect on the market:

- (i) between 20 January and 2 March, despite the seasonal drop in demand, the Community market price for pigmeat rose by 12 ECU/100 kg, or more than 8%, first matching and then exceeding its level at the same time last year;
- (ii) over the same period, about 40 000 tonnes were withdrawn from the market and taken into private storage;
- (iii) imports of live animals and meat fell from 9 000 tonnes in November and 6 000 tonnes in December to less than 750 tonnes in January and February 1984.

Despite the spectacular recovery of the market, the position of pig farmers remains uncertain because of the cost of feedingstuffs; in this respect, the situation is still unsatisfactory.

Point 2.4.29.

² OJ C 60, 2.3.1984; COM(84) 66 final.

OJ L 35, 4.2.1978; OJ L 59, 2.3.1982.

OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

⁵ OJ C 319, 29.11.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.120.

OJ C 301, 8.11.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.110.

OJ C 298, 4.11.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.110.

^B OJ C 324, 29.11.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.119.

Point 2.4.30.

OJ C 301, 8.11.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.111.

OJ C 338, 15.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.122.

OJ C 289, 25.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.84.

¹³ OJ C 299, 5.11.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.102.

¹⁴ COM(84) 47 final.

¹⁵ OJ C 101, 23.11.1973; OJ C 309, 31.12.1976; OJ C 193, 31.7.1979; OJ C 214, 10.8.1983.

¹⁶ OJ L 11, 14.1.1984; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.1.75.

Wine 1

2.1.103. In view of the danger that large stocks might build up by the time of the next harvest, the Commission dropped² the condition which it had set for the conclusion of long-term storage contracts in respect of wine already covered by short-term contracts,³ namely that only short-term contracts expiring after 15 February 1984 would be eligible.

2.1.104. Since the representative price for white wine of type AIII had been lower than the activating price for two consecutive weeks, the Commission authorized, on 21 February, the conclusion of private storage contracts for this type of wine.⁴

2.1.105. On 17 February Parliament delivered a favourable opinion⁵ on the proposals for Regulations on the designation, presentation and labelling of sparkling wines.⁶

Milk and milk products

2.1.106. Having failed to reach agreement for the full year of 1984, the Council extended by one month the Regulation authorizing the United Kingdom to import New Zealand butter on special terms. The quantity authorized for the first quarter was 20750 tonnes.

2.1.107. Under the programme for the use of funds accruing from the co-responsibility levy, the Commission decided to continue in the medium term the measures for expanding the markets in milk and milk products both inside and outside the Community. These measures, which were introduced in 1978, have proved to be an effective means of widening the markets for milk products. At the same time, the Commission decided to continue and step up action to improve the quality of milk in Ireland, Italy and Greece, where the problems relating to the quality of raw milk are more serious than in the other Member States. 8

2.1.108. The Commission adopted certain measures to take account of the changing situation on the market in butter, large quantities of which are held in public and

private storage. To facilitate the disposal of these stocks and to prevent them becoming unusable, the Commission temporarily suspended, with effect from 24 February,⁴ the application of the Regulation of 13 July 1981,⁹ whereby aid could be granted in respect of fresh market butter or concentrated butter for use in the manufacture of pastry products, icecream and other foodstuffs. At the same time, the Commission reintroduced aid for butter held in private storage and intended for the same purposes.¹⁰

2.1.109. To facilitate the conclusion by Community exporters of sales contracts for deliveries to be made in the new milk marketing year, the Commission outlined the criteria for the adjustment of export refunds fixed in advance for milk and milk products in 1984/85. 11

2.1.110. The Commission also raised from 750 g to 1 kg the maximum monthly quantity of butter which may be sold at a reduced price to consumers receiving social assistance.¹²

Beef/veal

2.1.111. On 21 February the Council adopted estimates concerning beef/veal intended for the processing industry (50 000 tonnes as compared with 60 000 tonnes in 1983) and young male bovine animals intended for fattening (190 000 head as compared with 237 000 head in 1983).¹³

These estimates take account of Community availabilities of beef/veal, demand from non-member countries and the importance

¹ The external aspects are dealt with under 'Industrialized countries' at point 2.2.19.

² OJ L 31, 2.2.1984.

OJ L 366, 28.12.1983.

⁴ OJ L 51, 22.2.1984.

OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

⁶ OJ C 120, 5.5.1983; Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.106.

OJ L 61, 2.3.1984.

⁸ OJ L 32, 3.2.1984; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.128.

⁹ OJ L 191, 14.7.1981.

¹⁰ OJ L 52, 23.2.1984.

¹¹ OJ C 57, 29.2.1984.

¹² OJL 64, 6.3.1984.

¹³ OJ L 54, 25.2.1984.

of the imports concerned in the context of trade relations between the Community and the non-member countries which supply it.¹

On the basis of these estimates, the Commission adopted the first import authorizations on 27 February.²

Oils and fats

2.1.112. On 1 March the Economic and Social Committee gave its opinion³ on the proposal to introduce a tax on oils and fats.⁴

Sugar

2.1.113. To ensure that the method for recording and controlling isoglucose production under the quota system is as efficient as possible and that this method is applied uniformly throughout the Community, the Commission ruled that the quantities produced must be recorded and controlled as soon as the isomerization process has terminated and before any other operation begins, with effect from 1 July 1984.⁵ In addition, all manufacturers of isoglucose will be required to notify to the Member States concerned any isomerization facilities used for this purpose.

Processed fruit and vegetables

2.1.114. On 20 February the Commission transmitted to the Council a report on the market and the measures applicable to imports of preserved cultivated mushrooms⁶ pursuant to the Regulation of 30 June 1981.

In the light of experience, the Commission takes the view that the problems encountered at the end of the marketing year can be resolved within the framework of the current rules.

Flowers

2.1.115. In response to a request made by the Council in October, the Commission presented on 13 February a report concerning the import arrangements for certain cut flowers (roses and carnations), accompanied by a proposal for a Regulation.⁷

This document deals with the trends on the market for roses and carnations, the Community rules as they stand at present and the changes which need to be made. The proposal for a regulation is intended to improve the management of the market and to provide for the monitoring of imports of roses and carnations.

Structures

Socio-structural Directives

2.1.116. On 28 February, Parliament having delivered a favourable opinion, the Council approved, pending adoption of the proposals to review the socio-structural Directives, a measure whereby the validity of the three socio-structural Directives of 1972 and the associated interest-rate subsidies would be extended until 30 June. At the same time, the Council suspended the granting of investment aid in the milk sector from 1 March until agreement was reached on controlling milk production. 11

New measures and adjustment of directives

2.1.117. On 1 March the Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion³ on the proposals to review the socio-structural Directives and amend the Regulations adopted in 1977 (processing and marketing of products) and 1980 (agricultural development in the less-favoured areas of the west of Ireland).⁹

¹ COM(84) 49 final.

² OJ L 58, 29.2.1984.

³ Point 2.4.30.

⁴ OJ C 289, 25.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.95.

⁵ OJ L 51, 22.2.1984.

⁶ COM(84)71 final.

OJ C 54, 25.2.1984; COM(83) 798 final.

⁸ OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

⁹ OJ C 347, 22.12.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.10.

¹⁰ This was formally adopted on 5 March: OJ L 72, 15.3.1984.

¹¹ OJ L 61, 2.3.1984.

2.1.118. On 28 February the Council approved an extension of the 'common measure' for the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece, as proposed by the Commission in July¹ in its response to the Greek memorandum.² This will provide Community financing of 44.7 million ECU, half for infrastructure (potable water, communications, electricity) and half for irrigation, reafforestation, forest paths and fire protection projects, etc.

2.1.119. On the same day the Council adopted amendments to the Community list of less-favoured areas in Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, substantially increasing the eligible agricultural area, especially in Italy (by 1.3 million ha, or 18%) and the United Kingdom (by 1.2 million ha, or 14%).³

Veterinary and animal husbandry legislation

2.1.120. Because of the spread of classical swine fever, the Commission adopted on 14 February two decisions altering the protective measures applicable to trade.⁴

The first of these Decisions extends the restrictive measures applicable to trade in live pigs to cover new areas of the Federal Republic of Germany. The second Decision places a 30-day ban on the trading of fresh pigmeat which has been obtained from pigs reared within a two-kilometre radius of any outbreak of classical swine fever in Germany, the Netherlands or Italy.

2.1.121. In view of the improvement in the situation, the Commission reduced the area covered by the measures to combat footand-mouth disease in the Netherlands and removed the restrictions designed to prevent the spread of avian influenza in Ireland.⁵

Plant health legislation

2.1.122. Invoking the protective clause in the Community's plant health rules, the United Kingdom had prohibited the introduction into its territory of pot plants or cut flowers of chrysanthemum originating in

the Netherlands. The Commission restored trade with effect from 9 February, while giving the United Kingdom the necessary plant health guarantees against the introduction of chrysanthemum white rust.⁶

2.1.123. The Commission extended until 31 January 1985 the temporary authorization granted to Ireland and the United Kingdom to protect their territory from the introduction of *Dendroctonus*, an insect which attacks conifers.⁷

Competition

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

Federal Republic of Germany

North Rhine Westphalia: aid to compensate stockfarmers for losses sustained as a result of warble-fly infestation.

France

National aids in the tobacco sector (conversion from dark to bright varieties).

United Kingdom

Variation of the Agricultural and Horticulture Development Scheme (ADHS), the Farm and Horticulture Development Scheme (FHDS) and the Agriculture and Horticulture Grant Scheme (AHGS).

The Commission made no comments on these changes under Article 93 since the measures in question fall within the scope of Directive 72/159/EEC.8

2.1.124a. The Commission decided to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of an aid scheme concerning:

OJ C 210, 6.8.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.144.

² Bull. EC 3-1983, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.13.

³ OJ L 82, 26.3.1984.

⁴ OJ L 51, 22.2.1984.

⁵ OJ L 66, 8.3.1984.

OJ L 35, 7.2.1984.

⁷ OJ L 38, 9.2.1984.

⁸ OJ L 96, 23.4.1972.

Italy

Sicily: amendments and additions to Regional Acts Nos 86/82 and 87/82 concerning aids for agriculture and certain productive sectors and laying down emergency measures for agriculture; the procedure was initiated, in particular, in respect of excessively high investment aids for the processing and marketing of agricultural products.

2.1.125. The Commission also addressed to the Italian Government, under the Article 93(2) procedure, a final decision finding against the Act whereby the region of Campania lays down emergency measures to assist apricot production (aids granted per unit of area grown).

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

Guarantee Section

2.1.126. On 8 February the Commission adopted the Decisions on the clearance of the EAGGF Guarantee Section's accounts for 1978 and 1979. This involves endorsement for charging to the Community the expenditure incurred by the Member States under Community regulations, after due verification of vouchers and itemized accounts. As result of increased expenditure on the common agricultural policy in 1978 and 1979, the total cleared came to 18 500 million ECU, as compared with 12 400 million ECU for the two previous years (1976 and 1977). The Commission disallowed some 120 million ECU for the two years.

Fisheries

Greenland

2.1.127. In approving a fisheries agreement with Greenland on 20 February the Council completed the negotiations on Greenland's withdrawal from the Community.¹

2.1.128. On 17 February Parliament adopted a resolution on Greenland fisheries.²

Resources

Internal aspects

Community measures

2.1.129. On the basis of information from the Dutch authorities concerning the exhaustion of their cod and plaice quotas in certain ICES divisions, on 28 February the Commission prohibited vessels flying the flag of the Netherlands from fishing for these two species in the divisions in question.³

National measures to protect local stocks

2.1.130. On the basis of Article 19 of Regulation No 171/83 of 25 January 1983⁴ the Commission approved the following measure:

United Kingdom. Yorkshire Water Authority (Limitation of Net Licences) Order 1983. This regulates the annual grant of licences for fishing for salmon and sea trout with drift-nets or type T and type J nets during the period from 1 January 1984 to 31 December 1988.

National measures which are stricter than Community rules

2.1.131. The Commission took note of the following measure adopted in respect of its fishermen by:

Denmark. Amendment to a decree on fishing in the Baltic Sea and the Belts. The Commission found that the technical measures on cod and herring and some quantitative measures concerning herring, sprats and fishing in subdivision 22 of the Baltic were compatible with Article 20(1) of Regulation No 171/83 of 25 January 1983. The Commission also found that a quantitative measure concerning cod, herring quotas for the first quarter of 1984 and the ban on fishing for sprats was compatible with Article 5(2) of Regulation No 170/83 of 25 January 1983. Lastly, the Commission found a quantitative measure on herring to be

¹ Point 1.4.1 et seq.

² Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

OJ L 58, 29.2.1984.

⁴ OJ L 24, 27.1.1983.

compatible with Article 20(1) of Regulation No 171/83 and Article 5(2) of Regulation No 170/83.

External aspects

Bilateral relations

Spain

2.1.132. Fishing rights in their respective zones in 1984 were defined at the bilateral-talks between the Community and Spain held in Brussels on 13 and 14 February.

These rights are almost identical to the 1983 rights, with the exception of some restrictions on Spanish fishing in Community waters for hake (a reduction has also been made for Community vessels), anchovies and, for the first time, angler fish and megrim.

2.1.133. On this basis the Commission sent to the Council on 27 February a proposal for a Regulation laying down for 1984 the conditions for fishing in Community waters applicable to vessels flying the flag of Spain.¹

Sweden

2.1.134. On 27 February the Council adopted two Regulations under the agreement on reciprocal fishing rights between Sweden and the Community for 1984. One allocates among Member States the catch quotas for vessels operating in Swedish waters. The other lays down the conditions for fishing in Community waters applicable to vessels flying the Swedish flag.

Norway

2.1.135. On 13 February the Commission sent the Council a proposal laying down the conditions for fishing for herring in the North Sea by vessels flying the flag of Norway, pending a scientific opinion on the situation of North Sea herring stocks.²

Sao Tome and Principe

2.1.136. After Parliament had given its opinion,³ on 21 February the Council ap-

proved⁴ the conclusion of the fisheries agreement with Sao Tome and Principe negotiated last August.⁵

Senegal

2.1.137. The fisheries agreement between the Community and Senegal, which was signed on 15 June 1979,6 came into force on 6 February.7

Markets and structures

Market organization

2.1.138. Commission staff contacted the Bulgarian authorities in an attempt to stabilize the trout market in France, which is threatened with disturbance by low-priced imports from Bulgaria.

Structures

Structural directives

2.1.139. Pursuant to the Regulation of 4 October 1983 on a common measure for restructuring, modernizing and developing the fishing industry and for developing aquaculture,⁸ the Commission adopted a Regulation on 13 February laying down detailed rules for the implementation of decisions to grant aid.⁹

2.1.140. On 24 February the Commission approved draft Danish measures to encourage the definitive cessation of activity by certain fishing vessels, ¹⁰ pursuant to the Directive of 4 October 1983 concerning certain measures to adjust capacity in the fisheries sector.⁸

COM(84) 94 final.

² COM(84) 67 final.

³ OJ C 342, 19.12.1983.

⁴ OJ L 54, 25.2.1984.

⁵ Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.162.

⁶ OJ L 234, 9.8.1982.

OJ L 65, 7.3.1984.

⁸ OJ L 290, 22.10.1983.

⁹ OJ L 46, 16.2.1984.

⁰ OJ L 64, 6.3.1984.

Competition

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

Federal Republic of Germany

Renewal and alteration of an aid for conversion and a transitional aid for adjustment paid to Altenwerder fishermen fishing in the Elbe; the proposed budget for these measures is DM 200 000 and DM 300 000 respectively.

United Kingdom

Aid for investments in aquaculture, only for projects which have received aid from the EAGGF Guidance Section under the Council Regulation of 4 October 1983 on a common measure for restructuring, modernizing and developing the fishing industry and for developing aquaculture. The aid consists of a subsidy of not more than 5% of the cost of the investments.

2.1.142. The Commission decided, subject to certain conditions, to terminate the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of an aid for producer's organizations in the fishery sector in Schleswig-Holstein, Federal Republic of Germany.

Transport

Inland transport

Infrastructure

2.1.143. Pending resumption of the Council's work on Community support for transport infrastructure, the Transport Infrastructure Committee meeting on 23 February brought up to date the information on the projects likely to be financed in 1984. The Committee also considered the implementation of the experimental programme from 1985.

Special measures of Community interest

2.1.144. Taking account of the views expressed by the Committee on Budgets, pending Parliament's opinion, the Commission sent the Council on 28 February an amended proposal² for a Regulation establishing special measures of Community interest relating to transport infrastructure.³

Approximation of structures

Railway costing

2.1.145. The Subcommittee of Railway Costing Experts provided for in the Regulation of 19 September 1978 laying down uniform costing principles for railway undertakings⁴ held its second meeting⁵ on 2 February. The experts agreed on the items to be used for the purpose of direct costing.

Technical aspects

2.1.146. On 29 February the Economic and Social Committee endorsed the proposal for a Council recommendation to the national railway undertakings on technical matters concerning operation and internal barriers to the crossing of frontiers affecting the international carriage of goods. The Committee would have preferred a more binding legal instrument with rules for making appropriate funds available and called for harmonization of conditions of competition between modes of transport.

Operation of the market

Pricing

2.1.147. The Commission decided to publish a study on a system of price indices for road freight transport within the Community and the development of methods for

¹ OJ L 290, 22.10.1983.

² Point 2.3.3; COM(84)150 final.

³ OJ C 340, 17.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.194.

⁴ OJ L 258, 21.9.1978.

⁵ Bull. EC 5-1983, point 2.1.143.

⁶ OJ C 254, 22.9.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.131.

conducting surveys among international road hauliers.¹

Fuel supplies

2.1.148. On 17 February Parliament endorsed² the proposal for a Directive on fuel rationing for commercial transport in a crisis.³ It takes the view that it is not essential for frontier traffic (within 50 km of the border) to have the same refuelling facilities as other traffic, but that the Member States should be free to decide on this.

Air transport

2.1.149. On 22 February the Commission approved for transmission to the Council a memorandum proposing a general framework for a common air transport policy.4 The memorandum seeks to develop and expand upon the objectives of the 1979 memorandum⁵ in the light of the important regulatory and economic changes which have taken place and the renewed debate on possible improvements in the European air transport system in the interests of airlines and consumers alike. This memorandum and the proposals annexed to it are intended as a response to the increasingly vehement criticism of a system which is regarded by users as being excessively inflexible and contrary to their interests and, in certain respects, contrary to the provisions of the Treaty. Only routes between Member States are concerned.

On the basis of the present system of bilateral agreements, the Commission proposes that cooperation between airlines should be made more flexible in order to increase their efficiency, and to enable them to make a profit, create jobs and provide services more in line with passengers' requirements.

However, although it is seeking to encourage competition between airlines, the Commission is aware of the Member States's fears concerning deregulation in this area and the risk of administrative interference in relations between airlines. It is therefore proposing a safety net to guarantee that

each party to a bilateral agreement has at least 25% of the market. In addition the Commission would like there to be reference tariffs, and bracket tariffs within which the airlines are free to fix their rates without seeking government approval.

The Commission is proposing that arrangements between airlines concerning capacity, revenue and joint operations, etc. should be exempted from the prohibition contained in Article 85(1) of the Treaty, subject to compliance with certain conditions which will reduce their adverse impact on competition.

In conjunction with this, in order to prevent distortion, the Commission wishes to scrutinize the aids granted by Member States to airlines more closely for consistency with the Treaty rules; it lays down new guidelines in this connection.

Lastly, the Commission proposes measures intended to reduce airline costs (criteria for setting airport taxes, customs control formalities where freight is concerned) and facilitate access to the market for small companies on secondary routes and the operation of non-scheduled services.

This memorandum on air transport follows on from the one published in 1979⁵ and the proposals made in 1981.⁶ It fits in with the work carried out by the Commission which resulted in the adoption of the February 1983 memorandum on inland transport.⁷ A memorandum on sea transport is due to be presented shortly.

¹ Road freight transport between Member States: a feasibility study for a system of price indices. Studies Collection, Transport Series No 7, available from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

² OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

OJ C 195, 22.7.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.226.

⁴ COM(84)72 final.

Supplement 5/79 — Bull. EC.

⁶ OJ C 78, 30.3.1982; Bull. EC 7/8-1981, point 2.1.138.

⁷ OJ C 154, 13.6.1983; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.128.

International relations

2.1.150. Following the referendum in Switzerland on 26 February, the Commission issued the following statement to the press:

'The Commission is concerned about the approval in Switzerland, by referendum, of the creation of a heavy-goods-vehicle tax and a motorway tax to be imposed from 1985 onwards.

In its earlier contacts with the Swiss Government, the Commission emphasized that such measures, which could lead to discrimination against nationals of the Community Member States, and further barriers to frontier-crossing in Europe, should be avoided.

The Commission will make its views known to the Swiss authorities at a meeting due to be held shortly in Berne.'

Energy

Formulating and implementing a Community energy policy

Special measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy

2.1.151. Taking account of the views expressed by the Committee on Budgets, pending Parliament's opinion, the Commission sent the Council on 28 February an amended proposal¹ for a Regulation establishing special measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy.²

Structural development of the Member States' energy policies

2.1.152. On 29 February the Commission approved for transmission to the Council a communication reviewing the Member States' energy policies³ and a communication analysing progress in the structural changes in these policies.⁴

In these two papers the Commission gives a full analysis of energy policies and assesses to what extent they have made it possible to move towards the structural changes which the Council has set as targets to be achieved by 1990:⁵ a reduction in oil's share

in primary energy consumption; electricity production primarily by means of coal and nuclear energy; and a reduction in the ratio between the rate of growth in energy demand and the rate of growth of national product.

The Commission comes to the conclusion that considerable progress has been made, in some Member States at any rate, but that a major effort is still needed in order to meet the targets set by the Council.⁵ The Community's top priorities in this respect should be as follows: to reduce to 0.7 or less the average ratio between the rate of growth in gross primary energy demand and the rate of growth of gross domestic product; to reduce oil consumption to a level of about 40% of gross primary energy consumption; to cover 70 to 75% of primary energy requirements for electricity production by means of solid fuels and nuclear energy; to encourage the use of renewable energy sources so as to increase their contribution to the Community's energy supplies; and the pursuit of energy pricing policies geared to attaining Community energy obiectives.

In addition, to reduce its vulnerability with regard to imported oil—which will still represent one third of its energy supplies in 1990—the Community must encourage the development of new oil resources, intensify relations with oil-exporting countries, and improve its crisis-management arrangements.

2.1.153. In order to deal systematically and in detail with certain aspects of the Member States' energy policies, the Commission is to draw up a series of separate reports for the Council. The first in the series, which it adopted on 2 February, is a comparative examination of the Member

¹ Point 2.3.3; COM(84) 150 final.

OJ C 344, 20.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.209.

³ COM(84) 88 final.

⁴ COM(84) 87 final.

⁵ OJ C 149, 18.6.1980; Bull. EC 6-1980, point 2.1.140.

States' energy-saving programmes.¹ These reports will provide much of the basis for the discussions on the next stages of Community energy policy.

The energy situation in the Community

On 15 February the Commission sent the Council a report entitled 'The energy situation in the Community: situation 1983 — outlook 1984'.2 This essentially factual report indicates that energy consumption in the Community fell (by 1%) in 1983 for the fourth consecutive year, reaching a level of around 883 million toe, the lowest level since 1975, oil's share falling from 54.5% in 1979 to 47% in 1983. In addition, energy production in the Community increased by just over 4% to the record level of 515 million toe. As a result, net imports of energy have been reduced from 46% to 42% of total energy demand, compared with the increases of 55% in 1979 and 64% in 1973.

The outlook for 1984 is a 2% growth in GDP, which for the first time in five years should result in a slight increase in energy consumption. Oil demand should remain stable, while the production of nuclear-based electricity should increase by 12%. There may be a slight increase in natural gas consumption and a slight reduction in consumption of solid fuel. The Community's net dependence on imports should therefore remain unchanged.

Specific problems

Alternative energy sources and energy saving

2.1.155. Without waiting for the political decision by the Council on the multiannual financing of demonstration projects, the Commission published a notice, as it did in March 1983,³ for potentially interested firms and local authorities, setting out the conditions concerning the granting of financial support from the Community for various types of project, and an invitation to submit project proposals.⁴

Research and development

Council

2.1.156. The Council meeting of Research Ministers on 28 February adopted the Decision concerning the Esprit programme.⁵ The urgent need to begin implementing this programme immediately and to ensure that it receives adequate financing for its entire duration poses the problem of financing the other Community research programmes. In this connection the Council undertook to start discussions, on the basis of Commission proposals, on the priorities of Community research. Once the priorities between the various projects had been established and the decisions concerning the funds at the Community's disposal were known, it would be possible to draw up an overall budget for the Community's research activities up to 1988.

The Council also adopted a Decision on the revision of the programme of research on the environment.⁶ It approved the Commission communication on a first plan for stimulating European scientific and technical cooperation and interchange, and adopted a number of guidelines.⁷ Lastly, it adopted conclusions on the development of biotechnological activities in Europe.⁸

Development of the common policy

Coordination of national policies

2.1.157. The Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST), meeting in Brussels on 16 and 17 February, continued discussing the Commission's proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Community

COM(84) 36 final.

² COM(84) 63 final.

³ OJ C 86, 28.3.1983; Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.164.

OJ C 42, 15.2.1984.

⁵ Points 2.4.16 and 1.3.1 to 1.3.11.

⁶ Point 2.1.162.

⁷ Point 2.1.163.

⁸ Point 2.1.30.

programme for the development of the specialized information market in Europe.¹ It took the view that in the circumstances the Commission document should be updated and should specify, in particular, the work programme and priorities during the first phase of implementation of the proposed programme.

International cooperation

COST projects

2.1.158. On 20 February, after Parliament² and the Economic and Social Committee had delivered favourable opinions, the Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate an agreement between the Community and the non-member countries taking part in European cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research (COST) on the implementation of a concerted-action project on the use of lignocellulose-containing by-products and other plant residues for animal feeding.

CREST had endorsed the corresponding Commission proposal.³

Scientific and technical objectives

Promoting industrial competitiveness

2.1.159. On 29 February the Commission decided to set up an Industrial Research and Development Advisory Committee (Irdac), whose task it is to advise on the framing and implementation of Community policy with regard to industrial research and development (including its industrial and social repercussions). This Committee replaces the Advisory Committee on Industrial Research and Development (Cordi), which was set up by the Commission Decision of 29 June 1978.

The main purpose of recasting Cordi was to improve the efficiency of the Committee's operation while preserving and building on what it achieved during its five years of existence. The members of Irdac, who are to be appointed in a personal capacity, will be selected with a view to providing a wide range of industrial experience: they will come from the public sector, private enterprise and research institutes, and will include people with special knowledge of the social aspects of the new technologies.

Improving the management of energy resources

2.1.160. The Euratom Scientific and Technical Committee, meeting on 17 February, endorsed a Commission draft concerning a third (1985-89) programme of shared-cost research on the management and storage of radioactive waste. The Committee stressed the importance of this staff paper, from a safety and environmental protection standpoint, for the development of nuclear energy in the Community. It acknowledged, in particular, the need to include underground storage experiments in the programme.

2.1.161. An international seminar on 'Energy conservation in industry', organized by the Commission in collaboration with the Verein Deutscher Ingenieure, was held in Düsseldorf from 13 to 15 February. It highlighted the results of the energy conservation projects carried out under the Community's second energy R&D programme: between 1979 and 1983 more than 85 contracts concerning new techniques of energy saving in industry were concluded. The seminar presented the results of these contracts to representatives of national authorities, public bodies and industrial and financial organizations.

OJ C 328, 2.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.35.

² OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.182.

⁴ OJ L 66, 8.3.1984.

⁵ OJ L 303, 27.7.1978.

Improving living and working conditions

Environment

2.1.162. The Council approved,¹ after Parliament had endorsed² the Commission's proposal,³ a Decision on the revision of the 1981-85 programme of research on the environment (environmental protection and climatology).

The purpose of this Decision is to step up research work under the programme adopted in 1981,⁴ with particular reference to the problems of acid rain and the management of toxic and hazardous waste. To this end, the funds estimated to be needed for carrying out the programme were increased from 42 million to 49.3 million ECU.

Improving the effectiveness of the Community's scientifc and technical potential

2.1.163. On 6 February the Commission transmitted to the Council, as the basis for preliminary discussion by Research Ministers, a communication setting out a first paln for stimulating European scientific and technical cooperation interchange.⁵ In this paper the Commission draws the first lessons from the pilot projects conducted in 1983 and outlines a multiannual programme.6 This programme, which could be launched in 1985, would seek both to increase the mobility of research workers within the Community and cooperation between research teams and to offer young scientists new opportunities in the field of training or research.

2.1.164. On 28 February the Council had a very constructive exchange of views on the question of stimulating the interchange and mobility of research workers in Europe.

The Council first of all expressed its satisfaction at the way in which the experimental stage of the programme, decided upon on 28 June 1983⁶ and still under way, is being implemented. As regards the new stage, the Council agreed on the main points

in the Commission communication⁷ and requested the Commission to put forward a proposal based on the following guidelines:

- '(i) stimulation measures should, without from the outset excluding any particular scientific and technological field, relate to subjects selected on the basis of precise criteria where there is a most obvious need for the development of exchanges;
- (ii) the industrial scientific community will be involved in this programme in accordance with arrangements to be determined;
- (iii) the stimulation plan should be implemented very flexibly and efficiently by means of research grants, contracts twinning teams or laboratories and measures to encourage the professional integration of young researchers into industry;
- (iv) in addition to the above steps, proposals should be drawn up on horizontal support measures to encourage mobility;
- (v) cooperation with partners in non-EEC European countries should be envisaged in line with Council of Europe initiatives in this area, with such new partners then sharing in the costs of any such expanded operation; the Commission should define the arrangements, which could be progressive, for such expansion;
- (vi) the Council considers that these stimulation measures should cover a significant number of researchers in the Community and requests the Commission to draw up the relevant financial estimates on the basis of a precise programme.

The Council wishes to be able to take a decision on the Commission proposals at its meeting on research on 29 May 1984.'

2.1.165. On 7 February the Committee for the European Development of Science and Technology met once more under the chairmanship of Professor Colombo, Chairman of the ENEA (Italian National Alternative Energy Authority). The Committee agreed

The Decision was formally adopted on 1 March: OJ L 71, 14.3.1984.

OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

OJ C 274, 13.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.160.

OJ L 101, 11.4.1981; Bull. EC 3-1981, point 2.1.160.

⁵ COM(84) 46 final.

⁶ OJ C 182, 8.7.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.259.

⁷ Point 2.1.163.

⁸ Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.1983.

on additional measures to publicize the second call for proposals under the stimulation programme and initiated the procedure for setting up a network of anonymous 'referees' who would have an important part to play in assessing the proposals. It also gave its backing to the Commissions's communication of 6 February. 2

Horizontal activities

Assessment of research

2.1.166. In February a group of independent outside experts completed their assessment of the Community scientific and technical training programme.

This committee had the task of: evaluating the merits and impact of the programme in relation to the targets already set; assessing overall administrative efficiency, including the selection of candidates, eligibility criteria and the choice of subject areas to be covered by the advanced-training courses; and making the necessary recommendations for laying down future programme guidelines.

2. Enlargement and external relations

Enlargement and bilateral relations with applicant countries

2.2.1. At its meeting on 20 and 21 February the Council (Foreign affairs) heard a report by Mr Natali and took stock of the situation in the accession negotiations. The President of the Council asked the Member States to make every effort to enable the negotiations to be completed by 30 September.

Portugal

Accession negotiations

2.2.2. At the 28th meeting of the Conference at deputy level, which was held in Brussels on 24 February, the Community

delegation presented a statement on specific transitional measures for a first group of agricultural products: cereals and rice, beef and veal, milk and milk products, pigmeat, sheepmeat and goatmeat. The Portuguese delegation presented a statement on agricultural structures in response to that made by the Community on 23 January.¹

Pre-accession aid

2.2.3. On 28 February the Commission recommended that the Council accord preaccession aid to Portugal for structural improvements in agriculture and fisheries.² The grant proposed by the Commission

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OJ C 29, 4.2.1984; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.1.118.

² Point 2.1.163.

¹ Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.2.1.

² COM(84) 92 final.

amounts to 50 million ECU. The proposal follows on from the Commission's July 1983 communication and is to provide a link between aid already supplied and aid the Community will be called upon to give Portugal after accession to prepare for the application of Community rules to Portuguese agriculture and fisheries.¹

Spain

Accession negotiations

2.2.4. The 19th meeting of the Conference at ministerial level was held in Brussels on 21 February under the chairmanship of Mr Cheysson, French Minister of External Relations and President of the Council. The Spanish delegation was headed by Mr Morán, the Foreign Minister.

The Community presented a statement on agricultural which proposed a transitional period of 10 years for the progressive application of the common agricultural policy. The transitional period would in two phases (four and six years) for fresh fruit and vegetables to allow mechanisms to be set up in Spain to enable the common organization of the market in these products to operate. For trade in certain sensitive products, a surveillance system would be established and a list drawn up during the negotiations. The Spanish delegation expressed great concern over the transitional period for fresh fruit and vegetables in particular.

Spain also presented statements on the customs arrangements for the Canary Islands, social affairs and fisheries (prepared or preserved fish, crustaceans and molluscs).

Speaking on behalf of the Commission, Mr Natali underlined that, with the statement on agriculture, the ministerial meeting had reached a long-awaited turning-point and provided a crucial opportunity which the Commission would not fail to seize in order to make an even more active contribution to the progress of the negotiations. Mr Natali made the further point that the Community statement had to be seen in a general politi-

cal light while not forgetting the specific problems of such a highly complex area as agriculture.

Mr Natali also announced that around mid-March the Commission would be in a position to present to the Council its proposals on another major sector—fisheries.

Commercial policy

Implementing the common commercial policy

Commercial policy instruments

A new instrument

2.2.5. On 20 and 21 February the Council discussed once more² the Commission's proposal for a new commercial policy instrument which would provide a defence against unfair trading practices,³ but again failed to reach agreement on the decision-making procedures.

Easing of restrictive measures

2.2.6. Under the Council Regulation of 14 November 1983 on import arrangements for products originating in State-trading countries, not liberalized at Community level,⁴ the Commission took decisions opening the following quotas:

Italy-Hungary/Poland: unwrought aluminium, not alloyed, containing 99.99% aluminium.⁵

Italy-People's Republic of China: hand-embroidered silk nightdresses for women.

Trade protection

2.2.7. The trade protection measures taken in February are shown in Table 7.

Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.2.1.

² Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.2.7.

³ OJ C 83, 26.3.1983; Bull. EC 2-1983, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.8.

⁴ OJ L 346, 8.12.1983.

OJ C 39, 14.2.1984.

Table 7 — Trade protection measures

Council	Commission
	Definitive anti-dumping duty imposed on: Concrete reinforcing bars originating in Spain OJ L 33, 4.2.1984 (provisional duty: OJ L 303, 5.11.1983)
	Provisional anti-dumping duties imposed on: Vinyl acetate monomer originating in Canada OJ L 58, 29.2.1984 (initiation of proceeding: OJ C 180, 17.7.1983) Hardboard originating in the Soviet Union OJ L 61, 2.3.1984 (notice of review: OJ C 164, 4.7.1981)
	Re-opening of anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of: Hardboard originating in the Soviet Union OJ L 61, 2.3.1984 (notice of review: OJ C 164, 4.7.1981) Copper sulphate originating in Czechoslovakia OJ C 55, 28.2.1984 (acceptance of undertaking: OJ L 281, 13.10.1983)
	Opening of anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of: Asbestos-cement corrugated sheets originating in the German Democratic Republic or Czechoslovakia OJ C 55, 28.2.1984
	Termination of anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of: Non-alloyed unwrought aluminium originating in Norway, the Soviet Union, Suriname or Yugoslavia OJ L 57, 28.2.1984 (initiation of proceeding: OJ C 32, 5.2.1983; OJ C 206, 2.8.1983)

Treaties and trade agreements: extension or automatic renewal

2.2.8. On 6 February the Council adopted a Decision authorizing the automatic renewal or continuation in force of certain trade agreements between Member States and non-member countries.¹

Sectoral commercial policy measures

Iron and steel products

Arrangements with non-member countries

2.2.9. Following negotiations conducted by the Commission on the basis of a brief

given by the Council on 29 November,² new steel arrangements were signed with South Africa (14 February), Romania and Czechoslovakia (16 February), South Korea (17 February) and Hungary (27 February); arrangements were also initialled with Bulgaria (3 February) and Australia (20 February). Negotiations with Brazil (on pig iron), Spain and the EFTA countries are continuing.

OJ L 40, 11.2.1984.

² Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.2.11.

2.2.10. A Commission delegation was in Tokyo on 23 and 24 February for one of the six-monthly meetings of the EEC-Japan contact group, paving the way for the renewal of the 'special understanding'.

2.2.11. On 10 February the Commission adopted a communication amending the basic import prices of a number of iron and steel products.¹

The new prices replace those adopted in November 1982,² and came into effect on 15 February. They take account not only of currency fluctuations but also of the decision at the beginning of 1983 to classify cold-rolled plates of a thickness of 3 mm or more as an ECSC product.³

United States measures concerning special steels

2.2.12. On 6 February the Council adopted⁴ a Commission proposal⁵ for a Regulation suspending tariff concessions and increasing duties under the Common Customs Tariff with regard to certain products originating in the United States of America, and establishing quantitative restrictions with regard to other products originating in that country. These measures are designed to compensate for injury caused by the restrictions imposed by the United States in July 1983 on the Community's exports of special steels.

On 27 February the Commission adopted a Regulation allocating among the Member States the quotas established in connection with the new quantitative restrictions.⁶

Steel Arrangement with the United States

2.2.13. On 20 and 21 February the Council took note of a request by Greece to be allowed to increase its steel exports to the United States. The Council agreed to consider the matter once the Commission had the information needed to enable it to take a decision.

Textile products

Agreements and arrangements with non-member countries

Mediterranean preferential countries

- 2.2.14. Following negotiations with Malta on 27 February an agreement covering trade in textiles for the period 1984-85 was signed on 29 February.
- 2.2.15. Consultations were also held with Morocco (10 February) and Tunisia (16 February) on a number of management questions.

Relations with industrialized countries

Quadripartite meeting

2.2.16. On 3 and 4 February a further quadripartite meeting⁷ was held in Miami, Florida. The United States Representative for Trade Negotiations, Mr William Brock, Canada's Minister of State for International Trade, Mr Gerald Regan, Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Mr Hikosaburo Okonogi, and Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission attended.

The discussions concentrated on major topical matters such as worldwide protectionist tendencies and the proposal which the United States and Japan have put forward for a new round of multilateral negotiations.

United States

Council statement on protectionist trends

2.2.17. On 21 February the Council expressed its concern over mounting demands

OJ C 37, 11.2.1984.

² OJ L 321, 17.11.1982; Bull. EC 11-1982, point 2.1.19.

³ OJ L 56, 3.3.1983; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.17.

⁴ Point 2.2.18; OJ L 40, 11.2.1984.

⁵ Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.2.16.

⁶ OJ L 57, 28.2.1984.

Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.2.13.

for protectionist measures in the United States. Its statement read as follows:

'The Council took note with disquiet of the rising tide of protectionist pressures in the United States. Escape-clause petitions have been filed on a range of important products including steel and footwear. Recently anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations have been opened against imports of wine from the European Community. Shortly the US Administration will be deciding on a petition by the US machine tool industry to limit imports. These and other actions cover USD 4700 million worth of European Community exports to the United States.

The Council recognized that on a number of issues the US Administration had taken a firm stand against protectionist pressures. They had opposed domestic content legislation, proposals for a global 15% limitation of steel imports and the Wine Equity Bill.

Nevertheless the picture is still alarming. The Council's view is that the present difficulties in certain sectors of the US economy cannot be resolved by protectionist measures. This is even more striking given the relatively more favourable economic situation in the US than in Europe. Such measures could lead to a dangerous increase in trade restrictions and to a rapid erosion of the open multilateral trading system, which has had the support of the US and Europe for the past four decades and on which the basis of world prosperity has depended.

The Council therefore stresses the crucial importance it attaches to a strict adherence to the commitments entered into at Williamsburg and other meetings "to halt protectionism and, as recovery proceeds, to reverse it by dismantling trade barriers". Here the Community has already given a lead and hopes it will be followed."

US measures concerning special steels

2.2.18. To compensate for the restrictive measures taken by the United States in July 1983 against imports of special steels from the Community¹ the Council, on a proposal from the Commission,² adopted a Regulation on 6 February³ which suspended certain tariff concessions, increased certain customs duties and established quantitative restrictions with regard to certain products originating in the United States.

The Community measures for the first year of application (1 March 1984 to 28 February 1985) are as follows:

(i) a 6.4 point increase in the customs duty on methanol (currently 13.5%) and vinyl acetate (currently 13.2%) and a 6.7 point increase in the duty on signalling devices such as burglar and fire alarms (currently 5%); Community imports of these products from the USA have been worth an annual average of some USD 57 million in recent years;

(ii) quantitative restrictions on imports of the following: styrene (quota of 25.6 million ECU), certain grades of polyethylene (13.6 million ECU), sporting and target shooting guns, rifles and carbines (7.4 million ECU), gymnasium and athletics equipment and snow skis (7.5 million ECU); Community imports of these goods were worth approximately 78 million ECU in 1982; the quotas will place a ceiling of around 54 million ECU on imports of these products from March 1984 to March 1985.

The import quotas in question were allocated among the Member States by the Commission on 27 February.⁴

The measures adopted by the Community were examined at GATT Council meetings on 7 and 28 February (the second a special meeting called at the request of the United States). During bilateral consultations which preceded the second meeting, adjustments and consultation procedures were agreed on to ensure that the countervailing measures taken by the Community are substantially equivalent to the protectionist measures introduced by the United States.

Wine

2.2.19. The Commission reacted sharply to the US Department of Commerce's announcement that it was to open anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations against certain French and Italian table wines.⁶

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.2.38 et seq.

² Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.2.16.

³ OJ L 40, 11.2.1984.

⁴ OJ L 57, 28.2.1984.

⁵ Point 2.2.52.

⁶ Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.2.21.

The following press release was issued:

'The Commission has been informed that the US Department of Commerce has decided to open anti-dumping and countervailing investigations against the import of ordinary table wine from France and Italy. Such investigations will cover over USD 300 million in trade value and could affect the livelihood of at least one million full-time wine-growers in the EEC.

The Commission regrets the acceptance of the petitions since they did not fulfil the conditions set out in the relevant codes of the GATT. In particular, there is no evidence that petitioners were sufficiently representative of the US ordinary table wine industry to bring such a complaint nor was any convincing proof of dumping, nor of injury, submitted by the US industry concerned.

The Commission has already taken steps to let the US Administration know about its concern and will be following the procedures of the Department of Commerce and the US International Trade Commission very closely.

The European Commission will ensure that the interests of the Community are fully safeguarded, and that the provisions and obligations of the GATT codes are fully respected.

The Community wine policy's essential aim is to maintain market equilibrium by withdrawing, through storage and distillation, surplus production from the market in order to stabilize prices and to improve quality. These measures do not have the effect of depressing prices and do not lead to an increase in exports. There are no refunds for wine exported to the American continent.

The Commission believes that a decision to conclude positively on these investigations could lead to a series of escalating anti-dumping and countervailing duties and other protectionist measures in the agricultural sector, with wide-ranging consequences for US-Community trade relations.

In 1983 the EEC exported USD 3700 million worth of agricultural products to the US and imported USD 9500 million from the US, of which USD 5000 million was for soyabean and meal, USD 750 million for maize (corn) and USD 500 million for corn gluten feed.'

Japan

High-level consultations

2.2.20. The 23rd round of high-level consultations between the Community and Japan was held in Tokyo from 13 to 15

February. The Commission delegation pointed to the growing imbalances in Japan's trade with the rest of the world and with the Community in particular, stressing the need for the policy statements made in the Japanese Parliament at the end of 1983 and again in February by the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, to be acted upon. In this regard, the Commission asked the Japanese authorities to consider some requests concerning certification standards and procedures, market access for agricultural and industrial products, improvement of the distribution system, action against counterfeiting and improper use of trade marks, and access to banking and service activities. The discussions also covered macroeconomic and monetary issues (likelihood of a surplus on current account, value of the yen), cooperation in science and technology and industrial cooperation.

Austria

2.2.21. The Austrian Vice-Chancellor, Mr Norbert Steger, paid an official visit to the Commission on 6 February and met Mr Thorn, Mr Haferkamp, Mr Narjes and Mr Dalsager. The main points discussed were the EFTA-Community ministerial meeting scheduled for 9 April, the enlargement of the Community and its consequences for Austria, the Austrian trade deficit (particularly with regard to agricultural products) and transport.

Switzerland

2.2.22. The Commission issued a statement to the press following Switzerland's approval of a proposal to introduce a heavygoods-vehicle tax and a motorway tax from 1985.¹

¹ Point 2.1.150.

Relations with other countries and regions

Mediterranean countries

Cyprus

2.2.23. On 23 and 24 February a delegation of senior Commission officials held talks in Nicosia with the Cypriot authorities in order to explore and clarify a number of technical and economic questions with a view to future negotiations between the Community and Cyprus on setting up a customs union.¹

2.2.24. On 17 February Parliament endorsed² the proposal sent by the Commission to the Council last September for the conclusion of a protocol on financial and technical cooperation between the EEC and Cyprus.³

Yugoslavia

2.2.25. A 66.3 million ECU loan to Yugo-slavia for modernizing the Trans-Yugoslav Railway⁴ used up the remainder of the 200 million ECU in loans from the EIB's own resources provided for under the Financial Protocol which entered into force in July 1980.⁵

Jordan

2.2.26. A delegation of senior Commission officials visited Jordan from 12 to 17 February. The visit was a follow-up to last year's talks in Brussels between Mr Pisani and HRH Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan.⁶

The discussions in Amman centred on the bilateral Cooperation Agreement and ways of further strengthening cooperation in fields such as energy, science and technology, industry, agriculture and manpower.

Mr Thorn is to pay an official visit to Jordan and Egypt early in March.

Israel

2.2.27. The EEC-Israel Cooperation Council held its third meeting in Brussels

on 20 February under the chairmanship of Mr Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister and President of the Council.⁷ The Israeli delegation was led by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. The Commission was represented by Mr Haferkamp.

The Cooperation Council examined various matters relating to the application of the EEC-Israel Agreement, including trade trends and implementation of financial, industrial, agricultural and scientific cooperation. 8 With regard to improvements in trade arrangements, the Community could not give a positive response to Israeli requests, in view of the current discussions on restructuring the common agricultural policy and the comprehensive assessment under way of relations with the Mediterranean countries. However, it proposed various technical measures in the field of trade. With regard to financial cooperation, the Israeli delegation expressed satisfaction at the signing of the second Financial Protocol (40 million ECU from the EIB's own resources), which entered into force on 1 January.9 Its request for an extension of financial cooperation will be examined by the Community in the context of all the financial protocols with the Mediterranean countries.

The Israeli delegation also repeated its concern at the effects which the Community's enlargement will have on Israel's exports of agricultural products. The Cooperation Council agreed on the need for more intensive and specific consultations in the exploratory talks with the Commission, so that the Community would have the necessary information to enable it to establish, before the conclusion of the accession nego-

¹ Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.2.23.

² OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

³ OJ C 255, 23.9.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.2.52; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.2.22.

⁴ Point 2.4.36.

⁵ Bull. EC 4-1980, point 2.2.49.

⁶ Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.2.56.

⁷ Second meeting: Bull. EC 10-1980, point 2.2.52.

⁸ Seventeenth General Report, point 678; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.2.32.

Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.2.41.

tiations, policy guidelines for maintaining mutually satisfactory relations, particularly in the agricultural sphere.

2.2.28. Following the meeting of the Cooperation Council Mr Thorn received Mr Shamir on 21 February. Their talks centred chiefly on matters relating to the enlargement of the Community and the situation in the Middle East.

Asia

Pakistan

2.2.29. The eighth meeting¹ of the EEC-Pakistan Joint Commission set up under the Commercial Cooperation Agreement of 1976² took place in Islamabad on 25 February under the chairmanship of Mr Izharul Haque, Pakistan's Secretary of Commerce.

It expressed satisfaction with the operation of the bilateral textile agreement and noted the diversification of Pakistan's exports under the generalized preferences scheme, in particular the encouraging growth of exports of industrial products.³

The Joint Commission reviewed the Community's aid programme for Pakistan, which is concentrated on financing integrated development programmes in Baluchistan.

2.2.30. On 28 February the Commission requested authorization from the Council to open negotiations with Pakistan with a view to concluding a commercial and economic cooperation agreement.⁴ The current Agreement² was to expire in June 1981 but remained in force by virtue of an automatic extension clause. The new agreement, scheduled like its predecessor to last for a period of five years, would also cover economic cooperation and development cooperation.

Latin America

Ecuador

2.2.31. On 21 February Mr Thorn and Mr Haferkamp received the Ecuadorian For-

eign Minister, Mr Luís Valencia Rodríguez, who had been instructed by the President of Ecuador, Mr Osvaldo Hurtado, to inform the Community and its Member States of the Quito Declaration.

This Declaration, in which the Latin American countries state their view of the world economic crisis and its consequences for Latin America, was adopted in January following a conference in Quito attended by very senior political figures representing 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries. The principal request of the Latin American countries is that the industrialized countries show flexibility as regards the rescheduling of their foreign debt and renounce any protectionist or discriminatory measures in respect of Latin American exports.

Development

Negotiations for a new ACP-EEC convention

2.2.32. The second⁵ ministerial session of the ACP-EEC conference negotiating the renewal of the Lomé Convention took place in Brussels on 9 and 10 February, jointly chaired by Mr Claude Cheysson, President of the Council of the European Communities, and Mr Hugh Shearer (Jamaica), President of the ACP Council. The Commission was represented by Mr Edgard Pisani, Member with special responsibility for development.

The conference was an important milestone in the negotiations. The mood was constructive, and the Community was well satisfied with the outcome. There was a broad measure of consensus between the two sides regarding both the aims of cooperation — including the importance of rural development and food security — and its underly-

¹ Seventh meeting: Bull. EC 4-1983, point 2.2.31.

² OJ L 168, 28.6.1976; Tenth General Report, point 549.

³ OJ L 298, 26.11.1979.

⁴ COM(84) 91 final.

⁵ Bull. EC 10-1983, point 1.2.1 et seq.

ing principles: respect for each party's sovereignty and policy decisions; equal partnership; interdependence — much stressed by the ACP; and the need to have regard to mutual interests.

One major step forward concerned policy dialogue, the approach being advocated by the Community to maximize the effectiveness of ACP-EEC cooperation. The ACP Group's initial reaction was one of suspicion, but the ACP ministers at the conference heard the Community's explanations with interest and will be examining them further.

On human rights, the parties were in agreement about the importance of respect for the dignity of man and the relevance of development in this connection. The ACP went further, however, in asserting the existence of a 'right to development' which should be embodied in the next convention, and the need to link the human rights issue with the situation in southern Africa. The two sides are little nearer substantive agreement, therefore, but the issue remains open.

The ACP raised the question of the amount of money to be made available under the new convention. They do not want to see this point left out of the negotiations until the 11th hour, attaching considerable importance to the actual volume of aid as well as the possible adjustments needed to heighten its efficiency.

2.2.33. The conference heard reports by two ministerial working parties on progress in specific areas of ACP-EEC cooperation. It called on the negotiators to continue the work and lose no time in beginning discussions on points not yet raised, including commodities, Stabex, fisheries and tourism. The reports identified some of the trickier issues, such as the ACP request for preferential access to available Community food surpluses, and the question of ACP students and migrant workers in the Community.

The ACP Group made statements on southern Africa, the International Cocoa Agreement and the sugar protocol, and appealed to the Community for a coordinated

policy to tackle the twin scourges of drought and desertification in Africa.

The conference hoped to see further substantial progress made before its third session, to be held in Fiji from 2 to 4 May.

Commodities and international agreements

Cocoa

2.2.34. At the meeting of the International Cocoa Council in March the Community and its Member States will have to decide along with the other contracting parties whether a conference should be convened in Geneva in May to take over from the Preparatory Committee¹ and negotiate a fourth International Cocoa Agreement. The third Agreement came into force in 1981² and will expire on 30 September this year.

2.2.35. Preparations for the conference started at the end of 1983,³ continuing in London from 23 January to 3 February, when the Preparatory Committee discussed matters such as possible buffer-stock and supply-management mechanisms for a new price stabilization agreement, and operating rules.

On that occasion the producing countries, and also many of the consumers, indicated their preference for an agreement combining the two possible types of stabilization mechanism — stocks and quotas.

2.2.36. In a communication to the Council dated 15 February the Commission asked for authorization to negotiate a fourth International Cocoa Agreement.⁴

After a review of past international arrangements and a look ahead to the prospects for the world cocoa trade, the Commission expressed its preference for an agreement based essentially on an international buffer stock operating within a framework of pri-

Point 2.2.35.

² Fifteenth General Report, point 666.

Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.2.52.

COM(84) 76 final.

ces to be set by the International Cocoa Council. Once the stock approached its financial ceiling, a system of export quotas would come into play, the proposal being that the two mechanisms should operate in such a way as to provide a series of fallback positions from which to combat the destabilizing effects of the production surpluses forecast before the end of the decade.

The Commission stressed that it was necessary to decide soon on the broad outlines of a common Community position.

2.2.37. The Council took note of the Commission communication at its 20-21 February meeting and said it would approve a common position in March to enable the Community to take part in the negotiations.

Coffee

At the meeting of the International Coffee Organization's Executive Board held in London from 13 to 22 February four working parties took a preliminary look at a variety of complex issues, including ways of matching the supply of different types of coffee to demand, rules for redistributing shortfalls among exporting countries during the marketing year, the possibility of a review of the quota for imports from countries which are not parties to the Agreement, and the coordination of exporting countries' production policies. They also discussed the forthcoming inquiry by the Executive Director into sales by exporting member countries to non-member countries at prices considerably undercutting their own domestic prices, a practice which undermines the Agreement and is causing concern to all members. The working parties considered possible countermeasures, to be recommended to the International Cocoa Council in April.

Wheat

2.2.39. On 20 February the Commission sent the Council a proposal for the conclusion of the Protocols 1981 for the sixth extension of the Wheat Trade Convention 1971 and the first extension of the Food Aid

Convention 1980, constituting the International Wheat Agreement.¹

Food aid

Emergency operations

2.2.40. The Commission approved the following emergency food aid operations under Article 927 of the budget:

Tunisia: 4000 tonnes of cereals worth an estimated 628 000 ECU are to go to those hardest hit by the worsening food shortages, particularly in the south and north-west of the country.

Latin America and Caribbean: Emergency food aid is to be sent via NGOs to relieve the shortages caused by bad weather in Haiti (2000 tonnes of cereals), Nicaragua (1000 tonnes of cereals) and Peru (300 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder). The total estimated value of the aid is 1.2 million ECU.

Sahel: As a back-up to the emergency aid for Africa approved in December,² Mali is to get 5 000 tonnes of cereals, Senegal 400 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder and Cape Verde the sum of 600 000 ECU to purchase beans. The total value of the aid, allocated in response to an FAO appeal on behalf of drought-afflicted African countries, is put at 1.7 million ECU.

Emergency aid

2.2.41. Following the damage caused in Mozambique by Cyclone Domoina—tens of thousands of people were left homeless, Maputo's water supplies cut off, and crops destroyed—the Commission decided in February under Article 950 of the budget to provide 500 000 ECU of emergency aid for the supply of essential relief goods. The aid will be channelled through the Commission Delegation in Swaziland, in collaboration with local organizations.

¹ COM(84) 70 final.

² Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.2.54.

2.2.42. At its February part-session Parliament appealed for humanitarian aid to be sent to Vietnam and the Yemen Arab Republic.¹

Trade promotion

Trade fairs

2.2.43. The Salon mondial du tourisme et des voyages took place in Paris from 10 to 19 February, with many popular or potential tourist destinations represented, among them 11 ACP States, whose stands had been mounted by the Commission as part of the regional trade promotion programme.

Trade missions

2.2.44. The Commission arranged a Pakistani trade mission to Europe and a Singapore mission to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Dubai.

Financial and technical cooperation

ACP States and OCT

2.2.45. In February the Commission took decisions involving the allocation of fourth and fifth EDF resources totalling 48 860 000 ECU to finance projects, programmes and emergency aid operations administered by it in the following sectors:

			ECU
Economic and social			
infrastructure	20	500	000
Rural production	2	900	000
Water engineering	1	<i>55</i> 0	000
Transport and communications	17	350	000
Social development	1	800	000
Education and training	3	000	000
Emergency aid	1	760	000
_	48	860	000

Non-associated developing countries

2.2.46. The Commission took decisions to finance the following projects out of the

1983 appropriations for Article 930 of the budget:

Honduras: project to consolidate agrarian reform in the southern region (Choluteca and Valle departments)—an 11 million ECU project cofinanced with Belgium; Community contribution 9 million ECU.

Indonesia: West Pasaman autonomous irrigation scheme—total cost 10.44 million ECU; Community contribution 7.5 million ECU.

Relations with NGOs

2.2.47. At 29 February 177 admissible projects totalling 22.5 million ECU had been submitted to the Commission. To date, grant aid of 3.6 million ECU has been committed for 27 projects.

In addition, 13 campaigns to inform the European public about development issues have been cofinanced at a cost of 60 000 ECU.

Institutions

ACP-EEC institutions

Ioint Committee

2.2.48. With only a few months to go until elections for the European Parliament and negotiations for a new ACP-EEC Convention well under way, the Joint Committee meeting in Brazzaville from 20 to 24 February showed both sides eager to make their influence felt.

The importance of ACP-EEC relations in the development field in the absence of any real North-South Dialogue was commented on in the opening speeches, including that of the general rapporteur Mr Bruno Ferrero, MEP. Mr Ferrero noted that despite Lomé II there had been a deterioration in the ACP

¹ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

States' economic situation. This he ascribed to a variety of causes, some to do with the structure of the Convention itself, including the inadequacy of the available funds—only 0.05% of the Community's GNP—and others reflecting the poor state of the world economy in general and the lack of coordination between the Community development policy and the policies of the Member States.

In the subsequent debate on Mr Ferrero's report the Commission spoke on a number of topics, including desertification, urbanization and the concept of 'food balance', and looked forward to a system based on the mutual interests of the Community and the ACP, which could eventually replace aid proper. Food aid, said the Commission, would remain an important aspect of Community operations for a considerable time to come, but at the same time would be used in such a way as to foster development. The Commission also reported on the progress of the negotiations, including the latest ministerial meeting, 1 at which the emphasis had been on interdependence, policy dialogue and human rights.

The debate on sugar elicited a firm statement of views from the Commission. There having been repeated attempts by some ACP States to bypass the terms of the sugar protocol, it was pointed out that the Community had undertaken not to call the protocol into question, and the suggestion was made that the ACP States might themselves initiate a discussion about its future in the light of the economic developments which had taken place since its conclusion in 1975.

The Commission also suggested that the ACP States should use the arbitration procedure under Article 176 of the Convention if they felt the Community was in breach of its undertakings.

The second major debate was about southern Africa. The Commission repeated the statement it had made at the SADCC meeting in Lusaka on 3 February,² calling on SADCC members to press ahead with the regional integration which would give them genuine economic independence and the

ability to resist economic and military harassment from their southern neighbour.

The Joint Committee adopted nine resolutions, including a general one covering all the major points which had been dealt with during the week-long session.

Accessions

2.2.49. The Council adopted a decision applying the OCT arrangements to St Christopher and Nevis until accession to the ACP-EEC Convention.³

Southern African Development Coordination Conference⁴

2.2.50. SADCC's fourth annual meeting with aid donors was held in Lusaka, Zambia, on 2 and 3 February.⁵ The talks centred on the problems of agriculture in general and food security in the region in particular. The speech made by Mr Pisani confirmed the importance attached by the Community to these talks.

The donor countries and agencies once again voiced their political support for regional integration in southern Africa. The hope was expressed, however, that the numerous SADCC working groups, which cover *inter alia* agriculture, transport and communications, energy, and training, would translate into specific projects and programmes the not inconsiderable sum in terms of financial commitments which had accrued since the Arusha meeting.

Point 2.2.32.

² Point 2.2.50.

³ Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.2.64.

⁴ There are currently nine members of SADCC: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

⁵ Tenth General Report, point 748.

International organizations and conferences

United Nations

Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

2.2.51. The Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments held their 20th meeting in Geneva from 20 to 24 February, their main business being to approve a work programme on the overall economic perspective up to the year 2000. As a preparatory move, three specialized working parties were set up and an invitation to participate was extended to the Commission of the European Communities.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GATT Council

2.2.52. The GATT Council met twice, on 7 and 28 February. The chief issue on the agenda was the measures taken by the Community in accordance with Article XIX of the General Agreement to compensate injury caused by the measure introduced by the United States in July 1983 in respect of imports of special steels. While recognizing that the Community was entitled to suspend concessions in compensation for injury, the United States challenged the amount of the compensation as excessive, basing its case on, among other things, statistical data, the ECU/US dollar conversion rate and the price elasticity of the products concerned.

High-level consultations took place prior to the meeting of 28 February; in these talks the two sides clarified their respective positions, thereby preventing a confrontation within GATT. As a result, the United States no longer sought to have the Council disapprove of the extent of the measures but merely reserved its right to return to the matter if necessary.

The Community made plain its concern at the growing protectionist tendencies in the United States and called on the US Administation to resist such pressures.

Hong Kong stated its dissatisfaction with the implementation by the Community of the panel's recommendations regarding certain quantitative restrictions applied by France.²

The GATT Council failed to reach agreement on the United States proposal for a study on trade in high-technology goods.

Committee on Government Procurement

2.2.53. The Committee on Government Procurement met in Geneva from 31 January to 2 February under its new Chairman, Mr Henrikson of Sweden.³ The main item on the agenda—in addition to discussion of the implementation of the Agreement and the 1982 statistical review—was the renegotiation of the Agreement. The timetable for renegotiation provides for intensive discussion of 'improvements' to the Agreement, on a basis of reciprocity, in the first half of 1984 and for discussions on its 'extension' (i.e. inclusion of additional procurement entities under the Agreement) in the second half of 1984.

2.2.54. A further meeting of the Committee took place on 15 February, when the adoption of the panel report on value-added tax was discussed. The report deals with the question whether value-added taxes have to be included in the calculation of the value of procurement contracts. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for April.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Ministerial conference on employment questions

2.2.55. Employment policy and the labour market must adapt to the introduction of

Points 2.2.12 and 2.2.18.

Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.2.67.

³ Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.2.67.

new technology. This was the message which emerged from the OECD Conference of Minister of Labour and Social Affairs held in Paris from 6 to 8 February under the chairmanship of Mr Pierre Bérégovoy, French Minister of Social Security and National Solidarity, at the end of three days of discussion on employment growth in the context of structural change. The Commission was represented at the conference by Mr Ivor Richard, the Member with special responsibility for social policy.

The two main topics discussed were new technologies and their social implications and the need to strengthen the dialogue between management and labour at European level.

Ministerial conference on economic issues

2.2.56. OECD Ministers of Economic and Financial Affairs met in Paris on 13 and 14 February for a conference on the longer-term performance of OECD economies.

A number of topics were covered: the scale and efficiency of the public sector, budget deficits and national debt, investment and employment, the adaptability of the labour market, international indebtedness, and structural adjustment policies. The problems of the United States deficit, high interest rates and direct or indirect forms of protectionism were also discussed.

Trade Committee

2.2.57. The Trade Committee, meeting on 9 and 10 February, examined the 'rollback' action taken in response to an appeal by the OECD Secretariat for a reversal of protectionist trends.

Only a few countries had so far followed the Community's example and decided to reduce customs duties, a year in advance of the timetable established in the Tokyo Round, on all products covered by their tariffs. Most of the other OECD countries have undertaken to act in similar fashion. It was also agreed to examine possible ways of continuing at a subsequent stage the process of eradicating protectionist measures.

Informal meeting on agricultural questions

2.2.58. A high-level informal meeting on agricultural question was held in Paris on 3 February to examine the situation on the dairy products and cereals markets and possible ways of reducing measures distorting trade.

With regard to dairy products, all the participants acknowledged that the situation had deteriorated compared with the first half of 1983. They considered that no substantial reduction of the imbalance could be obtained by increasing demand and that it was on the supply side that an adjustment should be made.

With regard to cereals, production was expected to reach record levels, though in contrast to the dairy products situation there was scope for increasing demand. However, the production potential continued to be greater than the potential demand.

The participants agreed that market imbalances had reached barely tolerable proportions and that a far-reaching reorganization of certain aspects of agricultural policies was essential. Each country or group of countries was faced with a fundamental choice: if its agricultural policy was based on the principle that farmers were free to utilize all the productive resources at their disposal, this implied that farmers must accept the effects of market mechanisms; if, however, its agricultural policy was based on the principle of guaranteed producer prices, farmers must accept limitations on the volume of production benefiting from such guarantees.

Regional development banks

2.2.59. The sixth annual meeting of the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Econ-

¹ Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.2.8.

omic Development (CGCED) was held from 13 to 17 February at World Bank headquarters in Washington, providing a very useful opportunity to take stock of the economic and political situation in the Caribbean region.

Those present included ministerial representatives from 17 developing countries in the Caribbean, plus the various aid donors; the Commission was represented, as also were four Community Member States (the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom).

2.2.60. The seventh World Bank Kenya Consultative Group meeting was held in Paris on 31 January and 1 February, the Kenya delegation being led by Mr George Saitoti, Minister of Finance and Planning.

The group discussed the current situation of the Kenyan economy and reviewed the progress to date in carrying out the structural adjustment programme.

It was agreed that the Kenyan Government's fifth development plan (1984-88) and public investment programme (December 1983) constituted a useful framework for economic development and investment and that the sectoral allocations generally reflected suitable priorities. However, the participants stressed the overriding importance of the rapid growth in population and the impact this could have on employment and government expenditure.

In order to improve external aid coordination, and hence ensure that it was used more efficiently, the Kenyan Government announced that it would in the very near future initiate a process of periodic meetings with aid donors and aid institutions in Nairobi.

To conclude, it was agreed that an annual sum of USD 520 million for 1984 and 1985 would be needed from external aid sources

to help Kenya implement its development plan and public investment programme.

2.2.61. A meeting of the Uganda Consultative Group was also held in Paris, the Ugandan delegation being led by Mr A.P.N. Waligo, Minister of Housing and Urban Development. The meeting reviewed Uganda's current economic situation and prospects and discussed the government's investment plans for the next two years and its external assistance requirements.

The participants observed that the economic situation had improved following a series of measures supported by external assistance, including an IMF standby arrangement. New commitments of USD 430 million in 1984 and USD 440 million in 1985 would be required, mainly as fast-disbursing aid on concessionary terms.

The meeting noted that incidents threatening law and order continued to occur. The Ugandan delegation reaffirmed the Government's determination to improve security, maintain law and order and protect human rights. The next meeting of the Consultative Group should be held in a year and a half.

Diplomatic relations

2.2.62. The President of the Council and the President of the Commission received HE Mr Claudius C. Thomas, CMG, Head of Mission of Saint Lucia to the European Communities, and HE Mr Ronald Sanders, Head of Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the European Communities, who presented their letters of credence, to take effect on 21 February.

Mr Thomas and Mr Sanders are the first ambassadors of their respective countries to be accredited to the Communities. Their appointment brings the number of diplomatic missions to 127.

3. Financing Community activities

Budgets

General budget

Own resources

2.3.1. In preparation for the European Council on 19 and 20 March and further to its previous communications, on 13 February the Commission sent the Council a communication on budgetary discipline¹ followed on 29 February by one on the future financing of the Community.²

2.3.2. On 13 February the Commission asked the Council³ to resume consideration of its 1979 proposal on the measures to be taken in the event of irregularities affecting own resources and the organization of an information system for the Commission in this field.⁴

Consideration of this proposal was suspended in November 1980 to allow an assessment of existing provisions and those being adapted before new rules were applied. The Commission has found from experience that the existing rules do not allow it to fulfil its obligations to ensure that operations relating to the collection of its own resources are carried out correctly and so wishes the Council to resume work on the proposal.

Financial compensations

1983

2.3.3. At its 20-21 February meeting the Council considered three proposals for Regulations introducing special measures of Community interest relating to transport infrastructure, employment and energy strategy designed to assist the United Kingdom and Germany which the Commission had transmitted in December. It decided to ask Parliament to give its opinion as a matter of urgency so that it could take a final decision on 12-13 March.

Meanwhile, the Commission amended its proposals of 28 February after they had been scrutinized by Parliament's Committee on Budgets.⁶ The main amendments reduced the Community's contribution to projects from 70% to 60% and added the condition that only projects, programmes or measures begun after 1 January 1983 were eligible for finance.

Parliament is expected to give its opinion on these proposals on 12 March so that they can be adopted by the Council at its meeting of 12 and 13 March. Parliament has already stated that, if the Council fails to act upon its opinion, it will ask for the conciliation procedure to be initiated.

Adoption of these regulations would not mean that the 1202 million ECU which Parliament placed in reserve in the general budget pending a decision on Community financing would be automatically unblocked.⁷

2.3.4. In February the Commission also sent the Council and Parliament its sixth report on the implementation of the 1980 Regulation establishing supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom.⁸ The report covers the second half of 1983.

Discharge for 1981

2.3.5. On 17 February Parliament adopted a resolution⁹ on the action taken on its observations accompanying the discharge for 1981,¹⁰ noting that the Commission had agreed to supply information further to its interim report of September 1983.

2.3.6. In response to Parliament's resolution of 16 September 1983 on the cost to the EEC budget and effectiveness of the

Point 1.2.1 et seq.; COM(84) 83 final.

Point 1.2.1 et seq.; COM(84) 140 final.

³ COM(84) 58 final.

⁴ OJ C 88, 4.4.1979; Bull. EC 3-1979, point 2.3.85.

⁵ OJ C 348, 23.12.1983; OJ C 340, 17.12.1983; OJ C 344, 20.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, points 2.1.71, 2.1.194, 2.1.208, 2.3.8 and 2.3.9.

⁶ COM(84) 150 final.

Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.3.8.

⁸ COM(84) 45 final.

Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

¹⁰ OJ L 174, 30.6.1983; OJ C 161, 20.6.1983.

various committees assisting the Commission,¹ on 29 February the Commission sent Parliament and the Council a report on committees and groups of experts.²

2.3.7. On 17 February Parliament adopted resolutions on the budgetary control aspect of the publishing, printing and reprographic sector of the Community institutions and of the acquisition of office supplies and equipment by the institutions.³

Financial operations

ECSC

Loans paid out

2.3.8. Acting under Articles 54 and 56 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission made loans totalling 26.12 million ECU in February for the following purposes:

Subsidized housing

2.3.9. Loans for the building of subsidized housing totalled 1.94 million ECU, of which 1.49 million ECU was for steelworkers and 450 000 ECU for mineworkers.

Conversion loans

2.3.10. Conversion loans (Article 56) totalling 24.18 million ECU were granted to the following undertakings:

Belgium

Province of Luxembourg: Idelux, Arlon, and Magolux, fonderies Mogoteaux, Vaux-sous-Chèvremont (Messancy plant).

Germany

Supra-regional loans for small and mediumsized businesses: Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft AG, Frankfurt; Bayrische Hypotheken- und Wechselbank AG, Munich; Industriekreditbank AG, Düsseldorf; Saarlandische Investitionskreditbank AG, Saarbrücken; Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale, Münster, and Westdeutsche Genossenschafts-Zentralbank, Münster.

4. Institutional and political matters

European political cooperation

2.4.1. Community Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation in Paris on 27 February adopted press communiqués on Lebanon, the war between Iran and Iraq, and southern Africa.

Lebanon

'The Ten:

(i) express concern at the recent events in Lebanon which have been characterized by a renewal of armed confrontation and a struggle between the Lebanese political forces and which threaten to perpetuate the division of the country and the presence of foreign troops in its territory;

- (ii) call on all the parties concerned to reach a lasting and effective ceasefire agreement;
- (iii) hope that the international community will urgently fulfil its responsibilities in regard to peace-keeping, in particular by installing in the Beirut conurbation with the agreement of all the parties concerned a United Nations force which would take up position following the departure of the Multinational Force on the basis of the mandate to be entrusted to it by the Security Council;

¹ OJ C 277, 17.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.4.12.

² COM(84) 93 final.

³ Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

(iv) recall that the re-establishment of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Lebanese State requires Lebanese reconciliation as a precondition and indicate their firm conviction that the process initiated during the Geneva conference should be resumed under conditions corresponding to the aspirations of all the political and religious interests;

 (v) note that this objective involves also the withdrawal of all foreign troops except those whose presence is agreed to by the Lebanese Government;

(vi) consider that the various Lebanese movements should be able to agree on a definition of the external status of their country which takes into account both its position in the Arab world and the desire of its population to no longer be exposed to the consequences of a conflict which has already caused it so much suffering.

The Ten subsequently dealt with the unresolved problems of the Middle East with which the events in Lebanon are closely linked, without prejudice to the discussion of this subject which the European Council could have on 19-20 March.'

Iran-Iraq

2.4.2. 'The Ten have noted with great regret and concern the latest developments in the conflict between Iraq and Iran which are marked by heavy fighting at the front and renewed attacks with rockets, shells and bombs against civilian targets. This situation risks leading to new levels of escalation of the war and a dangerous crisis in the region.

The Ten therefore appeal to both parties to comply with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and to renounce all activities which could lead to an escalation of hostilities or endanger the freedom of navigation in the Gulf. They renew their appeal to search for ways to a peaceful solution which is acceptable and honourable for both sides. They request the Secretary-General of the UN to take up again his mission to find a peaceful, just and lasting solution of the conflict. They are prepared to cooperate actively with the means at their disposal.

At the same time the Ten appeal to the warring parties to observe carefully the international rules and conventions concerning the protection of the civilian populations and the treatment of prisoners of war. They support the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to ease the heavy burden which the war puts on both sides.'

Southern Africa

2.4.3. 'The 10 member countries of the European Community, who have shown for a long time the greatest concern for the situation in southern

Africa, welcome recent initiatives aimed at ending the conflicts in that region.

They note with satisfaction the agreement reached in Lusaka on 16 February 1984 on the strengthening and monitoring of the military disengagement in southern Angola and commend the efforts of all parties concerned to bring about increased security and stability in the region. They also welcome the recent understanding between South Africa and Mozambique.

The Ten urge continued restraint and hope that these developments will contribute to the climate of mutual confidence which will facilitate the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435.

The Ten will call upon all concerned to seize this new opportunity to implement the UN settlement plan without further delay. They continue to support and encourage all parties, as well as the Secretary-General of the UN, in their efforts to reach a just and peaceful solution to the Namibian question and they express their readiness to assist in the development of a free and independent Namibia.'

2.4.4. The Ministers also discussed East-West relations and the situation in Latin America, and Mr Cheysson, the French Minister for External Relations, explained the outcome to the press:

East-West relations

2.4.5. Ministers had noted that their views on East-West relations were broadly in line: the Soviet Union was continuing its traditional policy, and the search for political contact had to be kept up, while the Ten maintained their positions of principle, especially on disarmament. Representation at ministerial level at the opening of the Conference on Disarmament in Europe, which was itself largely due to the efforts of the Ten, was an important sign.

Latin America

2.4.6. The Ten confirmed their support for the initiative of the Contadora Group and hoped to provide assistance in all countries of Central America. The Council recently asked the Commission to look at how relations should be structured.

Ministers reviewed the situation in a number of Central American countries, includ-

ing El Salvador, where elections are to take place shortly, and Nicaragua. They noted with considerable satisfaction that elections in Argentina represented a major step forward. The attentions of the European Council would be drawn to this event and its implications for Latin America as a whole, with a view to a statement being made.

Parliament's resolutions on Chile was noted with interest and sympathy.¹

2.4.7. At its February part-session Parliament adopted resolutions on Afghanistan, the situation in Lebanon, the dramatic situation with regard to the Lebanese Christians, a Middle East peace initiative, and the safeguarding of peace following the advent of the new leadership in the Societ Union.¹

In the field of human rights, it adopted resolutions on Iran, the Banyarwanda refugees in Uganda, the proceedings against Father O'Brien in the Philippines, the expulsion from Chile of the war criminal Walter Rauff and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March).

European policy and relations between the institutions

European policy

European Union

2.4.8. At its February part-session Parliament adopted by a large majority the draft Treaty establishing the European Union.¹

Preparations for the Brussels European Council

2.4.9. In preparation for the European Council on 19 and 20 March, the 10 Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the President of the Commission met on 18 and 19 February at La Celle-Saint-Cloud in France. An im-

pressive number of prepaatory meetings were held in the first fortnight of February—contacts between the Council President and the Commission and the nine Heads of Government of the Member States on the one hand and bilateral meetings between most of the Heads of Government on the other.

The informal discussions at La Celle-Saint-Cloud were held in a constructive atmosphere and an open-minded spirit. It proved possible to pinpoint the outstanding problems of future financing, the correction of budgetary imbalances and reform of the common agricultural policy. As at the Stutgart European Council,² the importance of budgetary discipline was once more emphasized. Assurances on this issue would make a major contribution to a satisfactory decision on Community resources.

On 20 February the Council adopted the procedural arrangements for the remaining preparations for the European Council. The Presidency and all the delegations restated their concern that the March summit should be prepared along the lines laid down in the Treaties. Questions relating to Esprit (the programme was adopted at the end of February³), transport, industry and technical aspects of agricultural problems (milk production threshold mechanisms, savings from the removal of a number of subsidies and aids) would be settled at specialized Council meetings. Only the major isues (future financing and specific aspects of CAP reform) would be left to the Heads of State or Government.

On 23 February the Council re-examined the problem of budgetary discipline on the basis of the latest Commission proposals.⁴ Additional proposals on future financing were also put to the Council at the end of February.⁵

Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

² Bull. EC 6-1983, point 1.5.5.

Point 1.3.1 et seq.

⁴ Point 1.2.2.

⁵ Point 1.2.3.

Greenland

2.4.10. On 20 February, on the basis of a new communication from the Commission concerning the fisheries aspects of future relations between the Community and Greenland, the Council completed its discussion of this problem and adopted its final decisions on Greenland's withdrawal from the Community.¹

At its February part-session Parliament passed a resolution on the future fisheries agreement.²

Institutions and organs of the Communities

Parliament³

Strasbourg: 13 to 17 February

2.4.11. The February part-session was largely dominated by the adoption of the draft Treaty establishing the European Union and by the presentation by Mr Thorn of the Commission's programme for 1984.⁴

On Thursday 16 February the House was addressed, at a formal sitting, by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, who affirmed her full support for European Union having roundly condemned the practice of unanimity voting.

European Union

2.4.12. At the end of a debate in which the arguments voiced by the various groups recalled those heard in September 1983 concerning the resolution on the substance of the preliminary draft of the Treaty,⁵ Parliament passed by a large majority—238 votes to 32 with 34 abstentions—the resolution accompanying the draft Treaty on European Union. The draft itself obtained 237 votes in favour with 31 against and 43 abstentions. Among the 237 affirmative votes were, not surprisingly, all the members of the European People's Party, the Liberal and Democratic Group (except for the Dan-

ish members) and most of the European Democrats who voted. The surprise came from the European Democrats, since 24 of the British members approved the draft, whereas they had abstained in September 1983 on the resolution concerning the preliminary draft,⁶ and also from the Socialist group, where the French members abstained instead of voting against.

The majority of the Socialist Group supported the draft, as did the two members of the EPD Group who voted. With the exception of the Danes, the Independent Group and the non-affiliated members also approved the draft. Besides six Conservatives (ED/UK) and the majority (eight) of the British Labour members (Soc/UK), the 31 opponents fall into two categories: the French (six) and Greek Communists (two) and all the Danish members (eight) from the various groups.

Few amendments were adopted, and they made no fundamental changes to the substance of the original text. They included:

(i) one by the Committee on Institutional Affairs, recalling that European Union had been designated as an objective at the Conference of Heads of State or Government on 20 October 1972 and in the Solemn Declaration of 19 June 1983⁷ and by the Com-

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Point 1.4.1 et seq.; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.4.3.

² Point 2.4.14; OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

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 77, 19.3.1984, and the report of the proceedings is contained in OJ Annex 1-305. The political groups of members are indicated in brackets by the following abbrevations: Soc = Socialists; EPP = European People's Party—Christian Democratic Group; ED = European Democratic Group; COM = Communists and Allies; Lib = Liberals and Democrats; EPD = European Progressive Democrats; Ind = Group for the Technical Coordination and Defence of Independent Group and Members; NA = Non-affiliated. The countries of origin are indicated as follows: B = Belgium, DK = Denmark, D = Federal Republic of Germany, GR = Greece, F = France, IRL = Ireland, I = Italy, L = Luxembourg, NL = Netherlands, UK = United Kingdom.

Point 1.5.1 et seq.
 Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.4.8.

⁶ OJ C 277, 17.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 1.1.1 et seq.

⁷ Bull. EC 6-1983, points 1.5.23 and 1.6.1.

munity institutions and the Treaties establishing the Communities; and

(ii) one by Mrs Simone Veil (*Lib/F*), which deleted the passage affirming that the European Council expressed the Union's identity.

As regards the vital interest of a Member State that could cause the postponement of a vote in the Council, the original text went through unchanged since the House rejected three amendments in turn: one by Mr Yves Galland (Lib/F), which deleted any reference to the transitional period; one by Mr Rudolf Luster (EPP/D), which allowed only one postponement of vote within the Council; one by Mr Doeke Eisma (NA/NL), which would have deleted any mention of vital interest.

Article 82 (on ratification) was a source of some misgivings among the Socialist Group since it stipulated that the Treaty would come into force when it 'has been ratified by a majority of the Member States of the Communities whose population represents two thirds of the total population of the Communities'; this, said Mr Enest Glinne (Soc/B), supported by Sir Fred Catherwood (ED/UK), was liable to leave out on the sidelines any Member States which had not ratified. A compromise was found, in drafting the text of the resolution, that consisted of inviting the European Parliament elected on 17 June to present the draft not only to the national parliaments but also the Governments of the Member States, and to take account of the parliaments' opinions and comments.

During the explanations of vote, Mr Paolo Barbi (EPP/I), Mr Hans Nord (Lib/NL) and Mr Marco Pannella (Ind/I) said they intended to vote for the draft treaty and for the accompanying resolution, as did Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin (Soc/B), who only regretted that the draft had not secured unanimous support within her own group at least. Following her, Mr Ernest Glinne (Soc/B) indicated that a free vote would always be the rule in his group. He regretted that the Treaty stipulated that a majority of States were to decide when it came into

force, leaving the others aside, rather than that this problem be dealt with as part of the negotiations that Parliament would have to conduct with the national parliaments. Mr Gérard Israël (EPD/F), with Mr François-Marie Geromini (EPD/F) the only member of that group to vote, had some doubts about the scope of the text but announced that he would give his vote to the planned Union.

The opponents of the draft Treaty did not mince their words. Mrs Barbara Castle (Soc/UK), followed by Mr Thomas Megahy (Soc/UK), declared that the centre-right majorities were making Europe unhappy and that Parliament was putting the cart before the horse by not first deciding upon economic and social policies. Mr Derek Enright (Soc/UK) announced that he would abstain, for slogans could not substitute for action.

Mr Marco Pannella (Ind/I) told the House that the Italian Parliament had voted in favour of the draft Treaty on European Union and had asked the Italian Government to ratify it.

- 2.4.13. Parliament gave opinions on a number of Commission proposals, including:
- (i) a Regulation on the security to be given to ensure payment of a customs debt;¹
- (ii) a Decision on the comparability of vocational training qualifications between the Member States of the Community;²
- (iii) a Directive on the use of sewage sludge in agriculture;³
- (iv) a Regulation amending the regulation on sparkling wines produced in the Community;⁴
- (v) a Regulation laying down general rules for the description and presentation of sparkling wines and aerated sparkling wines;⁴

¹ OJ C 30, 4.2.1983.

Point 2.1.72.

Point 2.1.91.

⁴ OJ C 120, 5.5.1983.

- (vi) a Regulation amending the Regulation on the common organization of the market in oils and fats;¹
- (vii) a Regulation amending the Regulation on the common organization of the market in cereals;²
- (viii) a Regulation amending the Regulation on the common organization of the market in pigmeat;³
- (ix) a Directive on fuel rationing for commercial transport between Member States;⁴
- (x) a Decision revising the sectoral research and development programme in the field of the environment (environmental protection and climatology)—indirect and concerted action (1981-85);⁵
- (xi) a Regulation on the conclusion of a protocol on financial and technical cooperation between the Community and Cyprus;⁶
- (xii) a Regulation on the apportionment of the quantities of cereals provided for under the Food Aid Convention for the period 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1986;⁷
- 2.4.14. Parliament also passed resolutions concerning:
- the creation of a single European capital market: having agreed in principle with the Commission⁸ on the need for the creation of a single capital market to proceed gradually, Parliament considered that this objective must be attained by the removal of legislative, administrative and unofficial barriers; it therefore urged the Commission to review restrictions applied under safeguard clauses, with a view to their progressive removal, called on the Council to adopt the Commission's proposal for a directive on collective investment undertakings for transferable securities9 and asked the Commission to revise its proposal for a Directive on company taxation¹⁰ with the aim of wider liberalization of capital movement;
- (ii) financial integration in the Community: agreeing with the Commission⁸ on the need gradually to create an integrated capital market to ensure that European savings were mainly channelled into investment in the Community, Parliament was convinced

- of the importance of removing fiscal obstacles which contributed to the compartmentalization of the various national markets¹¹ and urged the Council and the Commission to continue the process of integration of the banking sector and to reduce the compartmentalization of stock exchanges in the Community;
- (iii) investment policy in the Community: noting that the share of gross fixed capital formation in the Community's GDP had decreased considerably by comparison with the 1970s and that the Community was lagging behind Japan and the USA, the House called for the introduction of a system to link existing stock markets¹² and for a lightening of the tax burden on companies;
- (iv) consolidation and completion of the European Monetary System within the framework of the proposals made by the Commission in March 1982:¹³ considering that the EMS had functioned relatively well and its flaws were largely due to its incompleteness, Parliament made several proposals for improving the EMS as regards its mechanisms, convergence, opening up the system to the international monetary market and private use of the ECU;
- (v) the role and functions of the international financial institutions in the present monetary situation: having recalled recent developments in the system established at the Bretton Woods Conference and in particular the growing indebtedness of the Third World, the House made several proposals for debt restructuring and interna-

¹ OJ C 338, 15.12.1983.

² OJ C 301, 8.11.1983.

³ OJ C 319, 29.11.1983.

⁴ Point 2.1.148.

⁵ Point 2.1.162.

⁶ OJ C 255, 23.9.1983.

OJ C 324, 29.11.1983.

⁸ Bull. EC 4-1983, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.8.

⁹ OJ C 171, 26.7.1976.

¹⁰ OJ C 253, 5.11.1975.

¹¹ Bull. EC 4-1983, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.5.

¹² OJ C 287, 9.11.1981; Bull. EC. 10-1981, point 2.3.21.

¹³ Bull. EC 3-1982, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.4.

tional institutions, private-sector lending and better coordination of national economic policies with a view to improving the workings of the whole system;

- (vi) the free movement of persons, goods and services in the Community: the House called on the Member States to liberalize the use of credit cards for the purchase of goods and services throughout the Community; the Commission was urged to draw up proposals for harmonizing provisions on exports of currency for tourist or business purposes within the Community;
- (vii) goods processing at the frontier post on the Brenner Pass: considering the intolerable working conditions imposed on drivers and the substantial financial losses incurred by haulage companies owing to slow customs clearance, the House urged the Commission to ensure that Italy applied the Community legislation and called on the other Member States to ensure that similar delays did not occur at their frontiers;
- (viii) the situation of the iron and steel market: reaffirming the need for complete transparency on this market and urging the Community to take a firm line against protectionism in the United States, the House called for a steel conference to be held as soon as possible;
- (ix) the European petrochemical industry: having appraised developments in the industry, Parliament considered that there was a need for greater specialization by firms and for a halt, for the time being at least, in the spread of mergers;
- (x) the Esprit programme: believing that the Esprit programme was essential to restore the Community's competitiveness in information technology, the House urged the Council to reach a decision on the Commission's proposals at its meeting on 28 February;¹
- (xi) unemployment among women: aware of the special position of women on the labour market, parliament called for concerted action in the Member States to promote women's employment by reducing daily, weekly and annual working time;

- (xii) solidarity and mutual assistance between the Member States in the event of large-scale disasters and the establishment at Community level of a European disaster relief programme: observing that only a few Member States possessed the full panoply of equipment required, the House proposed the pooling and coordination of available resources and asked the Commission to encourage the organization of joint alert exercises;
- (xiii) damage caused by the bad weather in Belgium, particularly the gales and floods last February: in two resolutions the House called on the Commission to grant emergency aid to the afflicted areas;
- (xiv) protection of the monk seal: believing that the extinction of the monk seal must be prevented, Parliament urged the Commission and the Governments of the Member States and other countries concerned to provide effective protection for the last major colonies of monk seals;
- (xv) Greenland fisheries: in view of the importance of the Greenland fisheries sector, Parliament urged that it be developed in the interests of Greenland and the Community and asked the Commission to ensure that the rights of Community fishermen were preserved;
- (xvi) action taken on the decisions granting a discharge for 1981: with the intention of securing action on the observations appearing in its discharge decision, Parliament asked the Commission to take more care to ensure—if the Council failed to act—that the appropriations entered by the House were implemented;
- (xvii) budgetary control aspects of the acquisition and control of office supplies and equipment by the institutions of the European Communities: the House asked the Commission to standardize the form and layout of contract documents as well as the specifications for the main items of office equipment;

¹ Point 1.3.1 et seq.

- (xviii) the budgetary control aspects of the publishing, printing and reprographic sector of the Community institutions: welcoming the positive response of the institutions to Parliament's wish to have fuller interinstitutional cooperation on these activities, the House suggested various improvements concerning agreements with printers, management techniques, technological change and potential improvements in translation;
- (xix) the granting of humanitarian aid to Vietnam: Parliament considered that this aid must be routed exclusively through NGOs, be under the effective supervision of bodies recognized by the Community, and go direct to those in need; resumption of Community aid could not pass for an endorsement of Vietnam's military interference in neighbouring countries or of its policy in violation of human rights.
- 2.4.15. In the field of political cooperation and human rights, Parliament passed the following resolutions:
- (i) the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March): the House proposed that the Member States should organize discussions in all educational establishments and exhibitions on the theme 'living together with our differences';
- (ii) a Middle East peace initiative: referring to its previous resolutions, Parliament called on the Member States to take an immediate initiative to induce all parties concerned, particularly the PLO and the Israeli Government, to negotiate a lasting settlement, possibly within the framework of the UN;
- (iii) the situation in Lebanon: concerned over the fate of the civilian population of the country, Parliament asked the Community to provide as much assistance as possible to the civilian victims of violence;
- (iv) the dramatic situation with regard to the Lebanese Christians: recalling the 'long suffering' of the Lebanese Christians, of whom 1375 had recently been killed, the House called on the Council to inform the Soviet Union, Syria and the Muslim world

- that the Lebanese Christains would not be abandoned;
- (v) the expulsion from Chile and bringing to trial of Walter Rauff: the House called on the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to take steps to induce Chile to expel this Nazi war criminal from its territory to a European country which would guarantee that he was brought to justice;
- (vi) charges against Father O'Brien in the Philippines: Parliament called upon the Philippine authorities to ensure that the accused was given a fair trial;
- (vii) the Banyarwanda refugees in Uganda: Parliament urged the Commission to do everything possible to ensure that the aid intended for these people actually reached them, particularly through NGOs or international organizations, and to help their final resettlement;
- (viii) human rights in Iran: condemning the repressive policy and the torture systematically carried out in Iran, Parliament called on the Member States to facilitate the granting of political refugee certification and status to victims of the repression and asked the Council to use its influence to put an end to this situation;
- (ix) the situation in Afghanistan: distressed by the policy of reprisal conducted systematically by the Soviet Union against villages and the civilian population and concerned by the subversive activities of the KGB both inside and outside Afghanistan, Parliament called on the Soviet Union to negotiate its withdrawal from Afghanistan, congratulated Pakistan on the way it had accommodated the refugees and urged that the Community increase its aid to the refugees and recognize the Afghan resistance movement as a legitimate national liberation force;
- (x) safeguarding peace following the advent of the new leadership in the Soviet Union: noting the continued hegemonistic interference of the USSR in the affairs of neighbouring States, Parliament hoped that the new leadership would have greater respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms to which all nations are entitled.

Council

2.4.16. The Council held six meetings in February. 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.

Table 8 — Council meetings in February 1984

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
906th Brussels 6 February	Economic and financial affairs	Mr Delors	Mr Ortoli Mr Narjes	Future work programme ¹ International economic situation ¹ Special OECD meeting Interest subsidies on certain loans Innovation in small businesses
907th Brussels 6 and 7 February	Agriculture	Mr Rocard	Mr Dalsager	Fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and related measures for 1984/85 ² Adjustments to common agricultural policy ² Agricultural structures ² Sheepmeat and goatmeat Continuation of New Zealand butter imports into United Kingdom under special conditions ² Beef and veal ²
908th Brussels 9 February	Foreign affairs	Mr Cheysson	Mr Pisani	Preparation for ACP-EEC ministerial meeting on 9 and 10 February ³
909th Brussels 20 and 21 February	Foreign affairs	Mr Cheysson	Mr Thorn Mr Ortoli Mr Haferkamp Mr Natali Mr Davignon Mr Tugendhat Mr Burke Mr Narjes	EEC-Israel ⁴ Enlargement: Current state of negotiations ⁵ Spanish accession ⁵ Preparation for European Council ⁶ Special measures of Community interest ⁷ Future relations with Greenland ⁸ US measures to restrict imports: Council statement ⁹ Imports of cereal substitutes New commercial policy instrument ¹⁰ Steel: Greek exports ¹⁰ Steel: external aspects International Cocoa Agreement ³

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
910th Brussels 27 and 28 February	Agriculture	Mr Rocard	Mr Dalsager	Fixing of prices for certain agricul- tural products and related meas- ures, including proposals concern- ing reform of common agricultural policy ²
	1.			Sheepmeat and goatmeat
	'			Structures policy ²
				New Zealand butter ²
911th	Research	Mr Fabius	Mr Davignon	Adoption of Esprit programme ¹¹
Brussels 28 February 1984				First plan for stimulating European scientific and technical cooperation and interchange (1985-1988) — Council's conclusions ¹²
				Biotechnology: Council's conclusions ¹³
				Revision of environment programme ¹²
				Extension of data-processing programme ¹³
				Other research programmes
				Reactor safety

Economic and monetary policy.

Commission

Activities

The Commission devoted a great deal of its time to preparing for the Brussels European Council. It adopted a communication on budgetary discipline and decided to amend its May 1983 proposal on new own resources.1

2.4.18. Mr Thorn presented the Commission's programme for 1984 to Parliament.²

Decisions, communications and proposals

2.4.19. In the social field the Commission sent the Council a draft resolution on unemployment among women in the Community and a report on the education of the children of migrant workers.

The Commission adopted a communication to the Council containing a thorough analy-

Agriculture.

Development. Relations with other countries and regions.

Enlargement and bilateral relations with applicant countries.

European policy and relations between the institutions.

Financing Community activities.

Point 1.4.1 et seq. Relations with industrialized countries.

Commercial policy. Point 1.3.1 et seq.

Research and development.

Internal market and industrial affairs.

Point 1.2.1 et seq.

Point 1.5.1 et seq.

sis of the energy policies of the Member States and estimating to what extent they would be able to achieve the structural changes which the Council adopted in 1980 as a target for the end of the decade.

The Commission adopted a communication on a common air transport policy, containing proposals for a regulation and a directive.

It also adopted a discussion paper on unfair clauses in contracts concluded with consumers. 1

The Commission approved a communication on the general objectives for steel for 1985; developments in the steel industry meant that these were lower than the objectives fixed in 1983. It also adopted the abatement rates on reference products for the various categories of steel for the second quarter of this year and approved the final plan for restructuring the Luxembourg steel industry.

Basing itself on initial results from last year's pilot projects on stimulating the Community's scientific and technical potential, the Commission proposed to the Council a first plan to encourage scientific cooperation and the exchange of research workers between Member States.

Finally, the Commission asked the Council for authority to open negotiations with Pakistan on a commercial and technical cooperation agreement.

Discussions, policy debates and work in hand

2.4.20. The Commission held a wideranging discussion on the green paper on Europe-wide television which it intends to present shortly.

2.4.21. The Commission issued a statement on easing frontier formalities as a result of traffic hold-ups at Community frontiers and, in preparation for the Council meetings on the internal market (8 March) and transport (22 March), will present communications on frontier controls and the general problem of the elimination of bot-

tlenecks and improvements to the Community transport system.

2.4.22. The Commission was pleased to note the decision by the Council to adopt the Esprit programme.²

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2.4.23. On behalf of the Commission, Mr Thorn, Mr Davignon, Mr Ortoli, Mr Tugendhat, Mr Narjes and Mr Andriessen met a delegation from the Union of Industries of the European Communities. The President of UNICE, Mr Carli, expressed his support for the Commission's 'new tone' and its range of proposals designed to restore the competitiveness of European industry. His organization was, however, concerned about both the large number of Community regulations, which were limiting industry's freedom of manœuvre, and certain aspects of competition and social policy.

2.4.24. During preliminary consultations, experts from the European Trade Union Confederation considered reform of the common agricultural policy, regional policy and the use of the Regional Fund; representatives of the Contact Office of Miners' and Metalworkers' Free Trade Unions in the European Communities discussed the energy situation and the market for coal, and representatives of the Committee of Transport Worker's Unions discussed the Commission's communication on progress towards a common inland transport policy³ and its proposal for a Regulation on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road.4

¹ Supplement 1/84 — Bull. EC.

Point 1.3.11.

³ OJ C 154, 13.6.1983; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.128.

⁴ OJ C 179, 6.7.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.221.

Court of Justice¹

Appointment

2.4.25. On 7 February the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States adopted a Decision appointing Mr Marco Darmon Advocate-General to the Court of Justice from 13 February 1984 to 6 October

1988.² Mr Darmon replaces Mrs Simone Rozès for the remainder of her term of office.

² OJ L 40, 11.2.1984.

2.4.25bis. New cases

Case	Subject	Basis
ECSC — Steel		
37/84 and 37/84 R — European Independent Steelworks Association (EISA) v Commission ¹	Decision 3717/83/ECSC of 23.12.1983 (production certificates and accompanying documents) and order suspending its operation	Articles 33 and 39 ECSC
45/84 and 45/84 R — European Independent Steelworks Association (EISA) v Commission ²	Article 15B of Decision 234/84/ECSC of 31.1.1984 (system of monitoring and production quotas for steel) providing for a system of penalties in the event of a significant alteration of deliveries compared with traditional deliveries and order suspending the operation of the Decision	Articles 33 and 39 ECSC
50/84 — Bensider Srl, Roveredo in Piano, and Others v Commission ³	Decision 3717/83/ECSC of 23.12.1983 (production certificates and accompanying documents)	Articles 33 and 39 ECSC
Free movement of goods		
19/84 — Pharmon BV v Hoechst AG ⁴	Is it incompatible with the rules on the free movement of goods within the common market for a proprietor of a patent in Member State A to oppose the putting into circulation in that State of a product protected by that patent, where that product is manufactured in Member State B and sold and supplied direct from there to a purchaser in Member State A by the holder of a compulsory licence under a parallel patent owned by the same patent proprietor in Member State B?	Article 177 EEC
34/84 — Procureur de la République v M. Leclerc, Paris	Is a national law fixing minimum prices for petroleum products contrary to Community law or can it be justified on grounds of public policy?	Article 177 EEC
Customs union		
30/84 — Nicolet Instrument GmbH v HZA Frankfurt/Main Airport	Validity of Decision 80/716/EEC finding that the apparatus described as 'Nicolet-Data Ac- quisition and Processing System, model NIC- 1180' is not a scientific apparatus	Article 177 EEC

¹ For more detailed information, see the material 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).

Case	Subject	Basis
32/84 — Van Gend & Loos v Inspecteur der Invoerrechten en Accijnzen	Interpretation of CCT heading No 62.04 as regards the classification of sails intended for sailboards	Article 177 EEC
40/84 — Casteels PVBA v Commission ³	Annulment of Regulation (EEC) No 3529/83 (classification in the CCT of rotary electric windscreen-wiper motors)	Article 173 EEC
Competition		
42/84 — Remia BV v Commission ⁵	Article 1 of Decision 83/670/EEC on a proceeding under Article 85 of the EEC Treaty (Case IV/30.389 — Nutricia-de Rooij and IV/30.408 — Nutricia-Zuid Hollandse Conservenfabriek)	Article 173 EEC
Agriculture		:
20/84 — 1. NV De Jong Verenigde; and 2. Coöp. Melkprodukten Bedrijven Domo-Bedum GA v Voedselvoorzienings- In- en Verkoopbureau (VIB)	Interpretation of Regulation (EEC) No 232/75 (butter at reduced prices) as regards repayment of the processing security to the first purchaser	Article 177 EEC
33/84 — Fragd SpA v Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato ⁶	Validity of Regulation (EEC) No 1541/80 amending the monetary compensatory amounts in so far as it fixes the MCAs for powdered glucose or dextrose without taking into account the production refund on maize starch	Article 177 EEC
Miscellaneous		
53/84 S. Adams v Commission ⁷	Compensation for the damage suffered by the applicant because of the Commission's actions and/or omissions affecting him following the communication by him of confidential information	Article 178 EEC
Administrative questions		
36/84 — N.E.B. Owen and Others v 1. Commission; and 2. Council ⁸	Application for compensation for the loss suffered by the applicants by reason of the unlawful recruitment procedures applied to them and proceedings for failure to act against the Commission for having omitted to grant them the status of temporary staff of the European Communities	Articles 148 and 188 EAEC and Article 215 EEC
Infringements		
35/84 — Commission v Italy ⁹	Systematic inspections on the importation of curds into Italy — Article 30 of the EEC Treaty	Article 169 EEC
52/84 — Commission v Belgium	Commission Decision of 16 February 1983 concerning aid to a sanitary ware manufacturer	Second subparagraph of Article 93(2) EEC

Disputes between the Community and its staff

v Commission: 43/84³ v Parliament: 38/84

OJ C 72, 13.3.1984. OJ C 74, 15.3.1984. OJ C 79, 20.3.1984. OJ C 80, 21.3.1984. OJ C 56, 29.2.1984. OJ C 55, 27.3.1984. OJ C 65, 6.3.1984. OJ C 61, 3.3.1984.

2.4.26. Judgments

Date and case	Held
ECSC—Steel	
9.2.1984, 284/82 — Acciaierie e Ferriere Busseni SpA v Commission ¹	Application dismissed as inadmissible (annulment of a decision imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas)
14.2.1984, 2/83 — Alfer SpA v Commission ¹	 The amount of the fine imposed on the applicant is reduced Remainder of application dismissed
16.2.1984, 76/83 — Usines Gustave Boel v Commission ¹	Application dismissed (annulment of a decision imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas)
21.2.1984, 140/82 and 146/82 — Walzstahlvereinigung v Commission; and 221/82 and 226/82 — Thyssen AG v Commission	1. Commission Decision 533/82/ECSC of 3 March 1982 amending for the third time Decision 1831/81/ECSC establishing for undertakings in the iron and steel industry a monitoring system and a new system of production quotas in respect of certain products and Commission Decision 1698/82/ECSC adjusting the abatement rates for category V products for the third quarter of 1982 in respect of certain undertakings are annulled 2. The individual decisions addressed by the Commission on 30 March and 20 July 1982 to Thyssen AG concerning the reference production and production quotas for the second and third quarters of 1982 are annulled in so far as they relate to the abatement rates for category V
29.2.1984, 270/82 — Estel NV v Commission	 The amount of the fine imposed on the applicant is reduced Remainder of application dismissed

Date and case	Held
Free movement of goods	
7.2.1984, 238/82 — Duphar BV v The Netherlands State ²	National measures refusing persons insured under a national sickness insurance scheme the right to the provision of specifically named medicinal preparations are compatible with Article 30 of the EEC Treaty if the determination of the excluded medicinal preparations involves no discrimination regarding the origin of the products and is carried out on the basis of objective and verifiable criteria
9.2.1984, 295/82 — Groupement d'intérêt économique Rhône-Alpes Huiles and Others v Syndicat national des fabricants raffineurs d'huile de graissage and Others	According to the objectives of Council Directive 75/439/EEC on the disposal of waste oils and according to the rules of the EEC Treaty on the free movement of goods, it must be possible for waste oils to be supplied, whether by a holder or by an approved collector, to a disposal undertaking in another Member State which has obtained in that State the permit provided for in Article 6 of the Directive
Customs union	
9.2.1984, 7/83 — Ospig Textilgesellschaft KG W. Ahlers v HZA Bremen-Ost ²	Quota charges relating to the acquisition of export quotas do not form part of the customs value of goods imported into the Community for the purposes of the provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1224/80 on the valuation of goods for customs purposes, as amended by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3193/80
9.2.1984, 60/83 — Metro International KG v Oberfinanzdirektion München ²	A product consisting of several parts. including a desk calculator, sold as a cash register cannot be regarded as a functional unit and must be classified under CCT subheading 84.52 A (electronic calculating machines)
16.2.1984, 46/83 — Gerlach BV v Inspecteur der Invoerrechten en Accijnzen ¹	Classification in the CCT of a completely hydrogenated animal oil
23.2.1984, 93/83 — Zentralgenossenschaft des Fleischergewerbes eG (Zentrag) v HZA Bochum	1. Commission Regulation (EEC) No 964/71 does not have the effect of preventing processing of meat subsequent to slaughter from conferring on the meat the origin of the country where the processing took place
	2. Article 5 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 802/68 must be interpreted as meaning that boning, removing sinews and fat, cutting into pieces and vacuum-packing meat of beef quarters does not confer on it the origin of the country where the processing took place

Date and case	Held
Freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services	
9.2.1984, 344/82 — Gambetta Auto SA v Bureau central français and Fonds de garantie automobile ¹	Where a vehicle bears a properly issued registration plate, that vehicle must be regarded as being normally based, within the meaning of Council Directive 72/166/EEC, in the territory of the State in which it is registered, even if at the relevant time the authorization to use the vehicle had been withdrawn
9.2.1984, 64/83 — Bureau central français v Fonds de garantie automobile and Others ²	Pursuant to Council Directive 72/166/EEC on motor insurance, the national bureau of the Member State in which the claim arose guarantees the settlement of claims, within the limits and in accordance with the provisions of its own national law, whether or not the driver is insured
	Within the meaning of the same Directive, a vehicle must be regarded as being normally based in the Member State in which it was registered, even if at the relevant time the authorization to use the vehicle had been withdrawn
Taxation	
14.2.1984, 278/82 — Rewe v HZA Flensburg and Others ¹	In this important judgment, the Court interpreted Directive 69/169/EEC as meaning that, in the context of intra-Community traffic, goods in travellers' personal luggage which have been purchased in the duty-free shops of ferry-boats qualify, on importation, for the limited exemptions from turnover tax and excise duties granted to travellers coming from a non-member country
22.2.1984, 70/83 — Gerda Kloppenburg v Finanzamt Leer	Confirmation of previous decisions of the Court (Case 8/81 U. Becker v Finanzamt Münster and Case 255/81 Grendel GMbH v Finanzamt für Körperschaften in Hamburg)
	In the absence of implementation of the Sixth Council VAT Directive (77/388/EEC) a credit negotiator could rely on the provision concerning exemption from the tax contained in Article 13 B(d) 1 thereof in respect of transactions carried out during the first half of 1978 where he had refrained from passing that tax on to persons following him in the chain of supply
28.2.1984, 294/82 — Senta Einberger v HZA Freiburg	Article 2 of the Sixth VAT Directive must be interpreted as meaning that no import turnover tax debt arises upon the unlawful importation into the Community of drugs which are not part of the economic circuit

Date and case	Held
Competition	
21.2.1984, 86/82 — Hasselblad (GB) Limited v Commission	1. The Commission's Decision is void in so far as it finds that Clause 6 of the dealer agreement constitutes an infringement of Article 85 (1) of the EEC Treaty as regards the period between 1974 and 1 January 1979 2. The fine imposed on the applicant is reduced 3. Remainder of application dismissed
28.2.1984, 228/82 and 229/82 — Ford of Europe Inc. and Ford Werke AG v Commission	Commission Decision 82/628/EEC of 18 August 1982 relating to a proceeding under Article 85 of the EEC Treaty (IV/30696 — distribution system of Ford Werke AG — Interim measure) is void
Social security for migrant workers	
2.2.1984, 285/82 — W.J. Derks v Bestuur van de Nieuwe Algemene Bedrijfsvereniging ²	The judgment confirms that for the purposes of Article 46 of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 account must be taken of periods of insurance completed under the legislation of a Member State, even where that legislation was no longer in force at the time of entry into force of the Regulation
Agriculture	
7.2.1984, 237/82 — Jongeneel Kaas BV and Others v 1. The Netherlands State; and 2. Stichting Centraal Orgaan Zuivelcontrole ²	Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 must be interpreted as meaning that in the absence of Community rules a Member State may unilaterally adopt, with the purpose of promoting sales of cheese and cheese products, rules concerning the quality of cheeses produced on its territory, including a ban on producing cheeses other than those exhaustively listed. These measures, since they do not apply to imported products, are also compatible with Articles 30 and 34 of the EEC Treaty
21.2.1984, 337/82 — St Nikolaus Brennerei v HZA Krefeld	The validity of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 851/76 cannot be challenged in so far as that Regulation is based on Article 46 of the EEC Treaty, which may be applied after the expiry of the transitional period to products which are not yet subject to a common organization of the market
29.2.1984, 77/83 — Cilfit Srl and Others v Ministero della Sanità	The phrase 'ex 0.5.15 B Animal products not elsewhere specified or included' set out in the Annex to Council Regulation (EEC) No 827/68 does not include wool
29.2.1984, 37/83 — Rewe-Zentrale AG v Director of the Chamber of Agriculture for the Rhineland	Examination of the final and penultimate sentences of Article 11(3) of Council Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plants or plant products has failed to disclose any factor of such a kind as to call into question the validity of those provisions

Date and case	Held
Fisheries	
14.2.1984, 24/83 — Mehlich and Gewiese v Colin Scott Mackenzie ¹	No fresh consultation of the Commission is required in the case of the re-enactement, without substantive amendment, of a national measure for the conservation of fishery resources which was previously adopted in conformity with the procedural and substantive conditions laid down by Community law
Commercial policy	
1.2.1984, 1/84 R — Ilford SpA v Commission	Implementation of the Commission Decision of 20 October 1983 authorizing the Italian Republic not to apply Community treatment to colour films originating in Japan in free circulation in the Member States is suspended in relation to the application for import documents submitted by Ilford before the date of the decision in question, to the extent needed to ensure their normal supply
21.2.1984, 239/82 and 275/82 — 1. Allied Corporation; 2. Michel Levy-Morelle in his capacity as liquidator of Demufert SA; 3. Transcontinental Fertilizer Company; and 4. Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation v Commission	The applications are dismissed as inadmissible in relation to applicant 2 and as unfounded in relation to applicants 1, 3 and 4 (annulment of Commission Regulations (EEC) Nos 1976/82 and 2302/82 and claim for damages)
Infringements	•
7.2.1984, 166/82 — Commission v Italy ²	The Italian Republic, by adopting and maintaining in force Act No 306 of 8 July 1975, has failed to fulfil its obligations under Council Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 (fixing the producer price of milk)
14.2.1984, 325/82 — Commission v Federal Republic of Germany ¹	By granting exemptions from turnover tax and excise duties on the importation, in travellers' personal luggage, of goods acquired tax-free on board cruise-ships which enter into the customs territory on the Community by the maritime frontier and which have not made a real call at the port of a Member State or of a non-member country, the Federal Republic of Germany has failed to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty
21.2.1984, 202/82 — Commission v France	Application dismissed (importation into France of Italian pasta products)
28.2.1984, 247/81 — Commission v Federal Republic of Germany	By reserving the marketing of medicines to such pharmaceutical undertakings as have their head-quarters within the area of application of the Medicines Act, the Federal Republic of Germany has failed to fulful its obligations under Article 30 et seq. of the EEC Treaty

Disputes between the Community and its staff

v Commission:

9.2.1984, 39/83² — Application dismissed

v Council:

19.1.1984, 65/83 — The decision not to grant the applicant a household allowance is annulled 19.1.1984, 260/80 — Application dismissed

v Parliament:

19.1.1984, 262/80 — Applications dismissed

v Court of Auditors:

9.2.1984, 316/82 & 40/831 — Applications dismissed

Orders for removal from the Court register

15.12.1983, 31/83 — M. Rosani and Others v Council 14.12.1983, 146/83 — M. Maxwell v Court of Justice

Economic and Social Committee

215th plenary session

2.4.27. The Economic and Social Committee held its 215th plenary session in Brussels on 29 February and 1 March with Mr Ceyrac in the chair.

The session was almost entirely devoted to agricultural matters and was attended by Mr Poul Dalsager, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for this sector.

2.4.28. The traffic jams caused by French lorry drivers at the Brenner Pass and other border crossings led the Committee to appeal to Europe to accept its responsibilities and take steps to create a genuine internal market. The Committee referred to the views it had already expressed on this subject, notably in February 1983, making the point that the removal of technical barriers and legal and administrative obstacles to trade are a truly vital element of a European strategy aimed at urgently relaunching the Community both economically and socially.

Opinions

Agricultural prices and related measures

2.4.29. A large majority of the Committee (70 votes to 21 with 19 abstentions) came out in favour of a moderate price increase varying from product to product in order to create a price range which would act as an incentive for products in deficit and a disincentive for those in surplus. The opinion recommends direct support measures for the incomes of small farmers in areas with high inflation.

The Committee amended the opinion from its Section for Agriculture, adopting a more differentiated formula than either of the two options offered, which were: acceptance of the average increases proposed or slightly higher average increases for products whose production is or will be limited and for those for which there are no disposal prob-

¹ OJ C 80, 21.3.1984. ² OJ C 79, 20.3.1984.

¹ Point 2.1.8.

² Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.4.30.

lems. The Committee also rejected the suggested price ratio of 1.6:1 between olive oil and oil from oilseeds.

Mr Dalsager opened the debate on agricultural prices with a statement setting the proposals against the broad context of efforts being made to streamline the operation of the common agricultural policy. The proposals could be broken down into three main themes: control of production, unity of the market, and a consistent policy towards non-member countries. They had to satisfy two constraints:

- (i) a social constraint, since it is impossible to control production through price policy alone, though price policy can provide producers with useful guidance;
- (ii) a budget constraint, since the Commission had no further room for manœuvre under the existing own-resources arrangements.

Replying to members of the Committee, Mr Dalsager explained that the Commission had been forced to reduce milk production because alternative measures had not been taken in time. He stressed the need to bring production down to 97.2 million tonnes and pointed out that each million tonnes of surplus was costing the budget 275 million ECU. With regard to the structural difficulties of the Mediterranean regions, Mr Dalsager reiterated that these could not be settled by acting on prices alone (though these products' share of EAGGF Guarantee Section expenditure rose from 8% to 24% between 1978 and 1983). This was why the Commission had proposed specific measures for these regions, the integrated Mediterranean programmes, in March.1

As is usually the case for agricultural matters, Committee member's opinions varied according to northern or southern geographical origin rather than along the normal group lines. In a lively debate marked by a large number of speeches a whole range of general criticisms were advanced, attacking changes to the 'social pact' (liberalization of the industrial market in return for support of agricultural incomes) on which the CAP had been founded, privileges granted

to some products in preference to those from less-favoured regions, treating small producers and large farms on the same footing, the defects and shortcomings of structural policy, the disparity between prices paid to producers and those demanded of consumers, etc.

With regard to the price proposals, which some found unacceptable and others felt were not harsh enough, a number of Committee members expressed the desire not that more should be spent but that spending should be more rational. They asked for clear aims to be established which took account of farmers' incomes and for medium-term planning to be instituted to enable farmers to direct their production. In general terms the Committee asked for more emphasis to be laid on the social aspects of agriculture without coming to any conclusions as to how these should be financed.

Other agricultural proposals

- 2.4.30. The Committee adopted eight other opinions on proposals made by the Commission over the last few months:
- (i) Dismantling monetary compensatory amounts.² The Committee approved the Commission's proposal by 60 votes to 12 with 9 abstentions, while recognizing the need to provide fair compensation for the repercussions which dismantling would have on the incomes of farmers in countries with positive MCAs.
- (ii) Amendments to the socio-structural Directives.³ While endorsing the Commission's proposal, the Committee felt that structures policy should be given more importance in relation to policies on markets and prices. It regretted that the Directive on encouraging older farmers to cease activity had not been renewed.

Bull. EC 3-1983, points 2.1.121 and 3.4.1 to 3.4.3.

² OJ C 299, 5.11.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, points 2.1.102 to 2.1.106.

³ OJ C 347, 22.12.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, points 1.2.1. to 1.2.10.

- (iii) Tax on oils and fats. Following on from the debate held in October 1983, the Committee rejected by a small majority the proposal for a tax, because this would raise prices of vegetable oils and fats for consumers and would be likely to have repercussions on trade with non-member countries, in particular the United States. The farmer's representatives voted against the opinion and issued a minority statement.
- (ii) Proposals on the consumption of milk and milk products.3 The Committee approved nem. con. with 8 abstentions the aids for consumption section of the Commission proposals (aid towards the use of butter, for concentrated skimmed milk, disposal of butter at reduced prices for direct consumption, fat content of milk), but requested that a careful analysis should be made of the cost of each measure and that a system of checks should be set up to prevent fraudulent use of these products. The opinion on milk sector production, which represents the other side of the Commission's proposals, was referred back to the Section for Agriculture. An amendment calling for reference quantities for products bought in rather than for production in general will be examined by the Section.
- (v) Proposals on cereals.⁴ A very large majority of the Committee was in favour of the policy to improve the quality of bread wheat varieties but expressed surprise that the approach advocated was that of acting on prices. It considered the aim of bringing Community cereals prices closer to those of its main competitors unrealistic, since it felt that this took no account of differences in production factors, competitiveness or trade policy and recommended that all GATT contracting parties should observe their multilateral trade agreements more strictly.
- (vi) Amendment of the basic wine regulation.⁵ By a very large majority the Committee approved the Commission's proposal to control wine production and improve quality. It endorsed the new requirement on minimum natural alcohol content, provided that the rule was observed in all parts of

- the Community, both north and south. It could not, however, see any good reason for discontinuing three-month private storage.
- (vii) Proposal on oils and fats.⁶ The Committee regarded the proposal to introduce a guarantee threshold for sunflower oil as unrealistic since the Community was a net importer of this product.
- (viii) Proposals on fruit and vegetables.⁷ The Committee weighed up the impact the proposed amendments would have, generally slight for the Community as a whole but often significant at regional level. It was concerned that expenditure should be strictly controlled and a consistent policy implemented to prevent distortions in production and competition between final products, and that processing aid should be maintained both to help the Community economy and to ensure the smooth operation of quota-free import arrangements for products from non-member countries.

Opinions adopted without discussion

- 2.4.31. The Committee also adopted, without discussion, opinions on the following:
- (i) an amendment to the Regulation on the application of the nomenclature of the CCT;8
- (ii) a fourth amendment to the Directive on tax reliefs on the importation of goods in small consignments of a non-commercial character;⁹
- (iii) a proposal for a Recommendation to national railway undertakings on technical matters concerning operation and internal barriers to the crossing of frontiers;¹⁰

OJ C 289, 25.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.95.

OJ C 358, 31.12.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.4.44.

³ OJ C 314, 19.11.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.84.

⁴ OJ C 298, 4.11.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.110.

OJ C 312, 17.11.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.122.

⁶ OJ C 301, 8.11.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.110.

OJ C 301, 8.11.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.111.

B OJ C 317, 23.11.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.40.

⁹ OJ C 3, 6.1.1984; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.58.

- (iv) an amendment to the Decision on general measures in the field of data processing;¹
- (v) a proposal for a Decision adopting a concerted-action project on the use of lignocellulose-containing by-products and other plant residues for animal feeding.²

European Investment Bank

Operations in January and February

2.4.32. In January and February the European Investment Bank announced loans for investments within the Community totalling 609.4 million ECU.³ The breakdown was as follows: 383 million ECU for investments in Italy, 201.7 million in the United Kingdom and 24.7 million in Ireland. In this total 113.6 million ECU was provided from the resources of the new Community borrowing and lending instrument (NCI).⁴ Outside the Community the Bank lent 106.3 million ECU to two Mediterranean countries (Yugoslavia and Egypt).

Community

Italy

2.4.33. LIT 525 000 million was lent in Italy, including 120 000 million from NCI resources, mainly (LIT 290 000 million) for the improvement of energy supply in accordance with Community objectives. LIT 115 000 million went to industrial investment in the Mezzogiorno and high-technology projects and LIT 120 000 million was granted from NCI resources to provide financing for investment by small and medium-sized industrial enterprises in central and northern Italy.

Energy: Loans for LIT 110 000 million were granted to ENEL (Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica): LIT 40 000 million towards the construction of a pumped storage power station in Presenzano, Campania, of 1 000 MW installed capacity, LIT 30 000 million for a nuclear power station

at Montalto di Castro, Lazio, of 1906 MW installed capacity, LIT 30000 million towards the development of a computerized system to coordinate national production and transmission facilities more efficiently and thus allow for appreciable energy saving and contribute to greater supply security and, finally, LIT 10000 million to erect more than 1000 km of high-tension cable (two north-south links and one east-west link) and build substations.

LIT 55 000 million was lent for natural gas distribution: LIT 40 000 million to Italgas Sud for setting up 13 new distribution networks in Apulia, Calabria and Lazio and LIT 15 000 million to Metano Città to build five networks in Campania, Lazio and Apulia and extend twelve others in Abruzzi, south Lazio and Apulia.

Finally, the EIB lent LIT 125 000 million for investments in the rational utilization of energy: a global loan (credit line) of LIT 100 000 million to IMI-Istituto Mobiliare Italiano for onlending for small and medium-scale investment in industry and infrastructure in north and central Italy to reduce energy consumption and replace oil by other fuels. Another global loan (LIT 25 000 million (granted to Mediocredito Centrale will be onlent by the regional Mediocrediti for the same type of investment in manufacturing industry, hotels and services, again in central and northern Italy.

Industry: A loan of LIT 87 200 million to Aeritalia will go towards construction of the ATR 42 aircraft in the province of Naples. This was granted through IMI, Banco di Napoli and Interbanca. The ATR 42, a short-haul 40-50 seat aircraft built in collaboration with the French company Aérospatiale, is the outcome of the latest technological research and findings in aeronautics,

OJ C 334, 10.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.26.

OJ C 320, 26.11.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.182.

³ The conversion rates at 30 December 1983 used by the EIB in statistics for the first quarter of 1984 were 1 ECU = BFR 46.10, DKR 8.18, DM 2.26, DR 81.78, FF 6.90, HFL 2.54, IRL 0.73, LIT 1372, LFR 46.10, UKL 0.57, USD 0.83.

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

especially as regards the engine and electronic equipment.

LIT 25 000 million was granted for the rationalization of an electronic components plant at Sestri, Liguria. The investment involves the development of software to improve the flexibility and adaptability of hardware in microprocessor applications, both for products and the manufacturing process; the procurement of additional equipment to raise production capacity and to strengthen the research laboratories in order to introduce more innovative products; the build-up of research in advanced-technology areas, such as automated factories, electronic mail techniques and third-generation robots.

Finally, LIT 2500 million was granted to Italjolly to finance improvements in hotels at Avellino, Caserta, Catania, Palermo and Siracusa.

Small business: LIT 120 000 million was lent to finance productive investments in small and medium-sized firms in northern and central Italy in the form of three global loans (LIT 70000 million to IMI, LIT 30 000 million to Interbanca and LIT 20 000 million to Efibanca) which will be going to ventures in Piedmont, Val d'Aosta, Liguria, Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna, in a number of provinces in Veneto and Tuscany and in Greater Rome. The European Council has frequently emphasized the importance of productive investment in the Community and of increasing the Community's lending with the aim of promoting the creation of jobs and deploying more advanced technology to help companies keep abreast of competition.

United Kingdom

2.4.34. UKL 115 million was lent, including UKL 70 million to the Electricity Council for onlending to the Central Electricity Generating Board for laying high-voltage submarine power lines to link the British and French power grids. The total nominal capacity of the connection will be 2000 MW. The project will be carried out in

conjunction with Electricité de France and is due for completion at the end of 1986.

The investment, estimated at over 1000 million ECU, involves the laying of 8 cables over 69 km (of which 45 km submarine cable in four 1.50-metre-deep trenches) between Bonningues, 8 km from Calais, and Sellindge, 24 km from Dover. The project also includes construction of two converter stations, control centres and various ancillary installations. The scheme will provide a reliable, efficient link between the two grids and connect the British power network with the whole of the West European system, enabling the two grids to enjoy greater operating flexibility and enhance their security of supply. This loan puts the total amount lent by the EIB, both from its own and NCI resources, for this crosschannel power link to 278 million ECU (UKL 120 million to the CEGB and FF 500 million to EDF).

UKL 46 million was lent for various infrastructure projects:

UKL 14 million to the North-West Water Authority for sewerage and sewage disposal/treatment schemes in the Merseyside area to clean up the Mersey, reduce the level of pollution in the Mersey Estuary and improve the disposal of sewage sludge in the area. The project also benefits from European Regional Development Fund aid. UKL 5 million was lent to Merseyside County Council for road upgrading works in the Liverpool area, improvements to Liverpool Airport and Garston Bus Station, construction of a new ferry landing stage and terminal at Woodside, and development of a new waste disposal site at Southport. UKL 5 million was also lent to the West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council towards extension of the main runway and associated improvements at Leeds-Bradford Airport, in particular a 600-metre extension of the main runway, extension of the aprons, car parks and freight area development, improved instrument landing and airfield lighting systems. The improved communications should be a spur to devel-

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opment in the Yorkshire and Humberside region.

In Wales, a UKL 2 million loan was made to Dyfed County Council to help finance construction of a 5.5-km road linking Llanelli with the M4 motorway at Hendy to relieve congestion on the existing road to the East (and London) and to bring about environmental benefits in urban areas, which lorries will no longer pass through.

Finally, the EIB entered into cooperation with Cipfa Services Ltd, a financial services company set up by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, London, providing an initial global loan of UKL 10 million to finance small and mediumsized infrastructure projects carried out by local authorities, mainly in the fields of transport, water, sewerage and sewage treatment, as well as the construction and improvement of industrial estates within designated assisted areas. The funds may also be used elsewhere for communications works with a Community interest (e.g. improvements to an airport or port).

As regards small and medium-sized investment in industry, tourism and related services, UKL 9 million was granted in the form of global loans: UKL 6 million to the Royal Bank of Scotland Group and UKL 3 million to the Bank of Scotland.

The UKL 6 million will enable the Royal Bank of Scotland and Williams & Glyn's Bank to make a series of subloans, each between UKL 12000 and UKL 250000: UKL 2 million is drawn from the EIB's own resources for investment in assisted areas and UKL 4 million is made available from NCI resources for ventures outside the assisted areas.

The UKL 3 million will be onlent by the Bank of Scotland, principally in Scotland, but also in those areas of England where the Bank of Scotland operates. UKL 1 million from the resources of the EIB will be used for investment in assisted areas, UKL 2 million for ventures outside the assisted areas.

The EIB has for some time sought to develop loan facilities for small ventures in

assisted areas in the United Kingdom. The use of NCI funds has made Community finance available for such investments, irrespective of their location.

Ireland

2.4.35. IRL 18 million was lent for industrial training and road projects:

IRL 7 million was granted for the extension of the National Institute for Higher Education in Limerick, in the form of new buildings and equipment for classrooms, workshops and laboratories to double the Institute's capacity for students to 3000. The Institute provides a range of studies tailored specifically to the needs of business and industry and in particular to keep pace with the latest developments in technical progress.

A loan totalling IRL 11 million from NCI resources was made for improvements to major trunk roads. The improvement schemes — including major works near Dublin, Kilkenny, Swords, Waterford and various other sites throughout Ireland — involve the upgrading of 40 km of existing roads, and building of about 16 km of new roads and 8 bridges. The works, expected to cost about IRL 44 million, have already been supported by an EIB loan of IRL 11 million in 1983 and by European Regional Development Fund grants.

Outside the Community

2.4.36. In Yugoslavia the EIB lent 66.3 million ECU for modernizing the Trans-Yugoslav Railway, the most direct rail link between Greece and the other Member States and thus between the Community, Turkey and the Middle East. The project will mean considerable economic benefits for both Yugoslavia and the Community. The funds have been made available to the Railway Transport Organizations in the Republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The capital cost of the project is put at 152.6 million ECU. Scheduled for

completion by 1986, it forms part of a wider 1700 million ECU programme supported by the World Bank and centred on modernizing the entire Yugoslav rail network.

The EIB's loan is to be given over to renovating some 180 km of permanent way, installing an automatic block system on 134 km of line, electrifying more than 200 km of line to complete electrification of the entire Trans-Yugoslav Railway, doubling 27 km of track, introducing new signalling and telecommunications equipment and developing the operations control system to improve the capacity and the conditions of rolling stock movements.

The Trans-Yugoslav Railway covers a distance of 1350 km. Modernization works and other improvements will help to eliminate bottlenecks. Traffic over the line has been increasing steadily for a number of years, with freight movements (approximately 10 million tonnes a year) accounting for almost 50% of overall traffic, mainly for Community trade. On the passenger traffic side, some 1.2 million travellers use the line each year for journeys between Yugoslavia and the Community.

This loan commits the last of the 200 million ECU provided for under the EEC-Yugo-slavia Financial Protocol which came into force in July 1980.

2.4.37. In Egypt the EIB granted 40 million ECU for connecting up Shoubrah El Kheima power station to the national electricity grid. The loan was granted under the second EEC-Egypt Financial Protocol to the Egyptian Electricity Authority, a public agency responsible for electricity generation throughout the country. It bears a 3% interest subsidy funded from the Community budget.

The project, costed at some 184 million ECU, covers more than 150 km of power lines, substations and ancillary equipment. In 1979 the EIB advanced 25 million ECU for constructing three 300 MW units at this power station, which will be fired chiefly with local natural gas. Commissioning of the plant in 1986 will provide optimum conditions for handling the upturn in electricity demand from both industrial and domestic consumers. The African Development Bank, the Canadian International Development Association, France and various other lenders are also financing the scheme.

PART THREE DOCUMENTATION

ECU

Values in national currencies of one ECU

29 February 1984 ¹	
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc (convertible)	45.9072
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc (financial)	47.7720
German mark	2.24126
Dutch guilder	2.53164
Pound sterling	0.577739
Danish krone	8.22298
French franc	6.90188
Italian lira	1 393.58
Irish pound	0.729127
Greek drachma	86.8629
United States dollar	0.860369
Swiss franc	1.86442
Spanish peseta	128.711
Swedish krona	6.69798
Norwegian krone	6.46267
Canadian dollar	1.07701
Portuguese escudo	112.923
Austrian schilling	15.8136
Finnish mark	4.84431
Japanese yen	200.862
Australian dollar	0.911891
New Zealand dollar	1.29146
¹ OJ C 59, 1.3.1984.	

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

February	1984
National currency	Value in national currency of one ECU
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc	44.9008
Danish krone	8.23400
German mark	2.65660 ¹ 2.52875 ² 2.54273 ³ 2.51457 ⁵
Greek drachma	71.5619 ¹ 77.2479 ⁵
French franc	6.19564 ¹ 6.55400 ³ 6.77297 ⁴ 6.49211 ⁵
Irish pound	0.725690
Italian lira	1 341.00
Dutch guilder	2.81318 ¹ 2.72149 ² 2.73327 ³ 2.70981 ⁵
Pound sterling	0.618655

For seeds.
For cereals.
For milk and milk products.
For pigmeat and wine.
For other products.

2. Additional references in the Official Journal

3.2.1. This section lists the titles of legal instruments and notices of Community institutions or organs which have appeared in the Official Journal since the last Bulletin was published but relating to items appearing in earlier issues of the Bulletin; the references were not available when the Bulletin went to press.

The number of the Bulletin and the point to which this additional information refers is followed by the title shown on the cover of the Official Journal, the number of the issue and the date of publication.

Bull, EC 6-1983

Point 2.4.33

Special report of the Court of Auditors on aid to skimmed milk processed into casein and caseinates OJ C 41, 15.2.1984

Bull. EC 7/8-1983

Point 2.1.175

Proposal for a Council regulation on financial support for a multiannual transport infrastructure programme

OIC 36, 10.2.1984

Bull. EC 9-1983

Point 2.1.60

Grants from the European Regional Development Fund for 1983 (third allocation)

OJ C 30, 60.2.1984

Bull. EC 10-1983

Point 2.1.49

Commission Decision of 14 October 1983 on the aid that the United Kingdom Government proposes to grant for an investment to expand production capacity for polypropylene film

OIL 51, 22.2.1984

Bull. EC 12-1983

Points 2.1.100 and 2.1.184

Commission Decisions of 21 December 1983 relating to pilot actions in preparation for the integrated Mediterranean programmes

OJ L 44, 15.2.1984

Point 2.1.118

Proposal for a Council Directive on the limitation of emissions of pollutants into the air from large combustion plants

OJ C 49, 21.2.1984

Point 2.2.35

Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters establishing links between the European Economic Community and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (ICAMAS)

OJ C 45, 18.2.1984

Points 2.4.27 to 2.4.30

Opinions adopted by the Economic and Social Committee during its session on 14 and 15 December 1983

OJ C 35, 9.2.1984

Bull, EC 1-1984

Point 2.2.32

Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down implementing rules for Regulation (EEC) No 3331/82 on food-aid policy and food-aid management

OJ C 55, 28.2.1984

Points 2.4.42 to 2.4.44

Opinions adopted by the Economic and Social Committee during its session on 25 and 26 January 1984

OIC 57, 29.2.1984

Point 2.4.39

Opinion of the Court of Auditors on the proposal for a Council Regulation on interest subsidies for certain loans granted under the European Monetary System

OJ C 55, 28.2.1984

3. Infringement procedures

Initiation of proceedings for failure to implement directives

3.3.1. In February the Commission sent letters of formal notice to three Member States concerning their failure to incorporate directives into national law, since they had failed to inform the Commission of national implementing measures, in the following cases:

Agriculture

- (i) Council Directive of 23 November 1976 on the marketing of straight feedingstuffs¹ (Ireland);
- Council Directive of 2 April 1979² amending the Council Directive of 23 November 1976 on the marketing of straight feedingstuffs¹ (Ireland);
- (iii) Council Directive of 2 April 1979 on the marketing of compound feedingstuffs² (Ireland);
- (iv) First Commission Directive of 10 August 19793 amending the annex to the Council Directive of 23 November 1976 on the marketing of straight feedingstuffs1 (Ireland);
- First Commission Directive of 2 May 1980⁴ amending the annex to the Council Directive of 2 April 1979 on the marketing of compound feedingstuffs² (Ireland);
- (vi) Second Commission Directive of 2 May 19804 amending the annex to the Council Directive of 23 November 1976 on the marketing of straight feedingstuffs1 (Irelands);
- (vii) Commission Directive of 2 May 1980 authorizing, in certain cases, the marketing of compound feedingstuffs in unsealed packages or containers4 (Ireland);
- (viii) Second Commission Directive of 27 June 19805 amending the annex to the Council Directive of 2 April 1979 on the marketing of compound feedingstuffs² (Ireland);
- (ix) Council Directive of 22 January 1980⁶ amending the Council Directive of 21 December 1976 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products⁷ (Ireland);

Environment, consumer protection and nuclear safety

Council Directive of 9 October 1979 concerning the methods of measurement and frequencies of sampling and analysis of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water in the Member States⁸ (France, Italy).

Reasoned opinions

3.3.2. In February the Commission delivered nine reasoned opinions concerning six Member States in the following cases:

Internal market and industrial affairs

- (i) prohibition on importing spirits and agricultural alcohol (Italy);
- (ii) bond in connection with public supply contracts (Italy);
- (iii) 'Buy French' campaign (France);

Employment, social affairs and education

(iv) failure to incorporate into national law the Council Directive of 17 February 1975 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies⁹ (Italy);

Agriculture

- (v) prohibition on the use of rectified concentrated grape must for the preparation of local wines and quality wines (Federal Republic of Germany);
- (vi) differentiation of milk prices charged by the Milk Marketing Board (England and Wales) (United Kingdom).

Environment, consumer protection and nuclear safety

- (vii) failure to incorporate into national law the Council Directive of 9 October 1979 concerning the methods of measurement and frequencies of sampling and analysis of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water in the Member States⁸ (Belgium);
- (viii) failure to incorporate into national law the Council Directive of 30 October 1979 on the quality required of shellfish waters 10 (Belgium);
- (ix) failure to incorporate into national law the Council Directive of 18 December 1978 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer¹¹ (Ireland).

OJ L 32, 3.2.1977. OJ L 36, 6.4.1979. OJ L 239, 22.9.1979. OJ L 126, 21.5.1980. OJ L 188, 22.7.1980. OJ L 26, 31.1.1977. OJ L 27, 29.10.1979. OJ L 281, 10.11.1979. OJ L 281, 10.11.1979.

OJ L 33, 8.3.1979.



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Publications of the European Communities



Publications of the European Communities

2 - 1984

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:

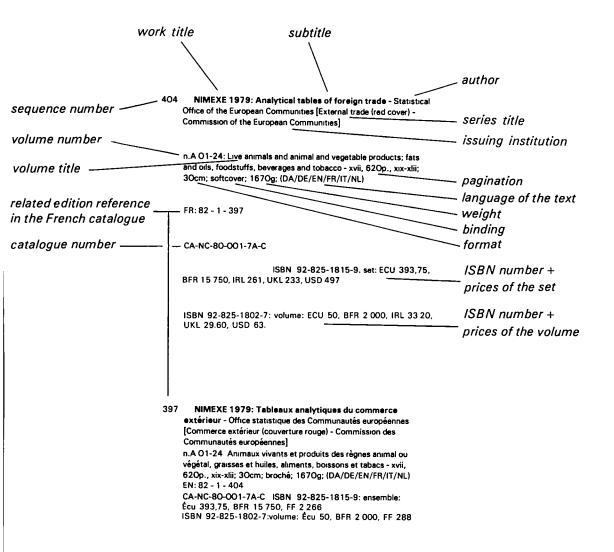
DA	Danish	GA	Irish
DE	German	IT	Italian
GR	Greek	NL	Dutch
EN	English	ES	Spanish
FR	French	PT	Portugues

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



Institutions

EUROPA-PARLAMENTET - EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT -EYPΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT -PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN - PARLAMENTO EUROPEO - EURO-PEES PARLEMENT

Secrétariat général du Parlement européen Direction générale du greffe et des services généraux L-2920 Luxembourg Tél.: 4 30 01

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TÜRKIYE

13, Bogaz Sokak Kavaklidere Ankara Tel. 21 61 45/27 61 46

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1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza 245 East 47th Street New York, NY 10017 Tel. 371 38 04

Classified list

General, political and institutional matters

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

softcover: 230g: (EN)

1 Directory of the Commission of the European Communities:

January 1984 - Commission of the European Communities:
Directorate-General Personnel and Administration - 109pp.: 25cm:

DA:84-2-2. DE:84-2-2. FR 84-2-3. GR 84-2-2. IT:84-2-4.

NL:84 - 2 - 2

CB-38-83-685-EN-C ISBN 92-825-4108-8: ECU 2,74,

BFR 125, IRL 1.90, UKL 1.60.

2 Het Europees Monetair Stelsel - Ontstaan, werking en

perspectieven - van Ypersele, J.: Koeune, J.-C. - 135blz.: 25cm: gebrocheerd: 26Og: (NL) [Europese perspectieven - Commissie van

de Europese Gemeenschappen] FR 83 - 5 - 2

CB-36-82-435-NL-C ISBN 92-825-3471-5: ECU 4,55,

BFR 200.

3 Outline programme of the Commission for 1984 - Commission of the European Communities - 25pp.: 23cm: stapled: 60g: The programme will be introduced by an address to Parliament given by

Mr Gaston Thorn on 15 February 1984 (EN)
DA 84-2-3. DE:84-2-3. FR.84-2-4. GR.84-2-3

free of charge.

Sammlung der von den Europäischen Gemeinschaften geschlossen Übereinkünfte 1980 - Kommission der

Europäischen Gemeinschaften

n.10 - xxiv, 1560S.: 17cm: gebunden: 800g: Ergänzungsband

(DE)

DA-84 - 1 - 5. FR 83 - 12 - 3. IT:83 - 12 - 3

RX-36-82-007-DE-C ISBN 92-824-0104-9

ISBN 92-825-3231-3: ECU 65,70, BFR 3000.

5 Seventeenth General Report on the Activities of the European

Communities - Commission of the European Communities 1983 - 367pp., 11 figs.: 23cm: softcover: 580g: (EN)

DA 84 - 2 - 4. DE:84 - 2 - 5. FR 84 - 2 - 1. GR.84 - 2 - 1. IT:84 - 2 - 1.

CB-38-83-774-EN-C ISBN 92-825-4189-4: ECU 4,90, BFR 225, IRL 3.60, UKL 2.80, USD 4,50.

PERIODICALS

30 jours d'Europe.

Avrupa.

Background Report.

Berichte und Informationen.

Bulletin of the European Communities.

COM Documents.

COM Documents.

COM Documents: Monthly catalogue.

Committee Reports of the European Parliament.

Communauté européenne: Lettre d'information du Bureau de Ganàva

Communauté Européenne Informations.

Comunidad europea.

Comunidades Europeias: Informação.

Comunità europee.

Debates of the European Parliament.

Dokumente und Publikationen.

Échos de l'Europe.

Economic and Social Committee: Bulletin.

EF-avisen.

EG Magazin.

EIB-Information.

Eorascáil.

Eur info.

Europa.

Europa-Informationen für die Jugendpresse.

Europa van morgen.

Europe 83.

European File.

European news.

European Parliament.

Fiches pédagogiques "30 jours d'Europe".

Information on the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

Informations de l'Eurostat.

Informazioni.

Informazioni documenti.

Informazioni rassegna periodica.

Official Journal of the European Communities, series C: Information

and Notices.

Official Journal of the European Communities, series L: Legislation.

Points de repère: supplément à 30 jours d'Europe.

Press Release.

Εὐρωπαϊκή Κοινότητα.

Customs union

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

6 Customs valuation, Seventh updating - Commission of the European Communities - 114pp.: 21cm: loose leaf: 142g: (EN) DA:84-2-5. DE:84-2-6. FR:84-2-6. IT 84-2-7. NL:84-2-6 CB-37-83-926-EN-C: ECU 3,28, BFR 15O, IRL 2.4O, UKL 1.9O, USD 3.

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

7	The Agricultural Situation in the Community - 1983 Report -
	Commission of the European Communities
	1983 - 427pp., 13figs: 23cm: softcover: 700g: (EN)
	DA.84-2-6. DE:84-2-8. FR 84-2-8. GR.84-2-7. IT 84-2-9.
	NL:84 - 2 - 8
	CB-38-83-637-EN-C ISBN 92-825-4070-7: ECU 20,68,
	BFR 950, IRL 15,10, UKL 11,90.

Forestry statistics 1976-1980: 1984

Prospective inventory of the requirements of Greek agriculture with special reference to agronomic research

The rates of value-added tax in agriculture: 1984

Reports of the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition -Directorate-General Agriculture [Agriculture - Directorate-General Information Market and Innovation: Commission of the European Communities ?

Fourth Series - vi, 129pp.: 30cm: softcover: 380g: (EN) **EUR 8769** DE:84-2-7, FR 84-2-7, IT:84-2-8 CD-NK-83-O10-EN-C ISBN 92-825-4101-0: ECU 8,71, BFR 400, IRL 6.40, UKL 5, USD 7,50.

PERIODICALS

Agricultural Markets: Prices.

Agricultural prices.

Agricultural statistics: Crop and animal production.

Animal production.

Crop production.

EC-agricultural price indices (Output and Input).

Law

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

EC-Yugoslavia agreements, signed in Belgrade on 2 April 1980 - Council of the European Communities - 144pp.: 21cm: softcover: 195g: (EN) DA:84-2-8, DE:84-2-9, FR 84-2-9, IT:84-2-10, NL:84-2-10 BX-38-83-241-EN-C ISBN 92-824-O161-8: ECU 6,54, BFR 300, IRL 4 80, UKL 3.80, USD 5.50.

Formulaire des actes mis au point par les groupes Juristes/Linguistes du Conseil des Communautés européennes: 2ème édition, octobre 1983 - Conseil des Communautés européennes: Secrétariat général - 159p.: 21cm: broché: 220g: (FR) GR:84 - 2 - 9. NL:84 - 2 - 9

gratuit: diffusion restreinte.

Sammlung der von den Europäischen Gemeinschaften geschlossen Übereinkünfte 1980: n.10

PERIODICALS

Information on the Court of Justice of the European Communities. List of laws and regulations adopted in the Member States of the Communities in application of acts adopted by the Communities.

Official Journal of the European Communities, series L: Legislation. Reports of Cases before the Court of Justice.

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