

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT 1993



EUROPEAN UNION
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

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Preface

The year 1993 was marked by the completion of the single market and the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union. In the course of the year, the Economic and Social Committee adopted 154 Opinions, including 23 on issues which it took up on its own initiative.

I should like to thank all those who contributed to the smooth running of our activities during the period under review. I offer my thanks in particular to the section chairmen and rapporteurs, but also to all our other members. I should also like to thank the representatives of the other Community institutions, who have constantly promoted and supported the work of the Economic and Social Committee.

While retaining its principal role as an advisory body, the Economic and Social Committee has also devoted considerable attention to its new fields of activity. These include, in particular, follow-up measures to the completion of the single market, the establishment of closer relations with socio-economic interest groups of third countries and the strengthening of the Economic and Social Committee's role as a link between European citizens, their associations and the Community institutions.

In September 1993, a wide-reaching conference was held on the 'Citizens' Europe'. Presidents Klepsch and Delors, some 60 European citizens and a large number of representatives of socio-economic associations took part. The conference was a success. The results must now be put to good use and suitable follow-up measures taken.

Dr Susanne Tiemann
Chairman

CHAPTER I

Presence and influence of the Economic and Social Committee

1. THE CONSULTATIVE FUNCTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

During the reference period, the Economic and Social Committee produced 156 consultative documents, including 131 Opinions requested by the Commission or the Council, 23 Own-initiative Opinions and two information reports.

Detailed information on this important contribution to the work of the European Community is set out in Chapter II.

2. RATIFICATION OF THE MAASTRICHT TREATY

The Treaty on European Union came into force on 1 November 1993. The ramifications of this Treaty are of considerable importance for the future of the Economic and Social Committee; it stipulates that, henceforth:

the Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall determine the allowances of members of the Committee (Article 194);

the Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedure (Article 196). The Committee shall therefore in future be able to draft and adopt its Rules of Procedure without submitting them for approval to the Council of Ministers;

the Committee may also meet on its own initiative (Article 196) and may issue an Opinion on its own initiative in cases in which it considers such action appropriate (Article 198).

In addition, a declaration on the independence of the Committee was annexed to the new Treaty (Final Act – Declaration No 22). It stipulates that:

'... the Economic and Social Committee will enjoy the same independence with regard to its budget and staff management as the Court of Auditors has enjoyed hitherto.'

3. CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

During the period under review, the EU Council appointed the following new Committee members:

Mr Gerhard von Haus (Group I – Germany) in place of Mr Hans-Joachim Gaffron, who had resigned;

Mr Adalbert Kienle (Group I – Germany) in place of Mr Rudolf Schnieders, who had resigned;

Mr Georgios Raftopoulos (Group II – Greece) in place of Mr Lambros Kanelopoulos, who had resigned;

Mr Jean Gautier (Group I – France) in place of Mr François Ceyrac, who had resigned;

Mr Ramón Baeza Sanjuan (Group II – Spain) in place of Mr Javier Velasco Mancebo, who had resigned;

Mr Daniel Giron (Group III – France) in place of Mr Jean Marvier, who had resigned;

Mr D. H. Kielman (Group I – Netherlands) in place of Mr Ulbo Tukker, who had resigned;

Mr G. C. P. Linssen (Group I – Netherlands) in place of Mr Gerrit van Dam, who had resigned;

Mrs H. C. H. van den Burg (Group II – Netherlands) in place of Mr Willy Wagenmans, who had resigned;

Mr Jean-Paul Bastian (Group III – France) in place of Mr Luc Guyau, who had resigned;

Mr Roger Seguy (Group I – France) in place of Mr Robert Delorozoy, who had resigned;

Mr Graham Speirs (Group III – United Kingdom) in place of Mr Andrew Tyrie, who had resigned;

Mrs Beata Ann Brookes (Group III – United Kingdom) in place of Mrs Ann Robinson, who had resigned;

Mrs Ann Davison (Group III – United Kingdom) in place of Ms Sue Slipman, who had resigned;

Mr Søren Kargaard (Group II – Denmark) in place of Mr Svend Skovro Larsen, who had resigned.

4. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Under the Danish Presidency

The President-in-Office of the Council for the first half of 1993, Mrs Jytte Andersen, Danish Minister for Labour, outlined the Danish Presidency's programme to the Plenary Session on 27 and 28 January in Brussels.

Mrs Andersen reaffirmed, *inter alia*, the Danish Presidency's desire to maintain a close dialogue with the Committee, pointing out that, through its work, the Committee helped to ensure that decisions taken by the European Community were in line with economic and social reality.

On 8 June 1993, the President-in-Office of the EC Council of Ministers, Mr Thomsen, Danish Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic Affairs, addressed the Section for Economic, Financial and Monetary Questions.

Under the Belgian Presidency

At the Committee's 308th Plenary Session held on 23 September 1993, the President-in-Office of the Council for the second half of 1993, Mr Jean-Luc Dehaene, Belgian Prime Minister, outlined the Belgian Presidency's programme.

The President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Philippe Maystadt, Belgian Minister for Finances, spoke prior to the adoption of the Opinion on growth, competitiveness and employment at the Committee's 309th Plenary Session held on 20 October 1993.

On 15 September 1993, the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services was addressed by Mr Urbain, Belgian Minister for Foreign Trade and European Affairs.

5. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMISSION.

As in previous years, the Committee enjoyed excellent working relations and cooperation with the Commission in the year under review. Special reference should be made in this context to the presentation of the Commission's annual programme by the President of the Commission, Mr Delors, at the Committee's 305th Plenary Session held on 29 April 1993.

Several Members of the Commission also attended Committee Plenary Sessions:

24 February 1993 Commission Vice-President Christophersen

25 February 1993	Commissioner Flynn
24 March 1993	Commissioner Paleokrassas
29 April 1993 and 22 September 1993	Commissioner Vanni d'Archirafi

In addition, several Members of the Commission took part in section work:

16 February 1993	Commissioner Schmidhuber, Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning
4 March 1993	Commissioner Steichen, Section for Agriculture and Fisheries
12 March 1993	Commissioner Millan, Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning
5 May 1993	Commissioner Vanni d'Archirafi, Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services
12 May 1993	Commissioner Matutes, Section for Transport and Communications
7 July 1993	Commission Vice-President Van Miert, Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services
9 November 1993	Commissioner Scrivener, Section for the Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs
9 December 1993	Commission Vice-President Brittan, Section for External Relations, Trade and Development Policy

6. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

At the level of preparatory work involving the Committee's sections and the EP's committees, the exchange of information and contacts between the respective chairmen, rapporteurs and secretariats continued to develop throughout 1993.

Mrs van Dijk, Chairman of the EP Committee on Transport and Tourism, and Mrs Randazio-Plath, Chairman of the EP Monetary Subcommittee, both attended meetings of the corresponding ESC Sections.

A number of ESC members were invited to hearings and meetings organized by EP committees.

As in previous years, the Committee's General Secretariat participated in meetings of the Working Party on Institutional Coordination, which was set up following the entry into force of the Single European Act in order to ensure legal coordination between the various Community institutions. In November, this Working Party implemented the legislative planning measures set out in the Treaty on European Union.

The Committee's General Secretariat was also invited, in the same way as the Commission and the Council, to send representatives to attend meetings of the enlarged Bureau of the European Parliament at which points concerning the planning and organization of the Parliament's work were considered.

The EP President, Mr Egon Klepsch, addressed the Bureau of the Economic and Social Committee on 27 April 1993. In his speech, he declared:

'You at the ESC represent the economic and social forces. The economic and social dimension, which is of such central importance to our society, is the source of great concern to voters and gives rise to many questions.'

He also stated that the Committee had become an increasingly influential consultative partner of the European Parliament. Referring to the new legislative procedures, he stressed:

'When we have developed the co-decision procedure, we will always strive to take account of your opinions, views and advice and guarantee your participation in our work.'

The European Parliament also helped the Committee to secure acceptance of a number of its 1994 budgetary applications.

7. CONFERENCES, MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Relations with EFTA

The 26th joint meeting between delegations of the Economic and Social Committee and the EFTA Consultative Committee was held in Geneva on 26 June 1993.

Discussions centred on growth and employment. Draft Rules of Procedure for the Consultative Committee of the European Economic Area were also drawn up, in compliance with the EEA Agreement.

Relations with ACP countries

The 17th annual meeting of representatives of the ACP/EU economic and social interest groups was held at the Committee building in Brussels from 6 to 8 December 1993.

The theme was 'employment creation in the framework of decentralized cooperation and the role of the economic and social interest groups'.

Relations with AMU countries

The second meeting of the representatives of social and economic interest groups of the countries of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and the European Community was held in Tunis on 9 and 10 September 1993.

The theme was 'job creation in the Maghreb with a view to a Euro-Maghreb partnership – industry, services, SMEs, training and agriculture'.

Latin American hearing

As part of its preparations for an Opinion on relations between the European Union and Latin America, the Committee hosted a hearing of delegates from several Latin American social and economic interest groups. The hearing was held on 30 September and 1 October 1993 at the Committee building in Brussels.

Commerce 2000 Conference

Sponsored by the Committee and the Commission, the Commerce 2000 Conference was held on 14 and 15 June 1993 at the Committee building in Brussels.

This Conference aimed to bring together politicians and representatives of operator, market analyst and technical expert interest groups to discuss and report on the results of the Commerce 2000 initiative. This European initiative was intended to promote the switch to modern commercial practices.

Conference on the Citizens' Europe

On 27 and 28 September, the Committee hosted a Conference on the Citizens' Europe.

The Conference, attended by Mr Delors, President of the Commission, Mr Klepsch, President of the European Parliament and Mr Urbain, Belgian Minister for European Affairs, enabled some 60 'witnesses' and dozens of representatives of trade, professional and public organizations to exchange views with the representatives of the Community institutions.

Encouraged by the success of this Conference, ESC President Tiemann asked the European Commission to further this dialogue by means of regular meetings hosted by the Economic and Social Committee.

8. GROUPS OF VISITORS AND PUBLIC EVENTS OF EUROPEAN INTEREST

Groups of visitors

From 1 November 1992 to 31 October 1993, there was a further increase in the level of interest shown in the Community institutions and the work of the Union.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of groups</i>	<i>Number of visitors</i>
<i>EU Member States</i>		
Belgium	5	118
Denmark	20	509
Germany	53	1 540
Greece	3	64
Spain	10	328
France	45	1 474
Italy	5	167
Ireland	1	12
Luxembourg	–	–
Netherlands	10	274
Portugal	–	–
United Kingdom	47	1 508
Total Member States	199	5 994
<i>Non-EU States</i>		
Austria	22	508
Belarus	1	8
Central America	1	13
Czech Republic	2	79
Finland	4	82
Hungary	2	15
Latin America	2	14
Maghreb	1	17
Malta	1	10
Norway	2	30
Poland	3	67
Russia	2	70
South Africa	1	20
Sweden	6	110
Switzerland	1	50

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of groups</i>	<i>Number of visitors</i>
Taiwan	1	26
Ukraine	2	23
United States	12	309
International	3	144
Total non-EU States	69	1 595
TOTAL	268	7 589

The annual number of visitors to the Committee over the last six years has been as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of visitors</i>
1993	7 589
1992	8 731
1991	8 272
1990	7 646
1989	6 479
1988	4 677

In general, an information visit involves a talk on the role of the Committee in the Community institutional system, followed by an exchange of views on current Community issues, usually introduced by Committee members or officials.

Public events of European interest

The Committee had a stand, providing general documentation on its role and consultative work, at the following events:

27 January 1993	Annual ESC reception (held at the Palais d'Egmont)
10 to 13 February 1993	European Student Fair (Brussels)
1 March 1993	Regional UIL Congress (Unione italiana del lavoro) (Bologna)
15 March 1993	Meeting of the Secretaries-General of the Economic and Social Councils of the European Community (held at the ESC building)
24 to 26 March 1993	Fifth Works Councils Forum (Parc Floral, Paris)

31 March 1993	Athénée Royal Châtelet – Exhibition to celebrate the foundation's 125th anniversary (Châtelet, Belgium)
6 May 1993	Conference on Medicines (held at the ESC building)
3 to 8 May 1993	National UIL Congress (Unione italiana del lavoro) (Rome)
2 to 4 June 1993	Directoria 93 (international convention for directors of local and regional authorities) (Centre Rogier, Brussels)
14 and 15 June 1993	Commerce 2000 Conference (held at the ESC building)
15 June 1993	Forum Europe – Talking to the EC (European conference) (Palais des Congrès, Brussels)
22 and 23 June 1993	Conference on Youth Employment in France – ANSE (Agence nationale pour les stages à l'étranger) (held at the ESC building)
9 to 12 September 1993	Turisave – First tourism, sport and local development fair (Vieira do Minho, Portugal)
24 to 26 September 1993	Philatelic exhibition – Europe, philately and the postal services (Liévinois, France)
27 and 28 September 1993	Conference on the Citizens' Europe (held at the ESC building)
19 to 21 October 1993	European Employment Week (Place Rogier, Brussels)
19 to 22 October 1993	Conference on European Nurses (Palace Hotel, Brussels)
20 to 23 October 1993	XIXth General Assembly of Communes and Regions of Europe (Strasbourg)
5 November 1993:	ACME conference (Association des assureurs coopératifs et mutualistes européens) (held at the ESC building)
18 to 19 November 1993	Meeting of the Consiglio nazionale dei consulenti del lavoro (held at the ESC building).

9. PUBLICATIONS

The following reports were published during the period under review:

EC-Latin American relations (Spanish, English, French, Portuguese);

SMEs and craft industries (German, English, French);

The consumer and the internal market (Spanish, German, English, French);

The Mediterranean policy of the EC (Spanish, English, French, Italian);

CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions (German, English, French);

The economic and social situation (1992) (nine languages);

Packaging waste (Spanish, German, English, French, Italian);

Common system of agricultural insurance (Spanish, German, English, French, Italian, Portuguese);

Baltic States (German, English, French);

Report on the meeting of representatives from the economic and social interest groups in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (German, English, French);

INDEX (list of ESC members);

Proceedings of the 15th annual meeting with the ACP countries;

Growth, competitiveness and employment (nine languages).

These publications may be obtained free of charge from the Division for Information, Publications and Relations with Social and Economic Interest Groups. The Division also organizes information visits and is responsible for Committee participation in public events of European interest.

CHAPTER II

Work of the Committee

1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES

Common agricultural policy

Farm prices 1993/94

The fixing of the common farm prices for the 1993/94 marketing year provided the Community's farmers with their first chance to assess the practical results of the reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP) decided on 21 May 1992.

The Commission's proposals for 1993/94 had two main distinguishing features:

- (i) in line with the Council's decisions of 21 May 1992, the Commission proposed a radical alteration of agricultural support. The guaranteed prices for cereals, oilseeds and protein crops, beef and veal, and milk products would be drastically reduced in line with world prices, and the ensuing income losses would be offset by direct income support;
- (ii) the prices of products not yet covered by the CAP reform (notably fruit and vegetables, wine and sugar), albeit subject to a few specific adjustments.

Although this price package might seem less far-reaching than preceding packages, it nevertheless sparked off a lively debate within the Committee. This was reflected in the Opinion, which was adopted by a large majority (83 votes to 27, with six abstentions).

The Committee noted that the Commission proposals confirmed a criticism it had made at the time of the original 'Mac Sharry proposal': namely that for the Commission, the reform was really prompted by the Community's budgetary difficulties and the need to clear the way for a GATT agreement. The Committee stressed that the reform should respect the principles which

had inspired the Council's mandate of 30 May 1980 and the Commission's 1985 Green Paper. These were:

- (i) on the one hand, recognition that while the underlying aims of the CAP remained unchanged, their position had been altered by the constraints and requirements imposed by domestic and international events; and
- (ii) on the other hand, confirmation that, although a balance had to be struck between supply and demand, it was necessary to safeguard producer income support, the Community's level of food self-sufficiency and agricultural activity in areas where farming was vital for harmonious economic and social development.

While recognizing the need for reform, the Committee argued that account had to be taken of the general economic situation and the risk of a GATT agreement which neglected the special features of European agriculture and failed to respect the content of the CAP reform. Against such a backdrop, any further reduction in farm incomes would have a devastating effect and would be unacceptable.

The Committee urged the Commission to find ways of alleviating the social problems facing the farming sector as a result of the reform and the general recession.

The Committee predicted that the price package would trigger a further widespread fall in real farm prices. With the exception of a few explicit price cuts, the 'stability' proposed by the Commission was only superficial. In the Committee's view, the Commission could have used the price package to make a few initial adjustments to the reform.

The Committee went on to make specific comments on a number of individual sectors. It asked the Commission to:

- (i) reconsider the reduction in the monthly increases for cereals;
- (ii) extend the areas under durum wheat, before the 1995 sowing season;
- (iii) consider ways of promoting industrial use of skimmed-milk powder;
- (iv) alter the arrangements for staggering beef premiums in line with the age and weight of the animal;
- (v) reduce the proposed cut in the basic price of pigmeat;
- (vi) keep the buying-in price of japonica rice at 94% of the intervention price and keep the premium for growers who switch to indica rice at the existing level;
- (vii) establish national quotas, in hectares, for areas under rice;

(viii) make a small increase in the target price, step up production aid and extend the period of intervention for olive oil;

(ix) retain current price levels in the cotton sector.

Of particular significance was the Committee's call for the prices of Mediterranean products to be adjusted to reflect the market trend for each product, since such products are extremely labour-intensive.

In connection with the fixing of the common farm prices, and given that the measure was implicitly decided by the Council on 21 May 1992 as part of the CAP reform, the Committee endorsed the Commission's proposal to fix a standard quality for common wheat, applicable to the intervention, target and threshold prices, and based on the standard quality hitherto fixed for the intervention price. The Committee also approved the proposal to extend to the threshold price the standard quality presently applied to the intervention and target prices for rye, barley, maize, sorghum and durum wheat.

Set-aside

The Committee has always been critical of the use of set-aside as one of the planks of the CAP reform. It returned to the subject when assessing a number of measures proposed by the Commission for simplifying the operation of set-aside in the reformed CAP.

The Committee first reiterated and expanded upon the views expressed in its Opinion on the development and future of the CAP. In its view:

- (i) the set-aside programme introduced on 21 May 1992 should be seen as a way of adjusting the supply of cereals, oilseeds and protein products to demand;
- (ii) this set-aside-related adjustment must not mean a definitive fixing of production levels;
- (iii) set-aside must enable EC producers to meet growing world market demand for cereal, oilseed and protein crops not only for food purposes, but also for animal feed and biofuels;
- (iv) set-aside policy must be decided independently and must not be influenced by third countries that wish to increase their world market share.

Set-aside policy, therefore, had to be applied more flexibly in order to enable farmers to adapt production. In this light, the Committee endorsed the Commission proposals and more especially the proposals to:

- (i) allow each Member State to draw up a regionalization plan and to adjust the average regional yields in accordance with specific national factors (treating maize yields separately from those for other cereals,

or irrigated yields separately from non-irrigated yields). However, the Committee felt that regions which had adopted 'irrigated regional ceiling areas' in the 1992/93 marketing year (which the Commission was treating as a transitional year), without any specific set-aside for irrigated areas, should not be obliged to introduce 'specific base irrigated areas' and hence specific set-aside;

- (ii) lift the requirement that, if a regional base 'maize' area is established, a regional 'other crops' area must also be established;
- (iii) introduce a percentage of 'mixed' set-aside, lying between the rotational and non-rotational rates;
- (iv) increase the level of compensation for land set aside;
- (v) provide compensation for setting aside more land than the minimum required;
- (vi) offer the possibility of transferring set-aside requirements, up to a maximum distance of 10 kilometres, if set-aside obliges a producer to reduce his livestock;
- (vii) allow a derogation from the rule which precludes compensation for land under permanent pasture, woodland or non-agricultural land, provided that the creation of new eligible areas is offset by the removal of eligible land in order that the national base area does not increase significantly. The Committee felt that the derogation should be extended (a) to land on which vines had been grubbed up, (b) to young farmers setting up, and (c) to land allocation in the new German *Länder*;
- (viii) introduce the possibility of three-year rotational set-aside. The Committee stressed that the set-aside rate should be the same as that for six-year rotation, and that the farmer should have the option of increasing it by 5%.

Objective 5a of the reform of the Structural Funds

The Committee noted with interest the Commission's proposals to amend some of the Structural Fund regulations. The aim of these proposals was to expedite the adjustment of production, processing and marketing structures.

The proposals did not substantially alter the existing scheme. The Committee felt that the Commission should have focused on investments made necessary not only by the CAP reform and the GATT negotiations, but also by the advent of the single market.

The Committee felt that more incisive action would have been advisable, bearing in mind the adverse effects of the CAP reform on processing and marketing structures, and the numerous job losses that had ensued.

That said, the Committee approved the amendments designed to include the marketing and processing of farm products in national multi-year programmes. However, the Committee stressed that planning should not be too long term, as it was difficult to determine production mix and market trends in advance.

The Committee also supported the extension of the regulations to cover products other than those listed in Annex II to the Treaty, as this would enable more account to be taken of technological advances in food manufacturing.

Common organization of the market in sugar

Pending the presentation, as part of the CAP reform, of proposals to amend the common organization of the sugar market, the Committee examined the Commission's proposal to continue, during 1993/94, the existing arrangements for sugar, isoglucose and supplies to Portuguese refineries. The Commission also proposed to extend the scheme to inulin syrup, a new sweetener obtained from chicory or Jerusalem artichokes. The syrup has a high fructose content which is fully comparable with that of isoglucose or liquid sugar. Its exclusion from the common system could therefore disrupt the market, as it is not subject to the production levies designed to cover the cost of sugar and isoglucose export refunds although, by replacing sugar and isoglucose, it might be a contributory factor in such exports.

The Committee approved the proposal, although it noted that the repeated short-term extensions of the sugar regime created a climate of uncertainty for farmers and processors and made it difficult for them to take investment and other decisions.

The Committee would not comment on whether inulin syrup quotas should be totally or partly deducted from existing sugar or isoglucose quotas. However, it called for a clear ban on quota transfers between different sweeteners.

When the Council adopted the Commission proposal, it asked the Commission to present another proposal, by 1 October, on the sugar regime for the period beginning 1 July 1994.

During the drafting of this second proposal serious thought was inevitably given to how the forthcoming conclusion of the GATT negotiations would affect the common market in sugar.

The Committee noted that the world market situation remained uncertain and subject to unforeseeable disruptions. Production had exceeded consumption for several years and stocks were high. The seriousness and interdependence of the issues at stake, and the short time remaining before the new marketing year, led the Committee to approve in principle the extension throughout the marketing year 1994/95 of the existing production arrangements, the preferential system for Portuguese raw sugar imports from third countries, Community arrangements for refining aid, and national aid arrangements in Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

The Committee found the Commission proposal particularly opportune for the following reasons:

- (i) the system of aid to sugar producers averted any risk of a sudden change in the areas sown, so that the sugar regime could coexist alongside the other arable regimes;
- (ii) the self-financing arrangements ensured that producers shouldered the costs of selling off EC production surpluses.

The Committee noted that the Commission had taken account of the Council's view that the inulin syrup quotas should be as restrictive as possible, without prejudice to general Community legislation and the case-law of the Court of Justice. However, the Committee would give its definitive judgment on the matter when the Commission presented its proposal for the reformed common market organization.

Common organization of the market in bananas

Continuing its work on the establishment of a common market organization for bananas, the Committee endorsed two Commission proposals designed to build on the measures presented in 1992. The Commission proposed to establish a special aid system for traditional ACP banana producers and a diversification and development programme for Latin American producers.

The proposals gave practical form to previously announced measures which the Committee had already broadly endorsed. The Commission's proposals were motivated by the fact that:

- (i) although the proposed common market organization gave traditional ACP suppliers the same access to the Community market as in the past, the structure and nature of the market and the marketing effort needed to fully exploit this access placed new obligations on them, notably as regards quality standards and market integration. The Commission therefore proposed to grant financial aid to ACP States which presented programmes to help producers adjust to the new circum-

stances; such aid would be additional to that already provided under the Lomé Convention. It also proposed to offer ACP producers income support, in order to offset any drop in exports to the Community following the establishment of the common market organization;

- (ii) it was necessary to tackle the real difficulties facing 'dollar banana' producers, namely the lack of own resources to diversify their production and the alarming rise in drug trafficking. The Commission therefore proposed to fund a programme to identify new products, markets and investment, using measures calculated to have a rapid effect on rural and urban employment and give a general boost to national economies.

Common organization of the market in potatoes

Potatoes are one of the few agricultural products not yet covered by a common market organization. The level and scale of potato production, and the product's importance for the European consumer, give the sector a particular significance.

Member States' freedom to apply national regulations to the potato market is unacceptable in a single market. The Commission therefore intended to rectify this by issuing a 'low-key' proposal that would meet the need for a single system while essentially maintaining a status quo which most operators had hitherto found satisfactory.

The Committee supported the Commission's move to set up a common market organization based on the following principles:

- (i) non-interference with market forces;
- (ii) incentives for growers to market their potatoes through producers' organizations;
- (iii) framing of a common policy towards third countries.

However, the Committee felt that the Commission's 'minimalist' approach did not do enough to ensure market stability and a fair income for producers and took insufficient account of the principles underlying the CAP reform of 21 May 1992.

In the Committee's view, the Commission should at least establish common quality standards for potatoes, and encourage consumption by promoting research into the varieties demanded by the consumer and the processing industry.

Given the sensitivity of the potato market, the Committee felt that it should be possible to require import licences in cases where this was justified.

Other agricultural policy issues

(a) The Committee endorsed the aims and content of the Commission's proposal to reintroduce, from the 1993/94 marketing year, arrangements limiting the granting of aid for the processing of fresh tomatoes. A quota system was to be reintroduced for an indefinite period in lieu of guarantee thresholds, and the Committee felt that this offered farmers and processors stable benchmarks for their production. It would prevent farmers from off-setting a reduction in aid by dramatically overshooting the guarantee thresholds. However, the Committee called on the Commission to:

- (i) review the overall quantities assigned to the various producer countries in the future, so as to reflect their real production capacity;
- (ii) consider the case for devising a formula empowering the Member States to assign responsibility for quota management;
- (iii) revise the sub-quotas for each country's production volume, so as to reflect changes in market trends.

(b) The Committee endorsed the Commission's proposal to amend the Regulation on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables so as to include the growing quantities of pineapples, avocados, mangoes, guavas and plantain bananas, which the Community was producing. The Committee also welcomed the possible establishment of an import licensing system for these fruits, as a way of improving market transparency. The Committee asked the Commission to consider allocating more funds to the setting-up of producers' organizations for the fruits, so as not to further limit the already low funding available.

(c) The Committee warmly supported the Commission's proposal to introduce specific measures for dried grapes, a typical product of some of the Community's less-advantaged areas which relied on aid in order to compete with quality third-country imports, and devise an appropriate marketing strategy. However, the Committee felt that the funds proposed did not match the scale of the problem and the range of measures needed, which would have to cover varietal improvements, the introduction of up-to-date technology and vocational training for the sector's workforce.

(d) When adopting the farm prices package, the Council asked the Commission to find a way of simplifying the ewe premium system governed by Regulation (EEC) No 3013/89 as amended. Accordingly, the Commission issued a proposal in September 1993 which was designed to subsume the headage limits on sheep and goats into the individual limits system introduced under the reform of the CAP. This was to be done without altering the entitlement to premiums already granted to producers. The Committee shared the Commission's view that the proposal might lead some produc-

ers to reduce ewe numbers. It also agreed that this would have a positive effect on prices and result in a slight drop in Community expenditure on the sector.

(e) For a number of years, a recurring problem has arisen over the compensation of milk producers who, following an undertaking not to market milk or convert to meat production, were unable to deliver or sell milk in the 'reference year' (1983). Consequently, these producers were not allocated a reference quantity in 1984 when the supplementary levy system was introduced. In 1988 the Court of Justice ruled against the Community legislation and the Council amended the Regulation, allocating two sets of 'specific' reference quantities to the affected producers. In the mean time, some of the producers had asked the Court of Justice to oblige the Community to make good the damage they had suffered as a result of their exclusion from the reference quantities. On 19 May 1992, the Court ordered the Commission to make an overall settlement to the injured producers (around 12 000 in all), based on a flat-rate calculation of the damage.

Whilst obviously not questioning the need to redress the damage, the Committee stressed that the real problem was how to determine (i) the period and annual quantity of milk for which compensation should be granted, and (ii) the size of the compensation. Aside from these practical difficulties, the Committee particularly welcomed the fact that the Court's judgment upheld the principle that all producers who had suffered as a result of unsatisfactory or incomplete Community legislation had a right to compensation.

(f) The Committee welcomed the Commission's move to propose a Regulation on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between them and the Commission in an attempt to ensure the correct application of the law on customs or agricultural matters. The proposal addressed a problem which had been recognized since the time of the first EC agricultural legislation: how to prevent, detect and punish any irregularities, abuse or fraud committed at EC expense in the course of customs operations or use of the various forms of CAP support. The Committee especially appreciated the innovative aspects of the proposal:

- (i) more effective and extensive presence of Commission officials;
- (ii) obligation on Member States to pass on the details of any fraud committed against the Community (unless the competent legal authority opposed this);
- (iii) possibility for the Community to conclude agreements with third countries;

- (iv) possibility for a Member State to use findings acquired in other Member States or in third countries;
- (v) setting-up of a central database.

The Committee stressed that the mechanisms should be simple and clear, so that they were easy to understand and administer. It would also be helpful if Member States could cooperate more closely, both with each other and with the Commission, on the basis of EC provisions rather than Member State agreements. The Committee expressed concern about certain aspects of the proposal, such as the relation between EC and national provisions, and between these provisions and the individual's right to privacy. From this angle, the establishment of a central database could prove a particularly delicate matter.

(g) The Committee welcomed the move to coordinate all the information available at Community level on the conservation, characterization and utilization of genetic resources in agriculture. The Commission's proposal was designed to set up an information and consultation system between Member States. While welcoming the initiative, the Committee hoped that the system would not be too oriented towards the administrative aspects. In its view, the essential aims to be pursued were:

- quality;
- biodiversity;
- diversification of species and uses.

In this spirit, the Committee urged that less traditional, or even unexplored, applications be considered, using plants, animals or insects.

(h) The Committee approved the Commission's proposal to establish general rules for the uniform application, throughout the Community, of the common agricultural policy and the common commercial policy, as defined in the Treaty, to goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products. The Committee viewed the proposal as a welcome step towards the clarification and simplification of the existing complex system.

(i) In order to ensure the uniform application by the Member States of the EC rules on external trade in eggs and poultrymeat, the Commission proposed to:

- (i) incorporate import licence provisions in the legislation on eggs and poultrymeat, by analogy with the Regulation governing the common market organization for pigmeat;
- (ii) include in the Combined Nomenclature egg products manufactured from incubated or damaged eggs which have not been denatured;
- (iii) use the management committee procedure for amendments to the list

of products which are eligible for export refunds on the basis of their egg content;

- (iv) apply only customs duties to future imports of poultrymeat products for which these duties are bound in GATT;
- (v) extend the common marketing standards applicable to raw duck and goose liver to a number of preparations made from these products. Such products would be included in the common market organization for poultrymeat.

The Committee approved the proposed measures, which responded to market requirements and filled certain gaps in existing Community legislation.

(j) Lastly, the Committee fully endorsed the Commission's proposal for measures to assist certain agricultural products from the smaller Aegean islands. The Committee felt that the measures should also cover fishery products, as this was a key activity for island communities.

Plant health policy

The Committee shared the Commission's concern to fix the earliest possible deadline for the implementation of new plant health rules following the establishment of the single market, and approved the move to lay down appropriate conservatory measures for a transitional period until the existing arrangements expired.

The Committee approved the Commission's proposal for a Directive designed to improve the control of potato ring rot. The Committee felt that action was urgently needed, given the recent outbreaks of the disease on Community territory and the advent of the single market without border controls and inspections.

However, the Committee viewed as unduly stringent the proposal to ban the growing, during the next season, of potatoes in uninfected fields in the vicinity of infected fields.

The Commission proposed to bring the Canary Islands under the basic Directive on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products. The Canary Islands had previously been exempt because of their special circumstances and hence their special position as regards plant health.

The Committee welcomed the proposal and approved its contents. However, it stressed the importance of technical measures to cover the transport of plant products between two places within the Community when this involved crossing the territory of a third country.

Veterinary matters and animal health

(a) The Commission issued a proposal in the wake of its report on developments during the implementing period of the directives laying down animal health requirements on intra-Community trade in, and imports of, deep-frozen bovine semen, and more especially semen from bulls testing positive for infectious bovine rhinotracheitis and infectious pustular vulvovaginitis. The Commission proposed to eradicate, by 1998, seropositive bulls and those whose health status is unknown, and to align the provisions governing brucellosis, tuberculosis and enzootic bovine leucosis on those laid down in basic Directive 64/432/EEC of 26 June 1964 as amended. The Committee approved the Commission's proposal.

(b) The Committee fully endorsed the Commission's proposal that the Council renew the contract concluded with a laboratory appointed to provide immediate diagnosis of outbreaks of classical swine fever within the Community. The Committee endorsed the Commission's proposal that the laboratory should coordinate Member States' diagnostic methods, produce monoclonal antibodies against the classical swine fever virus, train national laboratory technicians and veterinarians, and prepare and organize annual meetings for information swapping and updating of diagnostic techniques. Given the satisfactory results achieved over the five-year period to 1993, the Committee agreed that the Commission should continue to use the Virology Institute of the Veterinary Studies Department of Hanover University for a further five years.

(c) The Committee endorsed the Commission's proposed amendments to the regulations concerning the fight against Newcastle disease. The Commission proposed to introduce a more effective but less stringent inspection schedule and to define more clearly the conditions for intra-Community trade in, and imports of, poultry, hatching eggs and fresh poultrymeat. Stressing the very serious economic impact which Newcastle disease had on Community poultry farmers, the Committee urged that, notwithstanding the subsidiarity principle, Community rules should be applied if the disease was in danger of spreading.

(d) The Committee welcomed the Commission's proposal to lay down general rules for the financing of veterinary checks on live animals, at border inspection posts in the case of imports, or at the point of origin within the Community. However, the Committee drew the Commission's attention to the fact that the use of flat-rate fees provided an unsatisfactory level of uniformity, as Member States were not always able to charge high enough rates to cover the actual costs incurred.

(e) Lastly, the Committee approved the Commission's proposal to link the authorization of certain additives in feedingstuffs to the person responsible

for their marketing. The Committee supported the Commission's intention to establish a uniform fee structure for the examination of the dossiers for an additive, provided that the fee was no higher than the average of the fees currently levied by the Member States. Considerable care would be needed to ensure that administration of the additive (whether by incorporation in the feedingstuff or otherwise) was carried out properly. The Committee felt that growth promoters, antibiotics and coccidiostats should be used only in mixed feedingstuffs and premixtures.

Common fisheries policy

In the Committee's view, the need to conserve fishery resources also presupposes an effective system to control the common fisheries policy (CFP). This means greater Community involvement and wider powers, in order to ensure that the implementing measures and restrictive rules are as uniform as possible and are thus more acceptable to the sector.

This being so, the Committee felt that it would be difficult to apply the subsidiarity principle as the Commission sought to do in its proposal establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy.

At all events, increasingly close cooperation would be needed between Member States and the Community, and the size of national control and inspection services should be brought more into line with their duties.

The Committee thought that the efficiency of physical checks at sea would be improved by the introduction of a Community system of fishing licences, backed by electronic monitoring. The Committee therefore viewed with interest the Commission's proposal to set up such a system, although it opposed the introduction of a fishing permit alongside a licence as it felt that a permit had quite different connotations and was likely to encounter serious resistance from fishing organizations.

The Commission proposed to make a series of adjustments to the arrangements laid down in the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal as regards the conditions of access to fishing by Spanish and Portuguese fleets in the waters of the 'Ten' and vice versa. Such adjustments were made necessary by the introduction of stricter controls on fishing activity and a licensing system to regulate such activity, and should on no account involve an increase in fishing effort.

The Committee felt that the aim should be to make the arrangements simpler, more efficient and easier to manage. They should respond to calls from the sector regarding a number of genuine problems which, under the Accession Treaties, unnecessarily complicated fishermen's and shipowners' activities, and made it even more difficult to operate vessels at a profit.

The Committee reiterated its demand that due account be taken of the economic and social consequences of the adjustments, and of the specific characteristics of different fishing regions. This should be done by promoting the necessary structural measures which, following the reform of the Structural Funds, would be covered by the new financial instrument for fisheries guidance. The Committee warmly welcomed the creation of this instrument.

Fisheries conservation policy in the Mediterranean had to take account of the fact that the situation there differed from that in the Atlantic and the North Sea. The Committee stressed the need for international agreements to ensure that the technical measures to be applied to Community fishing vessels also covered third-country fleets.

Given the difficult situation created by the unregulated landing of large quantities of fish from third-country fishing vessels, the Committee approved the Commission's proposal to step up checks on landings, in the spirit of the UN Convention signed at Montego Bay in 1982.

The Committee also approved the following Commission proposals for the fisheries sector:

- (i) alteration of the taxonomic name used for trout, in line with the new scientific classification;
- (ii) choice of Vigo, Spain, as the site for the Community reference laboratory for the standardization of diagnostic and monitoring methods for marine biotoxins;
- (iii) marketing aid for cephalod producers in the Canary Islands.

2. TRANSPORT POLICY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

In 1992 the main thrust of the Committee's work concerned the establishment of the internal market up to its deadline on 1 January 1993. This work has continued in 1993 with Opinions adopted within maritime transport, air transport and telecommunications.

However, most of the work undertaken in 1993 concentrates on a few major Opinions of a more general nature, notably the White Paper on the common transport policy and the Green Paper on postal services.

A – Transport in general

The White Paper on the common transport policy (Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken)

The Commission's communication on the future development of the common transport policy (CTP) looks at the current situation and likely trends.

The communication is a follow-up on earlier initiatives, such as 'Transport-2000' and 'Transport and the environment', on which the Committee gave Opinions in December 1991 and September 1992, respectively.

According to the White Paper, the following factors necessitate the future development of a CTP:

saturation point is approaching;
some modes of transport are more stretched than others;
funds are in short supply;
regional imbalances;
the strain on the environment;
safety considerations; and
social problems.

The purpose of a CTP is to adopt an overall strategy in order to satisfy economic and social needs, improve infrastructure, enhance the safety of users, achieve more equitable working conditions and afford better protection of the environment.

Some of the key elements are the establishment of coherent infrastructure networks and the charging of the true infrastructure costs.

The steps to be taken fall under seven headings:

- (i) strengthening the single market;
- (ii) putting in place a genuinely integrated system by spreading the costs more equitably over the different forms of transport and charging users the full costs of using the infrastructure and by devising a combined transport system encompassing all the modes;
- (iii) developing trans-European transport networks;
- (iv) reducing the deleterious effects of transport on the environment;
- (v) improving safety;
- (vi) establishing a social policy within transport; and
- (vii) strengthening the external dimension of the single market.

The Committee approves the Commission's move to point the common transport policy towards the future in the interests of the European Community and, on the whole, welcomes the Commission's proposals.

The future CTP must use the internal market as a basis for developing really modern transport systems which satisfy the high demands set by the Community.

The Committee proposes that the analyses set out in the White Paper be supplemented by regional and structural analyses of traffic flows and the various modes of transport.

In the light of subsidiarity, and working generally from the 'polluter pays' principle, as regards costs, the Committee considers that the CTP should assume the following urgent tasks:

- (i) completion of the common market in transport, which would include the harmonization of the general conditions governing competition between transport undertakings and the abolition of the barriers still impeding the establishment of a liberal transport market;
- (ii) establishment of a Community framework for improving the coordination of planning guidelines and laws relating to transport infrastructure development;
- (iii) execution and coordination of studies and forecasts which look at the bottlenecks affecting individual transport systems at Community level;
- (iv) support for the development of technologies for integrated and optimized transport systems; the Committee particularly welcomes the fact that the fourth framework programme 1994-98 now includes a special chapter on transport research; the opportunities offered by telematics should, of course, also be included;
- (v) support for science and research aimed at improving urban living conditions, provided that the requisite guidelines governing communications, the working environment, environmental protection and health are coordinated at Community level.

The Committee thinks that the CTP should employ the following instruments of transport policy (for the guidance, transfer and prevention of traffic):

- (i) pricing policy
 - allocation of infrastructure and external costs;
 - general taxes and levies;
 - specific levies (e.g. road pricing);

- (ii) grants an assistance to certain transport modes and systems in order to improve their availability;
- (iii) transport management using information and communications technology intermodal transport systems;
- (iv) specific infrastructure measures.

The Committee recommends that the plan for tomorrow's common transport policy be included in the Community's legislative programme, which represents a planning tool. A binding timetable for transport policy measures could then be adopted.

The second All-European Transport Conference (Rapporteur: Mr Bleser)

The first All-European Transport Conference was held in Prague in the autumn of 1991 and a second has been convened for March 1994 in Crete.

In order to enable the Committee to express its views clearly in good time and to play a more active role in the framing of a pan-European transport policy, with particular reference to the extension of trans-European networks to Eastern Europe, an Own-initiative Opinion has been drawn up.

The purpose is to lend support to, and further develop, the idea of a more active Committee role in building up relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The Committee has a key role to play, especially in bringing about and developing the machinery for social dialogue.

In connection with the requisite development of a transport blueprint for the whole of Europe, the ESC welcomes the convening of a second All-European Transport Conference.

It also welcomes the planned adoption of a declaration which is fully binding on its signatories.

The purpose of the Opinion is to ensure that machinery for the extensive consultation of the social partners is created in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Initially this machinery should be created for consultations between the countries of Central and Eastern Europe prior to the establishment at a later date of a dialogue with the countries of the European Economic Area (EEA) on an equal footing.

Furthermore, the Committee has adopted Opinions on the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Slovenia in the field of transport and on the seventh summertime Directive.

B – Telecommunications

The Green Paper on postal services (Rapporteur: Mr Pompen)

The Green Paper is a discussion document with the following two objectives:

- (i) to provide a status report of the present situation, identifying problems and challenges that already exist and those that are likely to arise in the future;
- (ii) to discuss possible solutions and responses, and to lay out detailed options for the future.

The central guiding principle will be the fundamental policy of continuing the universal service, thus ensuring that the postal administrations' public service mission is carried out in good economic and financial conditions. The basic meaning of this universal service requirement is that there should continue to be a postal service available throughout the Community, both for national services within a Member State and between Member States. This universal service must be offered at an affordable price, have a good quality of service and be accessible to everyone.

Then, provided that the universal service is secured, there should be as much freedom of choice as possible, as far as it respects, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the pursuit of the public service mission.

After discussing the problems of the present system of postal services in the Community and their implications for the single market (lack of harmonization, market distortions, differences in performance), the Green Paper proposes a combination of liberalization and harmonization.

The following segments would be liberalized gradually: express services, publications, cross-border letters and direct mail.

The Committee endorses the idea put forward in the Green Paper that all Community citizens and businesses should be guaranteed access to certain basic postal services. These basic services are provided through a public postal network offering a regular, reliable service at affordable prices. All users in the same circumstances should receive the same treatment.

The Committee agrees that the national postal administrations in the Member States should be obliged to provide these universal basic services. To enable them to meet this obligation, the volume of mail handled by the national administrations must be sufficient (economy of scale) to ensure the continuance of the universal postal service throughout the Member State's national territory.

The obligation to provide a universal postal service should always entail an exclusive legal right to provide certain services, and the Committee is of the view that reserved services must be on a scale that enables national postal administrations to provide a universal service of high quality, at generally affordable prices and under precisely defined conditions of access. The postal network infrastructure also involves investment and operating costs. Financial balance is therefore required for the whole range of services.

The reserved services can be defined as a monopoly which gives national postal administrations the exclusive right to collect, forward and deliver postal articles in written, printed or other form to natural and legal persons in return for payment.

The weight and price criteria which determine the monopoly must be realistic. A minimum weight limit of 1 kg should always apply in order to avoid any abrupt loss of income which would threaten the funding of the universal service. The tariff limit should be at least twice the price equivalent of the weight limit to allow such simple services as registered mail and acknowledgement of receipt to be included in the reserved sector.

The Committee thinks that the social implications should be examined in advance. It would be unacceptable if the growth prospects for postal traffic, which the Green Paper puts at 5 to 6% per annum, were to be accompanied by staff reductions and a deterioration in general employment conditions. The Commission should therefore bring the Joint Committee for Postal Services into operation without delay.

The Committee has also given an Opinion on the mutual recognition of telecommunications licences (Rapporteur: Dame Jocelyn Barrow).

C – Air transport

Code of conduct for computerized reservation systems (CRSs) (Rapporteur: Mr Moreland)

A code of conduct for computerized reservation systems of air tickets has existed since 1989. The aim is to avoid discrimination (system access, display of information, charges, etc.) between airlines in the use of computer systems.

The aim of the Commission's proposal is to adapt the current code of conduct so as to improve competition between air carriers and to provide users with better information by taking measures which will ensure that:

- (i) companies belonging to one CRS communicate the information requested by another CRS;

- (ii) airlines owning CRSs do not exploit their privileged position in a discriminatory way to the detriment of other airlines using their CRSs;
- (iii) airlines owning CRSs comply with the requirements of non-discrimination against other companies as regards information displays on their computer system.

In addition the proposal removes the distinction between charter and scheduled flights, in conformity with the provisions in the third package of air transport measures. It also gives travel agents the possibility of obtaining software programmes other than those offered by the CRS.

The Committee fully supports the Commission's proposal, and repeats its point put forward earlier that the Commission should report annually how many complaints it has received and how many of them have been upheld. It should also report on their nature and on what action has been taken.

The Committee thinks that if the problem of accessing confidential information in a computer reservation system other than that which has provided the information is not covered in the Council Decision on the draft data protection Directive, the Commission should make a proposal to cover the subject.

Furthermore, while agreeing with the Commission's approach to 'dehosting', the Committee suggests that a more detailed examination should be made with a view to further changes to the Regulation and/or agreement with the United States on a policy on this subject.

D – Air accident investigations (Rapporteur: Mr Mobbs)

The Commission's proposal concerns the investigations by national authorities of civil aircraft accidents and incidents.

A Council Directive would make it mandatory for the Member States to carry out such investigations with the sole aim of preventing similar accidents from occurring.

The purpose of the proposal is thus to lay down common basic principles governing who carries out such investigations and in what manner.

The Committee welcomed the proposal and proposed the creation of a central Community database with information on accidents and incidents.

E – A common policy on safe seas (Rapporteur: Mrs Bredima-Savopoulou)

The Commission's communication is a framework action programme for the enhancement of safety and prevention of pollution at sea.

The action programme is based upon a coherent package of measures including:

- (i) measures to establish a uniform implementation of existing international rules in the Community;
- (ii) measures to ensure a tighter and more effective control of ships by the State port authorities;
- (iii) measures to promote coherent and harmonized development of navigational aids and traffic surveillance infrastructure;
- (iv) measures to support international organizations enabling them to strengthen their primary role in international standard-setting;
- (v) measures to improve the training and qualification of crews.

The emphasis of the communication is less on developing new standards at international level than on securing universal implementation of existing standards, drawn up in the IMO (International Maritime Organization) and elsewhere, by incorporating these standards into Community law.

The Committee welcomed the communication.

It particularly stressed the importance of such factors as State control of ports, the human element and maritime infrastructure. It consequently put less emphasis on other factors mentioned in the communication such as the age and flag State of ships.

F – Common rules and standards for ship inspection (Rapporteur: Mr Whitworth)

This proposal is the first of a series, all of which are drawn up within the framework of the Commission's abovementioned communication on safe seas.

Inspection of modern ships is a complicated affair so most Member States delegate this responsibility to classification societies. Since different classification societies have differing standards, variations in ships' seaworthiness arise.

The first objective of the Commission's proposal is to specify a set of minimum criteria to be met by the classification societies in order for the certificates issued by these societies to be recognized by Member States.

The second objective is to establish Community-wide minimum safety requirements concerning hull, machinery and electrical and control installations. The responsibility for the specification and the control of these standards is delegated to the classification societies and in return these become subject to more stringent inspection.

The Committee welcomed the Commission's proposal.

It stressed that the proposal should not lead to a reduction in the current standards of any Member State and also asked the Commission to review some of the elements of the proposal regarding the quantitative characteristics of the classification societies.

G – Minimum level of training for maritime occupations ((Rapporteur: Mr Eddy)

This Commission proposal is also based on an IMO convention: the STCW Convention (International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers).

The proposal comprises a system of minimum training standards, based on international rules defined in the STCW Convention supplemented with language tuition for seamen serving on passenger ships or ships carrying hazardous or polluting cargoes. Ships manned with crews unable to prove that they meet these standards will be inspected as a matter of priority when entering Community ports.

The Committee endorses the scope and thrust of the proposal but thinks, firstly, that the Directive should await the anticipated 1995 changes of the STCW Convention and, secondly, that the inspection of ships entering Community ports should cover not only certificates but also operational checks if necessary.

3. SOCIAL, FAMILY, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Fundamental social rights of workers

The Committee welcomed the second report of the Commission on the application of the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers.

As regards the actual application of the Charter, the Committee noted that progress had continued to be made in adopting non-binding Council decisions, some Directives in the health and safety field and three other Directives.

The failure of the Council of Ministers to adopt all the other important social policy proposals was not because of any majority opposition to them, but because of the '*liberum veto*' which individual member governments continued to exercise given the lack of political will in Council to apply with confidence and commitment Articles 100a and 118a (allowing for qualified majority voting).

In the mean time, various referendums highlighted a discrepancy that existed between European institutions and the citizens they served. It could be argued that the 'Citizens' Europe' to European Union and a more efficient decision-making procedure capable of making real decisions for 'Europe' might help bridge this discrepancy.

In its Opinion on the 'Citizens' Europe', the Commission stated overwhelmingly in favour of 'the need for the Union to enable the proper application of the (Community) Social Protocol Agreement to all citizens concerned throughout the Union as a whole'.

Whilst the Social Protocol Agreement was a major step forward, there was still a substantial field of social policy activity which was required, having a 'European dimension', but for which there was either no legal basis for action or as yet no qualified majority decision-making procedure envisaged. This was particularly the case for major policy areas under Article 118 of the Treaty and/or in Article 2.3 of the Social Protocol Agreement. Treaty revisions on these points would require urgent attention.

The vision of an internal market grappling with a cumbersome two-speed social legislation system in Europe seemed less and less credible. The internal market concept formed a whole with appropriate responsibilities at national and European level; it could not work if 'opt-outs' in terms of deliberate undercutting of legitimate basic social rights and standards continued to hamper it. The key challenge today was therefore to establish these ground rules, so as to assure fair play. This meant applying the Social Charter.

There was still a backlog of relevant policies which might require renewed attention within the Treaty, for example:

- (i) the right of association and of collective bargaining;
- (ii) the right to free employment services (i.e. access to public placement services free of charge);
- (iii) draft proposals emanating from the (first) social action programme which could be updated and reintroduced if need be through Article 2 of the Social Protocol Agreement:
 - parental leave and leave for family reasons;
 - modifying the burden of proof in the area of equal pay and sexual equality;
 - information and consultation of workers;
 - the reduction and reorganization of working time.

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The Committee posed the question of how ILO conventions could also be implemented at Community level. Such conventions could fall within the joint competence of the Commission and the Member States. Cooperation was necessary because the Community could not conclude an ILO convention itself, but only through the agency of the Member States.

The Committee called on the Council and the Commission to work out rules which would ensure this cooperation without affecting the constitutional rights of ILO members including, in particular, workers' and employers' representatives.

Three other areas of reflection were proposed in the field of social rights and societal rights:

- (i) the right to better consumer/user information as regards the social and environmental conditions in which goods and services were provided;
- (ii) the need to promote a 'social clause' in GATT and other trading rounds, which should refer, for example, to the banning of child labour and the right to free collective bargaining;
- (iii) the case for developing basic social convergence criteria.

Employment

In its Own-initiative Opinion on employment in Europe, the Committee pointed out that the serious and complex nature of the unemployment problem in today's society required a comprehensive and resolute policy-mix involving substantial investment in stimulating new creative skills for new and emerging needs, appropriate training, technological adjustment, labour market flexibility and a participative framework of industrial relations. Measures should be taken to ensure a genuine cooperative strategy for growth and job creation.

The macroeconomic impact of measures decided at Edinburgh on a new lending facility for trans-European network projects and on a European Investment Fund was minimal; ways should be examined to make them more effective and speed up their implementation. The amounts announced – ECU 5 000 million and ECU 2 000 million respectively – should be revised upwards substantially and preparatory work should be speeded up on these projects so that they can be implemented as soon as possible.

Blueprints for trans-European networks should be drawn up as quickly as possible and preliminary work on existing projects ready to be put into practice should be speeded up.

Real wages growing at a lower rate than productivity would help improve workers' purchasing power and allow increased resources for the neces-

sary investment. A stable and credible macroeconomic background and social dialogue – not only at Community but also at national and company level – also encouraged this wage restraint.

A further condition for improving the employment situation was to ensure that all parties concerned take comprehensive action so that education and training systems at all stages were geared to supporting economic growth and technological progress, taking account of workers' own individual interests.

More worker consultation and participation in firms was vital to ensure that the introduction of new technologies and production process innovations and improvement in working methods (a) resulted in better social conditions and (b) helped the European economy regain its competitive edge and retain it over the long term.

The reorganization of working time, combined with the more flexible use of production equipment, should be negotiated as part of industrial relations agreements, with a view to boosting employment throughout the economy.

Training and education

The Committee endorsed the Commission proposal on access to continuing vocational training.

It particularly supported the Commission's appeal to union and management groupings at both EC and Member State level to provide an impetus in this area.

The Committee none the less believed that access to continuing vocational training was in many cases severely hampered by the lack of transparency and non-coordination of information regarding the possibilities available. On the question of funding, the Committee also felt that different solutions had to be applied, depending on the target groups and their capabilities and interests. Those wishing to attend continuing vocational training courses in public or private establishments must not be debarred from doing so just because they are unable to bear the costs. State subsidies, tax concessions or funds co-financed by workers and employers had to ensure that places on courses were available to every candidate.

The Committee regretted that the idea of training leave had not found its way into the recommendation. Also the Commission proposal unfortunately failed to mention all the major objectives of continuing vocational training and the content of training courses. Finally, the Committee regretted the shortage of national and EC data on continuing vocational training.

The Committee welcomed the Tempus II programme, the aim of which was to support the development and overhaul of the higher education systems in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe through cooperation with partners in the European Community. The Committee emphasized the need to set this programme within a clearer national strategy and to improve coordination between eligible States and the Commission. The role of the social partners in helping to draw up and assess joint projects within Tempus was also emphasized. The Committee called for the establishment of a joint liaison committee between the ESC and the social partners in Central and East European countries and recommended that the emerging involvement of enterprise in joint European projects (JEPs) should be encouraged and broadened as a matter of priority.

The Committee considered the Matthaeus-Tax Programme to be an excellent step forward towards Community-wide vocational training for customs and tax officials and towards the establishment of a European centre for training customs and tax officials. However, the Committee regretted the limited number of places available and suggested improvements regarding information and language training for the officials concerned.

Occupational health and safety

In its Own-initiative Opinion, the Committee was in favour of an integrated programme of European Commission initiatives for safety and health training at work for persons in relevant functions not yet clearly covered by framework Directive 89/391/EEC and individual directives. This would have to be on the basis of recommendations for elementary education in risk prevention and the provision of occupational safety and health training. Such education and training would also involve the self-employed and the relevant managerial and supervisory staff, occupational medical officers, safety inspectors, emergency service staff, designers, etc.

In a recommendation for education on the principles of safety and health both at school and at home, the Commission could lay down guidelines for:

- the introduction of safety and health protection in school curricula;
- adequate preparation of teaching staff;
- the promotion of pedagogical research;
- preventive safety and health provisions and awareness in schools;
- linkage with work experience programmes.

In a recommendation for training in the prevention of occupational risks, guidelines should be given for:

- promoting workers' representatives' interest and involvement;
- including categories not clearly covered by the framework Directive and individual directives;

drawing up training criteria;
promoting study and research;
evaluating safety skills acquired through training;
training the trainers;
establishing closer cooperation between public authorities, workers, employers and training establishments.

In amending the framework Directive and the individual Directives derived from it, the Committee thinks that the following points are of particular importance:

- (i) there should be adequate infrastructure for safety and health training;
- (ii) safety and health representatives' training should be supported by public funds;
- (iii) employers should be required to adopt training provisions;
- (iv) a standard procedure should be established for the preparation of a safety and health training plan by employers.

In addition, the Committee recommended that the Commission undertake research on, for example:

- (i) existing infrastructure for occupational safety and health training in the Member States;
- (ii) the possibilities of developing training and education programmes in schools for employers, safety experts, designers, etc.;
- (iii) the training and advice required by managers in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- (iv) the possibility of transborder safety and health training programmes;
- (v) the encouragement of cooperation on all such matters between the EC Member States and Central and East European countries.

The Committee examined the proposal for a Council Directive concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for transport activities and workplaces on means of transport. Recognizing the necessity for an effective Directive, the Committee suggested that this Directive's annexes should contain specific safety and health standards for each transport mode. Those should reflect the relevant provisions of international instruments where such exist, and the Directive itself should urge their ratification and implementation by all Member States. For transport modes where no such international instruments obtain, the annexes should reflect the current best practices determined by the relevant authorities in the various Member States for adoption by all Member States in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

Accordingly, the Committee felt that the proposed Directive should be modified by the Commission, which should prepare new annexes to meet the above criteria. The respective Joint Transport Committees should be consulted as part of this process.

The Committee considered that the Commission proposal regarding exposure to physical agents was an important addition to existing Community regulations in the field of occupational safety and health.

The lack of clarity in the proposal with regard to a wide range of physical agents (noise, mechanical vibrations, optical radiation and electromagnetic fields waves) could lead to misunderstandings and different interpretations by different authorities.

The Commission proposal on the protection of workers from exposure to chemical agents was generally considered by the Committee to be a valuable advance in worker protection provided that it in no way weakened, restricted or conflicted with the effect of established health and safety Directives and that it was amended to be more risk-assessment oriented, in line with Article 6 of framework Directive 89/391/EEC. The minimum requirements for the protection of workers should be more clearly linked to the potential risks arising from:

- (i) the intrinsic hazardous properties of the chemical agents alone or in combination;
- (ii) the level of exposure;
- (iii) the circumstances of work.

The Committee also considered that employer record-keeping obligations should:

- (i) be more closely linked to keeping an inventory of chemical agents within an enterprise;
- (ii) include information provision;
- (iii) be consequent upon and include risk assessment in the sense of Article 6 of the framework Directive.

The Commission proposal was of great importance for occupational safety and health, not only in major chemical companies, but also in small and medium-sized enterprises.

Freedom of movement

The Committee endorsed the Commission proposal on the right of residence of students. However, it drew attention to certain issues that had arisen in those Member States which had implemented the Directive. Many

of the problems of studying abroad, e.g. the non-transferability of study finance to another country, had not been solved by this Directive. Eight Member States had already implemented this Directive. As a decision had been taken on the subject in 1990, the ESC assumed that the Directive would be implemented very soon in the other countries.

Social exclusion

In its Own-initiative Opinion on social exclusion, the Committee considered it unfortunate that, given the recognition of social exclusion as a structural and multi-dimensional phenomenon, the problem of unjustifiable discrimination against significant excluded groups had not been addressed. Negative discrimination and allied phenomena, such as prejudice, intolerance, extremism and segregation, were structures common to the exclusion faced in many dimensions of social and economic life, by many such groups. To a larger or lesser extent these problems were faced by nearly all the significant groups of people threatened with greater risk of social exclusion, including:

unemployed people;
women;
black and ethnic minority people;
religious minorities;
disabled people;
young people;
people with mental illnesses and disabilities etc.

The Committee recommended some of the rights which should be included in a charter (rather than a simple solemn declaration):

- (i) public policies should continue to be devised and implemented in accordance with the principle of solidarity;
- (ii) the right to a secure family life should be respected;
- (iii) everyone should have access to be consulted on public decisions which affect them;
- (iv) authorities, at the level of the Community, the nation, the region and the municipality should adopt and implement policies designed to counter social exclusion;
- (v) authorities, at the level of the Community, the nation, the region and the municipality should adopt and implement policies designed to counter unemployment;
- (vi) no one should face negative discrimination in employment or the enjoyment of services or facilities on the grounds of sex, race, nationality, age, disability or political/religious views;

(vii) everyone should have access to education and vocational training designed to promote their integration into the labour market.

In the Committee's view, these rights were not just important for socially excluded people. Therefore, such a charter should not be a charter for poor people or for the socially excluded, it should recognize rights granted to all citizens of the European Union.

The Committee welcomed the Commission programme to combat exclusion and promote solidarity. It also welcomed the report on the implementation of 'Poverty 3' and, in particular, its increased budget. The emphasis given to encouraging innovation in respect to the problem of social exclusion was commendable. The 'accompaniment' of socially excluded individuals would be a suitable field of action in view of the importance of the principle of 'participation' which was to underpin model actions in the new programme. The Committee would welcome projects enhancing socially excluded people's awareness of their rights. It noted with approval the criteria for the selection of model actions, especially the enhancement of employment possibilities by, for instance, the improvement of vocational skills. Whilst approving the multidimensional, area-by-area approach, the Committee recommended that these criteria should include the model actions' concentration on those groups at greatest risk of social and economic exclusion. In terms of prevention, a place should be given to proposals for innovative ways of countering mechanisms of exclusion, such as bigotry, prejudice, segregation and negative discrimination. There was also a need for precise criteria in order to evaluate the success or failure of projects.

Disabled and elderly persons

Although the ESC in principle supported the Commission's initiative on technology for disabled and elderly people (TIDE), it deplored the brevity of the time-scale allowed for preparation of the Opinion. The only way to create a large-scale market and to integrate the elderly and disabled properly was to ensure that all types of aid for overcoming physiological barriers in general were widely available. To this end it was essential to keep an active record of users, with their associations participating in a synergic fashion alongside research institutes, industry, administrative authorities and social bodies.

In its Own-initiative Opinion on older people in society, the Committee pointed out that it had twice welcomed and endorsed the European Year for the Elderly in its Opinions of 4 July 1990 and 22 April 1992. In response to growing calls for supportive strategies, and in parallel with the European Parliament, the Committee considered that a clear goal of the European

Year should be to launch a Community charter of the fundamental rights of older people, together with an accompanying action programme.

Such a charter and action programme developing out of Articles 24 and 25 of the existing Social Charter should cover:

- the training and retraining of older workers;
- legal recourse against age discrimination in the labour market (e.g. early redundancy) and elsewhere;
- retirement planning;
- a decent income, pension rights and proper health care for older people;
- tax rebates;
- free movement and pension payments;
- a European senior travel pass;
- housing;
- monitoring of residential homes;
- cut-price public transport fares geared to income;
- the needs of minorities;
- protection from violence;
- participation in society;
- home help and help for informal carers and for professions specialized in assisting older people;
- a universal insurance scheme covering the type of care required by older people.

The charter should not segregate but rather aim at integrating the needs of the elderly in the policies for which the European Community had, or would have, established competency.

It was essential to affirm the inalienable right of older people to proper pension and health-care provision. Guaranteed 'social protection' could also be resourced by older people with sufficient income.

The EC should recommend that Member States introduce national legislation enabling the resources represented by the elderly to be harnessed, by recognizing activities of benefit to the Community. These would be carried out in a participatory way (voluntary bodies and associations) in the following spheres:

- solidarity;
- voluntary social sector;
- support networks;
- activities of social benefit in towns, local neighbourhoods and rural areas;
- cultural activities for the elderly;
- preventive health action;
- mutual assistance structures.

Mechanisms for cooperation and exchange between the various agencies involved in caring for the elderly should be set up as a matter of urgency.

With the support of the instruments set up by the EC Council of Ministers in November 1990, such as the EC Observatory on Ageing, the Committee would propose the following:

- (i) a regular information exchange with a view to setting up home-help networks;
- (ii) information and awareness-raising programmes aimed at the elderly;
- (iii) a European protocol on home services and repairs.

Socio-economic operators

The Committee's Own-initiative Opinion on socio-economic operators and the role of the European Parliament Ombudsman may be summarized as follows:

The objective: A citizens' Europe

The appointment of an Ombudsman under Article 138e of the new EC Treaty was welcomed.

Each and every citizen should be able to move freely and legally between Member States, become established in any Member State and reside in any Member State on the basis of equal opportunities.

A citizens' Europe is hallmarked by the basic civil and human rights enshrined in European constitutions and in the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms.

The right to information, transparency, democratic control and participation in the decision-making process must be explicitly guaranteed in the body of Community legislation and in practice.

The right of appeal must be reinforced by allowing the ordinary citizen to exercise his or her rights with respect to the various Community institutions, even before a decision is taken.

The democratization of the Community institutions

The Commission should be asked to inform European citizens directly about its activities and the implications of its decisions, before and after they come into effect.

The Council will have to make greater efforts to ensure that its decisions are more transparent and more clearly justified to the other Community institutions and the socio-economic operators.

The post of Ombudsman must be filled with all due speed to receive complaints concerning instances of maladministration. The Ombudsman shall be completely independent in the performance of his duties.

Introduction of openness as a structural reform

The right of access to information possessed by Community and national authorities must be guaranteed at Community level.

Information for socio-economic operators for a better, citizen-friendly information policy

Citizen-friendly information must be objective, be clearly written, provide a simple picture of the context, be of practical use and be easy to access.

Strengthening of the European Parliament: The democratization of Europe

The Committee believed that in 1994, by means of a massive electoral turnout, the citizens of Europe would not only declare their support for the European idea but also underline the political significance of the European Parliament.

The problem of EC legitimacy would only be solved if there were changes in the role of the Council of Ministers as the legislative power.

4. ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND MONETARY POLICY

Faced with the intolerable surge in unemployment in the Community – which is both a structural and a cyclical phenomenon, resulting in an acute problem of exclusion for a growing number of citizens – the Economic and Social Committee considers that it is vital for the Community to continue completing its internal market and constructing its economic and monetary union in line with the deadlines and criteria agreed at Maastricht; this would restore citizens' confidence in the Community as an essential prerequisite for confidence in their own future as economic players (providers of work, consumers, producers, investors, etc.). Thus the Committee stresses the interrelationship between growth, competitiveness and employment, to which it devoted an Own-initiative Opinion drawn up by an *ad hoc* subcommittee and conceived as a contribution to the Commission's end-of-year White Paper. This Opinion and the Committee's traditional Opinions on the economic situation in the Community emphasized that growth must be encouraged by (medium-term) structural measures and (short-term) cyclical measures.

Within the Community, the aim of such measures must be to alleviate constraints on businesses, including those impeding access to credit for SMEs,

to cut down on red tape, to remove obstacles to mobility on the labour market, etc. They must also have a concerted impact on infrastructure and speed up completion of trans-European network projects (transport, telecommunications). In the short term it is necessary: to further reduce interest rates substantially so as to stimulate investment and hence growth; to accelerate the use of EC funds by giving priority to spending linked directly to investment; to exploit the potential of the internal market; and to embark as soon as possible on the introduction of short-term measures. The aim of the latter must be: to achieve economic and monetary union (second stage) and to coordinate economic policies with a view to genuine convergence; to formulate and pursue a Community industrial policy, establishing priorities and a statute for European enterprises; to frame national and European R&D policies funded by budgets comparable with those of the Community's industrial competitors. Also, as part of the medium-term approach, it will be necessary: to step up and coordinate efforts in the field of education and vocational training; to take action on the labour market by appealing to the social partners to accept more flexibility, for example in respect of the minimum wage, so as to facilitate access of young people to employment, and in respect of contractual provisions to avoid mass redundancies; to restructure social security to avoid fraud and misuse with a view ultimately to bringing down wage costs; and to seek out, wherever growth is insufficient to absorb unemployment, new channels of job creation in related services (caring for the aged for instance), and measures to redistribute work.

At all events the Committee is adamant that Europe should not copy the US or Japanese models. Europe is firmly attached to its own model of society, i.e. a market economy counterbalanced by solidarity. The latter must be financed by direct and/or indirect taxation in addition to the contributions paid by employers and workers. Social security cannot be financed by inflation or budgetary deficits which shift the burden onto future generations. The European model presupposes a constant pursuit of quality (quality of life and quality of production especially) and progression towards activities with high added-value content. The level of wages and social security contributions is a key element in this model and has an impact on competitiveness. A reduction in real wage levels would have an adverse impact on demand and hence employment. A reduction in social security would have an adverse impact on confidence. The social partners in the Community might consider some degree of wage moderation if productivity gains were shared between real wages and ploughing back into businesses. They are also prepared to search, with the public authorities, for ways of preventing fraud and 'excess consumption' in the social security sector.

Outside the Community, the economic and social interest groups called for more active participation in the economic development of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean basin and the less-developed countries (LDCs), in line with a strategy placing emphasis on the search for mutual complementarity: the creation of purchasing power in these countries means that outlets and hence employment will also be generated for the Community's benefit. The Committee continued to stress the importance of concluding the GATT negotiations before the end of 1993.

Finally, the Committee issued a number of Opinions in connection with the preparations for economic and monetary union and, in particular, on measures to be taken during the second stage of EMU. It is preparing an Opinion on the important question of the transparency of transborder payments by banks.

The Committee, through its Ecofin Section, drew up reports on the situation in certain Member States namely the United Kingdom, Belgium and Germany. As could have been expected, these reports showed that the major problem that still needs to be tackled everywhere is unemployment.

5. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING POLICY

During 1993, the Committee issued documents on seven topics falling within the scope of its Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning. Two of these concerned the regular assessment of the Structural Funds (periodic adjustment, annual report) and another followed up the Committee's 1991 Opinion on measures to promote tourism. The remaining four dealt with entirely new issues: an Own-initiative Opinion on rural society, and three referrals concerning (i) the future of Community initiatives, (ii) the new Cohesion Fund set up following the Edinburgh and Maastricht Summits, and (iii) the bridging facility envisaged by the Copenhagen European Council.

The amendment of the Structural Fund Regulations (CES 601/93 – Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal) was approved by the Economic and Social Committee, which wholeheartedly supported the objectives fixed by the Commission: confirmation of the key principles of the earlier reform, greater openness, simpler procedures and stricter financial controls. The Committee particularly welcomed the new Article 4 allowing the economic and social partners to participate at all stages of the procedure. It had in fact expressed its regret at the lack of involvement of the social partners when approving the third annual report on the reform of the Structural Funds – 1991 (CES 477/93 – Rapporteur: Mr Quevedo Rojo).

In view of its call for greater openness in Community initiatives, the Committee also welcomed the Commission's decision to submit a Green Paper on the future of Community initiatives under the Structural Funds to its various partners. In its Opinion (CES 894/93 – Rapporteur: Mr Christie), the Committee endorsed the programmes set out in the Green Paper. This was the first occasion on which the principles and practices of the Community initiative programme have been comprehensively reviewed, and coincided with the amendment of the Structural Funds.

The Committee examined the establishment of a Cohesion Fund (CES 221/93 – Rapporteur: Mr Giesecke), again supporting the Commission's approach and intention of setting up an instrument which, being aimed at Member States and not regions, will help to concentrate Community aid programmes on a geographical basis, in the interests of cohesion. The Committee also put forward a number of proposals, in addition to the Commission's, concerning, *inter alia*, the list of Fund eligibility criteria and the involvement of regions and socio-economic categories, particularly from the point of view of monitoring and assessment procedures.

Still in connection with cohesion, the Section also drew up an Own-initiative Opinion on extra-urban and/or rural areas (CES 476/93 – Rapporteur: Mr Salmon). The Opinion, based on numerous studies, hearings and field trips, dealt with the need to establish a more balanced relationship between towns and the countryside, in the wake of the Treaty on European Union which includes the development of rural areas among the goals of cohesion policy.

The Committee also issued an Opinion (CES 1005/93 – Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal) on the proposal for a Council Decision empowering the Commission to contract borrowings for the purpose of extending loans to Member States under the bridging facility. The Committee welcomed the proposal which, again in furtherance of cohesion, authorized the Commission to contract borrowings in order to expedite the implementation by the Member States of investment projects scheduled for future years. Despite the backing of the Committee and of the Copenhagen European Council, the proposal was not approved by the Ecofin Council.

The last Opinion drawn up by the Section and adopted by the Committee in 1993 concerned the Commission's final report on the implementation of Council Decision 90/665/EEC of 17 December 1990 regarding a two-year programme (1991–92) for developing Community tourism statistics.

In this follow-up Opinion (CES 1307/93 – Rapporteur: Mr Cunha), the Committee expressed broad satisfaction with the report. With a view to the harmonization of the concepts and methods used, the Committee reiterated the request for a tourism glossary which was made in its December 1991

Opinion on a Community action plan to assist tourism. The Committee also supported the issuing of a Directive on the subject.

6. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

During the reference period the Committee adopted Opinions on the following subjects:

Operation of the internal market/Follow-up to the Sutherland Report

The Commission decided to analyse the problems the Community will face in managing an area without internal frontiers.

In the context of the Sutherland Report's proposals, and in order to ensure the proper operation of the internal market, the Commission is to place emphasis on:

- (i) improvement in the transparency of Community rules and their implementation;
- (ii) strengthening of the partnership with the Member States;
- (iii) strengthening of control rules, notably in the field of public procurement.

The Opinion highlights the ESC's key role in reinforcing the internal market, both in the drafting of Community legislation and in keeping a check on existing rules and introducing supplementary rules. This would include evaluating the impact of these rules.

The Commission should announce publicly and in good time that it proposes to table Community legislation on given subjects. The relevant interest groups should be informed and invited to attend public hearings well before the Commission takes a decision. The Commission should recognize and strengthen the role of the ESC as the consultative institution under the Treaties for the public display of the impact of existing and proposed legislation. The Committee is pleased that the European Parliament has suggested to the Council that 'the ESC should constitute a forum for future development of a Community action plan and periodically analyse and study its progress and implications for businesses, consumers and other groups represented in the ESC'.

Strategic programme on the internal market

Following its initial reaction to the Sutherland Report, the Commission published a further, more comprehensive response including its views of the

broader strategic development of the internal market. This took the form of a working document contained in a communication.

Member States and socio-economic groupings were invited to comment with a view to drawing up subsequently a definitive version of a 'strategic programme for the management and development of the internal market'.

The Committee Opinion welcomes many of the individual proposals in the working document. Overall, however, it does not feel that the working document meets the requirements of a 'strategic programme on the internal market', since insufficient account is taken of the general political, economic and social conditions which are a prerequisite for the success of the internal market. The close involvement of the various categories of economic and social activity in monitoring and advising on the implementation of the internal market through the ESC can make a substantial contribution to maintaining a climate of trust and cooperation throughout the Community. The Committee intends to comment periodically on the operation of the internal market as a way of ensuring that the objective of improving the competitiveness of European business, the standard of living and economic and social cohesion is achieved. The European Parliament itself suggested that the Committee undertake this function, given its specialist knowledge of the subject and the fact that it is politically and socially representative. The Parliament's proposal was welcomed by the Commission and taken up by the Council. The Committee should have greater involvement in the preparatory stages before a Commission proposal is adopted. It should also be more involved in the process of ensuring greater transparency in the implementation of Community law.

The Committee recommends that the Commission undertake a series of pilot projects on each side of the borders between Member States in order to identify differences in the application of Community legislation. All professionals likely to be involved in the monitoring and application of internal market legislation must be trained accordingly. The Committee broadly supports the process of gradually shifting the emphasis from the Directive's approach to Regulations, particularly in technical fields. It recommends an urgent policy initiative to remove obstacles to the development of trans-European networks. The Committee also recommends that the Commission and the Council should conclude an agreement with the Committee regarding working procedures on the legislative consultative process.

Removal of technical barriers to trade

The ESC once again drafted a number of Opinions on Commission proposals aimed at removing technical barriers to trade in the Community.

Motor vehicles

The Committee issued a total of eight Opinions on two- and three-wheel motor vehicles. These covered masses and dimensions, identification of controls, tell-tales and indicators, audible warning devices, stands, protective devices intended to prevent unauthorized use, mounting of the rear registration plate, statutory markings and passenger handholds. The Committee unanimously welcomes this package of measures. It notes, however, that since Directives are involved, these must include appropriate provisions to ensure that the rules are applied concurrently and uniformly in all Member States if the internal market is to operate smoothly.

The Commission proposal relating to measures to be taken to combat air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles and amending Directive 70/220/EEC is intended to set new mandatory limit values for vehicle emissions from 1 January 1996 for all new type-approvals and from 1 January 1997 for all newly registered vehicles in the Community. The Committee unanimously endorsed the amending Directive as an appropriate measure to further reduce environmental pollution caused by motor vehicle emissions. The Member States are encouraged to view the parameters laid down in the proposed Directive for tax incentives for motor vehicles which meet the future emission standards. Member States should also consider incentives to modernize the vehicle park.

Personal protective equipment

The draft Directive seeks to extend the deadline for implementation of Directive 89/686/EEC on personal protective equipment. The Committee points out that, in view of the broad scope of the provisions, implementation of the Directive is particularly urgent, and it therefore suggests a shorter deadline.

Procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations

The Committee issued two Opinions simultaneously on Directive 83/189/EEC laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations. The first referred to the report from the Commission on the operation of the Directive in 1990 and 1991. The Committee welcomes this report in principle as it gives a systematic and open account of important developments during this period.

However, the Committee notes that certain figures on standardization activities during the period are unavailable, making it impossible to give any concrete verdict on the work of the standardization institutes.

The Committee also stresses the urgent need to set up a databank.

The second Opinion referred to the Commission proposal to amend Directive 83/189/EEC for the second time. The Committee is unanimously in favour of this, but it also calls for a permanent closer watch to be kept on Member States that lag behind in the standardization process, both as regards testing and certification and in respect of the rapid provision of accurate information on new standards which have been, or are in the process of being drawn up.

CE mark

The Committee welcomes the Commission's plan to introduce uniform regulations for the affixing of the CE mark with regard to Directives passed after the 'new conception' and for future EC regulations. However, the Committee would once again like to voice its concern about possible safety problems.

There is also no mention of what happens in the case of infringements, particularly the misuse of CE marking.

Telecommunications

European telecommunications equipment industry

The Committee invoked its right to issue Own-Initiative Opinions for its Opinion on the communication from the Commission 'European telecommunications equipment industry: the state of play, issues at stake and proposals for action'. The communication lists the following four fundamental objectives for Community action: the establishment of a real internal market to act as a base for the development of the telecommunications industry and provide a permanent stimulus for dynamic demand conditions; the support for technological development; the improvement of the industry's position in the terminal equipment sector and the search for level playing conditions of competition in the world market.

The Committee Opinion supplements its 1990 Opinion on the 'communication from the Commission on industrial policy in an open and competitive environment'. The Committee stresses that the main aim is to put into effect a clear, consistent EC-wide strategy aimed at pressing ahead with standardization, harnessing R&D resources to assist European companies, encouraging the development of Europe's major companies and a stronger supporting base for SMEs, and promoting the training and retraining of a skilled workforce in all relevant areas of productive activity.

Satellite earth station equipment

The Committee generally thinks that the procedures and provisions governing telecommunications terminal equipment should also apply to satel-

lite earth station equipment as far as possible. There should be no exceptions unless the specific circumstances peculiar to satellite earth station equipment are different. The following should be added to the objectives specified in the Commission proposal: the introduction as soon as possible of a uniform licensing procedure for the operation of transmit-receive satellite earth station equipment in the Community, the exemption of new satellite receive-only equipment from operating licence procedures and the avoidance of multiple authorization procedures.

Trans-European data communications networks: Comedi and IDA

The aim of the Community programme IDA is to implement a trans-European data communications network for the interchange of data between administrations. This is directly linked with the Community action Comedi on interadministration telematic networks for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States. The Committee welcomes these initiatives in two Opinions on the subject. It also recommends that the IDA programme be backed up with industrial policy measures favourable to European industry and job creation. On the subject of Comedi, the Committee calls on the Commission to ensure that the burdens which implementation of the Comedi programme will inevitably impose on many of the enterprises concerned are minimized.

Electronic data transfer/security of information systems

The importance of information technology systems is quite clear, but they must be secure. Security of information systems means: confidentiality (prevention of the unauthorized disclosure of information); integrity (prevention of the unauthorized modification of information) and availability (prevention of the unauthorized withholding of information or resources).

The Committee unanimously endorses the Commission proposal that information technology security evaluation criteria be adopted within evaluation and certification schemes for an initial period of two years, that international harmonization and standardization of information technology security evaluation criteria be stepped up, and that developments be reviewed after this initial period and appropriate actions proposed.

The Committee would like to see the introduction of codes of practice or legislation establishing acceptable minimum standards of security. However, it deplores the use of so much unclear technical jargon in the body of the Commission recommendation.

Industrial policy/European aircraft industry

The Committee gave its views on proposed Community actions in a unanimous Opinion. Reiterating the strategic technological importance of the

European aeronautical industry, the Committee recommends that a specific major programme of research and technology should be launched.

The Committee supports the proposed Community strategy for conversion and diversification of defence-oriented products towards civil use.

The Committee feels there should be a clear objective to ensure that the Central and East European and the former USSR aeronautical industries become primary collaborators with West European industry, and not rivals linked to the USA or Japan.

The Committee also goes into the problem of multiple national certification, vocational training, retraining and readaptation of workers, and mutual recognition of qualifications. The Committee recognizes the importance of dialogue between the social partners in a field where a great many jobs have been lost or are at risk.

The Committee anticipates that the Commission will rigorously enforce equitable market conditions within Europe; however, it is also necessary to ensure equitable international competition (particularly *vis-à-vis* the USA). The Opinion also touches on the problems arising from the weak dollar (the currency used in aerospace contracts) and environmental issues.

SMFs/Community measures and multiannual programmes

The Committee gave its view on Community measures to help SMEs, specifically on the 1993-96 and 1994-97 programmes. The Committee has a particular interest in matters concerning SMEs and has issued several Opinions on the subject over recent years. The Opinion in question makes explicit reference to the very detailed analysis of the situation for SMEs contained in a previous Opinion of 22 October 1992 (Schleyer Opinion on SMEs and the craft industries).

The Committee deplores the fact that the 'micro measures' such as BC-Net, Europartenariat and Euro-Info Centres are to be given a significantly larger budget than the 'macro measures' designed to benefit SMEs as a whole, or important sectors, such as the trade and craft industries.

The Committee calls for the participation of SMEs and their sectoral organizations in the establishment of standards, also at EC level, to be expanded and supported.

The same goes for SME participation in EC programmes for research and technological development.

The Committee also calls for SMEs to have access to the European Investment Fund. The Committee reiterates its proposal for the setting-up of a craft sector unit within the Commission's Directorate-General XXIII and a

European academy for the craft sector, and calls for improved information on legislation and statistics relating to the craft industries. The Committee is critical of the fact that the major issue of public contracts has been overlooked. On the other hand, the Committee welcomes the decision to fund the observatory which will monitor trends and developments in the field of SMEs.

Time taken to make payments in commercial transactions

The problem of excessively long terms of payment has led the Commission to initiate consultations among interested parties. The intention is to elicit comments and suggestions on appropriate initiatives.

The Committee decided to contribute to the preconsultation stage. In order to produce a useful Opinion, the Committee organized a public hearing involving the most important bodies concerned.

The Committee Opinion, which was unanimously adopted, suggests that information on payment periods should be compiled and disseminated as widely as possible. The Committee draws attention to the importance of training enterprise managers. On contractual payment periods, Article 86 of the Treaty allows action to prevent unfair exploitation of a dominant position, particularly when inequitable payment conditions are imposed.

On payment delays, the Committee suggests that the Commission should make recommendations dealing with transparency of payment conditions and compliance with those conditions; strict application of agreed deadlines without the need for notification; application of delay interest immediately the deadline has passed; freedom to fix that interest at a level corresponding to commercial interest rates; validity of penalty clauses; resort to arbitration and introduction of summary procedures for payment injunctions. In the particular case of public contracts, the Committee suggests that the Commission should prepare a draft Directive intended to approximate Member States' legislation concerning payment periods and delay interest.

The public sector

The Committee drew up an Own-initiative Opinion on the direct and indirect effects which the establishment of the single market will have on public sector workers.

In an economy which is becoming freer and more comprehensive, the demands of the public service must be reconciled with those of competition. It is therefore essential, in close consultation with the Member States, to implement a programme for public services which includes: management training for senior staff; information on the content of directives and

regulations adopted, and the way in which these should be converted into national provisions; information to be given in the nine working languages of the Community; activities for retraining, further training and refresher courses and a wide-ranging action plan for exchanges of officials.

In order to tackle adequately the problems of public service at EC level, studies must be made and appropriate consultation and negotiation procedures developed.

Media concentration

In its Green Paper 'Pluralism and media concentration in the internal market – an assessment of the need for Community action', the Commission proposed the following three options for possible Community action in this field: doing nothing, proposing a recommendation to enhance transparency, or proposing the harmonization of national restrictions on media ownership. For the last option, three alternatives were put forward: a Council Directive, a Council Regulation or a Directive or a Regulation together with an independent committee.

The ESC Opinion, which was adopted by a large majority, broadly endorses the option of introducing legal provisions by way of a Directive, as harmonization of legislation by a Regulation is not flexible enough. In the Committee's view, it may be extremely useful and effective to set up an independent committee at the same time.

The ESC makes the following specific proposals regarding the content of a possible harmonization instrument:

- (i) In view of the existence of international multimedia corporations, ownership restrictions must also be introduced in respect of the press.
- (ii) Neither media nor non-media enterprises must be allowed to dominate the market in several media sectors (television, radio, press) in one or more national markets; similarly, no such enterprise that already controls a national media sector must be allowed to extend its market dominance.
- (iii) Media or non-media companies already dominating the market in one national media sector should not be allowed to acquire a majority holding in media companies elsewhere in the Community.
- (iv) Before a media company that is already active in one media sector is allowed to operate in another media sector, all its holdings and cross-ownership arrangements must be disclosed in full.

Competition policy

In its Opinion on the Commission's 'XXIInd Annual Report on Competition Policy', the Committee recognized that the circumstances in which we were living had changed: economic growth had slowed down and the subsidiarity principle now applied.

The Committee agreed with the Commission that there was a need to push ahead with progressive harmonization of national antitrust legislation, although the national courts should be encouraged to involve themselves more closely in procedural matters and questions of application.

The Committee called for more active consumer involvement in the application of competition policy. It warmly supported the move to extend the scope of the block exemptions allowed by the Regulations on specialization agreements, research and development agreements, patent licensing agreements, and know-how licensing agreements.

The Committee eagerly awaited the new Regulation on technology transfer.

The notice regarding merger and cooperation transactions under Regulation 4064/89 should be updated in the light of new Regulations and subsequent case-law.

State aid should be transparent, temporary and degressive. The Committee also urged the Commission to apply the same rules to public and to private firms, without any discrimination. Finally, the Commission's attention was drawn to the question of 'indirect' aid, i.e. concessionary State export credits and export credit guarantees.

Reinforcement of prudential supervision

Recent cases of fraud raised the issue of how adequate was the supervisory regime, based on mutual recognition, put in place by the financial services Directives.

The Commission had therefore presented a draft Directive, the main aim of which was to amend the framework Directives in the financial services sector, including banking, insurance and securities. The new Directive was to make supervisors better equipped to prevent cases of fraud and other irregularities.

The Committee welcomed the move but thought the Directive would only have a limited effect.

Pointing to the conflict between the auditors' role as responsible to (and appointed by) shareholders and their use as an arm of regulatory bodies, the Committee stressed that the Directive should state quite clearly that the

mission of statutory auditors should remain within the limits necessary for the supervision of financial institutions.

The Committee was also concerned by the bias in favour of large international accounting firms.

Consideration should be taken of a recommendation that the involvement of financial institutions with 'certain financial centres which offered impeccable secrecy and which tended, for that reason, to be favoured by those with something to hide', should, in appropriate circumstances, be grounds for refusing or revoking authorizations.

Finally, the Committee called on the Community to take a lead in promoting proposals relating to international supervision.

Counterfeit and pirated goods

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3842/86 provided for protection at Community frontiers against infringements of trade-mark rights, while at the same time endeavouring not to restrict the freedom of legitimate trade.

The Commission decided to submit a draft Regulation which was basically designed to:

- (i) remedy certain operational problems with the existing system;
- (ii) extend the protective measures to intellectual property rights not currently covered.

The Committee supported the Commission proposal. This was an important problem which was not only damaging to commercial interests but also dangerous, given that goods of inferior quality (technical components, medicines) were being marketed.

In its Opinion, the Committee made several technical suggestions aimed at ensuring that the Regulation was applied more effectively.

Strategic programme for innovation and technology transfer (Sprint programme)

The Committee endorsed the Commission's proposal to extend Sprint's main phase by one year until the end of 1994. This would make it possible, above all, to continue with the current work on which a positive start had been made, and bring this work to an appropriate conclusion.

The Committee did not consider it wise to make a start on new projects in 1994. It was self-evident that account should be taken in the next operational phase of the experiences and insights gained so far from the Sprint programme.

Limitation of noise emitted by earth-moving machinery

The Committee welcomed in principle the Commission's proposal for a further amendment of Directive 86/662/EEC, agreeing that further reduction in noise levels of earth-moving machinery was necessary.

However, the Committee was concerned that the provisions proposed for the period after 1999 might not be realistic. Since a very high percentage of machines would have to be redesigned and the dynamic procedure for testing noise levels was not proven, great caution should be exercised before taking the decision to lay down these levels in the Directive. The question arose whether it was wise at this time to set limits for the year 2000, without assessing the experience collected by the 1995 deadline as laid down in Stage 2 of Directive 86/662/EEC.

Telecommunications services

This Opinion supplemented the Committee's Opinion on the communication from the Commission on the European telecommunications equipment industry: the state of play, issues at stake and proposals for action.

Following the consultation on the review of the situation in the telecommunications services sector and the Commission's communication to the Council, this Opinion examined the developments which had taken place and listed the aspects on which the Commission should concentrate more in future.

In particular the Opinion:

- (i) described the background situation and the contents of both the Commission's communication and the Council resolution;
- (ii) criticized the inadequate consultation of the Committee by the Commission, particularly in the preliminary stages of the decision-making process;
- (iii) highlighted the need for further liberalization of telecommunications services and the importance of the telecommunications system to the Community;
- (iv) supported the Commission's efforts to bring about implementation of the existing EC regulations by the Member States without delay;
- (v) underlined the need to consider alternative infrastructures and to issue a Green Paper on this issue;
- (vi) called upon the Commission to define as soon as possible the scope and organization of the future universal service;

(vii) pointed out that it was essential for the competitiveness of the EC telecommunications industry and for the consumer that high-quality services be provided at reasonable prices and that the necessary adjustment of tariff structures be undertaken without delay.

7. EXTERNAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Summary

During the year under review, the Committee's programme of work in this area was characterized by continuity – the continued discussion and development of subjects begun in previous years. The Committee made its contribution to the discussion of matters which were to be the subject of negotiations, drawing on and participating in the activities of the Community institutions, including the Commission and the European Parliament.

Confirming the importance which it attaches to the elimination of economic and social disequilibria between Eastern and Western Europe, the Economic and Social Committee studied the process of change and renewal under way in the Baltic States tending towards a rapid economic and social *rapprochement* with the European Community. The Opinion was underpinned by experience gathered during the visit of a study group delegation to the three Baltic States.

In an Opinion on the European Community and economic cooperation in the Middle East, the ESC put forward views and suggestions on a new Community Mediterranean policy, emphasizing the need for practical regional cooperation measures by these countries, as soon as the peace process allowed, and highlighting the specific interest of the economic and social interest groups in peaceful and stable development.

The decision of the EC-Turkey Association Council to step up cooperation with Turkey in all areas, and thus to give a greater impetus to the application of the provision of the Ankara Agreement concerning cooperation and contacts between the ESC and the corresponding bodies in Turkey, led the Committee to consider ways in which progress could be made towards full application of the Association Agreement and, in particular, the launching of a dialogue between the Committee and Turkey's economic and social interest groups.

The ESC looked at medium- and long-term guidelines for relations between the Community and Japan, and recommended that the causes of the trade imbalance be analysed with a view to more balanced trade and the institution of cooperation between European and Japanese firms based on improved mutual understanding.

On the subject of cooperation and development, the ESC made recommendations for the second five-year period of the EC-ACP Lomé IV Convention. These recommendations referred, in particular, to the development of decentralized cooperation, the maintenance of the level of aid and ways of making this more effective, taking account of the new political and economic situation.

Taking account of developments in the Latin American countries and the renewed efforts at regional integration, the ESC analysed the principles, priorities and instruments of Community cooperation with this region. With the help of finance from the Commission, the representatives of Latin America's vocational organizations had an opportunity to express their views on relations between the European Community and Latin America at a hearing held in Brussels.

In tandem with the work of the Section for External Relations, Trade and Development Policy on specific external economic subjects – which is dealt with in greater detail below – the Committee continued and developed its relations with the economic and social interest groups of non-Community countries. The focus was on relations with the EFTA, Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), ACP and Central and East European countries.

Since 1975 an ESC delegation has regularly met the EFTA Consultative Committee in order to discuss economic and social subjects of common interest and to express joint views on these. In the framework of this cooperation, the Committee and the EFTA Consultative Committee sent a Joint Declaration on Growth and Employment to the ministers attending the EC/EFTA ministerial meeting in Luxembourg in April 1993, held as a result of the Brundtland initiative. The Declaration was based on the belief that current economic policy measures were inadequate and that additional priorities and urgent measures were needed to secure faster economic growth as a basis for a higher employment rate and the reduction of unemployment.

The discussion of the subjects dealt with at the April ministerial meeting was a key item on the agenda of the 26th joint meeting of the delegations of the ESC and the EFTA Consultative Committee held in Geneva on 22 June 1993. These discussions took place against the background of the Committee's Own-initiative Opinion on employment in Europe (April 1993), the Committee's resolution on economic growth and employment in Europe (May 1993) addressed to the Copenhagen Summit and the report of the EFTA Consultative Committee's subcommittee on the effects of economic convergence on the EFTA countries.

Draft rules of procedure were also drawn up for the future European Economic Area (EEA) Advisory Committee which would consist jointly of mem-

bers of the Economic and Social Committee and the EFTA Consultative Committee. This new body will institutionalize the hitherto informal cooperation on the basis of the European Economic Area Agreement.

During the year under review, relations with non-Community countries also focused on the Maghreb region. As early as April 1992 representatives of the employers' organizations, trade unions and farmers' organizations, as well as various interest groups from the Maghreb States and the European Community, met for the first time on the initiative of the Economic and Social Committee to discuss the prospects for cooperation between the Arab Maghreb Union and the Community. The discussions concentrated mainly on the general outline of this cooperation, and, in particular, on the areas of agriculture, investment and migration.

The conclusion was reached that despite very disparate economic and social conditions in the Community and the Maghreb countries, the development of closer relations was the only way forward, the objective being to reduce imbalances and pursue a strategy of development cooperation.

It was decided to continue the dialogue begun with this meeting and to develop the relations entered into between the Economic and Social Committee and the economic and social organizations of the Maghreb countries.

In the autumn of 1992, the Committee had adopted an Opinion on economic cooperation with the Maghreb countries, which called for a new era in relations between Europe and the Maghreb and urged the Community to develop the social dimension of its Mediterranean policy. As a follow-up to this, the Committee arranged a second meeting with the Maghreb partner organizations in Tunis in September 1993 as a further step in the development of reciprocal relations. The creation of jobs in the Maghreb in the framework of Europe-Maghreb partnership was discussed, with the social dimension – employment – playing a central part in the discussions.

The participants adopted a Joint Final Declaration addressed to the governments of the Maghreb and EC countries and the bodies of the Arab Maghreb Union and the Community. This set out the main aspects of the employment issue and the main requirements outlined by the AMU and EC economic and social organizations with a view to the creation of jobs in the Maghreb.

The 17th annual meeting of the representatives of the economic and social interest groups of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, and of the European Union, was held at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Committee, Brussels, on 6, 7 and 8 December 1993. The meeting brought together some 60 delegates of socio-economic groups in ACP countries, 30 members of the Economic and Social Committee, representatives of Euro-

pean and international socio-occupational organizations, and top officials from Union institutions and joint ACP-EU bodies.

The topic of the meeting – ‘Job creation in the context of decentralized cooperation and the role of the economic and social interest groups’ – had been decided on by the Joint ACP/EEC Assembly at its 17th session held in Gaborone at the end of March/beginning of April 1993. The subject of employment – a crucial problem in both the European Union and ACP countries – was therefore at the heart of discussions.

Two preparatory groups, one comprising 15 members of the ESC, the other 15 representatives of socio-economic interests in the ACP countries, had done the groundwork and two discussion papers had been drawn up, the first by Mr Paulo Jorge Andrade, Employers’ Group (Portugal), Rapporteur, together with Mr Andrea Amato, Workers’ Group (Italy), Co-Rapporteur, and the second by Mr Seydou Diarra, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Côte d’Ivoire.

After the work had been completed, the participants adopted a final declaration which laid great emphasis on the strengthening of decentralized cooperation, job creation, the mid-term review of the Lomé IV Convention and the future commitments of the ACP-EU economic and social partners.

Japan

In its Opinion of 30 June 1993, the Committee set out to consider the medium- and long-term guidelines for economic and political relations between the European Community and Japan. Relations had already improved considerably since the Joint Declaration of 10 July 1991 and following a number of initiatives by both the Community and Japan, thereby paving the way for a genuine partnership.

The Opinion recommended that the Community and Japan should not aggravate short-term trade frictions but should investigate the causes thereof and find ways of restoring the trade balance.

The aims should be to identify existing distortions (such as the breakdown of European exports to Japan compared with European exports to other industrialized nations) and to decide what provisions were needed to remove the various obstacles which still blocked access to the Japanese market (particularly as regards provision of services, investment and the capital market).

The most important point here would seem to be systematic consultation and coordination of the policies which the two sides had so far pursued independently.

The Committee considered that if contacts between the Commission, the Ministries and MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industry – Japan) and the initiatives taken by the Member States were pursued vigorously, they could secure significant improvements in the volume and quality of EC exports to Japan.

It might in fact be possible to embark on a new phase in joint ventures between EC and Japanese firms, both within the Community and elsewhere, as part of the wide-ranging economic and political cooperation suggested by the recent 'Mano' report from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Committee endorsed this open outlook which encouraged Japanese firms to be more active in the Community. However, it pointed out the crucial need for European industry to become more competitive both internally and internationally in order to avoid the economic and psychological dangers of being over-reliant on firms whose decision-making centres were in third countries.

The Committee supported the idea of a partnership which the Commission and the corresponding Japanese Government institutions should develop in the form of an action programme for the near future, in order to create the conditions and instruments needed to give substance forthwith to the statements of intent that had been made.

Of key importance was the need to improve mutual understanding and cultural and social dialogue between the European Community and Japan. Key topics were suggested which could be examined, with a view to proposals by joint committees comprising not only official representatives of the respective governments, but also academics and socio-economic operators.

Baltic States

In recent years the Economic and Social Committee has on several occasions studied the reform processes in Central and Eastern Europe. After two additional Opinions on the Europe Agreements with Poland, Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia (1991) and Bulgaria and Romania (1992), it seemed appropriate to look at the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) as, because of their historical links with Western and Northern Europe, they are predestined for a role as a focal point for economic relations between East and West. Moreover, two EC Member States, Denmark and Germany, belong to the Baltic Council, established in March 1992, which embraces the 10 Baltic riparian countries and also the European Commission.

The economies of three Baltic States are at present in the most difficult phase of the process of transformation from a planned to a market economy.

The Committee is aware that the Baltic States will only be able to overcome their problems (a collapse of growth of unexpected dimensions, a still high rate of inflation, rising unemployment and falling real incomes) with effective support from outside. The trade and cooperation agreements are the basis for cooperation with the Baltic States. In its Opinion of 25 March 1993, the Economic and Social Committee advocated the conclusion of Europe Agreements with these States at the earliest opportunity, in order to associate them more closely than hitherto with the Community and bring them into the pan-European structures. As Sir Leon Brittan also emphasized during the Section meeting on 9 December 1993, the precondition for this was that the point of no return should be passed with respect to democracy and the market economy, and the processes of political, social and economic renewal had to be progressing successfully.

The Committee considers political dialogue to be the key element in the Europe Agreements. In its Opinion, the Committee once again argued that the participation of the social groups in the dialogue, via the Association Council and – after a transitional period – an advisory association committee, should be guaranteed through an additional Article of the Treaty and not merely in a Joint Declaration by the Treaty partners.

The Committee unreservedly welcomed the provision included in the most recent Europe Agreements that respect for basic democratic and human rights and the continuation of market economy reforms were essential aspects of the association. In addition, however, the Committee suggested that in future respect for basic social and minority rights should also be defined as essential aspects of the association.

The Committee also supported the provision of the Treaty by which the Community would move to free trade earlier than the associated Treaty partners of Eastern Europe, but would at the same time urge that the Community maintain the open market in trade goods as far as possible once the association entered into force.

The Committee was critical of the very restrictive rules of origin contained in the trade section of the Europe Agreements. In the light of the division of labour in Europe, it was essential to have a uniform set of rules of origin which would apply to the EFTA States as well as the associated Central and East European countries. The Committee therefore urged that the European Economic Area provisions, including an alternative percentage-based criterion, be incorporated into all the Europe Agreements ('pan-European' cumulation).

The Committee endorsed the integration into the European Community of legally employed workers from Eastern Europe but, in view of the continuing difficult employment situation in the Community, it expressed concern

about a policy which eased cross-frontier access to jobs too quickly. It was also necessary to address the problem of undeclared workers. In the final analysis, what was needed was a convincing concept of the cross-frontier labour market which opened up realistic prospects for the Central and East European parties to the Agreements.

As regards economic cooperation, the Committee had well-founded doubts as to whether the EC bodies would be in a position to initiate convincing measures in all the listed fields over a given period of time. The Committee therefore called for priorities to be established in this field too. The Committee also proposed that consideration be given to how tasks were to be allocated between the EC Member States and the Commission. The wide variety of advisory assistance provided by the EC Member States, the Nordic States and the Commission should be collated, as soon as possible, at EC level and a coordinating committee should be set up to coordinate the assistance.

Turning to the field of financial cooperation, the Committee drew attention, once again, to the need to ensure that all aid was continuously monitored – both when it was allocated and while it was being spent – and coordinated. When aid was granted, attention also had to be paid to ensuring that (a) civil rights were respected in the beneficiary State in accordance with international practice and (b) that minorities were afforded a status which reflected the need for political and social stability and ‘good neighbourly relations’.

The Fourth Lomé Convention

In its Opinion of 21 October 1993 on the mid-term review of the Lomé IV Convention, the Committee joined the discussion about the amount and use of the Community’s development aid to the ACP countries from 1995.

Despite the Community’s current financial difficulties and the changes in Eastern Europe which highlighted needs in this region too, the Committee felt that the real value of Community financial aid should be maintained during the second half of the life of the Convention. The Opinion listed a number of measures, however, by which aid could be structured, used and distributed more efficiently. It should, for example, be possible under the Convention to reduce aid, or suspend it altogether, in the event of abuses of human rights and basic democratic principles, or increase it to reflect progress on democratization. Repayable loans should be substantially reduced and should at all events not exceed the value of aid.

The Opinion also highlighted the promotion of the development of firms, economic and social interest groups and decentralized cooperation. The Committee saw the development of private sector firms as especially impor-

tant in combating poverty and unemployment. The Convention should, therefore, be amended to allow for the establishment of specific funds for this purpose and so that the ACP countries' trade banks, as well as the national development banks, would be encouraged to grant loans to small firms. Funds should be made available within the framework of the Convention to encourage the banks to make loans of this kind.

In most of the ACP countries, development would, however, depend in the first instance on a sufficiently flourishing agricultural sector on which industrial development could then build. Thus, farmers should receive specific support to increase food security, boost rural employment and enhance agricultural productivity.

With regard to decentralized cooperation, it was recommended that the prior approval of the ACP authorities no longer be required in respect of low-cost projects.

It was also considered important that the development of economic and social interest groups be encouraged and financially supported. These groups should be heard on the indicative development plans and play an important advisory role in the planning of sectoral development programmes. The Convention should also make funding available for the development of contacts between representatives of the EC and ACP economic and social interest groups outside the Joint Assembly.

The Opinion called for greater transparency and the combating of corruption in project selection and the award of public procurement contracts. This could be achieved by more effective financial control and an appropriate code of conduct. Ways of improving and accelerating administrative procedures and facilitating development cooperation were also listed.

It had also to be ensured that governments followed coherent economic, social and environmental policies and that development projects were mutually compatible. The partners should be required to consult each other on all important project negotiations by government with individual Member States third countries and international organizations.

The objective was a real partnership between the Community, and the governments and citizens of the ACP countries. This could only be achieved if the people of these countries were more actively involved and if governments took the economic and social interest groups' recommendations on project planning seriously.

The Middle East

In its Opinion of 28 January 1993, the Committee looked at economic cooperation between the European Community and the Middle East on the basis

of the new Mediterranean policy guidelines, stressing economic and social dialogue, preferably at regional level, between the main economic and social interest groups.

Europe had many political, historical, cultural and economic ties with its Middle East neighbours and the maintenance of stability and security in the Middle East was therefore of vital importance to Europe.

The peace process would be successful only if accompanied by the creation of new economic and trade relations. Given the relatively small markets of the economies concerned, not only trade but also domestic and foreign investment had to be encouraged in order to raise material living standards.

Because of the small size of these economies, economic cooperation extending beyond trade would be of benefit to costs and efficiency as a result of the greater mobility of capital and labour, the dissemination of new technologies, the introduction of more efficient payments systems, the establishment of modern infrastructures and communications systems, and better use of R&D and education and training potential. The big disparities, both quantitative and qualitative, in the various countries' factors of production (land, capital and labour) themselves guaranteed that synergistic effects would be achieved through regional economic cooperation.

Ways should be sought of making a regional approach part of overall policy on relations with the Middle East.

The Committee, which called on the Community to do everything possible to ensure that obstacles to the peace process were overcome peacefully, had endeavoured to identify the economic and social advantages which awaited the people of the area.

The main objectives of regional economic cooperation would then be (a) to promote the efficiency of economies, (b) to establish balanced economic and social structures and (c) to help reduce excessive imbalances in income distribution so as to prevent internal and external tensions.

The Community should conduct a dialogue, at both government and social partner level, with the countries of the region on the role which the Europeans could play in promoting regional cooperation in the Middle East by involving both institutions and economic and social protagonists in each country, thus boosting and consolidating the process of democratization.

A major precondition for an efficient Community policy on the Middle East was improved access for the region's firms to the Community market and the establishment of equal trading conditions for all the countries of the region which could have a positive effect on regional cooperation.

The Community should also improve its financial instruments and other mechanisms for the promotion of regional cooperation.

As an adjunct to economic cooperation, the Community could encourage cultural exchange both within the region and with Europe, and thus contribute to the process of getting to know and understand each other. In this area, in particular, there were many opportunities for action by the economic and social groups.

Latin America

The Section for External Relations, Trade and Development Policy has been increasingly aware of the growing importance of the countries of Central and South America both in the world at large and for the Community in particular.

The Committee last drew up an Opinion in January 1990 on EC-Latin American relations (Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal). The Section felt that an information report would bring the Committee up to date on the new developments which had taken place in this part of the world and on EC-Latin American relations, but possibly also provide the basis for a dialogue with the members' counterparts in Latin America.

The report looked at Latin America's place in the world now that the bipolar world of the post-war period had been replaced by a new international order, with the rise of economic super blocs centering on the USA, the European Community and Japan.

As regards the Latin American countries' place in the world, the European Community was the largest donor to Latin America in development cooperation. In all, 35% of inward investment into Latin America came from the European Community and 20% of its exports went to the Community. By contrast, the Community would seem, outwardly at least, to be less interested in furthering trade relations with Latin America: only 5 to 6% of the Community's trade, overall, was with Latin America, a mere half of what it had been 20 years ago. For historical and cultural reasons, however, considerable importance was attached in Europe to links with Latin America. The Latin American countries had great expectations of what the Community could bring them. But the fear was widespread that the hopes would not be met, that they would not benefit from the Community's single market. The Community's bananas policy would seem only to reinforce these fears.

The report pointed out that the political situation in Latin America was extremely fragile. However, progress in democracy had been achieved and almost all of these countries now had democratically elected governments. Also, the human rights situation had improved. Yet there were fundamental shortcomings in political structures, with widespread corruption, abuse

of power, etc. Violation of trade union rights was common throughout Latin America. Trafficking in drugs was an enormous problem. Structural adjustment problems had undoubtedly caused social tensions.

As far as the European Community was concerned, the report suggested that the Community give top priority to improving democracy and human rights in general. This meant not only improving formal democracy, *stricto sensu*, but fostering institutional structures in society in such a way as to have the population truly involved in decisions. In short, the role of social organizations, such as trade unions, employers' organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), farmers, and women's groups, should be fostered. The setting-up of tripartite consultation bodies needed to be promoted. Generally, the report stated that more attention needed to be devoted to resolving social issues in Latin America.

The report also pointed out that there had been significant changes in Latin America for the first time in 10 years – after the so-called 'lost decade'. Recession and slump were gradually turning into resurgence and growth. Some Latin American countries had annual growth rates in excess of 5%. Debt/GDP ratios were falling. The accumulated debt burden was reduced. There was a net capital inflow, whereas 10 years ago there had been a net outflow. Investment was increasing, with growth in Latin American stock-exchange activity.

Continued economic recovery was dependent on a whole series of factors which the report enumerated, for example outlets on world markets, changes in the nature of investments, i.e. the need for investment in long-term production, training and education, etc.

The report looked in some detail at the 'integration' programmes that abounded in Latin America – better called cooperation agreements, for example Mercosur, CACM, Andean Pact, NAFTA. They all aimed to liberalize trade, increase productivity and improve competitiveness, as well as consolidating democracy in Latin America.

Most of these agreements, however, existed only on paper, having made little real impact so far on inter-State relations. Genuine integration – or even cooperation – had scarcely even begun between Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Other such programmes were impeded by the situation in individual countries, for example the Andean Pact and what was happening in Peru. NAFTA was the only regional bloc likely to make any real impact in the near future – and that involved the USA and Canada with Mexico, only, for the present. The report suggested ways in which these integration programmes might stand a better chance of succeeding.

The report ended by suggesting how future relations between the Community and Latin America might be further developed. The Community

believed that it had something to say as regards the promotion of democracy and the improvement of human rights, the inclusion of human rights clauses in EC-Latin America cooperation agreements, the promotion of social consultative bodies so as to build up a real democracy, improved access to EC markets (via, for instance, tariff preferences), assistance in solving the drug problem, assistance in solving the environmental problem, and by better coordination of development cooperation measures of individual Member States (the Maastricht Treaty provides for this).

The Bureau of the Committee decided in March 1993 that the information report should be transformed into an Opinion. In the course of its work, the Section held a 'hearing' of representatives of Latin American socio-economic interest groups (employer, trade union, farmer, cooperative and other organizations) on 30 September and 1 October 1993.

As a conclusion of this hearing, it was agreed that there were serious economic, social and human problems throughout Latin America and that, despite the progress achieved there and in Central America, much remained to be done to bring about a sustained improvement in economic activity and, ultimately, in living standards. Growth and development in Latin America required adjustments in many areas, such as the training of managers and workers or better use of production and information technology. Not for a moment was the intention to minimize the human problems, which were very real, such as poverty, marginalization and social deprivation, which had adverse consequences for democracy. A more equitable distribution of wealth was regarded as essential, although there was no consensus on the means of achieving this. Any debate on this topic raised questions, such as the role of the social partners or the right of workers to organize themselves and pursue their objectives through machinery already enshrined in agreements approved by the International Labour Office, such as the question of the basic social, economic and moral rights of individuals.

It was also agreed that Latin America could not move forward without the freedom to participate in world trade. This raised the question of the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations and other related matters. The discussion confirmed their faith in democratic principles and the need to protect natural habitats, with due regard for national resources and the environment. Special attention had also to be paid to the agricultural sector, and to the need to protect and maintain the way of life of rural communities and small towns.

It should be pointed out that in the discussions consensus outweighed differences of opinion. The role of the Community in cooperation with this region was also assessed positively, although there were differences with regard to the priorities and the use of the conditionality criterion. It was

agreed that the two regions were economically, politically and socially interdependent and that the various national, regional and international spheres were closely related. It was pointed out, however, that democratization in Latin America meant not only reinforcing democratic structures, but also encouraging involvement.

It was also agreed that there was a need for greater transparency and professionalism in EC cooperation. EC cooperation with Latin America should give greater priority to education, training and scientific and technical cooperation, sectors where development could capitalize on the common cultural heritage. In this connection, it was noted that there was a need for more information on EC cooperation and its specific programmes. The Community delegations in the Latin American countries should circulate information on the cooperation programmes and other aid projects more widely, including among the socio-economic organizations. The Community could help to consolidate civil society and regional integration by supporting the creation of tripartite consultative bodies. In this respect it must be pointed out that all the participants had endorsed a continuation of the dialogue between the representatives of Latin American socio-economic organizations and members of the ESC. The Commission representative said that his institution could study the possibility of providing financial support for this initiative.

Turkey

In 1993 the Committee expressed its views on relations between the EC (EU) and Turkey on two occasions, the first in an information report, the second in an Opinion. After it had been decided at the last EC-Turkey Association Council held in November 1992 to look into the feasibility of implementing that part of the original EC-Turkey Agreement where the idea of setting up a Joint Consultative Committee had first been mooted, the Committee decided to produce an information report so that it would be in a better position to respond to any official proposal to participate in such a Joint Consultative Committee. The information report included an in-depth, comprehensive analysis of the Turkish situation, taking account of (a) geopolitical upheavals and political and cultural developments within the country and the region, (b) the desire to consolidate relations between Turkey and the Community, (c) features of the economic production and public finance structure, (d), trade with the Community, (e) developments on the political and social front and (f) the Cyprus question. The information report also discussed the extent to which reciprocal commitments undertaken by the EC and Turkey under the Association Agreement and its protocols had been met.

Progress in relations between the two parties had come up against obstacles on the Turkish side and a series of difficulties and delays on the Community's side. More robust cooperation between the EU and Turkey could not only prevent further delays in completing the customs union and in fully implementing the Ankara Agreement, but could also boost and underpin developments in civilian society and the democratic and social progress currently taking place.

The Own-initiative Opinion drawn up as a consequence of this laid down guidelines and recommendations for strengthening cooperation between the EU and Turkey within the framework of existing agreements, and for creating a customs union. Areas of cooperation beyond the customs union covered migration and employment, the environment, land-use planning, health and safety, and economic and social cohesion. The Opinion also called for a strategy of cultural cooperation and help in developing the Palestinian territories following the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

Since many of the proposals to strengthen EU-Turkish cooperation with a view to the full implementation of the Ankara Agreement had important socio-economic implications, the Committee recommended that the socio-professional dialogue referred to in Article 27 of the Cooperation Agreement be institutionalized.

This meant that an Association Joint Consultative Committee should be set up with equal representation for both sides to help foster awareness and understanding between the EU and Turkish social partners and concern itself as quickly as possible with the implementation of the customs union.

For the Committee, the main obstacle to increased cooperation was the freezing of the fourth Financial Protocol which had never achieved the necessary Council unanimity in spite of all the efforts made. The Committee was in favour of making available the funds earmarked and approved under the fourth Financial Protocol. If the frequently cited 'qualitative leap forward' in EU-Turkish relations was properly executed it would – in addition to amplifying the mutual benefits of association – provide all the necessary elements for a re-examination of the question of Turkey's accession to the EU.

8. ENERGY POLICY, NUCLEAR QUESTIONS AND RESEARCH

In 1993 there were fewer Council and Commission referrals on subjects falling within the remit of the Section. Although this situation is not surprising, given the general paralysis of Community activities over the last two years, the lack of a genuine Community energy policy, reflected in the surprising

last-minute omission of a specific energy title in the Treaty on European Union (TEU), has dampened optimism in the energy sector.

The absence of political will in some Member States regarding the creation of a Community energy policy is matched by shortcomings in another sector likewise falling within the terms of reference of the Section: R&TD policy. A clear sign of this is to be found in the cut-backs following the Edinburgh Summit, and the recent refusal of some Member States in the Council to approve the appropriations earmarked by the European Parliament and the Commission for the fourth R&TD framework programme (1994–98).

The Energy Section nevertheless drew up Own-initiative Opinions in 1993 in order to stimulate discussion on the fundamental shortcomings in the sectors falling within its remit, even though there was a clearly stated desire to press ahead with the European venture.

The two Own-initiative Opinions forwarded by the Section to Plenary Sessions in 1993 concerned the technological problems of nuclear safety and the fourth R&TD framework programme. Preparatory work is currently being carried out on an Own-initiative Opinion on the Community's energy policy. This is likely to be ready by the middle of 1994.

Of the nine Opinions approved or still being drawn up in 1993, three were concerned with energy, two with nuclear questions and the other four with research and technological development. Three of these Opinions are Own-initiative Opinions.

A — Energy

In the energy sector the Commission concentrated on ensuring the application of internal market measures.

With this in mind the Council consulted the Committee on two drafts for Directives, one on common rules for the internal market in electricity and the other on common rules for the internal market in natural gas.

In May 1988 the Commission had submitted a working document listing the effective and potential barriers to the implementation of a single energy market. The working document also identified the basic priority topics to be addressed in the run-up to a genuine internal market. The Commission's first estimates in the 1988 document indicated that the cost of 'non-Europe' in the energy sector was just under 0.5% of Community GDP. Greater market integration in energy would lead to:

- (i) a reduction in costs as a result of increased competition;
- (ii) a reduction in certain unit costs as a result of the effects of scale and the optimization of investment/management.

The Commission advocated a global approach which, while taking account of the constraints peculiar to the energy sector (security of supply and the strategic nature of energy products, etc.) had four main planks:

- (i) the implementation of the 1985 White Paper's provisions on the energy sector;
- (ii) the determined application by the Commission of Community law;
- (iii) the attainment of a satisfactory energy/environment equilibrium;
- (iv) the definition of appropriate means, to be selected case-by-case, in areas specifically related to energy policy.

In line with this approach, which was endorsed by the Energy Council on 9 June 1988, the Commission had undertaken, *inter alia*, a more detailed review of (i) the obstacles to completion of the internal market in electricity and natural gas, and (ii) ways of eliminating these obstacles while catering for the specific features of the sectors concerned.

The Commission submitted the results of these reviews in September 1989 in two communications entitled 'Increased intra-Community electricity exchanges: a fundamental step towards completing the internal energy market' and 'Towards completion of the internal market for natural gas'. The communications were accompanied by two draft Directives on the transit of natural gas and electricity through the major systems.

These proposals were the first facet of a three-stage approach advocated by the Commission in the abovementioned Communications, that is:

- (i) the adoption of Directives based on Treaty Article 100a, setting out the procedures for implementing transit rights between integrated electricity systems and between Community gas companies via the high-pressure system;
- (ii) the establishment of a consultation procedure with the Member States and parties concerned in order to examine the conditions for providing third-party access to electricity and natural gas transport systems;
- (iii) the promotion of the Community dimension in investment in electricity production and transmission; this would involve improving information and consultation procedures in line with the relevant draft Regulation.

The draft Regulation was, however, never adopted by the Council. On 29 June 1990 it did, however, adopt a parallel draft Directive establishing a Community procedure to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial end-users.

The two Directives on gas and electricity transit on major networks were adopted by the Council on 29 October 1990 and 31 May 1991, respectively.

As announced in the two Commission communications, four consultative committees were created in early 1990. Two of these have two representatives each for the gas and electricity sectors (integrated enterprises, producers, carriers, distributors, major industrial consumers and domestic consumers). The other two committees comprise representatives of the Member States.

These committees, whose reports were published in May 1991, are responsible for highlighting the main economic and administrative factors to be catered for in a policy for determining if and how third parties should have access to EC natural gas and electricity networks. Their conclusions were thus designed to assist the Commission in drafting future Directives on the relevant markets. The two reports were therefore taken into account by the Commission in drafting the draft Directives on natural gas and electricity on which the Committee was called to give an Opinion in 1993.

These proposals are based on four general principles:

- (i) the application of a gradual approach enabling the industry to adjust to its new environment in a flexible, orderly manner;
- (ii) the adherence to the principle of subsidiarity; the Community should merely define a framework enabling Member States to opt for the system best suited to their natural resources, the state of their industry and their energy policies;
- (iii) the avoidance by the Community of the trap of excessive regulation, leaving scope for commercial negotiation between the undertakings concerned;
- (iv) the adoption of legal arrangements providing for interinstitutional dialogue and consultation of the interested parties.

The two draft Directives hinge on the following three factors:

- (i) the abolition of exclusive rights for electricity generation and the building of electricity lines and gas pipelines. This involves a transparent, non-discriminatory licensing system opening up the market to independent operators and, in particular, to large industrial users;
- (ii) the concept of unbundling, i.e. separation of the management and accounting of production, transmission and distribution operations, must be put into practice in vertically integrated undertakings, in order to ensure transparency of operations;
- (iii) the introduction of limited third-party access (TPA), requiring the trans-

mission and distribution companies to provide access to their network to certain eligible entities at reasonable rates, within the limits of available transmission and distribution capacity.

In the communication accompanying the draft Directives, the Commission also stresses the need to back up the opening of national markets by measures guaranteeing fair and effective competition. These back-up measures concern the following areas: control of State aid, electricity and gas transmission infrastructures and standardization.

The Committee adopted its Opinion on the two proposals at the November Plenary Session, after having contrasted the views expressed by the interested parties in the course of the Section's work. It finally reached a consensus by adopting a cautious text halfway between the extreme positions represented by the ultra-liberal philosophy and those advocating maintenance of the status quo.

This balanced text was subsequently reflected in the desire of the European Parliament and the Commission to achieve a consensus which would permit the submission of new amended proposals whereby the spirit of 'negotiation' would hold sway over the 'diktat' of legislation.

In the course of its analyses and deliberations, which also involved the organization of public hearings, the Section had been constantly confronted with the problems caused by the non-existence of a global Community energy policy capable of moulding the various initiatives proposed in different sectors into a comprehensive and coherent whole.

In the absence of clear institutional guidelines, the Commission had attempted to incorporate energy issues into the 1992 internal market programme, but it encountered considerable difficulties and opposition which hampered the adoption of the proposed measures.

The Section had noted that because there was no clear set of priorities, initiatives mooted in different Commission Directives had overlapped.

In addition, in the absence of overall guidelines, the aforementioned differences and gaps were accentuated even further by individual national initiatives.

Hence the continuing disregard for what should be the main objective of Community energy policy – namely to establish a structure for energy production and consumption which (a) provided the best possible guarantee of secure, continuous supplies while causing minimum environmental pollution, (b) took account of the economic and social needs of regions in difficulty, and above all (c) guaranteed a balance between prices and costs in the Community as a whole, thereby ensuring maximum possible applica-

tion of the competition rules to producers and making them more competitive internationally.

Consequently, the Energy Section warned of the urgent need to give detailed consideration to Community energy policy. This policy, which does not exist on paper, consists in practice of hotchpotch actions and initiatives lacking coherence and global vision. The Energy Section therefore called on the Committee's Bureau to give it authorization to begin work on an Own-initiative Opinion on Community energy policy.

The drafting of this Opinion would fall within the wider context of the 1996 review of the Maastricht Treaty; the Section had repeatedly called for the inclusion of a specific charter on energy in the Treaties. The Opinion should therefore be seen as an ESC contribution to this review, in an area of Community activity which was still largely under the control of the individual Member States.

The Section proposes to have this Opinion ready for the June 1994 Plenary Session. Before then, hearings will be held so that experts and representatives of the sectors concerned can express their views and bring their specialist knowledge to bear.

B — Nuclear questions

Despite the adverse impact of the Chernobyl catastrophe on the development of national programmes, nuclear energy remains a pivotal element in the Community's strategy of reducing its dependence on imported energy and of diversifying its supplies.

Although this situation has not changed over the last few years, particularly because of the repercussions of Chernobyl and favourable energy price trends on world markets, a number of new factors have created a new context, thus justifying a comprehensive Committee study of the nuclear industry's problems.

Among the factors creating a new context for the Committee's study, the following should be mentioned in particular:

- (i) completion of the single market in energy;
- (ii) the energy/environment interface;
- (iii) nuclear industries in Central and Eastern Europe.

Given this context, the Committee's Bureau agreed on 25 May 1992 to authorize the Section to draw up an Own-initiative Opinion on the technological problems on nuclear safety.

At its January Plenary Session the Committee unanimously approved this Own-initiative Opinion. The Committee declined to discuss the general

aspects of nuclear energy but preferred to concentrate on the urgent technological aspects of nuclear safety, thereby creating an objective basis for a general political consensus.

The Committee noted that Member States of the European Community used nuclear energy to widely differing degrees and this revealed differences in political thinking about the use of nuclear energy and about nuclear safety. It also reflected differences in the public's acceptance of nuclear energy. Economic conditions were also a factor, in so far as they varied from one Member State to another.

The Committee then went on to say that safety engineering for nuclear technology was a continuous learning process which had to be based on wide-ranging, detailed and open technical information and discussions at both national and international levels, covering all experiences and findings, especially when there were problems and failings. All individuals and organizations affected by this industrial technology, including the general public, had to participate in this learning process.

On 8 July the Commission requested the Committee, under Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty, to draw up an Opinion on the draft Directive laying down the basic standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation.

The Commission sought to revise current Directives, bringing them into line with the most recent recommendations of the ICRP and the experience of the last few years, whilst ensuring technical consistency with the recommendations of other international organizations such as the IAEA, NEA-OECD, WHO and ILO.

The Commission also sought to preserve a high degree of harmonization in the radiation protection measures provided for under the Euratom Treaty, with a view to the completion of the single market, and to strengthen the provisions on control of radioactive materials in accordance with the undertaking made at the time of the adoption of Directive 92/3/Euratom on the supervision and control of shipment of radioactive waste between Member States and into and out of the Community.

The Committee unanimously approved the Opinion, urging the Commission to act in the face of the failure of some Member States to implement current Community legislation, recommending continuous research in the field of radiation protection and calling for the proposed dose limits to be justified by technical data.

C — Research

In March the Bureau authorized the Section to draw up an Own-initiative Opinion on the fourth R&TD framework programme (1994-98).

In adopting the third framework programme, which linked in with the second programme spanning 1987-91, the Council had taken on board the principle of a 'rolling programme' of Community R&TD activity, whereby two consecutive programmes overlapped by one or two years.

This principle was introduced to ensure continuity of research work and to adjust priorities in the light of experience and changing needs.

Under this principle, the financing of the third programme was to be wound down in 1993-94, and a fourth programme decided for 1993-97. The Commission was initially due to present its proposal on this in September 1992.

Various factors had combined to call this scenario into question: the absence of a Community financial framework for the period beginning 1993, and delays in the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union which lays down a new 'co-decision procedure' for the adoption of the framework programme.

The European Council meeting in Edinburgh on 11 and 12 December 1992 had reached agreement on the future financing of the Community and a financial framework for 1993-99, including perspectives for R&TD spending over the same period.

The Committee will be receiving a formal referral on this proposal. In the mean time, an interinstitutional dialogue involving the ESC has got under way, concerning the principles, concepts and strategy which should underpin the fourth framework programme and its objectives, as well as the research priorities to adopt. This dialogue is intended to facilitate and speed up the subsequent adoption and implementation of the fourth framework programme.

The Own-initiative Opinion, approved at the May Plenary Session, is part of this process.

In deciding to draw up this Own-initiative Opinion for its May Plenary Session, the Committee's purpose was to make a practical contribution to the discussions of the Research Council on 30 June next.

In its Opinion the Committee expressed its concern about the delay in the entry into force of the activities planned under this and future programmes. It feared that such delays could place Community R&TD at a serious disadvantage *vis-à-vis* international competitors and called for the introduction of much quicker and much more flexible procedures for determining Community R&TD at the earliest practicable opportunity.

The Committee likewise made a number of recommendations aimed at boosting the EC's industrial competitiveness, improving the quality of life, ensuring the effective application of the subsidiarity principle, and promoting economic and social cohesion.

On 16 July the Council asked the Committee to draw up an Opinion on the draft Council Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement relating to scientific and technical cooperation between the European Economic Community and Australia.

The Agreement thus negotiated with Australia is the first of its kind between the European Community and an industrialized third country outside Europe, and is intended to replace the arrangement signed in November 1986, which aimed to initiate a form of cooperation through the exchange of non-confidential information arising from research in Australia and the European Community.

In an Opinion adopted at the September Plenary Session, the Committee endorsed the proposal but none the less called for the inclusion of a number of other fields in the Agreement (food and agriculture, mining methods and energy), where Australian technology was particularly advanced.

In July 1993 the Council also tabled two proposals relating to the fourth R&TD framework programme (1994-98).

These proposals constitute a new stage in the process of facilitating and accelerating the adoption and eventual implementation of the fourth framework programme, on the basis of the provisions of the Treaty on European Union.

In an Opinion adopted at the November Plenary Session, the Committee expressed its approval of the fact that the new proposals appeared to reflect much more than hitherto the views expressed by the Committee in its previous Opinions on the framework programmes.

The Committee was nevertheless of the view that the overall amount proposed for the implementation of the fourth framework programme did not represent an increase in real terms in Community R&TD funding and, in the light of the present economic and social situation, was totally inadequate given the need to relaunch economic growth and employment in the Community.

The Committee also welcomed the improvement of SME access to Community programmes, saying that priority criteria should be set for the allocation of funds.

Finally, this panorama of Section activities in 1993 would not be complete without mentioning contacts with the outside world, and particularly the Community institutions.

We would underline, in particular, the warm welcome the Secretariat and the rapporteurs of various Opinions have continued to receive from the European Parliament's Committee on Energy and Technological Development.

In line with established practice, the Section also continued to welcome Commissioners responsible for subjects falling within our brief. This year it was Dr Abel Matutes, Commissioner responsible for the Energy Charter.

The Section was also honoured by the visit of Mr Jean M. Dehousse, Belgian Minister for Research and President-in-Office of the Council, to its meeting on 1 December 1993.

Following an initiative by the Committee Chairman, Mrs Tiemann, encouraging contacts between the ESC and EFTA's Consultative Committee, the Secretariat initiated contacts with its *ad hoc* counterpart in EFTA. The value of such contacts was illustrated by visits to the *ad hoc* group and attendance by the group's representatives at occasional ESC Study Group meetings.

Other visits and contacts were organized for Section members, including a visit to the Nuclear Fuel Processing Centre in La Hague (France).

Last but not least, we would mention the visit to Rome in May to discuss the Opinion on the internal market in electricity and natural gas with representatives of Italian socio-economic interest groups and VIPs from Italy's energy sector, the aim being to ensure a wider dissemination of the Committee's major Opinions.

9. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Environment

Introduction

The Rio de Janeiro Conference and the launch of the Community's new environment policy programme in 1992 marked an important stage in the international community's commitment to the principle of sustainable development, with the conventions signed in Rio providing a new reference framework for cooperation between the nations. However, the real challenge occurred in 1993 when it came to turning this new growth model into reality, especially in a context where world and European economies were showing increasing signs of difficulties and there was a strong temptation to look for short-term, traditional remedies, thereby postponing the solution of environmental problems until a happier tomorrow.

Socio-economic interest groups have nevertheless expressed their conviction in numerous ESC Opinions that we cannot afford the luxury of a retreat since the right to a clean environment has become one of the fundamental rights of citizens in the run-up to the next millennium.

To guarantee these rights, duties and burdens need to be allocated equitably and a vast range of legislative and other instruments adopted. A new development phase also needs to be set in motion and all parties in question involved in the dialogue to devise measures for protecting the environment and conserving natural resources.

In 1993, the Committee adopted Opinions on proposals aimed at turning the Rio commitments into reality. It also adopted Opinions on legislative instruments which form part of the philosophy underlying the Community's new programme of sustainable development.

The proposals to ratify the Conventions on Climatic Change and Biological Diversity, as well as the associated measures for monitoring CO₂ emissions at Community level and supporting the conservation of tropical forests, stem directly from the Rio Conference and are discussed below.

International conventions and Community commitments associated therewith

Framework Convention on Climatic Change

The Committee supported the proposal to ensure prompt ratification and effective implementation by the Community and Member States of the Convention signed in Rio, stressing that the commitment should be guided by two basic principles:

- (i) where there were threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty was not to be used as an excuse for postponing the necessary measures;
- (ii) the measures adopted, including unilateral measures, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unwarranted discrimination, or a covert restriction on international trade.

Convention on Biological Diversity

The ESC called for the speedy ratification of this Convention, advocating the adoption of a range of specific measures to facilitate practical implementation.

The Committee also proposed an amendment to Annex III (which covers intellectual property rights) to reconcile it with Article 16(5) of the Convention.

Monitoring of CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions

This mechanism is an integral part of the Rio commitments. It is designed to secure Community evaluation of the implementation of national pro-

grammes to stabilize emissions by the year 2000 and is based on the principle that burdens should be shared fairly between the Member States.

The Committee called for a global solution embracing all developed and developing countries.

The Committee also considered that a special effort should be made to involve the developing countries in such action, by framing appropriate agreements and measures as soon as possible, including the transfer of technology and financial resources.

Tropical forests

The seriousness of the threat to tropical forests and the need for coordinated international action within a perspective linking environment and development were emphasized by all Community institutions and confirmed during the recent Rio de Janeiro Conference.

The Commission therefore proposed a Regulation laying down objectives and procedures for action at Community level to promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests.

The Committee supported the Commission's proposal but made the following comments:

- (i) the definition of tropical forests was extremely vague, covering widely differing types of forest, which were difficult to cater for in a Regulation with such a broad scope;
- (ii) the budgetary provisions were modest compared with the vast scale of the action which had to be taken to avoid the total destruction of tropical forests, even if combined with other international programmes;
- (iii) the tropical timber trade was an important factor that should be taken into consideration;
- (iv) no specific measures were planned to support and train local populations, although their extreme poverty and lack of education were two of the principal causes of deforestation;
- (v) development initiatives calculated to make a decisive contribution to the economy and development of local populations should be undertaken to supplement the Regulation;
- (vi) in assessing proposals for action, account should be taken of the UN Charter and the principles of international law on the sovereign right of States to exploit their own resources.

Other international agreements on specific subjects

The Committee was asked to comment on the Community's ratification of the following conventions and agreements on the protection of waters and seas:

- (i) Lisbon Convention on the North-East Atlantic;
- (ii) Helsinki Convention on the Baltic Sea;
- (iii) Convention on Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

Expressing its support for Community action, the Committee made a number of additional points designed to ensure that the agreements were implemented more effectively.

Protection of air quality

Ozone

The Committee has been regularly consulted on the various stages in the evolution of the Montreal Protocol on the protection of the ozone layer, two aspects of which were dealt with during the year.

The first concerned EC ratification of the second amendment to the Protocol. The details are as follows:

In 1988, the EEC had acceded to the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol limiting the discharge of substances which deplete the ozone layer (CFCs and related products).

In 1989, it was found that the provisions of the Protocol were not strict enough and it was amended at the London Conference on the Ozone Layer in June 1990, and adopted by the European Community in 1991 (first amendment).

It has since been found that the London Conference amendment was still not strict enough and the Protocol was again amended at the Copenhagen Conference in November 1992 (second amendment).

The Committee agreed with the Commission's proposal but pointed out that there were differences in interpretation regarding the frequency (six-monthly or annual) with which data on ozone-layer-depleting substances should be notified. The Committee proposed that notification be put on an annual basis in the interests of standardization.

The second concerned the proposal for a Regulation on substances that deplete the ozone layer. The proposal consolidates the two earlier Regulations and brings forward the starting dates for the restrictions on hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFs) and methyl bromide.

The Committee endorsed the proposed Regulation and took the view that the Community initiative in this field should act as a motor, encouraging the necessary reconversion so as to ensure the long-term competitiveness of European industry.

The Committee urged that derogations – designed to meet the concerns of users of such substances – should not encourage maintenance of the status quo.

Finally, the Committee drew attention to the need to impose strict controls on imports from third countries to prevent users circumventing the restrictions imposed by the Regulation.

Large combustion plants

Still in the field of atmospheric pollution, the Committee approved a proposal amending an earlier Directive on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants, by establishing limit values for emissions of SO₂ from new solid fuel plants in the 50 to 100 MW range – specifically LSC (low sulphur content) coal – thus closing an existing loophole.

Nevertheless, the Committee observed that:

- (i) Member States should be urged to avail themselves of existing provisions which permitted the introduction of more stringent emission limit values than at present required;
- (ii) the whole body of emission limit legislation should be reviewed with a view to harmonization at EC-level.

Volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions

The proposal, which forms part of a strategy for improving air quality, is the first stage in a process aimed at establishing controls over the petrol distribution system, in order to reduce emissions.

The Committee endorsed the general approach, welcoming the careful cost-benefit balance of most of the proposed measures in order to optimize scarce economic resources and give priority to environmental protection action in the most urgent areas.

The more stringent measures which Member States may adopt in specific geographical areas should be evaluated in order to assess the potentially adverse effects on the internal market.

Packaging waste

With regard to the Community's waste management strategy, the Committee was asked to take a stand on the packaging and packaging waste pro-

posal. Since this is a sensitive area for all the parties involved, especially since there are different national approaches, the Committee strove to compile the fullest possible information and encourage an open exchange of views. To this end it organized a hearing which was widely attended by representatives of all the parties concerned.

In its Opinion, the ESC underlined the urgency of formulating EC legislation in this sector, thereby avoiding the proliferation of different national strategies.

Given the problems stemming from packaging waste, the Committee felt that the following order of priority should be considered:

- (i) elimination/reduction of superfluous packaging;
- (ii) prevention/reduction of the volume of packaging waste;
- (iii) reuse of packaging;
- (iv) recycling of packaging waste, with material and chemical recycling taking priority over incineration;
- (v) only in the last resort, final disposal.

The Committee underlined the need for active involvement (including on-going dialogue) of the various interests concerned so that the financial burdens and responsibilities could be spread fairly.

Finally, the Committee drew attention to the employment implications of the planned 10-year reorganization of the collection and treatment of packaging waste, calling for a study of the requisite back-up measures.

With regard to hazardous waste, the Committee examined a proposal amending Directive 91/689/EEC. The reason for the amendment was the difficulty in drawing up a definitive, inclusive and binding list of 'hazardous waste'. The Committee endorsed the move to amend the definition of hazardous waste by making reference to the category of waste, the constituents which make it hazardous and the hazard properties. However, to ensure that the Directive was implemented promptly and effectively, the Committee urged that the new list of hazardous waste be drawn up by the end of June 1994.

Dangerous chemical substances and products

Export and import of dangerous chemicals

The Committee endorsed the Commission proposal to amend the Regulation on the export and import of certain dangerous chemicals, adding 15

substances to the Appendix and amending use limitations for six substances.

Fourteenth amendment to Directive 76/769/EEC

The proposal concerned restrictions on the marketing and use of nickel in certain goods of a personal nature which might come into contact with the skin (particularly jewellery).

The Committee approved the proposal, recommending that consumers be properly informed of the risks and that test methods be improved.

Consumer affairs

During the year, the Committee continued to participate actively in the ongoing discussions on new developments and orientations in consumer policy.

These resulted, *inter alia*, in the inclusion of a chapter on consumer affairs in the Maastricht Treaty and the introduction by the Commission of a new three-year consumer action plan (1993-95).

The Committee's main contribution this year was its Own-initiative Opinion on the supplier/consumer dialogue.

The Committee has issued a wide range of Opinions on consumer policy in general terms and on specific aspects thereof, the latest being an Opinion on the consumer and the internal market delivered in November 1992, which drew attention to a number of shortcomings in existing consumer policy and referred specifically to the need to re-examine the operation of the consumer/supplier dialogue which effectively implies a form of self-regulation.

Consumer policy is a field in which the Committee has been able to take initiatives and make a worthwhile impact which is specifically recognized by the Commission; consumer policy is evolving all the time and the Committee therefore cannot rest on its laurels since it has a continuing role to play in a fluid situation.

The Committee had issued an Opinion on the dialogue in 1984, but this was now out of date. It therefore decided to draw up an updated Own-initiative Opinion on the consumer/supplier dialogue in the context of the internal market, with the objective of examining the shortcomings of the dialogue as operated to date and to propose guidelines for its more successful operation in the future.

The Committee concluded that self-regulation could take three forms:

- (i) unilateral self-regulation by business;

- (ii) unilateral self-regulation through consumer organizations;
- (iii) bilateral regulation between (i) and (ii), i.e. the dialogue.

The dialogue in turn can take many forms ranging from informal consultations through institutionalized consultation to formal agreements. It is currently practised extensively in some Member States but less so in others.

The Committee proposed that the Community should draw up a basic legal instrument (Directive or Regulation) laying down fundamental provisions, followed by a recommendation calling on the parties involved to assume joint responsibilities for the details. The Committee further proposed that an EC consumer 'forum' be set up to initiate and promote the dialogue, and felt that this 'forum' should take the form of a 'Consumer Affairs Dialogue Board', rather than that of a variant of the existing CCC (Consumers Consultative Council); the facilities of the Committee would be placed at the disposal of the forum.

The Opinion went into detail concerning the practical operations of the 'Forum', and the main areas proposed for self-regulation (e.g. hotels, advertising, financial services, insurance, medicinal products, etc.).

Finally, the Committee requested the Commission to organize a 'hearing' of all parties involved leading to the establishment of the aforementioned forum.

The Committee was also pleased to note that its recommendations regarding consumer labelling set out in a 1989 Opinion¹ on this subject were embodied in the Council resolution of 5 April 1993 on the future labelling of consumer products.

Foodstuffs

During the year, the Committee was again active in the field of foodstuffs – a subject of continuing interest under the heading of consumer protection.

The Committee dealt with two proposals on food additives; firstly, it endorsed a Commission proposal to allow derogations for 'traditional' products which might encounter problems if the general rules for additives were applied; and secondly it agreed with a number of comments on a further proposal setting out common rules for certain kinds of 'other' additives, for example preservatives, antioxidants and carrier solvents.

However, the Committee was not satisfied with a proposal for the marketing of novel foods – i.e. foods which have not hitherto been used for human

¹ Opinion on consumer information and advice (OJ C 298, 27.11.1989, paragraph 3.8).

consumption and covering, in particular, foods which have been produced by genetic technology – and asked that it be re-examined.

The Committee also gave its Opinion on three proposals aimed at ensuring the application and enforcement of Community legislation on the control of residues in meats.

The purpose of the proposed measures was (a) to improve the technical controls regarding the use of growth promoters in livestock production, (b) to combat, in particular, the growing misuse of beta-agonist substances for fattening purposes, (c) to simplify control procedures in order to detect residues more effectively, and (d) to apply more effective administrative sanctions, including the refusal to pay premiums to certain producers.

The Committee supported the Commission proposal subject to a number of technical comments under the following headings:

- (i) hormonal substances and beta-agonists in stockfarming;
- (ii) monitoring of live animals and animal products;
- (iii) penalties for misuse of banned substances;
- (iv) funding.

Product safety

Again in the field of consumer protection, the Committee examined a proposal to establish a new system of information on domestic and leisure accidents based on the experience gleaned by the so-called Ehlass (European home and leisure accident surveillance system) pilot project completed in 1992.

The Committee accepted the Commission's proposal but remarked that:

- (i) certain aspects of the methodology of the collection, comparison, monitoring and evaluation of information on accidents might be improved;
- (ii) the use of national data should be better integrated with the use of Community data;
- (iii) a cross-link should be established with measures laid down in the product safety Directive;
- (iv) certain definitions/terminology should be re-examined.

Time-sharing

Finally, for the first time the Committee examined the vexed question of time-sharing.

Time-sharing may be popularly described as the sharing of a property, usually a holiday home, by different clients, each using it for a short period each year.

As time-sharing has acquired a bad reputation because of abuses, lack of legislation, misleading advertising, etc., the Commission was asked to put forward a proposal for legislation to protect consumers entering time-share contracts. This covered three fundamental points:

- (i) the need to provide the purchaser with correct information prior to signature of contract;
- (ii) detailed suggestions regarding additional information to be included in the proposal, particularly in the Annex, and covering, for example, the following aspects:
 - the exclusion of rental contracts and of non-tourist property;
 - the rights and obligations of purchaser and vendor;
 - deadlines for completion and/or reimbursement;
 - obligatory insurance;
 - promotional gifts and misleading advertising, etc.
- (iii) the provision of a cooling-off period after signature of contract to enable purchasers to counter aggressive sales methods.

The Committee proposed a uniform cooling-off period of 28 days, instead of 14 to 28 days specified by the Commission.

Public health

Community initiatives have been few and far between in this sector. This is partly because of delays in ratifying the Maastricht Treaty which contains a new chapter specifically devoted to public health.

European pharmacopoeia

The Committee endorsed the proposal that the Community accede to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia. This could only strengthen the European industry's competitiveness on the world market.

The Committee would also highlight the potential benefit for the Community of participation in a highly specialized coordination structure of European scientific experts. This might usefully interact with the future European Agency for Medicinal Products.

CHAPTER III

Relations with the media

During 1993, the Committee continued its policy of decentralizing and diversifying its media relations as decided in 1992.

Hence the Committee's day-to-day relations with the EC press corps in Brussels were supplemented by a number of initiatives involving the national, regional, trade and specialist press.

Contacts with the press in Brussels focused on key Committee initiatives (resolutions and Opinions, conferences — notably the Conference on the Citizens' Europe — and meetings of socio-economic interest groups, policy statements from the Chair, etc.). A number of press briefings were held for EC correspondents. Some of these coincided with Council meetings, in order to explain the Committee's stance on a particular issue; the press conference on growth and employment, held in connection with the joint meeting of EC and EFTA Economic and Finance Ministers, was a case in point. Other briefings were targeted at journalists specializing in the area of the Opinions being promoted (for example, nuclear safety, transport, external relations, commerce and distribution, social questions, cooperation policy). Lastly, informal meetings gave the Committee Chairman an opportunity to take a stance on key topical issues in the Community, and on the role and future of the Committee.

Despite logistical and budgetary limitations, efforts to decentralize media activity scored some successes. Media events were held in Spain, Portugal, Germany, France, Luxembourg, the UK, Tunisia and Switzerland. These included press conferences, informal briefings, participation of the Press Division in seminars and conferences, and accompaniment of the Chairman on official visits.

The Committee continued to improve its information resources (access to databases, subscriptions to press services and publications) and its publications for journalists (Committee newsletter, information briefing, press releases, etc.).

During 1993, the Committee strengthened its interinstitutional cooperation with the Commission, Council and European Parliament in the information field. The Press Division attended a number of interinstitutional coordination meetings and a seminar organized by the Belgian Council Presidency for the benefit of the EC institutions and bodies and the Member States. The Press Division has also established close links with the Commission's DG X and the Commission offices in the 12 national capitals. A work programme is being drawn up for 1994.

CHAPTER IV

The Groups

Group I - employers

During 1993, seven Group I members left the Committee: Mr Ceyrac, Mr van Dam, Mr Delorozoy, Mr. Gaffron, Mr Schnieders, Mr Tukker and Dr Robinson. In due course those retiring were replaced by Mr Gautier, Mr Linsen, Mr Seguy, Mr von Haus, Mr Kienle and Mr Kielman in Group I. Mrs Brooks joined Group III.

Representing as they do private and public industries, chambers of commerce, small businesses, wholesale and retail trade, banking and insurance, agriculture and tourism, Group I members have strongly supported the completion of the internal market. They now look forward to helping the ESC develop a new role as a forum monitoring implementation of Community legislation and commenting periodically on the overall operation of the internal market to ensure that the objectives are being achieved.

The Group welcomed the two historic achievements which marked the end of 1993. The first, the final ratification by all 12 countries of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union gave a new impetus to European integration after a long period of doubt aggravated by narrow referendum results in Denmark and France and serious recession in several countries of the European Union.

The Maastricht Treaty has strengthened the autonomy of the ESC and extended and clarified its powers in several areas including trans-European networks, industry, Economic and Social Cohesion Funds transport, environment, consumer protection and energy. Members of Group I will continue to play a decisive part in all these areas with the backing of the numerous sectoral and socio-professional organizations at national and European level which regularly supply experts and technical advice.

The second great achievement of the year was the conclusion in early December of the Agreement between the EFTA countries and the European Union to create a European Economic Area. The Agreement includes the setting-up of an EEA Consultative Committee composed of members of the

EFTA Consultative Committee and the Economic and Social Committee, with 30 from each side. Some 20 employers from all EEA countries participate in these meetings and over the years it has become an established custom for them to meet on the eve of the conference to prepare their interventions. In June 1993, the Employers' Group preparatory meeting was generously hosted in Geneva by the Union of Swiss Employers' Associations.

In 1994, at both the inaugural meeting of the EEA Consultative Committee in February and its June meeting, major debates on growth, competitiveness and unemployment and on Community energy policy; will be based on Opinions adopted at the ESC's own initiative and drafted by Group I rapporteurs.

The 17th annual meeting of representatives of ACP and EEC economic and social interest groups was also preceded by a joint Employers Group preparatory meeting. This year both ACP and ESC rapporteurs were present at the preparatory meeting to introduce discussion of their respective papers on employment creation in the framework of decentralized cooperation and the role of the economic and social interest groups.

Much work has been done on relations with the Central and East European countries and, in particular, on encouraging the development of independent organizations to represent economic and social interests. Group I rapporteurs are responsible for Opinions on EC relations with the Baltic States, Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine, and Slovenia.

In September, members of Group I and of its affiliated organizations contributed to the ESC Conference on the Citizens' Europe, an initiative fully supported by the European Commission and attended by President Delors.

An extraordinary meeting of the Group took place in September at which members considered changes that would have to be made to the Committee's Rules of Procedure and internal working methods once the Maastricht Treaty was finally ratified. Following a review by the Secretary-General of his first nine months at the ESC, the Group reviewed the structure and efficiency of the Committee in the light of its 1992 report with particular emphasis on the use of computer technology.

The Group I Chairman again attended the June and December meetings of the UNICE Council of Presidents and its Executive Committee meetings. The Group Secretariat keeps in touch with a large number of trade and sectoral organizations in addition to its constant contacts with UNICE (Union of Industries of the European Community), CEEP (European Centre of Public Enterprises), Eurochambres (European Permanent Conference of Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and the wholesale and retail organizations: Eurocommerce (Retail, Wholesale and International Trade Represent-

tation), Fewita (Federation of European Wholesale and International Trade Associations), CLD (Liaison Committee of the European Retail Associations) and Celcaa (Liaison Committee of Agro-alimentary Business). All these organizations receive a monthly newsletter from the Group Secretariat immediately after each Plenary Session which keeps them up to date on all new subjects of consultation or initiative enabling them to propose experts for Group I Study Group members.

In November, the President of Eurochambres accepted an initiative to address the Group on matters of current importance to the European Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

With 56 men and 1 woman, Group I remains the smallest of the ESC Groups and hopes to see its numbers increased in the new mandate beginning in October 1994. Despite its size, the Group still provided rapporteurs for almost half of the Opinions adopted in 1993, among them:

- (i) the internal market in gas and electricity;
- (ii) EC economic cooperation in the Middle East;
- (iii) minimum reserves in the context of the internal market;
- (iv) relations with Baltic States;
- (v) minimum safety and health requirements in transport;
- (vi) strategic programme – reinforcing the effectiveness and the internal market;
- (vii) air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles;
- (viii) limitation of noise from earth-moving machinery;
- (ix) common policy on safe seas;
- (x) transition to EMU-analysis of policies; and
- (xi) a string of technical Opinions in the veterinary field and those of human and animal nutrition, environmental protection and agriculture.

Group II - Workers

The Group has continued to give top priority during the year to the development of European policies and action to combat the massive problem of unemployment, while safeguarding and enhancing the European social model. These linked objectives were pressed in Opinions, which were adopted by the Committee, for which Group members provided the rapporteurs, dealing amongst others with employment policy, the annual eco-

conomic report, social exclusion and the annual report on the application of the Social Charter. The health and safety of workers at the workplace and vocational training issues were also the subject of Opinions in which the Group took a keen interest. The Group has continued to press for the development of European industrial policies in a number of sectors, and the Committee adopted an Opinion on the public services, initiated by the Group, which was particularly influential in focusing interest among the institutions on this sector. Rapporteurs nominated by the Group have also led useful discussions in the Committee on the reform of the Structural Funds, energy taxation and environmental issues. Group representatives have taken a leading role in external relations issues, acting as rapporteurs on Opinions on Central and East European countries, Latin America and Turkey. They were also fully involved in contacts and meetings held with representatives of socio-economic organizations from ACP countries, EFTA and the Maghreb.

The Group held two special meetings during the year, in April and December, at which the main issues discussed were the enhancement of the role of the Committee through the development of policy as well as structural changes, in the context of the right of the Committee to draw up its own Rules of Procedure which was gained under the Treaty on European Union, as well as of the revision of the Treaty foreseen for 1996. The Group provided a rapporteur for an Opinion on the follow-up to the Sutherland Report, stressed which the role that the Committee can play in the context of the internal market.

The Group has continued to press for Bureau decisions to be applied concerning the proper enhancement of the position of members of the Group Secretariat, and deep concern was expressed at unwarranted delays and obstructions which have arisen in this context.

The Group has continued to maintain close relations with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and its affiliated industry committees, and Group members have attended various meetings of these organizations, which have expressed appreciation for the work of the ESC. In December the ETUC General Secretary made a number of concrete proposals designed to further strengthen this cooperation.

Group III - Various Interests

For Group III, 1993 was sadly overshadowed by the death in Dublin on 21 August of Tomás Roseingrave. He had been a member of the Committee and of Group III ever since Ireland first joined the Community, holding the

post of Committee Chairman for the 1980-82 term. He had been Vice-Chairman of the Group since 1990, and had worked unceasingly to strengthen its cohesion and importance.

The Group Chair, Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, paid tribute to his commitment to the ESC in a commemorative speech. She stressed how he had campaigned tirelessly on its behalf, buoyed by a firm belief in the key contribution which the ESC could make to the building of a more human and fairer European society which, while pursuing economic growth and scientific and technological progress, would still find a place for its weaker citizens.

Recent months have seen growing calls from all quarters of society for a say in the European integration process. The Committee responded by spearheading an initiative designed to give ordinary citizens a chance to address the heads of the Community institutions directly in order to voice their requests, hopes and fears about the building of a real 'Citizens' Europe'.

The initiative was warmly welcomed by the organizations represented in Group III, and was given added significance by the involvement of socio-economic and general interest groups from many walks of life, as the Group had advocated. Among those voicing their concerns, worries, aspirations and contentment were representatives of farmers, small businesses, the professions, consumers, the scientific and academic community, the cooperative and non-profit movement, family organizations, and environmentalists.

The dialogue launched with the Community institutions also involved people engaged in the fight against drugs and in caring for AIDS sufferers, and those campaigning against social exclusion in general.

In this way, the Group sought to give real meaning to the concept of European citizenship by directly involving ordinary people.

During 1993, Group III also provided the rapporteur for a large number of Opinions drawn up by the Committee in its various fields of responsibility.

Amongst these we should mention the Opinions on the technological problems of nuclear safety, time-sharing, the development of the single market for postal services, Community action to help small and medium-sized firms, the Community framework programme for research and technological development, the future development of the common transport policy, the role of older people in society, and the consumer/supplier dialogue.

The year 1993 saw a number of meetings between representatives of EC socio-economic interest groups and their opposite numbers in third countries. Group III members played an active part in these meetings, and their

contributions reflected the Group's special structure and role which set it apart from the other two Groups. The democratic aspect of this structure and role aroused the keen interest of partner organizations in EFTA, the Arab Maghreb Union, the ACP States, and Latin America.

The Various Interests Group is chaired by Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli. Its Vice-Chairmen are Klaus Boisseree and Eugène Muller.

CHAPTER V

Internal aspects of the Secretariat

1. STAFF

In 1993 the number of permanent posts in the General Secretariat totalled 510: 58 category A posts, including one special career bracket; 72 category B posts; 222 category C posts; 39 category D posts; and 119 LA posts.

The number of available posts therefore remained the same as in the previous year; so too, approximately, did the numbers for each grade.

Efforts in favour of the better use of human resources were, however, made, and succeeded in boosting Secretariat efficiency, particularly by forging ahead with redeployment policy in certain areas, and through a wider range of more finely-tuned in-service training. It must, however, be pointed out that the present career structure for most categories is not conducive to a high level of ESC staff motivation and could affect the overall efficiency of the Committee's work. This would be particularly damaging at a time when the gap between European citizens and the Community institutions appears to be widening. The ESC is the only forum where the European Communities interface directly with representatives of the socio-economic interest groups.

Furthermore, following the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty, the ESC is faced with a major and immediate administrative challenge; it must service the future Committee of the Regions via what will initially be a common structure. This new situation means that the ESC must be given the additional resources commensurate with what is expected of it.

2. BUDGET

Appropriations for 1993 totalled ECU 56 029 303, 8.5% up on the ECU 51 635 224 of 1992.

3. MEETINGS

There were 10 Plenary Sessions and 10 Bureau meetings in 1993.

Working bodies met as follows:

Section

Study Groups

Groups I, II and III

Recognized sub-groups

Miscellaneous

Visitors' groups

4. STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT IN 1993

Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

Private office

Group secretariats

Financial control division

Secretary General

Private office

Secretariat

Press division

Budget unit

Directorate for the Registry of the Assembly and Bureau and for Planning

Unit for the Assembly/Bureau, legislative planning, institutional affairs, official publications and the Annual Report

Meetings planning/services for members – travel

Telex

Mail/records/library/documentation

Directorate-General for Operations

Directorate A — Consultative work

- Division for industry, commerce, crafts and services
- Division for economic, financial and monetary questions
- Division for transport and communications
- Specialized department for protection of the environment, public health and consumer affairs
- Specialized department for regional development and town and country planning

Directorate B — Consultative work

- Divisions for agriculture and fisheries
- Division for external relations, trade and development policy
- Specialized department for social, family, educational and cultural affairs
- Specialized department for energy, nuclear questions and research

Directorate for Communication

- Research and conferences division
- Public relations division
- Security unit
- Delegations unit

Directorate for Translation and for Printing and Publishing

General coordination

Translation divisions

Division for printing and publishing

- Typing pools
- Printing/distribution unit

Specialized department for engineering, informatics systems and telecommunications (IST)

Directorate for Personnel, Administration and Finance

Division for recruitment and personnel management

Specialized department for finance

Specialized department for internal affairs

Department for legal affairs, records, staff information, and servicing heads of administration meetings

Organization and methods department

Medical/welfare unit

ANNEX A

**List of Opinions
and information reports
issued during 1993**

302nd PLENARY SESSION OF 27 AND 28 JANUARY 1993

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting the second phase of the trans-European cooperation scheme for higher education (Tempus II)
(Rapporteur: Mr Connellan) (CES 68/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 89/107/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning food additives intended for human consumption
(Rapporteur: Mr Hilkens) (CES 69/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the control of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions resulting from the storage of petrol and its distribution from terminals to service stations (the so-called 'Stage I' Directive)
(Rapporteur: Mr Gafo Fernández) (CES 70/93)

The European aircraft industry: first assessment and possible Community actions
(Rapporteur: Mr Mobbs) (CES 71/93)

Proposal for a Council recommendation on common information technology security evaluation criteria
(Rapporteur: Dame Jocelyn Barrow) (CES 72/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the masses and dimensions of two- and three-wheel motor vehicles

Proposal for a Council Directive on the identification of controls, tell-tales and indicators for two- or three-wheel motor vehicles

Proposal for a Council Directive on audible warning devices for two- or three-wheel motor vehicles

Proposal for a Council Directive on stands for two-wheel motor vehicles

Proposal for a Council Directive on protective devices intended to prevent the unauthorized use of two- or three-wheel motor vehicles

Proposal for a Council Directive on the mounting of the rear registration plate of two- or three-wheel motor vehicles

Proposal for a Council Directive on statutory markings for two- or three-wheel motor vehicles

Proposal for a Council Directive on passenger handholds on two-wheel motor vehicles

(Rapporteur: Mr Bagliano) (CES 73/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on feedingstuffs intended for particular nutritional purposes

(Rapporteur: Mr Pricolo) (CES 74/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision amending Directive 80/217/EEC introducing Community measures for the control of classical swine fever

(Rapporteur: Mr Proumens) (CES 75/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a Community system for fisheries and aquaculture (Additional Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Silva (CES 76/93))

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas
(Rapporteur: Mr Gafo Fernández) (CES 77/93)

The European Community and economic cooperation in the Middle East (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Beale) (CES 78/93)

Technological problems of nuclear safety (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken) (CES 79/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision for a monitoring mechanism of Community CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions
(Rapporteur: Mr Silva) (CES 80/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Wick) (CES 81/93)

303rd PLENARY SESSION OF 24 AND 25 FEBRUARY 1993

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the protection of purchasers in contracts relating to the utilization of immovable property on a time-share basis
(Rapporteur: Mr Ataíde Ferreira) (CES 206/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on novel foods and novel food ingredients
(Rapporteur: Mr Jaschick) (CES 207/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 88/407/EEC of 14 June 1988 laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in, and imports of, deep-frozen semen of domestic animals of the bovine species and extending it to cover fresh bovine semen
(Rapporteur: Mr Proumens) (CES 208/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the introduction of a limit to the granting of production aid for processed tomato products
(Rapporteur: Mr Pricolo) (CES 209/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation on a code of conduct for computerized reservation systems (CRSS) modifying Council Regulation (EEC) No 2299/89 of 24 July 1989

(Rapporteur: Mr Moreland) (CES 210/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive introducing a tax on carbon dioxide emissions and energy

(Rapporteur: Mr Schmitz) (CES 211/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on food additives other than colours and sweeteners

(Rapporteur: Mr Hilkens) (CES 212/93)

Annual Economic Report for 1992-93

(Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal) (CES 213/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community and Directive 91/683/EEC amending Directive 77/93/EEC

(Rapporteur-General: Mr Gardner) (CES 214/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy

(Rapporteur: Mr Strauss) (CES 215/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a special system of assistance to traditional ACP suppliers of bananas

(Rapporteur-General: Mr Ovide Etienne) (CES 216/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) introducing a diversification and development programme for certain banana-producing countries in Latin America

(Rapporteur-General: Mr Ovide Etienne) (CES 217/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the common organization of the market in potatoes

(Rapporteur-General: Mr Stokkers) (CES 218/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the mutual recognition of licences and other national authorizations to operate telecommunications services, including the establishment of a single Community telecommunications licence and the setting-up of a Community Telecommunications Committee (CTC)

(Rapporteur: Dame Jocelyn Barrow) (CES 219/93)

Draft proposal for a Council Directive laying down the basic standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation
(Rapporteur: Mr Beale) (CES 220/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a cohesion financial instrument and revised draft proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a Cohesion Fund
(Rapporteur: Mr Giesecke) (CES 221/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision on the adoption of a programme of Community action on the subject of the vocational training of indirect taxation officials (Matthaeus-Tax)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr R. Muller) (CES 222/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 3687/91 on the common organization of the market in fishery products and amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
(Rapporteur-General: Mr McGarry) (CES 224/93)

304th PLENARY SESSION OF 24 AND 25 MARCH 1993

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 89/686/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to personal protective equipment
(Rapporteur: Mr Pearson) (CES 338/93)

Modification of the proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning the affixing and use of the CE mark of conformity on industrial products into a Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directives 87/404/EEC (simple pressure vessels), 88/378/EEC (safety of toys), 89/106/EEC (construction products), 89/336/EEC (electromagnetic compatibility), 89/392/EEC (machinery), 89/686/EEC (personal protective equipment), 90/384/EEC (non-automatic weighing instruments), 90/385/EEC (active implantable medical devices), 90/396/EEC (appliances burning gaseous fuels), 91/263/EEC (telecommunications terminal equipment), 92/42/EEC (new hot-water boilers fired with liquid or gaseous fuels) and 73/23/EEC (electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits) and into a

Proposal for a Council Decision amending the Council Decision of 13 December 1990 concerning the modules for the various phases of the conformity assessment procedures (90/683/EEC), supplementing it with provisions relating to the arrangements for affixing and using the CE conformity marking

(Rapporteur: Mr Proumens) (CES 339/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 2771/75 on the common organization of the market in eggs, 2777/75 on the common organization of the market in poultrymeat, 827/68 on the common organization of the market in certain products listed in Annex II to the Treaty and 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff

(Rapporteur: Mr Stokkers) (CES 340/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 91/67/EEC concerning the animal health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products

(Rapporteur: Mr Silva) (CES 341/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision on reference laboratories for the monitoring of marine biotoxins

(Rapporteur: Mr Proumens) (CES 342/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) setting up specific measures in favour of cephalopod producers permanently based in the Canary Islands

(Rapporteur: Mr Mayayo Bello) (CES 343/93)

Minimum reserves in the context of the internal market (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Mr Meyer-Horn) (CES 344/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on packaging and packaging waste

(Rapporteur: Mr Colombo) (CES 345/93)

Commission proposals on the prices for agricultural products and on related measures (1993/94)

(Rapporteur: Mr Mantovani) (CES 346/93)

EC relations with the Baltic States (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Mr Petersen) (CES 348/93)

Green Paper on the development of the single market for postal services

(Rapporteur: Mr Pompen) (CES 349/93)

Proposal for a Council recommendation on access to continuing vocational training

(Rapporteur: Mr Nierhaus) (CES 350/93)

305th PLENARY SESSION OF 28 AND 29 APRIL 1993

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for transport activities and workplaces on means of transport

(Rapporteur: Mr Whitworth) (CES 466/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision on a multiannual programme (1993-96) of Community measures to intensify the priority areas of policy for enterprise, in particular SMEs, in the Community

Proposal for a Council Decision on a multiannual programme (1994-97) of Community measures to ensure the continuity of policy for enterprise, in particular SMEs, in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Lustenhouwer) (CES 467/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning satellite earth station equipment, extending the scope of Council Directive 91/263/EEC
(Rapporteur: Mr Nierhaus) (CES 468/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 on the common organization of markets in the sugar sector
(Rapporteur: Mr Ch Pelletier) (CES 469/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) replacing Regulation (EEC) No 1468/81 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs or agricultural matters
(Rapporteur: Mr Pricolo) (CES 470/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the control of potato ring rot
(Rapporteur: Mr Stokkers) (CES 471/93)

European telecommunications equipment industry (Additional Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Flum) (CES 472/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive supplementing the common system of value-added tax and amending Directive 77/388/EEC – Special scheme for gold
(Rapporteur: Mr R. Pelletier) (CES 473/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 80/390/EEC coordinating the requirements for the drawing-up, scrutiny and distribution of the listing particulars to be published for the admission of securities to official stock-exchange listing, with regard to the obligation to publish listing particulars
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Meyer-Horn) (CES 474/93)

Employment in Europe (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal) (CES 475/93)

Extra-urban and/or rural areas (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Salmon) (CES 476/93)

Third annual report on the reform of the Structural Funds – 1991
(Rapporteur: Mr Quevedo Rojo) (CES 477/93)

306th PLENARY SESSION OF 26 AND 27 MAY 1993

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the framework Convention on Climate Change
(Rapporteur: Mr Silva) (CES 584/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 88/609/EEC on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants
(Rapporteur: Mr Boisseree) (CES 585/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision on the introduction of a Community information system on domestic and leisure accidents
(Rapporteur: Miss Maddocks; Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Jaschick and Mr Low) (CES 586/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the amendment to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer as adopted in November 1992 in Copenhagen by the parties to the Protocol
(Rapporteur: Mr Colombo; Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Proumens and Mr Boisseree) (CES 587/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles and amending Directive 70/220/EEC
(Rapporteur: Mr Pearson) (CES 588/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the second time Directive 83/189/EEC laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations
(Rapporteur: Mr de Knegt) (CES 589/93)

Report from the Commission on the operation of Directive 83/189/EEC in 1990 and 1991
(Rapporteur: Mr de Knegt) (CES 590/93)

Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Slovenia in the field of transport
(Rapporteur: Mr Eulen) (CES 591/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) introducing specific measures for the smaller Aegean islands concerning certain agricultural products
(Rapporteur: Mr Spyroudis) (CES 592/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) harmonizing various technical measures in Mediterranean fisheries
(Rapporteur: Mr Muñiz Guardado) (CES 593/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products

(Rapporteur: Mr Pricolo) (CES 594/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 70/524/EEC concerning additives in feedingstuffs

(Rapporteur: Mr Hovgaard Jakobsen) (CES 595/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the use and marketing of enzymes, micro-organisms and their preparations in animal nutrition

(Rapporteur: Mr Hovgaard Jakobsen) (CES 596/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 2731/75 fixing standard qualities for common wheat, rye, barley, maize, sorghum and durum wheat

(Rapporteur: Mr Gardner) (CES 597/93)

Fourth framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and technological development (1994-98) (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Mr Roseingrave) (CES 598/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of a cooperation agreement for the protection of the coasts and waters of the North-East Atlantic against pollution

(Rapporteur: Mr Margalef Masia; Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Beltrami and Mr Christie) (CES 599/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 90/539/EEC on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and imports from third countries of poultry and hatching eggs

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 91/494/EEC on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and imports from third countries of fresh poultrymeat

(Rapporteur-General: Mr Proumens) (CES 600/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 on the tasks of the Structural Funds and their effectiveness and on coordination of their activities between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88 of 19 December 1988 laying down provisions for implementing

Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the European Regional Development Fund

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 4255/88 of 19 December 1988 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the European Social Fund

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 of 19 December 1988 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the EAGGF Guidance Section

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down provisions for implementing Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the financial instrument for fisheries guidance

(Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal) (CES 601/93)

The operation of the Community's internal market after 1992 – Follow-up to the Sutherland Report (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Mr Schmitz; Co-Rapporteur: Mrs Robinson) (CES 602/93)

307th PLENARY SESSION OF 30 JUNE 1993

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Convention on Biological Diversity

(Rapporteur: Mr Colombo; Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Douvis and Mrs Santiago) (CES 706/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on operations to promote tropical forests

(Rapporteur: Mrs Santiago) (CES 707/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending for the first time Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2455/92 concerning the export and import of certain dangerous chemicals

(Rapporteur: Mr Beltrami; Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Barbagli and Mr Dunkel) (CES 708/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision on a series of guidelines for trans-European data communications networks between administrations

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a multiannual Community programme to support the implementation of trans-European networks for the interchange of data between administrations (IDA)

(Rapporteur: Mr Nierhaus) (CES 709/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision on interadministration telematic networks for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States – Comedi – (Commerce electronic data interchange)

(Rapporteur: Mr Nierhaus) (CES 710/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 90/684/EEC on aid to shipbuilding
(Rapporteur: Mr Arena) (CES 711/93)

Health/safety at the workplace – Training (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Etty) Co-Rapporteurs: Mrs Guillaume and Mr Kafka (CES 712/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 85/611/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS)
(Rapporteur: Mr Giacomelli) (CES 713/93)

Commission staff working paper on the problem of the time taken to make payments in commercial transactions
(Rapporteur: Mr Pardon) (CES 714/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) providing for an offer of compensation to certain producers of milk or milk products temporarily prevented from carrying on their trade (SLOM)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Pricolo) (CES 715/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents
(Rapporteur: Mr Etty) (CES 716/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning a Community technology initiative for disabled and elderly people (TIDE) (1993-94)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Frandi) (CES 717/93)

The European Community's relations with Japan (Additional Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Romoli) (CES 718/93)

308th PLENARY SESSION OF 22 AND 23 SEPTEMBER 1993

Proposal for a Council Directive on the right of residence for students
(Rapporteur: Mr van Dijk) (CES 885/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the 14th time Directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations
(Rapporteur: Mr Beltrami; Co-Rapporteurs: Mrs Gredal and Mr Tixier) (CES 886/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement relating to scientific and technical cooperation between the European Economic Community and Australia
(Rapporteur: Mr Gardner) (CES 887/93)

Report (1992) by the Commission to the Council and Parliament on the application of the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal in the fisheries sector
(Rapporteur: Mr Silva) (CES 888/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down the trade arrangements applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products
(Rapporteur: Mr Gardner) (CES 889/93)

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: 'Reinforcing the effectiveness of the internal market'
(Rapporteur: Mr Connellan; Co-Rapporteur: Mr Schmitz) (CES 890/93)

Commission Green Paper on pluralism and media concentration in the internal market – an assessment of the need for Community action
(Rapporteur: Mr Flum) (CES 891/93)

The public sector in Europe (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr de Knecht) (CES 892/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive to amend Council Directive 86/662/EEC on the limitation of noise emitted by earth-moving machinery
(Rapporteur: Mr Pearson) (CES 893/93)

Green Paper on the future of Community initiatives under the Structural Funds
(Rapporteur: Mr Christie) (CES 894/93)

309th PLENARY SESSION OF 20 AND 21 OCTOBER 1993

Proposal for a Council Decision on the provision of Community interest subsidies on loans for SMEs extended by the EIB under its temporary lending facility
(Rapporteur: Mr Frerichs) (CES 1002/93)

Analysis of policies to be pursued in the Community during the transitional stage of EMU (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Meyer-Horn) (CES 1003/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision accepting, on behalf of the European Economic Community, the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia Council 7202/93

(Rapporteur: Mr Colombo) (CES 1004/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision empowering the Commission to contract borrowings for the purpose of extending loans to Member States under the bridging facility

(Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal) (CES 1005/93)

Commission communication on the future development of the common transport policy

(Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken) (CES 1006/93)

Second All-European Transport Conference (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Mr Bleser) (CES 1007/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning specific measures for dried grapes

(Rapporteur: Mr Gardner) (CES 1008/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down special measures to encourage the processing of certain citrus fruits

(Rapporteur: Mr Margalef Masia) (CES 1009/93)

Growth, competitiveness and employment (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Mr Romoli; Co-Rapporteur: Mr Burnel) (CES 1010/93)

Annual Economic Report for 1993 (Additional Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal) (CES 1011/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 of 30 June 1992 establishing a support system for producers of certain arable crops

(Rapporteur: Mr C. Pelletier) (CES 1012/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) setting the terms under which fishing vessels flying a third-country flag may land and market their catches at Community ports

(Rapporteur: Mr Muñiz Guardado) (CES 1013/93)

Social exclusion (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Miss Maddocks) (CES 1014/93)

Second report from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee on the application of the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers

(Rapporteur: Mrs Engelen Kefer) (CES 1015/93)

More democracy for Europe and its institutions; better information for citizens and socio-economic operators; role of the European Parliament's Ombudsman

(Rapporteur: Mr Flum; Co-Rapporteur: Mr Matteoli) (CES 1016/93)

Lomé IV Convention – Mid-term review (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Mr Strauss; Co-Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal) (CES 1017/93)

310th PLENARY SESSION OF 24 AND 25 NOVEMBER 1993

Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Community, of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

(Rapporteur: Mr Giacomelli; Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Aspinall and Mr Bensabat Ferraz da Silva) (CES 1155/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision on the accession of the Community to the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention – 1974)

Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Community, of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention, as revised in 1992)

(Rapporteur: Mr Wick; Co-Rapporteurs: Mrs Elstner and Mr Flum) (CES 1156/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste

(Rapporteur: Mr Beltrami) (CES 1157/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision modifying Council Decision 89/286/EEC on the implementation at Community level of the main phase of the Strategic programme for innovation and technology transfer (1989–93) (Sprint programme)

(Rapporteur: Mr Nierhaus) (CES 1158/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the minimum level of training for maritime occupations

(Rapporteur: Mr Etty) (CES 1159/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organizations

(Rapporteur: Mr Whitworth) (CES 1160/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of civil aviation accidents and incidents

(Rapporteur: Mr Mobbs) (CES 1161/93)

Proposal for a seventh Council Directive on summertime arrangements
(Rapporteur: Mr Whitworth) (CES 1162/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision laying down the groups of additives used in animal nutrition being the subject of an authorization linked to the person responsible for marketing them
(Rapporteur: Mr Gardner) (CES 1163/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the financing of veterinary checks and inspections on live animals and certain animal products and amending Directive 91/496/EEC
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick) (CES 1164/93)

The analysis of policies to be pursued in the Community during the transitional stage of EMU (Additional Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Meyer-Horn) (CES 1165/93)

Communication to the Council and the European Parliament on the consultation on the review of the situation in the telecommunications services sector 1992 (communication by the Commission) (Additional Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Flum) (CES 1166/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 90/434/EEC of 23 July 1990 on the common system of taxation applicable to mergers, divisions, transfers of assets and exchanges of shares concerning companies of different Member States
and

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 90/435/EEC of 23 July 1990 on the common system of taxation applicable in the case of parent companies and subsidiaries of different Member States
(Rapporteur: Mr R. Pelletier) (CES 1167/93 and CES 1168/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work
(Rapporteur: Mr Etty) (CES 1169/93)

Communication from the Commission on a common policy on safe seas
(Rapporteur: Mrs Bredima Savopoulou) (CES 1170/93)

Older people in society (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Roseingrave; Co-Rapporteur: Mr Laur) (CES 1171/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 on the common organization of the markets in the sugar sector
(Rapporteur-General: Mr C. Pelletier) (CES 1172/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 3013/89 on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat and Regulation No 3493/90 establishing the general rules for the granting of a premium to sheepmeat and goatmeat producers
(Rapporteur: Mr Strauss) (CES 1173/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on adjustments to the fisheries arrangements provided for in the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Silva) (CES 1174/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a Community system of fishing licences
(Rapporteur-General: Mr McGarry) (CES 1175/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down detailed rules for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2080/93 on Community structural assistance in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and the industry processing and marketing of its products
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Silva) (CES 1176/93)

Supplier-consumer dialogue (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hilken; Co-Rapporteur: Mr Proumens) (CES 1177/93)

XXIInd Report on Competition Policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Bagliano) (CES 1178/93)

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the fourth framework programme of the European Economic Community activities in the field of research, technological development and demonstration (1994-98)

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning a framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and training for the European Atomic Energy Community (1994-98)

(Rapporteurs: Mr Roseingrave and Mr von der Decken) (CES 1179/93)

311th PLENARY SESSION OF 21 AND 22 DECEMBER 1993

Proposal for a Council Decision on the system of the Communities' own resources
(Rapporteur: Mr Giacomelli) (CES 1300/93)

Medium-term action programme to combat exclusion and promote solidarity: A new programme to support and stimulate innovation 1994-99

Report on the implementation of the Community programme for the social and economic integration of the least privileged groups (1989-94)

Proposal for a Council decision adopting a medium-term action programme to combat exclusion and promote solidarity: A new programme to support

and stimulate innovation

(Rapporteur: Miss Maddocks) (CES 1301/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on substances that deplete the ozone layer

(Rapporteur: Mr Colombo) (CES 1302/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning pressure equipment

(Rapporteur: Mr Green) (CES 1303/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directives 77/780/EEC and 89/646/EEC in the field of credit institutions, Council Directives 73/239/EEC and 92/49/EEC in the field of non-life insurance, Council Directives 79/267/EEC and 92/96/EEC in the field of life assurance and Council Directive 93/22/EEC in the field of investment firms in order to reinforce prudential supervision

(Rapporteur: Mr Moreland) (CES 1304/93)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 70/524/EEC concerning additives in feedingstuffs

(Rapporteur: Mr Gardner) (CES 1305/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the conservation, characterization and utilization of genetic resources in agriculture

(Rapporteur: Mr Proumens) (CES 1306/93)

Final report from the Commission on the implementation of Council Decision 90/665/EEC of 17 December 1990 regarding a two-year programme (1991-92) for developing Community tourism statistics (Additional Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Mr Cunha) (CES 1307/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 2328/91, 866/90, 1360/78, 1035/72 and 449/69 with a view to expediting the adjustment of production, processing and marketing structures within the framework of the reform of the common agricultural policy

(Rapporteur: Mr de Paul de Barchifontaine) (CES 1308/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of beta-agonists

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal

(Rapporteur: Mr Kienle) (CES 1309/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a Community system of fishing licences (Additional Opinion)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr McGarry) (CES 1310/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down detailed rules for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2080/93 on Community structural assistance in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and the industry processing and marketing its products (Additional Opinion)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Silva) (CES 1311/93)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down measures to prohibit the release for free circulation, export or transit of counterfeit and pirated goods
(Rapporteur: Mr Mourgues) (CES 1312/93)

Communication from the Commission related to the development of the integrated services digital network (ISDN) as a trans-European network
Proposal for a Council Decision on a series of guidelines for the development of ISDN as a trans-European network

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a multiannual Community action concerning the development of ISDN as a trans-European network
(Rapporteur: Mr Pe) (CES 1313/93)

Relations between the EC and Turkey (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Cassina) (CES 1314/93)

ANNEX B

**List of Opinions
drawn up by the Committee
on its own initiative
during 1993**

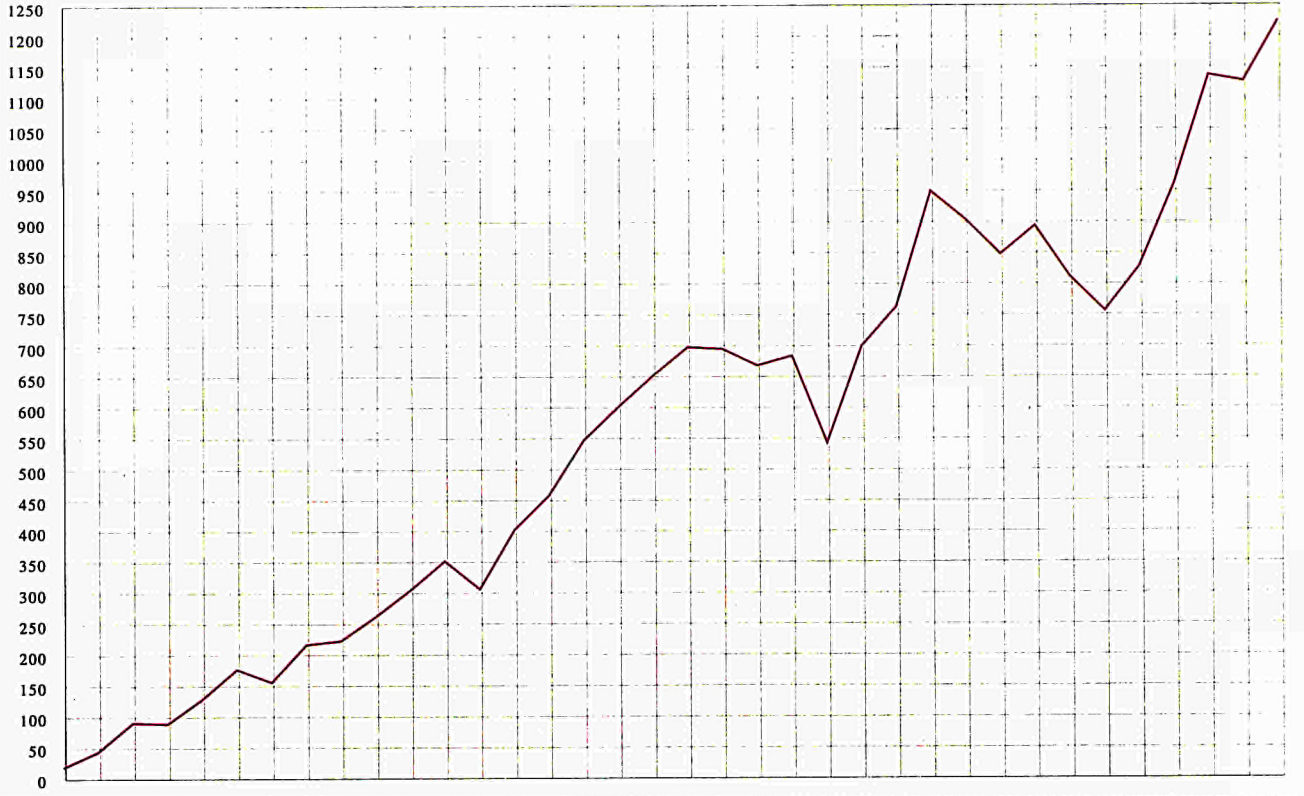
The European Community and economic cooperation in the Middle East (Rapporteur: Mr Neville Beale) (CES 78/93)	January 1993
Technological problems of nuclear safety (Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Benedict von der Decken) (CES 79/93)	January 1993
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) introducing a diversification and development programme for certain banana-producing countries in Latin America (Rapporteur-General: Mr Guy Ovide Etienne) (CES 217/93)	February 1993
Minimum reserves in the context of the single market (Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Meyer-Horn) (CES 344/93)	March 1993
EC relations with the Baltic States (Rapporteur: Mr Jens-Peter Petersen) (CES 348/93)	March 1993
Employment in Europe (Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal) (CES 475/93)	April 1993
Extra-urban and/or rural areas (Rapporteur: Mr Henry Salmon) (CES 476/93)	April 1993
Fourth framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and technological development (1994-98) (Rapporteur: Mr Tomás Roseingrave) (CES 598/93)	May 1993
The operation of the Community's internal market after 1992 – Follow-up to the Sutherland Report (Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Schmitz; Co-Rapporteur: Mrs Ann Robinson) (CES 602/93)	May 1993
Health/safety at the workplace – Training (Rapporteur: Mr Thomas ETTY; Co-Rapporteurs: Mrs Guillaume and Mr Kafka) (CES 712/93)	June 1993
The European Community's relations with Japan (Additional Opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Aldo Romoli) (CES 718/93)	June 1993
The public sector in Europe (Rapporteur: Mr Kommer de Knecht) (CES 892/93)	September 1993
Analysis of policies to be pursued in the Community during the transitional stage of EMU (Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Meyer-Horn) (CES 1003/93)	October 1993
All-European Transport Conference (Rapporteur: Mr Rene Bleser) (CES 1007/93)	October 1993

Growth, competitiveness and employment (Rapporteur: Mr Aldo Romoli; Co-Rapporteur: Mr Roger Burnel) (CES 1010/93)	October 1993
Annual Economic Report for 1993 (Additional Opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal) (CES 1011/93)	October 1993
Social exclusion (Rapporteur: Miss Ada Maddocks) (CES 1014/93)	October 1993
More democracy for Europe and its institutions; better information for citizens and socio-economic operators; role of the European Parliament's Ombudsman (Rapporteur: Mr Paul Flum; Co-Rapporteur: Mr Jean Matteoli) (CES 1016/93)	October 1993
Lomé IV Convention – Mid-term review (Rapporteur: Mr Michael P. Strauss; Co-Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal) (CES 1017/93)	October 1993
Analysis of policies to be pursued in the Community during the transitional stage of EMU (Additional Opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Meyer-Horn) (CES 1165/93)	November 1993
Older people in society (Rapporteur: Mr Tomás Roseingrave; Co-Rapporteur: Mr André Laur) (CES 1171/93)	November 1993
Supplier-consumer dialogue (Rapporteur: Mr G.H.E. Hilken; Co-Rapporteur: Mr Georges Proumens) (CES 1177/93)	November 1993
Relations between EC and Turkey (Rapporteur: Mrs Giacomina Cassina) (CES 1314/93)	December 1993

ANNEX C

Graphs

MEETINGS



Year:	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Meetings:	20	45	92	90	130	178	157	218	224	263	306	353	307	403	459	548	602	653	699	696	669	685	544	700	764	951	905	849	895	813	757	829	962	1138	1128	1226

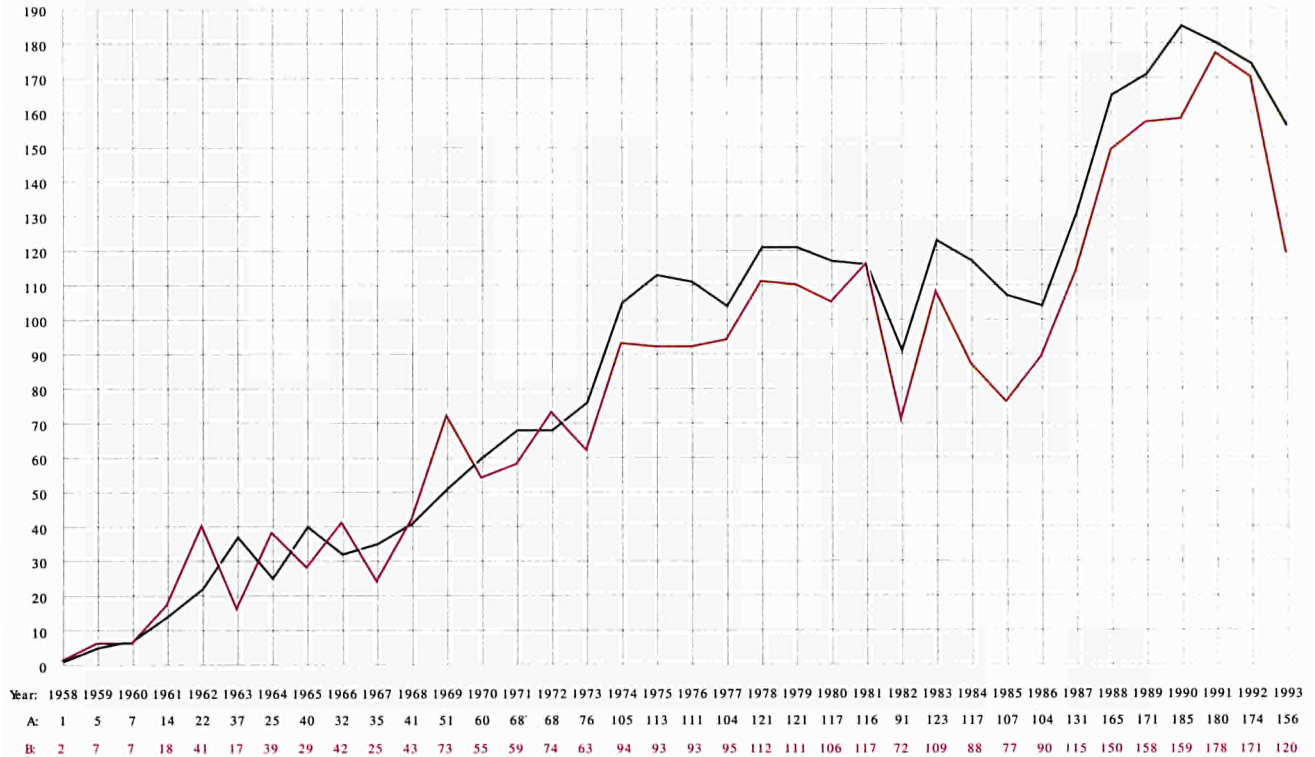
CHANGES IN NUMBER OF VISITORS SINCE 1973



Year:	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Number of visitors:	400	1200	1500	1700	3000	3750	5673	4894	3757	3216	5110	4665	3695	5831	6654	4577	6277	7646	8272	8731	7589

A – TEXTS PRODUCED (Opinions and information reports)

B – REFERRALS



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This annual report covers the Economic and Social Committee's work in 1993. It looks in particular at the Committee's influence within the Community's decision-making process, the Committee's image in the media and the role played by the groups represented on the Economic and Social Committee. The report concludes with a number of lists and graphs.

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