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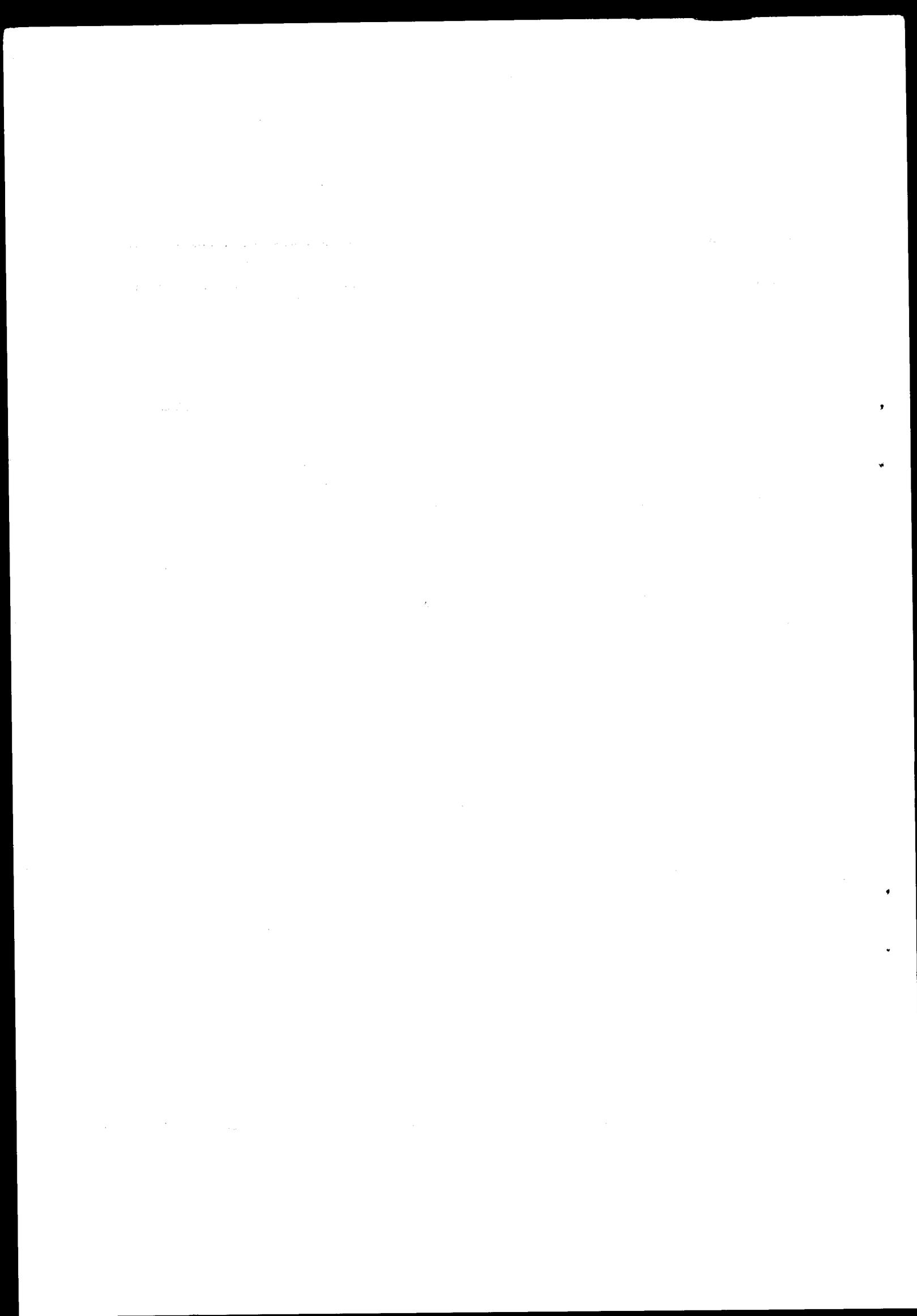
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TOPIC OF THE DAY

ECDU MEETING and SEMINAR IN MUNICH

The Christian-Democratic Parties of the ECDU and the Christian-Democratic Group of the European Parliament were engaged from 27 to 30 June, at Munich, in the work of the Political Bureau and the Seminar on regional policy in Europe.

Within the ECDU the analysis and discussion of the international political situation was resumed, with particular reference to the Europe-USA-USSR triangle.

Meanwhile the Seminar availed itself of the opportunity to make a more detailed examination of the subject of European regional policy and its implications for every other sector of the European Communities' policy.

At the end of their work the ECDU and the CD Group of the European Parliament issued the two following communiqués.

Meeting of the Political Bureau of the European Christian-Democratic Union

Munich, 27 June 1973

C O M M U N I Q U E

The agreements recently concluded between the United States and the Soviet Union have created a new situation.

The European countries' response should not consist of individual action by the States concerned, but in an acceleration of the political integration of Europe. This integration must form the basis for the new relations between the United States and Europe within the framework of Atlantic cooperation.

These were the conclusions reached by the Political Bureau of the ECDU, meeting on 27 June 1973 in Munich.

To further this end the Bureau advocated closer cooperation between Christian-Democrats throughout the world.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the eight European Christian-Democratic parties, including:

- Mr H. KOHLMAIER, Vice-chairman of the ECDU and Secretary-General of the ÖVP,
- Mr N. SCHMELZER, former Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs,
- Mr L. SCHAUS, former Luxembourg Minister,
- Mr F. HEUBL, Bavarian Minister of State, and
- Mr H.A.L. LÜCKER, Chairman of the Christian-Democratic Group of the European Parliament.

FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE STUDY CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL POLICY

IN EUROPE

Munich, 28 to 30 June 1973

1. Representatives of the parties making up the European Christian-Democratic Union, meeting in Munich from 28 to 30 June 1973 under the chairmanship of the Union's vice-president, Mr Kai-Uwe von Hassel, vice-president of the Bundestag, at a conference to study regional problems in Europe, have underlined the fundamental importance of these problems in the present phase of European construction.

I

Fundamental ideological, political and institutional aspects

2. They point out that regionalization is a complex phenomenon characterized on the one hand by the politico-institutional implications of the redistribution of responsibilities at the various levels of political power, and on the other hand by socio-economic and cultural implications. The policy in question draws its inspiration from the principles of personalism and solidarity, which alone are capable of meeting man's and society's overall requirements. A policy of this kind lays claim to not only quantitative but also qualitative values.

3. The representatives came out clearly in favour of a form of regionalism reflecting pluralism, self-government, citizen participation, subsidiarity - in other words a form of democracy able to solve problems at the level at which they arise. This process of regionalization will be based on regional authorities legitimized by popular vote. The representatives therefore reject any suggestion of a region conceived in purely technocratic and corporatist terms.

4. The delegates realize that the processes of regionalization and European integration have their roots in the same historical and cultural reality which is at present giving rise to something of a crisis in centralized nation-States. They stress, in this context, the value of cooperation between regions across national frontiers.

Consequently, in the face of this historic process, they support the demand for efforts to find a satisfactory solution, create new bonds of solidarity and reorganize the political decision-making machinery so as to cover the range of human problems and needs.

5. They point out that the regionalism should be seen as an overall rather than a sectoral problem, and that it is bound to grow into a general reflection of society.

II

Social and economic aspects

6. The representatives of the Christian-Democratic parties discussed regional disparities and the possibility of eliminating them. With this in mind, they stressed the urgent need for an effective regional policy based on allocations of public funds under the budget of the European Community. Financial solidarity and a common attitude towards monetary matters should therefore be complementary.

III

Conclusions

7. All this implies the need for institutional reforms leading to a European executive body answerable to an elected European Parliament. To this end, the regions should be assured that regional policy will be not simply a policy for the regions but a policy of the regions. To ensure that the regions participate effectively in this policy, the delegates request the European Christian-Democratic Union to take the necessary steps at all levels for the establishment of a representative and consultative body for the regional authorities within the European Community, in the conviction that regionalism is essential to the construction of a federal Europe and that it will have to become the framework within which the various financial means created by the Community in favour of regional development are coordinated.

8. The delegates look to the Community institutions and Member States to respect the decisions reached and the time-limits laid down at the Summit Conference in October 1972 and to ensure that a Regional Development Fund endowed with adequate financial means and efficient procedures is set up at the beginning of 1974. They favour a move by the European Commission to promote and direct private investment with appropriate measures and instruments. They request the Commission to arrange as soon as possible for a conference on regional policy to be attended by the Member States, regional authorities, the two sides of industry and experts.

9. They therefore strongly recommend the Political Bureau of the European Christian-Democratic Union to set up a permanent Study Group to examine all aspects of such a regional policy and draw up appropriate proposals.

10. They also recommend the Christian-Democratic parties to bring joint pressure to bear on national governments and Community institutions for the putting into effect of a regional policy at Community level.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE POWERS OF PARLIAMENT

The proposal to set up a European Court of Auditors was defended again in February of this year by Mr Heinrich AIGNER, Member of the CD Group and Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Budgets.

The subject falls within the scope of the proposed strengthening of Parliament's budgetary powers which was discussed on Friday, 22 June by the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Budgets in the presence of Commissioner CHEYSSON.

As is generally known, the European Commission has submitted its own proposals on this subject; these were based on the creation of a new Community institution, the Court of Auditors, and on the procedure of 'first and second consideration'.

The Court of Auditors would be a permanent body enjoying authority and independence and capable of exercising full and effective external supervision of the work of the appropriate board.

The first and second consideration procedure, on the other hand, reflects the power of Parliament to reexamine in advance Council decisions that depart from the original opinion given by the European Parliament and to oblige the Council to explain before Parliament the position it has adopted.

The CD Group has lost no opportunity - as, for example, at the meeting of 22 June - to express reservations about the Commission's proposals. As Mr LUCKER, the Chairman of the CD Group has said, these proposals represent a step towards strengthening Parliament, but certainly do not endow it with real independent powers.

The position of the CD Group is, moreover, shared and supported by the other political groups, and the President of the Parliament, Mr Cornelis BERKHOUWER, has himself expressed his dissatisfaction and announced that the Parliament will be taking steps in this direction.

EUROPE AND THE THIRD WORLD

Mr LUCKER, Chairman of the CD Group in the European Parliament and Mr MALFATTI, former President of the Commission and now a member of the CD Group, took part in a study seminar held on 15 and 16 June in Milan by the International Union of Young Christian-Democrats on relations with the Third World.

The document approved by the IUUCD at the end of the Seminar underlines 'the necessity of continuing and consolidating political cooperation between Europe and the Latin American Continent' in order to arrive at 'a model of political and economic development that differs from present schemes and the pattern of international relationships established by the great powers'.

Mr LUCKER pointed out that relationships between Christian Democrats in the two continents had become closer after years of common struggle to achieve freedom, democracy and a new pattern of political and economic participation.

It was now necessary to follow up the proposals made on the two sides of the Atlantic through the appropriate institutions.

The European Parliament, and within it the CD Group, have moved towards closer economic, technical and financial cooperation between the growing European Community and the Latin American countries in search of their place in the world.

Mr LUCKER also announced that he would be visiting Bogotá in July for a series of meetings with the members of the Latin American Parliament during which he would be able to make use of the valuable indications provided by the Europe/Latin America Seminar thanks to the enthusiasm of a generation of young Christian Democrats maintaining the best tradition of the Movement.

Mr MALFATTI levelled some criticism about the not always satisfactory attitude taken by Europe towards the problems of the Third World, underlining the importance of meetings, especially between young people, which could testify to the desire to bring about, within each political party, a substantial change in the state of international economic affairs.

MR ERIK BLUMENFELD CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF BURGOMASTER IN
HAMBURG ELECTIONS

The Hamburg branch of the CDU has unanimously nominated Mr Erik BLUMENFELD, Member of the Bundestag, as its candidate for the office of burgomaster of Hamburg, for the elections to be held in March next year.

Mr BLUMENFELD was Chairman of the Hamburg CDU for 10 years, and for 6 years their leader in the Hamburg Parliament.

Mr BLUMENFELD, who became a Member of the European Parliament this year, was born on 27 March 1915 in Hamburg.

From 1946 to 1954 he was Vice-President of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce. From 1946 to 1955 and again from 1966 to 1970 he worked for the Hamburg City Council. In 1949 he became Chairman of the CDU Group and in 1953 Chairman of the Hamburg Government coalition (CDU-FDP-DP). From 1958 to 1968 he was Chairman of the Hamburg CDU.

He became a member of the Bundestag in 1961 and is also a member of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU), the Political Questions Committee of the WEU, and the North Atlantic Assembly.

On 19 June 1973 the speaker of the German Bundestag, Mrs A. Renger, presented the Grand Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany to Mr Hans-August Lückner and Mr Linus Memmel.

Mr Lückner, chairman of the Christian-Democratic Group in the European Parliament, has been a member of the Bundestag since 1953 and of the European Parliament since March 1958. He is also director of the Bavarian 'Bauernkammer', curator of the 'IFO-Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung', member of the 'List-Gesellschaft', the German council of the European Movement, the Franco-German Parliamentary Union, the 'Deutsche Afrika-Gesellschaft', the European society of rural sociology and chairman of the family farming research centre in Frankfurt-on-Main.

Mr Memmel has been a member of the Bundestag since 1957 and of the Christian-Democratic Group in the European Parliament since 1965. He was a member of the Würzburg municipal council from 1952 to 1957, and chairman of the Bundestag family and youth committee from 1961 to 1965. He was a member of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe from 1963 to 1965. Mr Memmel is a member of the board of the 'Deutsches Atomforum'.

The Grand Cross of Merit was also presented to former member of the European Parliament Mr Hans Richartz.

Mr Richartz was a member of the Bundestag from 1953 to 1972 and of the European Parliament from 1958 to 1972 (vice-chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, member of the Transport Committee and of the Parliamentary Conference of the EEC-AASM Association).

ACTIVITIES OF CD MEMBERS

o Mr NOE' acted as rapporteur on the new proposal from the EEC Commission to the Council on the creation of a Community uranium enrichment capacity.

o The Committee on Agriculture discussed and adopted Mr FRÜH's draft report on a proposal for a regulation amending the regulation on the common organization of the market in sugar.

At the same meeting, Mr HEGER submitted a draft report on the derived intervention prices of cereals for the marketing year 1973/1974.

o At a meeting of the Committee on Public Health and the Environment, Sir Anthony ESMONDE (Ireland) acted as rapporteur for the consideration of the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities for a directive on the approximation of Member States' legislation on aerosols.

o Mr James HILL (Conservative, United Kingdom) acted as rapporteur at the meeting of the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport on a proposal for a directive amending the first directive of the Council on common rules for international transport (carriage of goods for hire or reward).

o The Committee on Agriculture discussed and adopted Mr VETRONE's draft opinion for the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport on a draft interim report on the regional problems of the enlarged Community.

At the same meeting, the Committee discussed and adopted Mr HEGER's draft opinion for the Committee on External Economic Relations on preparations for the multilateral trade negotiations in GATT.

o Mr BOANO outlined to the Committee on Budgets a proposal for a regulation establishing a Community guarantee system for private investments in third countries. At this meeting, the committee also discussed and adopted a draft opinion for the Committee on Development and Cooperation.

o Mr JAHN put two written questions to the Council and the Commission on the optional consultation of the EP on the Communities' environmental protection programme and consumer policy in the EEC.

o Mr MARTENS put five written questions to the Commission on the pricing of bread, meat, milk (two questions) and margarine.

o Mr GIRARDIN questioned the Commission on problems encountered by young aliens resident in Belgium.

INADEQUACIES AND DELAYS IN THE COMMON VOCATIONAL TRAINING POLICY

by FERRUCCIO PISONI

The concept of vocational training comprises elements of integrated training and vocational education in both of which the emphasis lies less on the acquisition of purely technical proficiency than on the complete education of the individual and development of his personality. Vocational training involves training the whole man entering a profession, not just turning out a professional or technician without regard to the development of his entire personality.

The man must come before the technician, especially now that automated processes reduce the individual's work to a single repetitive task, thus greatly limiting his freedom of action and scope for creativity.

In view of these factors and the obligation which vocational training entails, the community, rather than private enterprise, must increasingly take the responsibility for these schools. This is because private enterprise is, in general, inclined to train technicians at great speed, sometimes to the detriment of human development which should be the true aim of every didactic effort.

Community intervention is therefore necessary to secure this type of education. Modern vocational training works in a context of great mobility and of technical change so rapid that old techniques and professions are being constantly overtaken by events; it must therefore have a capacity to adapt and change.

The European Community should intervene through the Social Fund to reduce the cost to Member States of vocational training in under-developed regions with a high rate of emigration or in areas undergoing major reconversion. We have an obligation here because the work of such men throughout the Community has contributed to the accumulation of wealth by the more advanced States.

Prompt and close cooperation should not be difficult to achieve if it is based on an exchange of experience, studies, statistical data and experiments.

The Commission's Document

The Commission's plan of action for implementing a common vocational training policy, presented to the Council at its meeting of 9 November 1972, lays down a number of specific measures for 1973-74. The Commission decided on these measures in the light of the new trends and priorities

arising from the Community's recent economic, technological and pedagogic evolution.

The planned measures correspond to three types of problem:

a) Evolution of policies, structures and organization of vocational training

The plan provides for four projects (A, B, C and D) in this field dealing with:

- the exchange of information and experience regarding the development of national policies and systems for managing and financing vocational training;
- cooperation in research and harmonization of standards of training, information and vocational guidance;
- exchange of information on and experience of continuous training.

b) Adaptation of training methods

The plan provides for two projects (E and F) dealing with the exchange of information and experience in promoting the training of teachers and in developing modern training techniques.

c) Priority training for particular categories of persons, economic sectors and regions. Three such special projects (G, H and I) are envisaged to facilitate the formulation of common training policies and make a Community contribution to the search for appropriate solutions.

The projects are described in lists annexed to the Commission's document.

The plan should be implemented largely in the years 1973-74 but it may be continued thereafter.

Avoiding delays

It is not possible to evaluate the Commission's proposed measures correctly without bearing in mind certain legal and practical obstacles to the implementation of an effective Community policy.

The first difficulty lies in the inadequacy of the Treaty provisions. Article 128 in fact stipulates that the 'Council shall lay down general principles for implementing a common vocational training policy capable of contributing to the harmonious development both of the national economies and of the common market', while Article 118 simply indicates that the Commission must promote close cooperation between Member States in the social field, particularly in matters relating to (.....) basic and

advanced vocational training.

Apart from this legal difficulty, there is the serious problem of differences between the Member States' concepts of vocational training and their extreme sensitivity on all matters relating to teaching and education. It is difficult to define the exact borderline between vocational training and education in general, but even more difficult to find common ground on all the other problems, e.g. determining whether vocational training should be polyvalent, deciding how to adapt it to the requirements of the economy and new technologies, finding ways of establishing medium-term forecasts of the demand for qualified personnel in different industrial sectors, etc.

Another difficulty lies in the scarcity of funds at the Commission's disposal in this field. In the 1973 budget a sum of 330,000 u.a. was allocated to vocational training (1972 allocation: 165,000 u.a., 1971 expenditure: 88,577 u.a.) to finance the various measures, and although the European Social Fund may provide additional finance for vocational retraining the amounts concerned are altogether insufficient. This may partly explain the relative ineffectiveness and infrequency of Community intervention.

In conclusion, it is difficult to regard the Community's plan as an effective way of achieving its aims, particularly when, as regards the resources - in terms of personnel or finance - necessary for its implementation, the Community contents itself with saying that it will take appropriate action in its own time.

However, unreserved criticism would be inappropriate because these are only the preliminary measures which will eventually be completed and incorporated into the plan of action which the Commission is now preparing. Final judgement must therefore await the plan and be made in the light of its provisions on vocational training. However, there is cause for concern in that the Council has only approved projects that were indispensable to avoid interrupting the Commission's work and deferred all other projects to the next plan of action, which should come into effect 1 January 1974.

The risks of such deferment are obvious: it may prevent the necessary financial resources and staff from being provided in time for the Commission to achieve anything useful in 1974. In addition, it must not be forgotten that the relevant Commission departments are in the throes of reorganization. There is accordingly a risk that it may not be possible to implement the plan adopted by the Council pursuant to the Summit's instructions in 1974 through lack of staff, funds and reorganization of the departments concerned.

