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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment

on the ~~/~~Social Action Programme submitted by the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 216/73)

Rapporteur: Mr Luigi GIRARDIN

PE 34.699/fin.



By letter of 31 October 1973 the President of the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament on the Social Action Programme submitted by the Commission of the European Communities to the Council.

On 15 November 1973 the President of the European Parliament referred this programme to the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Public Health and the Environment for its opinion.

The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment confirmed the appointment as rapporteur of Mr GIRARDIN who had been appointed rapporteur for the 'Guidelines for a social action programme' on 22 May 1973 and had prepared an interim report.

The Social Action Programme was discussed by the committee at its meetings of 24 October, 31 October, 20 and 21 November and 28 November. On 30 November the committee arranged a hearing of the social partners.

At its meeting of 28 November the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement unanimously with two abstentions.

The following were present: Mr Bertrand, chairman; Mr Adams and Mr Durand, vice-chairmen; Mr Girardin, rapporteur; Mr Berthoin, Mr Della Briotta (deputizing for Mr Bermani), Mr Van der Gun, Mr Härzschel, Mr Klepsch (deputizing for Mr Lucius), Miss Lulling, Mr Marras, Lord O' Hagan, Mr Pêtre, Mr Wieldraaijer and Mr Yeats.

The opinion of the Committee on Public Health and the Environment is attached.

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The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the Social Action Programme submitted by the Commission of the European Communities to the Council.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the social action programme submitted by the Commission to the Council, (COM(73) 1600 fin.),
- having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 216/73),
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment and the opinion of the Committee on Public Health and the Environment (Doc. 256/73)

1. Welcomes the new commitment to social action stemming from the Paris Summit Conference at which the Heads of State or Government emphasized their solemn intention to attach 'as much importance to vigorous action in the social field as to the achievement of the economic and monetary union' and therefore invited the Community institutions to draw up, before 1 January 1974, a 'programme of action providing for concrete measures and the corresponding resources, particularly in the framework of the European Social Fund';
2. Notes that the Commission of the European Communities has presented a programme and, provided that its observations and amendments are taken into account, expresses its agreement in principle with this programme though considering that it represents only a first step towards providing a remedy to the serious social disequilibria in the Community and therefore endowing the Community with a truly social and human dimension;
3. Finds that, compared with the first document submitted by the Commission, i.e. the 'Guidelines for a social action programme', the final proposals contained in the Programme are, particularly as regards the financial resources to be provided, less in accord with the letter and spirit of the undertakings of the Paris Summit;
4. Regrets that, owing to the failure to arrange the envisaged tripartite conference, there was only fragmentary consultation with the social partners and hopes that the conference will be held as soon as possible;

5. Believes that the social programme has provided a useful opportunity for discussion at the European level, drawing public attention to the social aspect of Community construction;

#### Content and aims of the programme

6. Fully supports the Commission's argument that the objectives should be: full and better employment; improvement of living and working conditions within the framework of upward harmonization; greater participation of both sides of industry in the economic and social decisions of the Community;
7. Considers that a more equitable distribution of income and wealth and the recognition of workers' right to participate in decisions of the firm should also be regarded as objectives of Community social policy;
8. Invites the Council, in view of the inadequate powers conferred by the Treaties for action in the field of social policy, to provide also for the possibility of resorting to Article 235 of the Treaty in order to achieve the social objectives contained in the programme;
9. Believes that certain specific objectives are most effectively reached through direct financial intervention by the Community, in particular in the framework of the ESF;
10. Considers that the Community's social objectives can only be realised if other Community policies, for example, in the economic and monetary, regional, industrial, economic, competition and environmental protection fields are simultaneously implemented; such policies are, in fact, crucial in the struggle against inflation, resolving the problems of congested areas and achieving a more equitable distribution of income and wealth;

#### Priority actions and other measures

11. Approves without reservation the proposed action in aid of migrant workers and considers that, in this sector, it is of vital importance to coordinate the immigration policies applied by the Member States to immigration from third countries and to fight against forced emigration by means of regional policy and other Community instruments, which should attack the underlying causes of disequilibrium between rich and poor countries and regions.
12. Approves the proposal to extend the scope of Article 4 of the Council's decision of 1 February 1971 on the new European social fund to cover intervention in aid of migrant and handicapped workers and asks that the fund be endowed with sufficient financial resources for such an aim;

13. Urges the Commission also to propose action to help women over thirty-five years old to re-enter the labour market;
14. Notes with satisfaction that equal pay between men and women and equal treatment in the Community labour market figure among the priority actions and insists that these actions should lead to complete equality of treatment and an improvement in women's working and living conditions, in particular, enabling any woman to freely choose a profession and be guaranteed equal opportunities even if she has family responsibilities;
15. Requests that the harmonization of arrangements for maternity benefits, financed by the Member States, should feature amongst the actions given priority;
16. Approves the fact that the general introduction of a 40 hour week by 1975 and four weeks of paid holiday by 1976 has been immediately fixed as an objective but asks the Commission to clearly specify the instruments which Member States can use to achieve this aim;
17. In view of the fact that, apart from drawing up statistics, no action is at present envisaged to bring about a more equitable distribution of income and wealth, invites the Commission:
  - to publish before 1 January 1975 a document on European incomes policy;
  - to carry out a study of the effects on income distribution of the fiscal systems and social-security financing applying in the various Member States;
  - to conduct a more vigorous policy of aid to the aged;
  - to include amongst the actions on which the Council must give an opinion during 1974-1976 actions dealing with minimum wages and pensions and asset formation;
18. Invites the Commission to take more vigorous action in the field of social security, so as to promote the effective achievement, throughout the Community and for all categories, including migrant workers, of harmonized improvements;
19. In the field of professional training, invites the Commission to propose that the Council immediately approves the actions proposed in its document on the achievement of a common policy<sup>1</sup> and is glad to note that the regional policy programme envisages Community aid for the organization of training centres in backward or declining regions;

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<sup>1</sup> See the communication from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on the first steps for implementing a common policy of professional training (Doc. 239/72) - (SEC(72) 3450 fin).

20. Considers that it will only be possible to achieve the declared objective of full and better employment by investment guidance and by the achievement of close co-operation between the Regional Fund, the European Social Fund and the other instruments of intervention at the disposal of the Community and of the Member States so as to attain the best possible co-ordination of the Member States' and the Community's policies in this field;
21. Notes that the Commission's proposals for a regional policy programme envisage direct employment grants for the creation of new jobs in backward or declining regions and hopes that such intervention measures will be co-ordinated with national measures, always with the primary aim of attaining full and better employment;
22. Thinks that participation by both sides of industry should increase at all levels, in particular on the committees which draw up the various Community policies;

Action concerning protection of the environment and safety at work.

23. Invites the Commission to communicate to the European Parliament as soon as possible the proposals on which the Council must take a decision before 1 April 1974 concerning:
  - (a) the setting-up of a General Industrial Safety Commission and the extension of the terms of reference of the Mines Safety and Health Commission,
  - (b) the setting-up of a European Foundation for the Improvement of the Environment and Living and Working Conditions;
24. Welcomes the proposed setting-up of a European Foundation for the improvement of the environment and living and working conditions, but stresses once again that the Commission must draw up a practical working programme for this Foundation and, in particular, entrust it with the task of co-ordinating research and studies on the protection of the environment at Community level;
25. Calls upon the Commission, to supplement the outline programme on industrial safety planned for the end of 1974 by practical proposals for binding regulations at Community level, to lay down binding minimum safety regulations and to extend this action programme to include the proposed statistical surveys on industrial accidents and safety (Action III/11);
26. Considers that the Commission should not confine itself to conducting investigations and experiments on job enrichment but should submit practical proposals in this field as soon as possible which are binding on all Community undertakings;



27. Supports the Commission's proposals regarding:

- (a) the setting-up of a European general industrial safety commission and the extension of the terms of reference of the Mines' Safety and Health Commission,
- (b) health protection against pollution and environmental hazards,
- (c) the extension of the programme for radiation protection;

Implementation of the action programme.

- 28. Considers that it is essential for an adequate and increasing percentage of the Community's own resources to be set aside in the coming years for action in the social sector;
- 29. Invites the Commission to include in its annual report on the development of the social situation in the Community a progress report on implementation of the action envisaged in the social programme;
- 30. Urges the Council to approve the proposed social programme before 31 December, taking into account the observations and amendments made by Parliament;
- 31. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities.

TEXT PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL  
relating to a Social Action Programme

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

HAVING REGARD to the Treaties establishing the European Communities;  
HAVING REGARD to the draft of the Commission;  
HAVING REGARD to the Opinion of the European Parliament;  
HAVING REGARD to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee;

Whereas social policy constitutes an integral part of the tasks assigned to the European Communities by the Treaties establishing the same;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 2 of the Treaty in particular, the European Economic Community shall have as its task to promote throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities, a continuous and balance expansion, an increase in stability and an accelerated raising of the standard of living;

Whereas the Heads of State or Government have affirmed that economic expansion is not an end in itself but should result in an improvement of the quality of life as well as in the standard of living, so that progress may really be put at the service of mankind;

Whereas the Heads of State or Government have emphasized that they attached as much importance to the social field as to the achievement of Economic and Monetary Union; and whereas they emphasized the need to undertake vigorous action in the social field and invited the Community institutions to draw up a social action programme providing for concrete measures and the corresponding resources particularly in the framework of the European Social Fund;

Whereas such a programme, drawn up on the basis of suggestions made by the Heads of State or Government and by the Commission at the Conference, involves actions designed to achieve full and better employment, the improvement of living and working conditions and the increasing participation of the social partners in the Community's economic and social decisions;

Whereas actions described in the programme referred to above should be implemented in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Treaties;

AMENDED TEXT

Unchanged

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Whereas actions described in the programme referred to above should be implemented in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Treaties, including recourse to Article 235,

TEXT PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

HAVING REGARD to the wishes expressed by the Social Partners;

TAKES NOTE of the Social Action Programme of the Commission;

CONSIDERS that the achievement and the maintenance of full and better employment at Community, national and regional level, and the establishment of appropriate structures to this end, is essential for the realization of an effective social policy in the Community;

CONSIDERS that, to achieve the proposed actions successfully, and particularly in view of the structural changes and imbalances in the Community, the role played by the European Social Fund should be enhanced;

CONSIDERS that, together with the measures proposed in other Community policies, initial necessary measures to achieve the following objectives should be adopted during a first stage covering the period from 1974-76 namely:

achieving full and better employment in the Community

- . to promote through their cooperation a smoother operation of national employment services, in order to contribute to the achievement of a full and better employment policy in the Community as a whole as well as at regional level,
  
- . to implement a common policy of vocational training particularly by setting up a European vocational training centre,
  
- . to promote the introduction in all Member States of national systems ensuring income support for workers during vocational retraining, possibly supported by Community aid geared to the development of Community employment objectives,
  
- . to undertake action for the purpose of gradually achieving equality between men and women on the Community labour market and to reconcile women's family responsibilities with their job aspirations,

AMENDED TEXT

Unchanged

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⊕ to promote through their cooperation a smoother operation of national employment services, in order to contribute to the achievement of full and better employment policy in the Community as a whole as well as at regional level; this cooperation could be strengthened through the establishment of a European Labour Office whose duties will be defined in a proposal to be submitted by the Commission before the end of 1974,

Unchanged

- ⊕ to promote the introduction in all Member States of national systems ensuring income support for workers during vocational retraining, /one word deleted/ supported by Community aid geared to the development of Community employment objectives,
- ⊕ to undertake action for the purpose of gradually achieving equality between men and women on the Community labour market and to reconcile women's family responsibilities with their job aspirations, providing in particular for measures to help women over the age of 35 and for harmonization of arrangements applying in Member States concerning maternity benefits,

TEXT PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

- . to achieve an equality in living and working conditions, in wages and salaries and in economic and social rights, and to ensure the participation in community life for all migrant workers and their families, combined with a Community action programme and a coordination of the immigration policies of the Member States with regard to third countries,
- . to initiate a programme for the social integration of handicapped persons,
- . to protect workers hired through private employment services and to regulate the activities of such firms with a view to eliminating abuses thereof,

improving living and working conditions enabling the upward equalization thereof to take place:

- . to implement an action programme on safety at work;
- . to gradually extend social protection to those persons not covered or inadequately provided for under existing schemes,
- . to gradually introduce machinery with a view to adapting social security benefits to income growth,
- . to protect workers' interests, in particular with regard to the retention of acquired rights in the case of mergers, concentrations or rationalization operations,
- . to implement, in cooperation with the Member States, specific measures to combat poverty by the preparation of pilot schemes,

increasing the involvement of the Social Partners in the economic and social decisions of the Community:

- . to use more extensively the Standing Committee on Employment as the principle organ for the discussion of all questions with a fundamental impact on employment,
- . to assist in the setting up of a European trade union institute in order to help the European trade union organizations establish training services on European affairs,

TAKES NOTE that the Commission will submit the necessary proposals within the given time limits;

UNDERTAKES to act on these proposals within 9 months of their transmission by the Commission;

AMENDED TEXT

⊕ to achieve an equality in living and working conditions, in wages and salaries and in economic and social rights, and to ensure the participation in community life for all migrant workers and their families, combined with a Community action programme and a coordination of the immigration policies of the Member States with regard to third countries, priority being given to pilot schemes for low-cost housing,

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⊕ to promote a more equitable distribution of incomes and wealth as well as an upward harmonization of minimum wages and pensions by means of appropriate proposals from the Commission

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⊕ to promote the participation of both sides of industry in the work of all committees concerned with drafting the main Community policies

Unchanged

UNDERTAKES to act in favour of these proposals within 9 months of their transmission by the Commission;

TEXT PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION

OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

UNDERTAKES to act, as soon as possible, on the proposals which are already within the Council and particularly on those aiming at increasing participation of workers at enterprise level;

TAKES NOTE that the Commission will present before 31 December 1976 a series of measures to be taken during the next stage;

TAKES NOTE that the Commission has already submitted proposals relating to:

- assistance from the European Social Fund (Article 4) for migrant workers and handicapped workers,
- an action programme for handicapped workers in an open market economy,
- the setting-up of a European general safety committee and the extension of the competence of the Mines Safety and Health Committee,
- a Directive providing for the approximation of legislation of Member States concerning the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women,
- the designation as an immediate objective of the overall application of the principle of the 40-hour week between now and 1975, and the principle of 4 weeks annual paid holiday between now and 1976,
- the setting-up of a European Foundation for the improvement of the environment and living and working conditions,
- a Directive on the approximation of the Member States' legislation on mass dismissals,

HEREBY UNDERTAKES to act on the aforementioned proposals before 1 April 1974,

TAKES NOTE that the Commission will submit before 1 April 1974:

- an initial action programme with regard to migrant workers,
- a proposal to set up a European vocational training centre,
- a draft directive concerning workers recruited through contract labour agencies,
- a directive concerning the harmonization of legislation with regard to retention of acquired rights in the event of changes in the ownership of undertakings, in particular in the event of mergers.



AMENDED TEXT

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- initial measures for the implementation of a common policy on vocational training,

HEREBY UNDERTAKES to act favourably on the aforementioned proposals before 1 April 1974.

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENTI. General observations

1. The method adopted for anticipatory consultation of Parliament on the outlines of a 'Social action programme' has undeniably been useful and profitable. Indeed, in such an important area as that of social policy and at such a serious and delicate moment in the process of the Community's development, the fact that the Parliament, acting through its appropriate committee, the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, has been able to express its opinions and ideas on the outlines of a future social action programme before the Commission makes its final proposal has given rise to a dialogue between the EEC Commission and Parliament and has resulted in suggestions and ideas being offered towards drawing up a final programme.

2. The European Parliament has been greatly embarrassed and inconvenienced by the fact that the planned tripartite Conference to promote consultations with the trade union organizations and the employers' organizations has not been held, thus losing a valuable opportunity for an exchange of views and arguments between the European social partners and the various Community bodies with a view to rounding off the series of consultations on the shape of EEC social policy in the next few years.

The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment has partly offset this serious inconvenience by taking the initiative of organizing a hearing with the trade union and employers' organizations in order to learn their views on the programme at first hand.

3. It was legitimate to hope that the programme would be more clearly defined and correspond more fully to certain expectations. Instead, the programme that has now been submitted to us for our opinion, weighed up against a broad and comprehensive social action programme capable of redressing the balance of social neglect accumulated during the process of economic integration up to now, shows obvious inadequacies and shortcomings in many respects and is therefore in need of numerous amendments.

If on the other hand this proposal is seen as a beginning, which is possible and capable of being realized in practice within the time-limits laid down, then it is possible to approve of it in principle, relying on the political resolve of the Council of Ministers and Commission to fulfil the commitments undertaken in the programme, these being a scaled-down version of the broader social policy envisaged by the Paris Summit Meeting.

In delivering its opinion, the European Parliament must take a middle course between these two positions. In the light of past experience and of the disappointment that good intentions left unfulfilled have brought in their train, the best and most practical course is perhaps to wait and see how the Community institutions and the Member States will acquit themselves in this matter; this may also be the best way to restore the confidence of the workers in the European Economic Community as a force for social progress.

4. This feasibility of the social action programme, closely linked with the entry into force on 1 January 1974 of the Community regional policy, may be seen, even if only to a limited extent, as a reversal of the usual trend in European integration, which hitherto has shown too much concern for privilege and vested interests and has failed to avail of opportunities to work for a more equitable distribution of the new wealth that has been created and for participation by the workers in the process of integration. We must be concerned at every level within the Community with this gulf between the privileged and the underprivileged in Europe, if we do not wish to estrange the workers to an ever greater extent, rather than draw closer to them. We must remember that it is the workers who are the indispensable component in a new enlarged European Community, a European Community not founded on injustice but at once the opportunity and the instrument for the abolition of glaring social inequalities caused mainly by privilege tolerated and indeed often manipulated in such a way as to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

5. Before going on to analyse the Commission's proposals, certain general observations must be made on the various individual objectives of a European social policy.

A European social action programme cannot lose sight of the fundamental idea that society in a future united Europe must achieve a balance between economic development and the development of the human and civic conditions of the peoples, particularly of the more needy and defenceless.

Economic growth, while essential to improve living conditions generally, must be controlled and harmonized with the need to bring about better environmental, living and working conditions that will meet human needs and will not be subordinated solely to the logic of economic development and the profit motive.

It is only by creating a European society that will be just and geared to meet human needs, that will not be designed merely to pursue quantitative objectives of an economic nature but also qualitative ones, such as the improvement of human living conditions, that we can look forward to a united Europe founded on social justice.

6. The need for a concrete programme stems also from the well-known fact that, in the past, Community action in the social field was effective only in those areas for which precise provisions were laid down in the Treaty, particularly the ECSC Treaty, and which were endowed with adequate financial resources. Where Community action was confined, on the other hand, to recommending the Member States to coordinate their policies or where it was based on initiatives taken independently by the Commission without precise provisions in the Treaties, the results have almost always been quite modest.

7. Another point that needs to be stressed is the importance of a unified overall approach. Social policy must not be seen or understood in isolation from other Community policies, particularly regional and monetary policy. All Community action must be geared to social goals, or at least must take account of the social implications of all Community policy. If this is not the case we will merely perpetuate the old system in which social factors played second fiddle to economic ones; this was the basic defect of the Treaties and of all Community policy in recent years.

Social policy cannot be merely a corrective for the injustices caused by economic policy; it must rather lay the foundations for just and humane living and working conditions and in this way influence all political and economic activity.

The participation of the workers and of the poorer social groups must help to bring about a more equitable distribution of power and establish a democratic balance that will safeguard European liberty and unity.

## II. Analysis of the social action programme

8. The interim report prepared by the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment on the 'Guidelines for a social action programme' stressed that the EEC Commission would need to take account of the following principal points in its final programme:

- the establishment of priorities;
- the provision of the necessary financial resources;
- a clear indication of the legal instruments to be used.

In the final programme, information on the financial resources needed (see Annex V) is confined to 1974 and refers, in effect, only to the endowment for Article 4 of the Social Fund, for which moreover the Commission does not intend to seek further appropriations in a supplementary budget for 1974, even if the present appropriation (99 m u.a.) does not prove sufficient for the new sectors. In the working document drawn up by the Commission's services, extensive Community appropriations were envisaged for the action programme as well as for the Social Fund (a figure of 1,310 m u.a. was quoted for 1976).

The priorities seem to be laid down not so much on the basis of actual social needs existing in the Community as in the light of the practical possibilities for implementation of various actions by the Community bodies and of the exclusion of any operations involving heavy financial commitments.

As far as the legal instruments are concerned, no new solutions are envisaged for the present, such as, for instance, recourse to Article 235 of the Treaty.

The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment finds, therefore, that particularly as regards the financial resources to be provided in the final Programme, the undertakings of the Paris Summit have not been fully respected.

9. Several members of the Social Affairs Committee and some representatives of trade-union organizations who attended the hearing arranged by the committee have criticized the absence in the final Programme submitted by the Commission of measures which were envisaged in the Guidelines and which provided for direct financial intervention by the Community. For instance, there is no more mention of the idea of direct financial grants from the Community for the creation of new jobs in backward or declining regions, or of contributions towards the financing of vocational training centres in such regions.

10. It should, however, be noted that the Social Action Programme is concerned solely with social action, while intervention of other kinds, particularly financial, is covered by other Community policies, mainly regional policy. Thus the two actions referred to above are included, as was pointed out by the Commission's representative, in proposals concerning regional policy. The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment welcomes this fact.

11. Criticism was also voiced in the committee of the absence of any reference in the Programme to other problems which are equally serious. In particular, it was emphasized that the fight against inflation and the rising cost of living has been completely overlooked, despite the fact that

increased prices and the loss of purchasing power imply very serious social consequences, particularly for certain disadvantaged categories, such as pensioners, low-wage earners and persons with a low income. Similarly, the Programme neglects the problems of the Community's overcrowded areas, for which, for instance, it would have been possible to provide for a study of actions aimed at directing investments in such a way as to decongest the overcrowded areas and indirectly to benefit the poorer regions.

Notwithstanding the statements by the Commission's representatives to the effect that these problems do not fall within the ambit of social policy as such, the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment considers that the absence of measures in these sectors could hamper the attainment of the social objectives envisaged in the Programme and emphasizes the need for close collaboration between the various Community policies in order to combat effectively the phenomena described above and their grave social consequences.

12. As regards its overall opinion of the Programme, the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment points out that what detracts from its value is the great expectations raised by the Summit Meeting to which the programme does not seem to live up. But in itself, without reference to the Summit, the programme is undeniably a positive step forward, both because of its content and because of the interest which it has been able to focus on the 'social dimension' of the Community.

It is, in practice, the first time that the Community institutions, with the cooperation of the social partners have discussed an important package of social measures, which, though varying in their significance and scope, will combine to effectively promote real progress.

Nevertheless, the Programme can only be regarded as a first step which should be followed by many others. Now that we have begun to accord to social policy an importance comparable with that enjoyed by the traditional policies pursued by the Community until now, it is essential to continue along this road and to develop in the coming years all the actions projected at present.

13. An objective difficulty which hampers implementation of the Community social policy, like many other policies, must also be borne in mind. We refer to the difficulty of reconciling the social needs of the poorer countries with those of the richer countries and of avoiding the tendency for a policy of 'fair return' to lead to the meagre financial resources available being spread too thinly.

These two aspects of the matter are closely linked because, on the one hand, the establishment of a scale of priorities designed to solve the more serious problems and thus naturally to favour the poorer countries would be opposed by the richer countries, who also have to keep an eye on their own priorities, on the grounds that it would lead to serious difficulties at national level, though these difficulties would be less important at Community level as far as the problems of less privileged countries are concerned. On the other hand, in order to benefit from the 'fair return' principle by regaining possession of a large part of their contributions to Community funds, the richer countries will also try to obtain as much financial backing as possible from the Community within the framework of the Social Fund or other Community instruments.

We must also keep these factors in mind in considering the programme if we are to understand certain compromises which the Commission has had to make.

### III. Priority actions and other major actions

14. It would be very interesting and profitable to analyse all the proposed actions but the limited amount of time available obliged the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment to confine itself to the most important ones.

#### (a) Migrant workers

15. The idea of providing for an intervention by the Social Fund (Art. 4) in two new sectors can be approved without reservation: these are migrant workers and the physically handicapped. The fact that the ESF has been made available to migrant workers will enable Community resources to be used to finance courses in vocational training and measures to help them to integrate into their new social and vocational environment. However, the reservations already expressed above with regard to the inadequacy of the financial resources available for Article 4 of the ESF also apply here.

Furthermore a whole series of measures (Action II - 5) have been envisaged for migrant workers, ranging from an improvement in their social security to job placement and on to an exploration of the possibilities of giving them low-cost housing.

In this connection, however, it would be necessary to give priority to pilot schemes of low-cost housing for these workers.

16. Another very important point is the coordination of the immigration policies enforced by Member States in relation to third countries. Whatever the existing difficulties, it is essential to achieve this coordination. However, even in this area, the Commission has taken a step backwards because the 'Outlines' stated that by 31 December 1974 the Community institutions should set up a system for coordinating Member States' policies on migrant workers coming from third countries, whereas the final programme only mentions an immediate review of the question by an ad hoc group set up to study, amongst other things, the problem of coordination. The need to include this point in the first series of proposals to be presented by the Commission to the Council by 1 April 1974 should be stressed.

#### (b) The physically handicapped

17. The European Social Fund will be open to this category of workers to facilitate their social integration (Action I-1 and I-2) and a vast programme of specific actions (Action II-6) will be worked out in the long term.

The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment has approved these measures, although it has been observed that intervention in favour of this category of persons is already provided for under Article 5 of the



European Social Fund and in fact some 40 million u.a. will be spent in 1973 under this heading, and that the problems of the handicapped are being tackled to a greater or lesser extent directly by all the Member States. Hence, intervention at Community level, if it is not to lead to excessive dispersion of the meagre resources available under Article 4, presupposes a considerable increase in the allocation to the Social Fund to avoid the risk of total insufficiency of the appropriations for all the intervention sectors under Article 4 (textiles, agriculture, migrant workers, the handicapped).

In addition it will be necessary to study the advisability of extending to the entire Community the system which operates in Italy and in other countries of obliging industries to take on a certain percentage of handicapped persons.

(c) Female workers

18. Various measures are envisaged in this connection: the submission of a directive (Action I-4) for the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work, and the submission in 1974 of proposals drawn up by an ad hoc group for the establishment of a Community documentation centre on the problems of female workers and for the establishment of a permanent working group (Action II-4). By the end of 1974 very important proposals drawn up by the working group will be submitted, dealing with the employment of women, their reintegration into the workforce after maternity, vocational training, creches etc.,

19. The need for further studies before submitting more concrete proposals is perfectly understandable. However, thorough surveys already exist, such as the report drawn up by Mrs SULLEROT in her capacity as an expert, in which conclusions were drawn which would have enabled concrete steps to have already been put forward at this time. For instance, the need was pointed out for diversification and restructuring of vocational training in order to eliminate 'female occupations' with their low rates of pay and to bring about a greater employment of mixed personnel in all industries. The importance of an efficient information service was also stressed and of the establishment of efficient social services (creches and childrens' playgrounds, nursery schools, school meals, care of children after school hours etc.,).

Practical measures which might have been taken include, to mention only a few, the implementation of pilot schemes in the area of vocational training for women or financial approaches to industry to conduct experiments with particular relevance to women workers, such as the general introduction of part-time work or the creation of adequate social services etc.

We must express a certain scepticism with regard to the efficiency of the aforementioned directive on equal pay for men and women. Past experience and experience of previous directives show that, in practice, inequalities

lie in the functions performed by female personnel rather than in the matter of wages. In order to achieve the results envisaged in Article 119 of the Treaty more wide-ranging and comprehensive action will be needed, covering all the fields mentioned above (vocational training, etc.,). In addition the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment has stressed the need for the Commission to study the best methods of intervention to help women over 35 years old to re-enter the labour market and to harmonize national provisions as regards maternity benefits.

(d) Forty-hour week and four weeks holidays

20. The Commission is proposing to the Council to fix as an immediate target the introduction by 1975 of the 40-hour week and by 1976 of four weeks annual paid holiday (Action I-5).

As was noted by some of the trade union organizations present at the hearing organized by the European Parliament, these objectives are amongst those that they have been advocating for some time past. However, some reservations must be expressed on the practical possibility of achieving these objectives within the time-limits laid down. Even granted that this objective is accepted by all, with what instruments is it to be achieved? Through Community directives, national legislation or, as the trade unions urge, by means of joint agreements?

(e) Vocational training

21. Two main measures are proposed in this field: the establishment of a European Centre for Vocational Training and the approval by the Council of the seventeen actions already proposed by the Commission some time ago in its document on 'Initial measures to establish a common vocational training policy', on which the European Parliament has delivered its opinion<sup>1</sup>.

The Parliament had also asked in Mr VREDELING's report on Preliminary guidelines for a Community action programme' that vocational training should be included among the Community's priority actions.

The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment accordingly asked the Commission to propose to the Council that it should approve the 17 actions mentioned above and took note of the fact that although the idea of providing Community aid for the setting up of training centres in backward or declining regions which figured in the Guidelines, has not been included in the final Programme, it does appear, according to a statement by the responsible member of the Commission, in the Commission's new proposals on regional policy.

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<sup>1</sup> See Report by Mr PISONI (Doc. 83/73).

(f) Work safety and ecological problems

22. Concerning these problems, the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment took up the conclusions contained in the opinion prepared by Mr WALKHOFF on behalf of the Committee on Public Health and the Environment and included them in points 23-27 of the present motion for a resolution.

These paragraphs stress particularly the importance of the future European Foundation for the improvement of the environment and living and working conditions and the need for the Commission to submit as soon as possible definite proposals on work safety and accident prevention.

(g) Mainly technical measures

23. The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment also approves the many actions of a mainly technical nature proposed by the Commission. They include, for instance, improvement in the operation of the national employment services (Action II-1), the extension of the system of social indicators, the preparation of various statistics, analyses, studies, etc.

These actions do not have any political implications and it is likely that the Council will approve them without any difficulty. There are obviously some serious practical difficulties in the way of their implementation but the fact that some workers' trade union organizations have promised their cooperation is encouraging (see e.g. the statement of 10 October 1973 by the European Confederation of Trade Unions on the action programme).

(h) Employment problems

24. While maintaining that the primary objective in its programme is to bring about a situation of full and better employment, the Commission has not reiterated in the final Programme some actions mentioned in the Guidelines which could have led to the creation of new jobs in backward or declining regions. The idea of an allowance to be paid to young people during the period of their supplementary training and provision for removal allowances on transfer to other areas, which appeared in the 'Outlines', are not included in the final programme. The same is even true of the proposal to make arrangements to safeguard older workers against loss of income due to premature retirement or transfer to jobs at a lower level.

25. This chapter of the programme provides only for the measures already mentioned in the field of vocational training, of migrant workers, the physically handicapped etc., and therefore no doubts were expressed in the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment on the effectiveness of the proposed measures in attaining the stated aims.

We must ask ourselves here if the idea underlying these measures, namely, the concept that the role of social policy is merely to promote the supporting actions needed for the success of other policies, is not perhaps too limited and inadequate. In practice, there is a danger of tackling these problems in an excessively sectoral fashion, without adopting the broad overall approach so often hoped for by the European Parliament.

(i) Worker participation

26. Two measures with regard to worker participation figure as second priorities (by Council decision in the period 74-76); fuller utilization of the Standing Committee on Employment and Community aid in setting up a European Trade Union Institute.

Worker participation is also envisaged in the Statute for the European Company submitted to the Council on 30 June 1970 and in the proposal for a fifth directive on the structure of limited companies and the powers and duties of their organs. Finally it is intended to create other joint committees.

All these measures have the support of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, even if it appears justified to doubt the political resolve of all the Community bodies to implement them. The Standing Committee, for instance, has not met for some time and the proposal for the European Company is running into serious difficulties even in the Parliament.

In the opinion of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment other actions would be necessary to implement worker participation fully. Consultation of the social partners should take place in the technical ad hoc committees where national representatives are present (monetary committee, conjunctural committee, regional committee, etc.), because it is at these meetings that the important decisions are often taken. Intervention by the social partners at some later stage is all too often futile and only of academic interest.

Apart from this level of participation there is another level at which participation should be promoted, namely, in the factory, especially by extending and strengthening the role of the Works Council.

Opinion of the Committee on Public Health and  
the Environment

Draftsman: Mr Karl-Heinz WALKHOFF

On 19 October 1973 the Committee on Public Health and the Environment appointed Mr Walkhoff draftsman of the opinion.

The draft opinion was considered and unanimously adopted by the committee at its meeting of 19 November 1973.

The following were present: Mr DELLA BRIOTTA, chairman; Mr WALKHOFF, draftsman of the opinion; Mr BREGEGERE, Mr LAGORCE, Lord LOTHIAN, Mr MARTENS, Mr Willi MULLER, Mr NOE, Mr SPRINGORUM and Mr VERNASCHI.

# THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

BY  
JOHN H. COOPER

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON, FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME. BY JOHN H. COOPER, ESQ. VOL. I. FROM THE PRESS OF THE BOSTON PRINTING OFFICE, 1822.

## I. General considerations

1. The committee on Public Health and the Environment has the task of examining the parts of the Commission's social action programme that fall within its terms of reference. These include, in particular:

- the setting-up of a European general safety committee and the extension of the competences of the Mines Safety and Health Committee (Action I/3);
- the setting-up of a European Foundation for the improvement of the environment and living and working conditions (Action I/6);
- the action programme on industrial safety (Action II/8);
- job enrichment (Action III/10);
- statistical surveys on industrial accidents and safety (Action III/11);
- health protection against pollution and environmental hazards (Action III/12);
- extension of the programme for radiation protection (Action III/13).

2. The Commission's social action programme comprises three stages.

The first stage involves immediate actions which will be the subject of proposals by the Commission to the Council of Ministers before the end of 1973, and on which the Council must act by 1 April 1974 at the latest.

The second stage involves other priority actions on which the Council must decide in the period 1974-1976. The Council is furthermore asked to commit itself to take its decisions on the second-stage proposals within nine months of their submission by the Commission.

Supporting actions are provided for within the framework of the third stage.

3. The Commission's social action programme is introduced by a draft resolution of the Council. This resolution contains practical details of only the first and second stages. Moreover, those relating to the second stage only serve as a rough guide as only the objectives, the present situation and the measures proposed are specified. The Commission intends to submit its proposals for each of the measures envisaged in the second stage at a later date, in the light of social developments in the Community.

4. The draft resolution states that the Council shall decide on the measures to be taken within the framework of the first action stage by 1 April 1974 at the latest. Two of the actions provided for in this stage fall within our committee's terms of reference.

- the setting-up of a European general safety committee and the extension of the Mines Safety and Health Committee; and
- the setting-up of a European foundation for the improvement of the environment and living and working conditions.

Welcome though these two actions and the deadline set for the Council decision (1 April 1974) may be, one can only deplore the fact that the European Parliament has not yet received the relevant proposals from the Commission. And yet at the time of publication of the social action programme (24 October 1973), the Council was already in possession of these proposals. This transpires from the draft resolution which states: 'The Council takes note that the Commission has already submitted proposals relating to .....

The Commission is therefore urgently requested to submit these proposals without delay to the European Parliament and in particular to its appropriate committee.

Even if the Commission complies with this request immediately, our committee will regrettably once again have very little time in which to consider these two important proposals. In this connection it should be noted that the Council will not examine the proposals until the European Parliament has delivered its opinion on them in plenary sitting. This is apparent from the Council note (16 October 1973) to the European Parliament on the improvement of the relations between the Council and the European Parliament. In this document the Council expresses its intention 'subject to the fulfilment of its obligations, not to examine a proposal of the Commission on which the Parliament has been consulted until the opinion of the Parliament has been received, provided that such opinions are given by an appropriate date which may, in certain cases, be fixed by common agreement'.<sup>1</sup>

Experience has shown that the Council needs at least two to three months to consider Commission proposals. In this particular instance

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<sup>1</sup> cf. Bulletin of the European Parliament No 34/73, p 5



this means that the European Parliament will have to deliver its opinion on the two abovementioned proposals during the January part-session at the latest. The Committee on Public Health and the Environment will therefore have less than two months to prepare the European Parliament's opinion.

In these conditions it is very difficult for the committee to perform its task thoroughly and conscientiously.

## II. The two actions provided for in the first stage

5. Subject to detailed consideration of these two actions by our committee, it can be stated at this stage that we have already welcomed these measures on previous occasions.

As regards the setting up of a European general safety committee, reference is made to Mr Adams' report on the first report of the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission (Doc. 16/71). Paragraph 8 of the resolution states that: 'the European Parliament considers it essential that the Commission should also investigate, with the aid of specialists and committees of experts, the problems of industrial safety and health protection in other branches of industry.'

As regards the extension of the competences of the Mines Safety and Health Committee, it should be pointed out that our committee has advocated this on several occasions.

6. The European Parliament has already expressed its views on the setting up of a European Foundation for the improvement of the environment and living and working conditions in its opinions on the European Communities' action programme on environmental protection (Cf. Mr Jahn's reports - Docs. 9/72, 74/72, and 106/73). The European Parliament has evolved very definite views in this connection, which are embodied in the resolutions of April 1972, July 1972 and July 1973.

For example, paragraph 21 of the April 1972 resolution states that the European Parliament 'considers the establishment of a European body responsible for environmental matters indispensable in view of the urgent work which needs to be done on the coordination of environmental research at Community level. The same body should be responsible for systematic research which can be undertaken only at Community level'.

In paragraph 27 of the July 1972 resolution the European Parliament repeated 'its request for a European environmental institute to be set up immediately to coordinate the research in this field so that the initiatives of the Member States do not diverge or conflict and to ensure that there

is no expensive duplication of effort'.

Finally, paragraph 22 of the resolution of July 1973 reads as follows: 'welcomes the creation of a European foundation to improve living and working conditions but insists that the Commission must draw up a practical programme of work for this foundation in the proposal it is to submit to the Council and charges it with coordinating environmental research and studies at Community level'.

The Committee on Public Health and the Environment hopes that the Commission has taken account in its proposal of the above wishes of the European Parliament.

7. The committee's favourable opinion on the setting up of the European Foundation is based on the fact that the scientific and technical knowledge required to implement the Community environmental protection programme is very often inadequate. It is essential to increase knowledge through Community research and development projects.

This calls for effective collaboration between the specialist laboratories and institutes of the Member States and the Joint Research Centre.

In addition to research coordination urged by the European Parliament, the European Foundation should also have the task of encouraging research on a number of problems which, in the committee's opinion, include in particular:

- changing the working situation in such a way as to eliminate tasks that are monotonous or too demanding physically or psychologically;
  - the restructuring of working time
- (a) Flexitime, half-day working;
  - (b) age limit for retirement, transition from full-time employment to retirement;
  - (c) length and distribution of holidays;
  - (d) developments in transport (collective transport, new modes of transport),
  - (e) social integration of immigrants, particularly nationals of third countries.

The committee also points out that the European Foundation's sphere of activity should be carefully delimited. This means establishing priorities and thinking in terms of effectiveness of proposed action. A centralized research system, which would compete with existing centres and institutes, should be avoided.

Finally, the committee again insists that the Commission's proposal should assign this foundation a practical working programme so that its sphere of activity and terms of reference are clearly defined and it can start operating immediately.

8. The Commission estimates that 100,000 u.a. are required to make the European Foundation operational.

In the Commission's opinion no requests for additional funds should be necessary. However, since no budgetary provision has been made for this expenditure, the Commission considers that the requisite funds should be set aside for 1974 following the close of the current budgetary procedure.

The committee insists that the necessary funds should be made available, if need be by means of a supplementary budget for 1974, so that the European foundation can begin its work as soon as possible.

### III. Action programme on industrial safety (second stage)

9. The Commission states that the objective of this action programme is to obtain a real improvement in working conditions and a distinct improvement in safety in the largest possible number of undertakings.

The Commission has, hitherto promoted research on the improvement of sickness and accident prevention, backed cooperation between professional organizations and administration and endeavoured to provide common guidelines for Member States' legislation. However, as the Commission rightly points out, these measures are not sufficient to achieve the desired objectives.

It is therefore aiming at an overall approach designed to:

- (a) make provisions laid down by law or regulation equally binding on all undertakings;
- (b) give greater publicity to accident prevention methods and their practical application;
- (c) coordinate prevention measures to be taken both within undertakings and in their immediate vicinity.

As the Commission states, the practical proposals on industrial health contained in the environmental programme will be included in this overall strategy.

10. On the basis of the preparatory studies currently being completed by the Commission on the assessment of environmental factors and their effects and on methods of preventing accidents and improving working conditions, hygiene and safety, the Commission intends to draw up and submit an action programme before the end of 1974, in collaboration with the joint committees,

the general safety committee and the Mines Safety and Health Commission.

This programme enumerates the means required to:

- (a) determining risks and reference values for the prevention of specific risks, and criteria for the correct interpretation of results and improved organization of work;
- (b) instruct workers on safety matters and improve the training of staff with special responsibilities for prevention, inspection and supervision;
- (c) contribute to the rationalization of work and promote cooperation between the workers and management in undertakings;
- (d) coordinate at Community level the work of organizations and national institutes specializing in the technical aspects of prevention.

11. The Committee on Public Health and the Environment has been calling for Community action in the wide-ranging field of industrial safety for over ten years. In January 1967 it submitted a report on the problems of accident prevention in the Community (Rapporteur: Mr Hansen - Doc. 155/66), on the basis of a seminar organized by the Commission in June 1966 on the educational and psychological aspects of accident prevention.

It also submitted a report to Parliament in June 1966 concerning medical services on working premises in the three Communities (Rapporteur: Mr Bernasconi - Doc. 73/66).

Reference is made to the full text of these two reports and, in particular, to that of the accompanying resolutions.

The committee therefore welcomes the Commission's intention to draw up and submit an action programme by the end of 1974, although it would naturally prefer this programme to have been drawn up long ago.

Furthermore the programme is no more than a framework for the practical proposals that are to follow. It is not enough to merely list the necessary means (documentation, research, exchange of experience, legislation). The Committee assumes therefore that the forthcoming practical proposals will include binding minimum safety regulations.

The committee insists on compliance with the specified time-limit (the end of 1974) and reserves the right to deliver a detailed opinion on the action programme at the appropriate time.

#### IV. Job Enrichment (Action III/10)

12. This action is designed to change those patterns of work organization which tend to dehumanize the worker and create working and living conditions which are inconsistent with the concept of social progress.

The Commission is right in its basic assumption that numerous workers are engaged in tasks which do not satisfy their creative and intellectual

capacity. The aim is to contribute towards greater job satisfaction for workers by changing certain patterns of work organization and performance.

13. The Commission states that the human, social and economic effects of repetitive work will be examined. A symposium is planned for Easter 1974 in which the social partners and experts from different organizations will take part. Pilot experiments may be initiated as a result of this symposium.

The committee feels that the Commission should not confine itself to investigations and experiments but should - after the necessary preliminary work has been effected of course - submit practical proposals for job enrichment which would be binding on all Community undertakings.

It welcomes the proposed seminar and assumes that a Member of the European Parliament will be permitted to attend as an observer.

V. Statistical surveys on industrial accidents and safety (Action III/11)

14. The aim in this instance is to contribute to a better assessment of accident risks and the implementation of a safety policy by establishing new, reliable and comprehensive data.

The committee fails to understand why this has not been included in the action programme on industrial safety (see Sections 9-11 of this opinion).

In the committee's view, these statistical surveys, which would certainly be of great value, must form an integral part of the action programme on industrial safety.

This also applies to the proposal to set up a unified system for reporting accidents and for a statistical assessment of risks. The committee attaches considerable importance to the development of such a system.

The Commission is therefore urged to include the proposed statistical surveys in the action programme for industrial safety (Action II/8).

Finally, the committee demands that statistics on industrial accidents should include information on the causes of accidents.

VI. Health protection against pollution and environmental hazards

(Action III/12)

15. The objective is to draw up scientific criteria and collect adequate information which can serve as common reference data for working out health protection and ecology standards.

These measures have already been covered by the environmental action programme adopted by the Council of the European Communities on 19 July 1973.

It is therefore difficult to understand why they have also been included in the social action programme. If, however, this will help to speed up their implementation, the committee has no objection to make.

16. The Commission intends to hold further consultations with experts in 1973 and 1974 and to submit appropriate proposals to the Council before the end of 1974 on

- (a) the harmonization of sampling methods and methods of analysis designed to combat and monitor environmental pollution,
- (b) the establishment of criteria for harmful effects and common health standards for certain types of air and water pollutants and for permissible noise levels.

The committee endorses this plan, which it considers should be implemented without delay. It therefore insists on compliance with the stipulated time-limit.

The committee also welcomes the Commission's intention to expand its activities in this field and to submit further proposals in subsequent years.

#### VII. Extension of the programme for radiation protection (Action III/13)

17. The objective of this action is to extend Community initiatives in the field of radiation protection.

As early as 2 February 1959 directives were adopted on the establishment of basic standards to protect the health of workers and the general public against the risk of ionizing radiations<sup>1</sup>. These standards are constantly amended in the light of the most recent scientific findings, and have already been revised twice (in 1962 and 1966).

In its Social Action Programme the Commission states that it will be submitting a further draft directive for the revision of the basic standards in October 1973.

It should be pointed out that this draft directive has not yet been referred to the European Parliament. It must therefore be assumed that the Commission has been late in adopting it. The Commission is urged to forward this text to the European Parliament straightaway so that our committee can prepare an opinion on it immediately.

18. Apart from the above draft directive for the revision of the basic standards, the Commission intends to submit further proposals in the next few years, pursuant to Article 31 of the EAEC Treaty, on improved radiation protection.

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<sup>1</sup> See OJ No. 11, 22 February 1959

These proposals will be designed to:

- (a) improve the protection and safety of workers and the general population from electromagnetic rays (to be submitted in 1974),
- (b) limit the exposure of individuals to radiation in its medical application (to be submitted by the end of 1974),
- (c) ensure adequate supervision of exposure to radiation from certain consumer goods (to be submitted in 1976),
- (d) draw up a new five-year programme in the field of biology and health protection (to be decided by the end of 1975).

The committee welcomes the Commission's intention and reserves the right to deliver a detailed opinion on the proposals at the appropriate time.

### VIII. Conclusions

#### 19. The Committee on Public Health and the Environment

##### 1. Regrets that the proposals on

- (a) the setting-up of a European General Safety Committee and the extension of the terms of reference of the Mines Safety and Health Commission
- (b) the setting-up of a European Foundation for the improvement of the environment and living and working conditions,

to be submitted by 1 April 1974 by the Commission to the Council for the decision it has to take have not yet been forwarded to the European Parliament, so that Parliament is left with very little time in which to discuss them; the Commission is urged to rectify this omission without delay;

2. Welcomes the proposed setting-up of a European Foundation for the improvement of the environment and living and working conditions, but stresses once again that the Commission must draw up a practical working programme for this Foundation, and in particular coordinate all research and studies on the protection of the environment at Community level and relay the information to the Foundation;

3. Calls upon the Commission to supplement the outline programme on industrial safety planned for the end of 1974 by practical proposals for binding regulations at Community level, to lay down binding minimum safety regulations and to extend this action programme to include the proposed statistical surveys on industrial accidents and safety (Action III/11);

4. Considers that the Commissions should not confine itself to conducting investigations and experiments on job enrichment but should submit practical proposals in this field as soon as possible, which are binding on all Community undertakings;

5. Supports the Commission's proposals regarding
- (a) the setting-up of a European general safety committee and the extension of the terms of reference of the Mines Safety and Health Commission,
  - (b) health protection against pollution and environmental hazards,
  - (c) the extension of the programme for radiation protection.
6. The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, as the committee responsible, is requested to adopt the opinion of the Committee on Public Health and the Environment and in particular to include the five points appearing in Section 19 of this opinion in its resolution.