

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
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On the right : Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH, Vice-President of the Commission, at the Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee, January 1977.

I

145th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 145th Plenary Session in Brussels on 26 and 27 January. The Committee Chairman, Mr Basil de FERRANTI, presided.

The Session was attended by Mr Finn Olov GUNDELACH, Vice-President of the Commission, who discussed the common agricultural policy in the international context.

1. Statement of Mr Louis C. AMEYE

Speaking on behalf of Group I, Mr AMEYE began by saying that agricultural policy was the Community's only common policy. He then touched upon the current difficulties, caused mainly by the current monetary instability.

The common agricultural policy was of undoubted importance and deserved to be safeguarded and perfected. In the long run, however, the weight needed to be shared out more evenly among other fields.

Mr AMEYE emphasized the usefulness of having comparable means and concerted effort in other fields such as monetary policy, international relations and above all a common energy policy.

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A great deal of hard sweat had gone into building up the agricultural policy. Other common policies would require the same tenacity.

2. Statement of Mr P.J.G.M. van RENS

On behalf of the Workers' Group, Mr van RENS said that the Economic and Social Committee had not always been unanimous in its views on the Common Agricultural Policy. Hitherto, the policy had first and foremost been a price and market policy for the benefit of producers. Little notice had been taken of the differences that occasionally existed between highly diverging structures. Some of the consequent distortions were reflected in the incomes situation, the unsuitableness of a number of agricultural products, and a price level that was generally too high.

With regard to its international importance, the common agricultural policy had long been implemented with no regard for the needs of third countries, and especially the developing countries. Surpluses were often dumped on the world market. In the future, the Common Agricultural Policy would have to make a positive contribution to a new world economic order, an order which would be concerned not only with raw materials but also foodstuffs. Prices would have to be stabilized by means of stocks financed and controlled at an international level. When planning the world market there could be no dominance of any single country or complete isolation of any other important country. The Common Agricultural Policy would have to form part of a broad framework in which international obligations as well

as internal requirements were taken into consideration. In this connection, production aims would have to be worked out and a price policy adjusted accordingly. To ensure security of income, new methods would have to be introduced to offset present imbalances as well as any regional variations.

On behalf of his Group, Mr van RENS finally called for the convening of a conference on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. This conference, which would be attended by all interested social partners, ought to be held during the current year and would in any case have to be well prepared. Mr van RENS hoped that in this connection the Commission would be coming up with a positive answer.

3. Statement of Mrs June EVANS

Mrs EVANS, speaking on behalf of Group III, stressed certain negative results of the CAP. She said that the prices for consumers were too high while farmers' incomes were too low. The proof that present politics had failed was that rich farmers became richer and poor ones became poorer.

Self-sufficiency should not be the answer to the problems the Community was currently facing. Mrs EVANS stressed the fact that producers suffered from plenty of red tape but no guidance. It was clear that improvements were necessary, and Mr van RENS' suggestion for a conference could show the way. Fundamental changes were unavoidable if the CAP were to be made effective both internally and externally. Agriculture was constantly evolving : the aim of the CAP was that agriculture should be prosperous, with no surpluses, thereby creating a situation that was acceptable for consumers.

4. Statement of Mr Thomas J. MAHER

Mr MAHER, second speaker of Group III, emphasized that it was impossible to visualize the CAP carrying on without an overall economic strategy. So far the CAP had been standing on its own; this could not continue, it had to be integrated with common policies in the monetary and other fields. If the CAP had been blamed for high prices or low incomes for farmers, these accusations did not, for instance, take into consideration the inputs agriculture needed and which were provided by the industrial sector. It was in the best interest of farmers that food prices should be low rather than high because this helped to maintain consumption and so avoid the danger of surplus. Since the cost of farm inputs directly affected the product price, it was vital to give consideration to this factor. The price of these inputs had recently risen so sharply that it was necessary, for example, to sell almost twice the amount of milk in order to buy a tractor than had been the case a few years ago and this in spite of the doubling of the milk price. A new approach to the Common Agricultural Policy should also pay more attention to what happened to prices between those paid at the farm-gate and those paid by the consumers, i.e. the cost of processing and of the distribution of farm-products.

5. Speech of Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH, Vice-President of the Commission

In replying to the debate, Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH Vice-President of the Commission, expressed the gratitude of the Commission to the Economic and Social Committee for focussing attention on the international aspects of the common agriculture policy. The European Community had a responsibility for meeting food shortages in the

world, but an analysis of the CAP's role in this respect would have to reach the right conclusions. There certainly existed a need for more milk and butter in the world, but it would be idle to pretend that the Community could get rid of its excessive surplus by a massive export drive. A critical analysis was needed and the Committee had provided an excellent stimulus in that field.

Mr GUNDELACH raised also the problem of imbalances in trade in agricultural products. The European Community was importing more than it was exporting and this deficit was very pronounced in relations with the United States. While a good deal had to be done to put our house in order, Mr GUNDELACH said, we could not be accused of having inflicted any damage on other countries by our trade policies. In this respect, we could enter into negotiations in international trade, which were due to terminate at the end of this year, without a sense of guilt. The United States, it should not be forgotten, was not the most open or unprotected market in the world. We would like to say to the incoming United States administration, "Let us stop this trench warfare we have had between the United States and the European Community for the last fifteen years". What we would like is to reach commodity agreements and to provide for stocks which stabilize world markets. Should the new US administration agree, and Mr GUNDELACH expressed the hope that it would do so, it might ask how the Community intended this to be carried out in detail. This was why he welcomed the Committee's Opinion as a means to stimulate discussion in this field. The new Commission would have to give thought to the common agricultural policy's international aspect in a coherent form.

One of the principles of the CAP in the past had been that the price mechanism should be its main element. Experience had shown that the planning of economies, especially in agriculture, had not been positive. The CAP had brought stability for farmers and consumers in that the wild fluctuations which have affected world markets had left Europe relatively unscathed. The question now arose whether a price policy was sufficient to solve present problems. There were limits to what it could do. Greater attention to market developments was needed and, in his view, the CAP had to be linked with general political measures, such as those which were needed to combat inflation and unemployment. The CAP must be an **integral** and organic part of all other policies. It could not stand alone without a proper European monetary policy, towards which significant steps ought to be taken, an energy policy, and a broader policy in the social field as well. Merely to have an external trade policy, which might have been effective in the sixties, was not enough. What was required, in addition, was a more coherent external economic policy, be it among industrialized nationals or between industrialized nations on the one hand and developing nations on the other, or be it between the Community and Eastern countries. Without these policies, the CAP would be in dire difficulties.

To conduct a price policy which took into account the interests of consumers, of farmers and of inflation, involved restraint. We had many poor farmers, who could not stand the economic strain this involved for a long time, he said. **This meant that our general approach was to bring about the necessary transformation of agricultural policy, not suddenly, but over a period, so that socially acceptable changes**

could be gradually introduced, such as types of agricultural production other than those which created surpluses, or other economic activities, preferably in areas where they now resided.

Mr GUNDELACH concluded by stressing that not all problems of the common agricultural policy could be solved by an aggressive policy on international trading. A certain amount of protection for European agriculture would remain necessary to avoid heavy unemployment. This meant that European prices would remain generally above world market prices - it was true they had sometimes dropped below this level, but that could not be considered the rule. This basic factor meant that the policy involved export refunds, which could not be avoided. There were limits to these refunds, but salvation did not lie outside the Community. The main problem of the CAP was in its internal aspects and these had to be put right. They could not effect changes in one sudden swoop, but instead the common agricultural policy had to be adapted to the 1980's slowly and surely.

6. Opinions adopted

a) Common Agricultural Policy in the International Context.

The Economic and Social Committee adopted by 29 votes in favour, 19 against, and 8 abstentions, its Opinion on the

Common Agricultural Policy in the International Context
(Possible Consequences and Improvements)

This Opinion may be regarded as a natural follow-up to the Committee's Opinion of 17 July 1975 on the stocktaking of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). In this Opinion, the Committee concluded that it was essential for a study to be made of the CAP against the international background, since the international situation could clearly jeopardize some of the Community's agricultural objectives, and perhaps place the CAP itself in jeopardy.

In Chapter I of the present Opinion, the Committee analyses the factors making up the international context and influencing more or less directly the development of the CAP (irrespective of whether these factors are open to Community control).

Chapter II seeks to show the contribution that the CAP can make to economic and social balance within the Community and the world agro-food sector.

Chapter III, the final chapter, puts forward a number of improvements which could be made to the CAP and the Community's external policy, particularly with regard to the agro-food sector. These improvements have been proposed in the light of the Community's internal and external requirements which are brought out in Chapters I and II of the Opinion.

The proposed improvements come into two categories: improvements to the CAP itself and improvements to the Community's external policy and the way in which world economic problems are being tackled.

The Committee proposes the following improvements to the CAP:

- adapting price policy in keeping with the need to contribute, in this way too, to the utilization of all resources and general development of the entire agricultural sector in the Community;
- strengthening the instruments for implementing policy on production structures and making an effort in the field of research (coordination of national policies), in liaison with regional policy;
- strengthening policy with respect to marketing structures, with emphasis, where necessary, on cooperatives and like bodies;
- the setting up of an ad hoc body to guide production with a view to planning agriculture in the medium term;
- working out a genuine Community trading strategy for the agro-food sector, giving the European Community the decision-making freedom it needs in this field;
- the Commission should prepare a medium-term programme for Community agriculture based on the recommendations of the abovementioned ad hoc body and setting out guidelines for production and also the general pattern to be followed in research, structural policy and international cooperation. The farming community should be associated in drawing up this programme.
- the convening, at the initiative of the Commission of a conference bringing together, at European level, government representatives and the various socio-occupational groups concerned in order to work out what improvements need to be made to the CAP.

The Committee proposes the following as regards adjusting or conforming the Community's position on world economic problems :

- the Community should commit itself explicitly to a new world economic and food order founded on a voluntary share out of power by the strongest countries and compliance with common rules that take account of everyone's rights and responsibilities;
- there should be a commitment to a new world monetary order, based on a return to a measure of discipline with respect to exchange rates;
- there should be a commitment to political supervision of industrial and commercial power structures capable of being used to pursue goals incompatible with the policies of the Member States and the international agreements signed by them.

Finally, the Committee considers that the Community represents a unique example of a vast and free domestic market being created by the association of countries with widely differing economic structures and traditions. The CAP is the most elaborate, and therefore the most fragile, instrument of integration, and can be considered as both the symbol and weak point of the Community.

Because the Community, through the CAP, has already advanced a long way towards unifying the economies of its Member States, while respecting and, basically preserving the freedom of individuals and undertakings, it offers a practical example of the gradual establishment of an economic order, whose importance is recognized by non-member

countries. The agreements and conventions that the Community has signed with a large number of non-member countries are in some way an extension and an enlargement of the difficult experiment going on within the Community.

The attraction exerted by the Community and the power it could have as political arbitrator at international level lie in the economic potential of its members and, in particular, in the principles on which their cooperation rests. It therefore follows that the Community must complete its internal unification on the basis of these principles in order to play the international role expected of it.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by the Rapporteur-General, Mr BERNIS - Luxembourg - Various Interests.

b) Vocational Preparation for Young People

Draft Commission Recommendation on Vocational Training for Young People who are Unemployed or Threatened by Unemployment.

Gist of the Commission's proposal

The Commission notes that unemployment as a whole will remain a serious economic and social problem from 1976 up to 1980. Unemployment amongst young people may well become even more extensive, particularly in view of the fact that each year a large number of the young people entering the labour market have neither been properly prepared nor have the necessary qualifications for the type of work which they are offered.

This situation has prompted the Commission to advocate various forms of training for young persons between school-leaving age and 25. The proposals, which take into account earlier Community measures in the field of vocational training, are designed to provide appropriate job preparation for young persons who are either unemployed or threatened by unemployment.

This vocational preparation should include, where necessary, the following aspects :

- vocational guidance;
- courses designed to ensure that young persons possess a sound basic education;
- courses to provide a basic understanding of: economic and social organization, legal provisions covering social security and employment, the way firms operate, the organization of labour, industrial relations, etc.;
- basic practical training in a range of related jobs;
- work experience.

The proposal also includes a number of general recommendations concerning the organization of the vocational preparation, particular stress being laid on the need to ensure effective coordination between the bodies responsible for vocational guidance and vocational training and the employment services.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on this proposal.

The Committee feels that a Directive on vocational preparation measures for young people who are unemployed or threatened by unemployment would have been much better. In view of the difficulty and time involved in passing a Directive, however, the choice of a Recommendation seems acceptable to the Committee at the present juncture.

The Committee underlines the Recommendation's call for the involvement of the two sides of industry at all stages of the vocational preparation measures, and furthermore urges that the demand forecasting work be done at regional level in liaison with representatives of economic and social groups. The Committee thinks it important that vocational preparation measures should enable insufficiently qualified young people later to choose the occupation they prefer out of a number of different occupations within a given sector, and to train for the preferred occupation. In the Committee's view, the question of the possibility of basic training of a certain length being counted towards later specialized training should be given consideration.

The practical work experience suggested in the Commission's Recommendation could be a useful back-up to the other vocational preparation measures. Such work experience must include special training courses so that it really benefits the young people.

The Committee stresses that training centres and institutes which are to run the vocational preparation schemes must be carefully selected, particularly as regards the quality of the instructors.

Because of the type of young people who will be attending the courses, very high standards in teaching and psychological approach will have to be required of these instructors.

The vocational preparation measures should be of real assistance to the young people concerned and should also be understood by them to be in their interest. Therefore, the Committee emphasizes that steps must be taken to encourage young people to make the effort required. These would include publicity and concrete, e.g. financial incentives. Though both these aspects are mentioned in the Recommendation, the Member States will have to translate them into more concrete form.

The Recommendation leaves the final choice of priorities and the final decision on specific measures to the Member States. However, the Committee calls upon the Commission to send the Member States a list of the measures that have already been taken in some countries, indicating the degree of success, so that the Member States can draw the appropriate conclusions.

In the Committee's view the Member States should provide detailed information, specifically directed at the young people in question, about the measures they have taken and the opportunities opened up as a result.

The Committee adds that use should be made of the experience of the occupational research institutes of individual Member States and of the findings of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Berlin, and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in Dublin.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr HOUTHUYS - Belgium - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr CARROLL - Ireland - Workers.

c) Harmonization of Social Provisions - Inland Waterway Transport

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Harmonization of Certain Social Provisions relating to Goods Transport by Inland Waterway.

Gist of the Commission's proposal

The proposal forms part of the common transport policy. It has been drawn up in pursuance of the Council Decision of 13 May 1965, which provides for the approximation of provisions relating to working conditions and the standardization of manning provisions for each mode of transport, as well as certain checks.

The proposal constitutes the first step towards the establishment of rules governing social conditions in inland waterway transport within the Community. It aims at approximating the conditions of competition and improving the social protection of boatmen, with due regard to navigational safety and the economic operation of waterway transport.

The proposal consists of rules governing the following :

- spreadover and breaks;
- working periods, particularly at the helm or radar screen;

- daily rest periods;
- periodical rest periods, replacing weekly rest periods in inland navigation;
- annual and public holidays;
- crews for the different categories of vessels;
- checks.

All these items are closely interconnected and constitute a tightly-knit entity. At a later stage they will have to be supplemented by other proposals concerning, among other things, working periods and overtime.

The proposal has three aims :

- to harmonize the conditions of competition in inland navigation,
- to improve the social conditions of inland waterway personnel,
- to improve navigational safety.

These objectives form part of the common transport policy, which is intended to improve the flow of traffic, to organize a common transport market and to bring the economic and social situation of personnel engaged in transport up to a satisfactory level.

Seagoing vessels using a waterway to get to and from the sea and vessels under 150 t are excluded from the scope of the Regulation. Accordingly, it will not apply to narrow waterways or those of little importance (Article 4). In view of the special position of self-employed persons, it does not seem appropriate to apply the provisions concerning periodical rest periods and annual and public holidays (Article 19) to this category.

The legal basis for these measures is Article 75 of the EEC Treaty and Articles 10-13 of the Council Decision of 13 May 1965, which expressly provides for the approximation of working conditions, the harmonization of manning provisions and the adoption of certain measures for keeping checks on inland navigation.

The action proposed is also part of the programme of work drawn up by the Commission for the 1974-1976 period as set out in the Communication to the Council of 24 October 1973 on the development of the common transport policy.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously with 22 abstentions its Opinion on this proposal.

The Committee's Opinion concentrates on three issues, viz.:

- the qualifications of crew members,

- the manning of vessels, and
- working and rest periods.

The Committee thinks that the requirements concerning the qualifications of crew members should be based on the Regulation on the Award of Boatman's Licences for Navigation on the Rhine and the Regulation on the Inspection of Shipping on the Rhine. However, within a period to be decided by the Council, the Commission should be able, at the request of a Member State and after consulting both sides of industry, to allow the rules on the minimum age and number of years experience required for certain crew members to be departed from on certain waterways, in the light of the particular traffic conditions obtaining. The purpose of such exemptions must be to make it possible to adapt to the Community rules in the waters concerned within the specified period.

The Committee supports the fact that provisions on manning which the Commission is proposing are essentially the same for the categories covered by the Regulation as in the Regulation on the Inspection of Shipping on the Rhine. However, exemptions should be allowed to enable operators on certain waterways to adapt to the Community rules within the period specified.

Regarding working hours and rest periods, the Committee considers that the rules must be suited to the special features of inland shipping and allow operating flexibility.

The Committee's specific proposals are as follows :

- Daily spreadover for daytime sailing :

- 14 hours between March and October
- 12 hours between November and February.

Under certain circumstances the daily spreadover should be able to be extended by up to two hours provided that another member of the crew besides the boatman also satisfies the requirements for boatmen.

(Special circumstances might include, for example :

- The shipment of perishable or dangerous substances, the time required for lockage or the possibility that a connection with a seagoing ship might be missed).

- Minimum daily rest period :

- for daytime sailing

- 10 consecutive hours between March and October (including at least six hours between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.)
- 12 consecutive hours between November and February (including at least eight hours between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.)

Where the daily spreadover is extended by two hours (Article 10), the minimum daily rest period should be reduced accordingly, though not the number of rest hours to be taken between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

- for semi-continuous sailing

- 12 consecutive hours in a period of 24 hours (including six hours between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.)

- for continuous sailing

- 12 hours in a period of 24 hours including an uninterrupted period of at least 6 hours.

Finally the Committee favours the inclusion in Article 8 of a provision to ensure that no discrimination is applied to the employment of men and women as crew members.

This view was shared by the European Parliament's Transport Committee.

The Committee also thinks that women should not have to work as active crew members after the sixth month of pregnancy or before three months have elapsed since the birth of their child.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr de VRIES REILINGH - Netherlands - Workers.

d) Beneventano Tobacco

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down Special Measures in respect of the Beneventano Variety of Tobacco.

Gist of the Commission's proposal

Use should be made of Article 13 of Regulation (EEC) No. 727/70 to re-establish a lasting balance between supply and demand on the Beneventano tobacco market.

The Commission is proposing to cut production in stages by at least one half over a period of three years. The 1977 crop of Beneventano tobacco would be covered by the following :

- the specific measures referred to in Article 13(4) of the basic Regulation, namely :
 - a lowering of the intervention price, and
 - a limitation of intervention subsidies;
- a special grant for each hectare where Beneventano is replaced by another variety of tobacco.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted with 2 abstentions its Opinion on this proposal unanimously.

The Committee approves the Commission's proposal because the measures proposed will (i) reduce the financial burden on the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF, (ii) safeguard the incomes of the growers concerned and (iii) keep up the level of jobs in the tobacco processing industry.

The Committee based its Opinion on material supplied by the Rapporteur-General, Mr CAPRIO - Italy - Employers.



On the right : Mr BRINKHORST, Dutch Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and President-in-Office of the Council, at the 143rd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee.



In the centre : Dr P. HILLERY, Vice-President of the Commission, bids farewell to the Committee at the 143rd Plenary Session.

II

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

1. Meeting with Mr David OWEN, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr Basil de FERRANTI, had a meeting with Mr David OWEN, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in London on 21 December 1976. Held on the eve of the United Kingdom's turn in office as President of the Council, the meeting provided an opportunity to clarify the role of the Economic and Social Committee in the European Communities' decision-making process. The Chairman of the Committee also put forward a number of concrete proposals on how to increase the impact of Committee Opinions, notably through closer links with the Council. The other point raised by the Chairman was the Tripartite Conference seen from the point of view of the Committee.

2. Visit to the European Parliament

On 11 and 12 January, the Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee attended the ceremony during which the new Commission was presented to the European Parliament. Mr de FERRANTI took the opportunity presented by the visit to have talks with the President of the European Parliament, Mr SPENALE. One of the topics raised by the ESC Chairman was the procedure which now existed for cooperation between the Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament. The aim of this procedure is to enable Parliament to derive full benefit from the Committee's consultative work.

III

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

During the month of January, the Council asked the Committee for an Opinion on the

1. Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Introduction of a Community Consultation Procedure in respect of Power Stations likely to Affect the Territory of another Member State.
2. Proposal for a Council Regulation on Community Financial Measures to promote the use of Coal for Electricity Generation.
3. Proposal for a Council Decision concerning Concerted Action on a Research Programme into the Treatment and Use of Sewage Sludge.
4. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Materials and Articles containing Vinyl Chloride Monomer and Intended to Come into Contact with Foodstuffs.
5. Proposal for a Council Directive on Bird Conservation.
6. Proposal for a Council Directive to Coordinate the Laws of the Member States relating to (self-employed) Commercial Agents.
7. Proposal for a Council Regulation instituting a Community Export Declaration Form.

8. Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the Harmonization of the Laws, Regulations and Administrative Provisions relating to the System of Turnover Taxes and Excise Duties Applicable in International Travel.
9. Proposals dealing with the approximation of Member States' laws on
 - the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers;
 - the heating systems for the passenger compartment of motor-vehicles and the wheel guards of motor vehicles;
 - the rear fog lights, reversing lights and parking lights of motor vehicles;
 - tyres for motor vehicles;
 - the weights and dimensions of motor vehicles.
10. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Progressive Implementation of the Principle of Equal Treatment for Men and Women in Social Security Matters.
11. Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive No. 75/271/EEC concerning the Community List of Less-Favoured Farming Areas within the meaning of Directive No. 75/268/EEC (France).
12. Proposal for a Council Directive to Protect Consumers in the case of Contracts Negotiated away from Business Premises (Doorstep Selling).

IV

PROVISIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

146th Plenary Session - February 1977

- Farm Prices
- Seventh Directive - Group Accounts
- Illegal Migration
- Unit Trusts
- Toxic Waste
- Water Capable of Supporting Fish
- Farming Areas

147th Plenary Session - March 1977

- Study on employment prospects in agriculture
- Competition in Transport
- Technical Barriers - Cars
- Siting of Generating Stations
- Use of Coal-fired Generating Stations
- Dangerous Substances
- Plant Protection Products
- Vinyl Chloride in Packaging
- Protection of Workers exposed to Vinyl Chloride
- Equal Treatment - Social Security
- Tax Exemption for Travellers
- Export Declaration Form
- Quality of Water for Rearing Shellfish
- Food Sugars

148th/149th Plenary Sessions - April/May 1977

- Nuclear Safety (Study)
- GATT Negotiations (additional Opinion)
- Relations with Portugal (Study)
- Regional Policy/Unemployment and Inflation (Own-initiative Opinion)
- Treatment of Sewage Sludges
- Protection of Birds
- Door-to-door selling
- Pleasure Boat Equipment
- Double taxation
- Prepackaged Products
- Consumer Action Programme (additional Opinion)
- Relations between Industrialized and Developing Countries (Study)
- Small- and Medium-sized Businesses (own-initiative Opinion)
- Industrial Change (own-initiative Opinion)
- Social Situation
- Economic Situation

Plenary Session of June 1977

- Agreements between EEC and Countries in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (Study)
- Alcohol
- Data Processing
- Commercial Agents
- Defective Products

Later Plenary Sessions

- Green Paper on Employee Participation
- East-West Transport (own-initiative Opinion)
- Alignment of Taxation (Study)

MEMBERS' NEWS

Appointments

The Council of the European Communities has appointed Mr G.H.E. HILKENS, Secretary of the Netherlands Council of Family Associations, and member of the Committee responsible for Contacts with Consumers as a replacement for Mr J.J.A. CHARBO, and Mr Johannes AMMUNDSEN, International Affairs Delegate of the Association of Danish Employers as a replacement for Mr Arne BYSKOV, who has resigned.

**PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Periodical

- Bulletin (monthly publication)

General Documentation

- The Economic and Social Committee (leaflet) (January 1975)
- The Economic and Social Committee (April 1975)
(A descriptive brochure) 16 p.
- Annual Report (1975) 62 p. (1974) 60 p. (1973) 64 p.
- Directory (November 1975)
(List of members) 32 p.

Opinions and Studies

- Research and Development (November 1976)
(Study) 35 p.
- Systems of education and vocational training
(August 1976) (Study) 114 p.
- Regional Policy (March 1976)
(Opinion) 11 p.
- European Union (July 1975)
(Opinion) 33 p.
- Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy
(February 1975) (Study) 52 p.
- The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in the
European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p.