

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# BULLETIN

No. 2

February 1979

*CES:1*



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

# **BULLETIN**

**Brussels - February 1979**



<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. <u>166th PLENARY SESSION</u> .....	1
<u>Adoption of Opinions</u> .....	1
1. 1977 ERDF REPORT.....	1
2. R & D - ENERGY.....	5
3. COAL TRADE AID SYSTEM.....	7
4. SHORT-TERM COMMUNITY QUOTA.....	9
5. ROAD HAULAGE CAPACITY.....	10
6. PURE-BRED BREEDING ANIMALS - BOVINES.....	11
7. LEUKOSIS AMONG CATTLE.....	13
8. TEMPORARY IMPORTATION.....	14
9. ASBESTOS.....	16
II. <u>EXTERNAL RELATIONS</u> .....	22
The Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee meets the "Committee of Wise Men"....	22
Chairman of ESC visits Paris.....	23
A delegation from the Italian Communist Party visits the ESC.....	25
Italian Minister for Labour at the ESC.....	26
ESC Chairman visits Madrid.....	26
ESC Chairman meets Basque Parliamentarians.....	27
200th meeting of the Section for Agriculture of the ESC.....	28
III. <u>NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS</u> .....	30
IV. <u>PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK</u> .....	31
V. <u>MEMBERS' NEWS</u> .....	34
VI. <u>PRESS EXTRACTS</u> .....	35



166th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee's 166th Plenary Session was held on 21-22 February 1979 in Brussels. The Session was chaired by the Chairman, Mrs Fabrizia BADUEL GLORIOSO.

Adoption of Opinions1. 1977 ERDF REPORT

European Regional Development Fund - Third Annual Report (1977).

Gist of the Report of the Commission

The Fund endowment in 1977 was 50 million u.a. (out of 1,300 million for the three years since establishment). In 1977 the Commission adopted 378 grant decisions in respect of 2,020 investment projects representing a total investment of 4,498 million u.a. Since 1975 4,748 projects have been approved. Virtually all of the appropriations available in 1977 were committed, bringing to 1,289 million u.a. the total committed since 1975. Of the assistance granted in 1977, 41% (1975-1977 : 35%) concerned industrial and service sector projects creating or maintaining 70,000 jobs (1975-1977 : 185,000 jobs) : 59%, (1975-1977 : 65%) concerned infrastructure projects.

The resources available to the Fund in 1977 (500 million u.a.) had clearly declined in their real value,

since they were fixed in December 1974 and not subsequently corrected to take account of the very high rates of inflation which struck the economies of all European countries - and in particular those which face the most severe regional problems and absorb three quarters of all Fund aid. From 1975 to 1977 the Fund had available 1,300 million u.a.

The Commission stresses that the impact of the Fund cannot be judged in isolation. The Fund must contribute to the achievement of a whole range of objectives defined at Community level and which seek to remedy the traditional imbalances between regions by improving the situation of the less favoured, and to prevent new imbalances from appearing.

The achievement of these objectives implies not only a Regional Fund endowed with larger resources and greater flexibility than in the past, but also, as stated in the Second Annual Report, an increased coordination of all Community financial instruments which provide assistance in the less favoured regions, of all Community policies with regional implications, and of national regional development policies.

The Commission continues to insist on the principle that Fund aid is additional to national regional development efforts. It is politically as well as economically important that this principle be respected as far as both infrastructure and industrial projects are concerned.

The Commission continues to insist on the great importance of information on the Regional Fund. The concrete and localized nature of Fund activity makes it of



special interest to public opinion. It is clear, however, that the impact of information is reduced if the additional nature of Fund aid cannot be shown and if projects aided are not identified individually.

In the 1976 Report the Commission noted a slight tendency to less concentration on priority areas and on significant development projects. The Commission regrets that this tendency showed no improvement in 1977.

The Commission considers that the regional development programmes submitted by the Member States in 1977 provide a valuable basis for progressive development even if they are not yet in their final form.

Very few applications have been made concerning the services sector, as in previous years. The Commission regrets this fact, since it believes that the services sector, and tourism in particular, can and should play a very important role in the development of many regions. This question is being examined by the Regional Policy Committee.

The Commission remains convinced that the specific measures taken within the framework of the non-quota section of the Fund, closely coordinated with the activities of other Community financial mechanisms, can help redressing or preventing imbalances due to the economic crisis, the new international division of labour and the effects of certain Community policies.

## Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by a large majority with 3 votes against and 9 abstentions, approving the Third Annual Report (1977) on the European Development Fund subject to a number of observations, including the following :

The Committee joins the European Parliament in considering the size of the Fund inadequate and out of proportion with the regional problems facing the Community. The Committee also deplores the continuing depreciation of fund resources due to inflationary factors.

It advocates an optimum balance between the various types of investment aides by the Fund, in particular between industrial and infrastructure investments.

It endorses the Commission's insistence that Fund resources must be treated as additional to, and not as part replacement of, the overall national regional development budget.

The Committee notes with some concern that the percentage number of control checks has fallen below the 10% minimum level which the Commission considers as the minimal acceptable level. The Commission should ensure that the Member States operate these checks at a much higher level of activity.

It continues to hold the view that expenditure from the Fund should be concentrated geographically in the weakest regions in order to maximize its efficiency.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Regional Development. Chairman : Mr MILNE - United Kingdom - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr PEARSON - Ireland - Employers.

## 2. R & D - ENERGY

Proposal from the Commission to the Council concerning a Second Four-Year Energy Research and Development Programme.

### Gist of the Proposal

In 1975, the Community adopted an energy R & D programme which expires on 30 June 1979. The Commission proposes to follow up this work with a second four-year programme covering the same five areas :

	1975 - 1979	1979 - 1983
	FUNDING (MEUA)	PROPOSAL (MEUA)
1. Energy Conservation	11	25
2. Hydrogen	13	15
3. Solar	18	58
4. Geothermal	13	20
5. Systems and Modelling	4	7
TOTAL	59	125

Work within each field would be more oriented towards pilot projects and techniques near to industrial application.

The programme would be carried out on the basis of cost-sharing contracts (i.e. indirect action). The Commission staff would be increased from 27 to 37. The Commission would continue to be assisted by five Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM's).

### Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously and welcomes the preparation of the new, expanded research programme.

It generally agrees with the increased appropriations and with the changes of emphasis within the five areas of research already mentioned.

The Committee supports the increased emphasis on energy conservation, given its short-term impact. But it points out that what is most needed is the practical application of techniques which are already available.

However, it questions the wisdom of cutting back on hydrogen research. It believes that the Community should be making a special commitment precisely in the case of such long-term objectives with a major application potential.

The Committee regrets that the proposed programme does not refer to cooperation on energy R & D with the developing countries. It recognizes that this will have to be dealt with in separate programmes drawn up within the framework of cooperation with these countries. At the same time, it would like to have seen certain related issues

tackled on a pragmatic basis in some of the R & D activities of the proposed programme.

The Committee finally calls for R & D on consumer behaviour. It believes that this could be a fruitful area of research and a very effective one as regards energy conservation, particularly if an interdisciplinary approach embracing the social sciences were adopted.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions. Chairman : Mr HATRY - Belgium - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr von der DECKEN - Germany - Various Interests.

### 3. COAL TRADE AID SYSTEM

Proposal for a Council Regulation for a Community Aid system for Intra-Community Trade in Power Station Coal.

#### Gist of the proposal

The Commission's plan to encourage the sale of Community steam coal to power stations is designed to improve the conditions of competition to which it is subject, and thus help to ensure Community energy supplies in the long term.

Under the scheme, non-repayable subsidies would be granted at a rate of 10 EUA per standard tonne per year in respect of coal produced in one Member State and delivered at a power station in another. Aid would be granted on up to 10 million tonnes annually, divided on a maximum quota basis between the coal-producing Member States. It

is estimated that the aid would make good 30% of the losses being incurred by the undertakings and the Member States in producing the coal.

### Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously and warmly welcomes the proposed scheme which would cost 100 MEUA annually and would run for a limited period of three years.

The Committee believes that the plan will make a small but useful contribution towards the achievement of the Community's coal production targets, thereby helping to ensure Community energy supplies in the long term. It would also help to avoid irreversible mine closures involving the loss of jobs not compensated by the creation of new employment.

The scheme, together with the other coal and energy measures put forward by the Commission must, in the Committee's view, pave the way for an overall Community energy policy. The Committee regrets that the Council has not yet adopted the different energy and coal measures already before it, and calls for their immediate implementation.

In the longer term, the Committee argues that sight should not be lost of the need to set up the infrastructures required for the development of the coal trade, including the modernization of coal-utilizing industrial and power plant and a programme for the building of coal-fired power stations and the conversion of oil-fired power stations to dual-firing (i.e. oil and coal).

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions. Chairman : Mr HATRY - Belgium - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr GORMLY - United Kingdom - Workers.

#### 4. SHORT-TERM COMMUNITY QUOTA

Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 3164/76 on the Community Quota for the Carriage of Goods by Road between Member States.

##### Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Member States may apply to have a maximum of 10% of their Community authorizations converted into short-term Community authorizations valid for a period of 10 days. One authorization may be converted into 40 short-term authorizations.

##### Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by a large majority with 6 votes against and 9 abstentions.

It approves the Commission's proposal on a trial basis. However, in view of the considerable differences in geographical situations, it thinks it would be advisable to consider under what circumstances the proposed system could be brought into line with actual road haulage requirements, possibly by varying the duration of the short-term authorizations.

Because of the small size of this quota of annual authorizations, and because it is taken up in full by firms engaged in big Community transport operations, the Committee urges that the 10% short-term authorizations be granted in addition to, and not be deducted from, the annual quota.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications. Chairman : Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr RENAUD - France - Employers.

#### 5. ROAD HAULAGE CAPACITY

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the Adjustment of Capacity for the Carriage of Goods by Road for Hire or Reward between Member States.

#### Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The carriage of goods by road for hire or reward between Member States is at present regulated to a large degree by bilateral agreements.

The decisions taken by the Member States in this field are prompted by economic and political considerations, which are often divergent. The measures at present provided for in the bilateral agreements range from complete liberalization to a stringent quota system. These disparities can, according to the Commission, obstruct the functioning and development of the common market. The Commission therefore feels that, in order to facilitate the transaction from the present system to an integrated common market in transport, it is necessary initially for the bilateral



agreements to be embedded in provisions which are commensurate with the common transport policy.

### Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by a large majority with 8 votes against and 4 abstentions.

The Committee considers that road haulage requirements must be evaluated on the basis of the objective criteria listed in the Commission's proposal (the market monitoring system currently in the experimental stage). The Community authorities will not be able to intervene effectively in the fixing of bilateral quotas until this market monitoring system comes into operation.

Consequently, the Committee thinks that it is too early at the moment to lay down rigid procedures for the negotiation of bilateral road haulage quotas and suggests that the Commission's proposal should be for a Directive rather than a Regulation.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications. Chairman : Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr RENAUD - France - Employers.

### 6. PURE-BRED BREEDING ANIMALS - BOVINES

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive No. 77/504/EEC on Pure-Bred Breeding Animals of the Bovine Species.

## Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Under Community rules the importing of pure-bred animals from non-member countries has to be subject to conditions which are at least equivalent to those governing intra-Community trade in these animals.

As the conditions applicable to intra-Community trade have not yet been finalized, it is necessary to make it clear what conditions are to apply to imports from non-member countries. The proposal under consideration lays down provisions in this respect.

## Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It regrets that the Commission has still not been able to implement the Community rules laid down in 1977 for intra-Community trade in pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species. It urges the Commission to take without delay such steps as are necessary to adopt these rules which govern all of the Community arrangements for this trade.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture. Chairman : Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr BOULNOIS - France - Various Interests.

## 7. LEUKOSIS AMONG CATTLE

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 64/432/EEC in respect of Enzootic Leukosis among Cattle.

## Gist of the Commission Proposal

Enzootic bovine leukosis (E.B.L.) is an infectious virus disease.

The disease has been recognized in many parts of the world including Europe. It has spread by way of trade in live animals from North-Eastern Europe.

The Commission feels that Community rules must now be adopted and proposes that Member States which have set up E.B.L.-free herds should be afforded protection when animals are traded into such herds from other Member States.

## Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously and approves the Commission's aim of eradicating leukosis among cattle throughout the Community.

However, it considers that the proposed deadlines for the application of the Directive are too short and may lead to the creation of barriers to trade.

It thinks that there should first be a Community programme to stamp out leukosis throughout the Community.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture. Chairman : Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr CLAVEL - France - Various Interests.

## 8. TEMPORARY IMPORTATION

Proposal for a Council Regulation on Temporary Importation Arrangements.

### Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Each Member State has customs procedures whereby vehicles, containers, packings, tools, apparatus, equipment, machinery products, and all kinds of materials can be imported temporarily, with relief in whole or in part from import duties, if they are subsequently re-exported, after use or without having been used.

In general, the purpose of the temporary importation procedure is to promote the international division of labour; it is subject to the provision of security and to the feasibility of proper customs supervision. The main purpose of the Draft Regulation is to harmonize, once and for all, the tariff and economic conditions for the temporary importation of goods which are to be re-exported in an unaltered state and the rules for the differential rates of charge which are necessary if undesirable effects on competition are to be avoided.

### Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It approves the aims of the Commission's Proposal and considers that it would be appropriate to standardize

the temporary importation arrangements for various materials equipment and machinery in each of the Member States. The Committee does, however, deplore the fact that the Proposal applies only to goods imported from non-member countries; goods temporarily imported from other Member States are still subject to very complex import procedures. It is abnormal that no simpler Community system has so far been devised in a customs union that is now 20 years old. People who work in this field attach the greatest importance to securing a rapid solution to the problem, based on liberal approach.

In the Committee's view the text submitted is difficult to read and needs revising to make it more understandable and clearer. This would help to avoid disputes and difficulties over provisions which apply in many cases to occasional users.

It also deplores the fact that the Proposal introduces very few innovations. The system of securities is left fully in the hands of the national authorities and a Council decision on all the various measures which could facilitate successive temporary importations into more than one Member State has been postponed to a later date.

The Committee also makes a number of specific comments on articles of the Proposal, for example, it

- regrets the exclusion of means of transport;
- believes that, while "general provisions" may be adopted for authorizations for temporary importation, they should be Community provisions;

- believes that the ban on the transfer, where necessary, of materials for research purposes from one person to another is too rigid;
- comments on the proposed provisions for temporary importation with partial payment of duty, prorata temporis; it considers that the proposed period of under three years presents no problems in the case of public works materials but it is too short for most other materials, for which the depreciation period is generally 5 years; furthermore as the procedure for correcting the standard percentage charge is based on the real diminution in value of the goods concerned, it is only fair that account should be taken of overpayments as well as underpayments.

The Committee also proposes a number of changes in the wording of the Proposal in order to make it more precise.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services. Chairman : Mr van CAMPEN - Netherlands - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr MARVIER - France - Various Interests.

## 9. STUDY ON ASBESTOS

Health and Environmental Hazards arising from the Use of Asbestos.

### Study of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Study by 45 votes in favour, 20 against and 7 abstentions.

In its Study on Health and Environmental Hazards arising from the Use of Asbestos, the Committee intends to provide all interested parties with sufficient basic data in anticipation of it being requested to deliver an Opinion on concrete Commission proposals.

Workers in many occupations, particularly in asbestos mining and processing, construction, and workers in automotive brake lining repair commonly are exposed to asbestos, and may inhale or, perhaps, swallow dust concentrations of this substance.

The Committee also points out that asbestos has been and is used in refrigeration, in cloths and fabrics, in piping, in water supply lines, air conditioning plants, insulation of boilers, and the application of asbestos by spraying has been widely used in the past for the protection against fire and sound and condensation. Asbestos is also used in the aerospace and plastics industry, as well as used as a filter for clarifying beverages and for pharmaceutical products.

The asbestos industry has expanded considerably in the last sixty years. Since the second World War, production has increased about one thousandfold. There are between 1,000 and 3,000 industrial uses for asbestos.

Because of their size and shape, asbestos fibres can penetrate body tissues and because of their durability, they remain in the body for many years after entry. Inhalation of asbestos fibres may cause various diseases :

- asbestosis;

- bronchial cancer;
- mesothelioma (of the pleura and peritoneum);
- cancer of other parts of the body;
- non-tumerous pleural disease.

The Committee points out that histologically, it is impossible to distinguish cancers associated with asbestos from those produced by other causes, although smoking multiplies the risk of bronchial cancer developing in asbestos workers. In any event, asbestos is officially recognized as being a potential cause of cancer.

In this connection, the Committee cites the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) which in its monograph on asbestos (No. 14, 1977) concludes that "at present, it is not possible to assess whether there is a level of exposure in humans below which cancers will not occur".

The Committee also deals in the Study with mesothelioma, a rare cancer in the general population, but more common among asbestos workers. A very large proportion of mesothelioma cases can be traced to prior asbestos exposure. In the various surveys, according to international scientific literature, between 11% and 86% of mesothelioma victims turned out to have been occupationally exposed to asbestos (the highest values were observed in areas where there are crocidolite deposits).



The Committee stresses that the object of prevention is to stop people coming into contact with dangerous substances. In the present case the best solution would be to replace asbestos by substitutes that are technologically equivalent but less dangerous to health. The Committee further emphasizes that for asbestos, the lowest possible limits which are not to be exceeded, should be fixed for all Member States, pending the replacement of asbestos by non-harmful substitutes.

But the substitution of asbestos in every application is not feasible. Thus it is necessary to take a series of measures, such as :

- controlling the dumping, storage and neutralization of waste materials;
- minimizing dust formation;
- preventing the dispersion of dust into the air.

The Study points out that in some Member States there are general bans on the use of some types of asbestos (especially crocidolite) and particular bans on the use of any type of asbestos for certain applications (notably packaging and certain building applications). The Committee recommends that at the same time there should also be a ban on the use of asbestos :

- in air filter units;
- for spraying (flocking and painting);

- in thermal and acoustic insulation;
- for replacing existing asbestos insulation;
- for floor coverings and road surfacing;
- in decorating;
- for replacing water supply systems, and
- in dwellings, offices, factories and workshops.

The Committee recommends that Community action could be proposed with a view to containing the risk. Some of these could be the following :

- a) Concentrations must be kept down as near as possible to 0 fibres/cm<sup>3</sup>, the maximum technical limit being 2 fibres/cm<sup>3</sup>, which should not be exceeded;
- b) At work stations where asbestos is used, the following measures should be taken :
  - Closed systems to be provided where technically feasible, capable of providing effective protection;
  - Dust formation should be minimized; dust should be prevented from being dispersed in the air and should be trapped where it is produced;
  - Systems to be installed which are accessible to the workers for continuous surveillance of the level of concentration of asbestos dust in the workplace;

- It should be possible for the workers' representatives to stop the work when the concentration exceeds the authorized limit values;
  - Suitable packaging of asbestos designed to rule out all losses;
  - Optimization of individual and collective hygiene arrangements;
  - Training and information to be given to the workers;
  - Protective clothing and personal protection of an approved kind to be provided;
- c) The workers of the firms concerned and all those who will be called on to handle asbestos, even on a temporary basis, to be given training and information in respect of the risks and the collective and personal protection measures to take in order to avoid the risks;
- d) Ban the use of crocidolite, this being the most harmful form of asbestos and accounting for only 3.2% of the asbestos mined around the world; exceptions to this ban could be allowed where the use of crocidolite responds to irrefutable technical needs, on condition that the companies concerned prove and guarantee that the use is absolutely harmless.

\*

\*            \*

EXTERNAL RELATIONSThe Chairman of the ESC meets the "Committee of Wise Men"

On 1 February 1979, Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, had talks with the "Committee of Wise Men", Mr Barend BIESHEUVEL, Mr Edmund DELL and Mr Robert MARJOLIN. Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO was accompanied by her Vice-Chairmen, Mr RENAUD and Mr ROSEINGRAVE. The meeting was also attended by Mr LOUET, ESC Secretary-General and Mr di MURO, Head of the Chairman's Private Office.

The topics discussed included the operation of the Community Institutions and possible improvements, the situation and role of the Economic and Social Committee, the impact of enlargement and the progress towards European Union.

The meeting observed that the continuing recession was a factor in the Institutions' moves to set up new decision-making bodies capable of coping with the many new problems which had arisen since the signature of the Rome Treaties. The Committee's increasing role in efforts to introduce more democracy into the Community decision-making process was also emphasized.

The ESC Chairman stressed that the entire Community machinery must be involved in efforts to surmount the recession. While maintaining its consultative status, the Committee could, through its Opinions, help to resolve the problems associated with economic and monetary union, enlargement of the Community, the revision of the CAP, industrial

restructuring, relations with ACP States, Mediterranean nations, other developing countries and other economic blocs. The Committee's relations with the European Parliament should be clarified and strengthened in view of the forthcoming direct elections.

The meeting referred to the need for a social compact. Steps to put the economy on a stable footing and the radical reorganization which this entailed would require the full backing of workers, employers, farmers, consumers, etc.

#### ESC Chairman visits Paris

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO paid an official visit to Paris from 5 to 7 February 1979. She was accompanied by the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr Edmond RENAUD and Mr Tomàs ROSEINGRAVE, the Secretary-General, Mr Roger LOUET, and her Chef de Cabinet, Mr G.F. di MURO.

The Chairman met the Prime Minister, Mr Raymond BARRE, who underlined the "important and useful" role of the Committee and the need to involve the economic and social groups represented on it in the study of the very real problems posed by the crisis sweeping Europe and the world.

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO also met Mr Robert BOULIN, Minister for Labour, who, as President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities, undertook to examine the feasibility of consulting the Committee on possible solutions to the serious problem of unemployment (work sharing); Mrs Simone VEIL, Minister for Health and Family Affairs, who has accepted the Chairman's invitation to attend the Plenary Session of the ESC on 4 and 5 April 1979 when health problems and social security costs will be debated; Mrs Monique PELLETIER,



Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO, President of the Economic and Social Committee, meets Mr Raymond BARRE, the French Prime Minister, in Paris.

Minister for the Status of Women, with whom it was agreed that an examination would be made of the feasibility of organizing a symposium at the Economic and Social Committee on the participation of women in the election of the European Parliament by universal suffrage and in the definition of the objectives of the European Community.

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO also had talks with Mr Jacques CHABAN-DELMAS, President of the National Assembly, who pointed to the importance of closer collaboration between the Parliament and the ESC and who undertook to help achieve this goal; and with Mr Gabriel VENTEJOL, Chairman of the French Economic and Social Council, with which regular contacts have been established. Mr VENTEJOL invited the Chairman of the Committee to take part in an important debate which the French Economic and Social Council will hold on 27 February on the enlargement of the Community.

#### A delegation from the Italian Communist Party visits ESC

On 8 February talks were held in Brussels between Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO and a delegation from the Italian Communist Party. The talks centred on the serious employment situation in Europe, possible ways of bringing about an upturn in the economic situation, and the restructuring of industry in ways which were in line with the commitments entered into between the Community and the ACP States.

The delegation comprised a number of members of the Italian Parliament, namely Mr NAPOLITANO, Mr MACALUSO, Mr COLAJANNI and Mr PEGGIO, who are members of the Executive and the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party, and Mrs BARBARELLA. The visit to the Committee was part of

an official visit by the delegation to the Commission and the other Community Institutions.

#### Italian Minister for Labour at ESC

On 8 February 1979, Mr Vincenzo SCOTTI, the Italian Minister for Labour and Social Security, visited Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO in Brussels.

The subject of their meeting was the distribution of labour and possible solutions to unemployment in the Community. Mr SCOTTI explained his reasons for sending a letter on this subject to the Committee and to Mr BOULIN, the French Minister for Labour and the President-in-Office of the Council, whom Mr SCOTTI will be meeting in the near future. In his opinion, the Economic and Social Committee could play a useful part in the search for concrete solutions through discussions and consultations between the representatives of the Community's economic and social interest groups who meet at the Committee.

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO was accompanied by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr RENAUD, the Secretary-General, Mr LOUET, and her Chef de Cabinet, Mr di MURO.

#### ESC Chairman visits Madrid

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO visited Madrid on 12 and 13 February last at the invitation of the Spanish Trade Union Confederation UGTE. The object of her visit was to examine the problems posed by the Community's enlargement.

The Chairman was accompanied by the Committee's Secretary-General, Mr Roger LOUET. She had meetings with



the General Secretary of the UGTE, Mr REDONDO, and other Spanish trade union leaders.

The Chairman also met Mr CALVO SOTELO, the Minister responsible for matters relating to EEC enlargement, and discussed with him the possibility of establishing contact with Spanish economic and social interest groups so as to prepare the arrival of the Spanish delegation to the Economic and Social Committee when Spain became a member of the Community. It was agreed that a committee representing employers, workers, farmers, etc. would be formed in Spain within the next few months. This committee would liaise with both Mr CALVO SOTELO and the European Economic and Social Committee during the entry negotiations.

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO also met the Under-Secretary of State for Labour, Mr HARGUINDEY, who raised the problems Spain faced over freedom of movement for workers and in adapting Spanish labour legislation to Community rules.

#### ESC Chairman meets Basque Parliamentarians

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO received a delegation of Basque Nationalist Party (BNP) parliamentarians during their visit to Brussels on Thursday, 15 February. The Basque delegation consisted of the MPs, Mr Inigo AGUIRRE and Mr Marcos VEZCAYA, and Mr Gorka AGUIRRE, who is in charge of the BNP's external relations.

During the meeting, the Chairman talked about the programme which she was intending to present during her term of office and the work already performed by the Committee in connection with Community enlargement.

The problems now facing the people of Europe as a result of the economic crisis and unemployment, and the possible solutions to these problems were then discussed in a friendly atmosphere. The Basque delegation referred to the role which the historic regions of Europe had to play in an enlarged Community.

#### 200th meeting of the ESC Section for Agriculture

On 21 February 1979, the 200th meeting of the ESC Section for Agriculture was held in Brussels. The Section Chairman, Mr EMO CAPODILISTA made a political statement on this significant occasion.

The representatives of the various agricultural groups of the nine Member States - producers, farmworkers, the food industry, consumers and others - came together in the Section for Agriculture to draft the Committee's agricultural Opinions.

The representative composition of the Section, together with its special knowledge and working methods have enabled it to collaborate continually with the Community authorities. This was manifested recently on the occasion of the dismantling of the compensatory amounts, when the Commission produced competent Opinions and Studies which contributed to the formulation of the problematic CAP. Because of its financial importance - the CAP accounts for 70% of the Community budget - it is the first and the most significant of all the Community policies.

In order to pay tribute to the work done by the Section for Agriculture since the inception of the European Community, the Committee Chairman, Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO, and the Section Chairman, Mr EMO CAPODILISTA, invited a large number of representatives of European agriculture to a reception held at the Château Val Duchesse.

\*

\*

\*

### III

#### NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

During the month of February the Council requested the Committee to deliver Opinions on :

Proposal for a Council Directive on information to be published on a regular basis by companies whose transferable securities are admitted to official stock exchange listing.

Proposal for a Council Directive establishing measures for the implementation of Directive 77/489/EEC on the protection of animals during international transport.

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a European Economic Community research and development programme in the agricultural research sector consisting of four multiannual concerted projects.

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to edible caseins and caseinates.

Proposal for a Council Regulation defining the conditions under which a person may be permitted to make a customs declaration.

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 71/316/EEC of 26 July 1971 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to common provisions for both measuring instruments and methods of metrological control.

Proposal for a Council Directive on own-account carriage of goods by road between Member States.

\*

\*

\*

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

March/April Plenary Session 1979

Opinions requested by the Institutions

- Sheepmeat
- Plastic materials for foodstuffs
- Misleading advertising
- Labelling of domestic appliances
- Farm prices
- Public service obligations and transport aid
- DNA/research
- 8th Directive on Company Law
- Code of Conduct - Liner Conferences
- Fusion R & D
- Wine sector (concentrated musts) (Doc. COM(78) 720 fin)
- Protection of animals in international transport

Own-initiative Opinion

- Flags of convenience

May 1979 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by the Institutions

- Forestry policy
- Construction products
- Customs declarations
- Balance on the wine market (Doc. COM(78) 260 fin)

- Agricultural research
- Reports of quoted companies
- Fresh poultrymeat
- Lawn mowers
- Building site cranes
- Forestry tractors
- Forestry tractor driving seats
- Prevention of swine fever

#### Own-initiative Opinion

- Use of medicines

#### Study

- Spain (cont.)

#### Subsequent Plenary Sessions

#### Opinions requested by the Institutions

- Social situation
- Economic situation
- Corporation taxes
- Caseins and caseinates
- Methods of metrological control
- Road transport on own account
- Simple pressure vessels (June)
- Weight of road vehicles

#### Own-initiative Opinions

- Energy objectives
- Structural aspects of growth

- Enlargement

### Studies

- R & D management
- Influence of local authorities
- Cereal substitutes
- Yugoslavia

### Anticipated referral

- External action in the energy sector

\*

\*

\*

MEMBERS' NEWS

Appointment

Mr Richard BUTLER, member of the Economic and Social Committee, was appointed President of the National Farmers' Union of Great Britain on 25 January 1979.

Death

Mr J.A. HUBREGTSE, member of the Economic and Social Committee since December 1973, died on Friday, 9 February 1979.

\*

\*

\*







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

---

**Periodical**

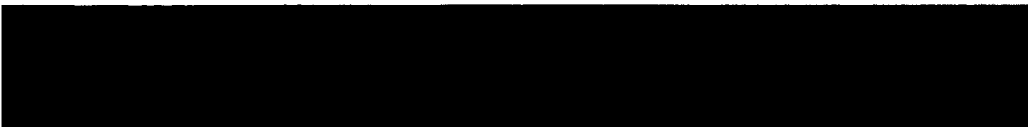
- Bulletin (monthly publication)

**General Documentation**

- The Economic and Social Committee (leaflet) (January 1975)
- The Economic and Social Committee (April 1975) (A descriptive brochure) 16 p.
- Annual Report (1977) 70 p. (1976) 80 p.
- Directory (January 1979) (List of Members) 41 p.
- The Right of initiative of the Economic and Social Committee (October 1977) 124 p.
- 20th Anniversary of the Economic and Social Committee (May 1978) 19 p.

**Opinions and Studies**

- Employee Participation and Company Structure (September 1978) (Opinion) 116 p.
- Youth Unemployment — Education and Training (November 1978) (5 Opinions) 97 p.
- The Stage reached in aligning labour legislation in the European Community (June 1978) (Documentation) 60 p.
- Employment in Agriculture (Study) (June 1978) 135 p.
- Monetary Disorder (Opinion) (June 1978) 98 p.
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the Community Context (April 1978) (Opinion) 29 p.
- Industrial Change and Employment (November 1977) (Opinion) 98 p.
- EEC's Transport Problems with East European Countries (December 1977) (Opinion) 164 p.
- Community Nuclear Safety Code (July 1977) (Study) 50 p.
- Regional Development - Unemployment and Inflation (June 1977) (Opinion) 130 p.
- 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.



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**  
**Press, Information and Publications Division**  
**Ravenstein 2, 1000 Bruxelles - Tél. 512 39 20 - TELEX 25983**