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The Supplements are published separately as annexes to the Bulletin. They include the official texts of the Commission (communications of the Council, reports, proposals) of the documents published under the double responsibility of the Council and of the Commission. The Supplements are not published in Spanish.

BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

**European Coal and Steel Community
European Economic Community
European Atomic Energy Community**

**Commission of the European Communities
Secretariat of the Commission
Brussels**

**no. 2
1974
7th year**

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1ST PART

**DOCUMENTS, FACTS
AND STUDIES**

1. The Commission's Programme for 1974

Commission Programme 1974

Address by Mr Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, to the European Parliament on 12 February 1974

1101. In the closing months of 1973 and the early weeks of 1974, Europe has been confronted with a series of problems which have thrown the Community into a state of crisis.

In circumstances like these, each Institution and each Member State must face up to its responsibilities.

For its part, the Commission has shown its determination by making a public Declaration on the State of the Community to the Heads of State or Government and, through them, to the citizens of our nine countries.

It is not going to let itself be swept along by the wave of disillusion and bitterness which has accompanied this accumulation of new problems. On the contrary, if the true nature and scale of these problems is to be understood and the necessary solutions found, we must keep our heads as clear as possible. Only thus will we be able to learn the lessons of recent events and to enter the period ahead in the best possible or, at any rate, the least unfavourable, conditions.

A quick review of 1973 clearly illustrates this need.

It was first seen as a year of adaptation to the Community's new size. Also, and above all, it was to be a year of decisions of principle concerning the future integration of Europe.

It proved in practice to be a year of brutal change and rapid transformation. The Paris Summit Conference having laid down the Community's 'development charter' for this decade, the first step was to implement the guidelines

established by the Heads of State or Government. Without taking you again through the detailed survey of Community activities already set out in the General Report, I should like to recall that considerable work has been done on these lines, with the effect that a coherent common approach to the GATT negotiations has been adopted, while action programmes on social policy, on industrial policy, on scientific and technical research and on the environment have all been agreed.

Despite this progress, we cannot but recognize that, as regards most of the other important matters before it, the Commission has entered the decision-making stage at the end of the year in unfavourable circumstances, without really resolving the difficulties and without settling the main points of divergence between the Member States.

Moreover, the enlarged Community has been seriously disrupted by the growing impact of external upheavals on its functioning. The successive monetary crises, the rise in commodity prices, the soya 'alert' of last spring and, finally, the events in the Middle East and the accompanying oil crisis, which marked the various stages of the backslide, have blown the Community off course. Although the Commission has continued to provide initiatives, and despite the European Parliament's endeavours to speed things up, the Community has failed to achieve several of the important objectives set for 1973, and it has been unable to take the immediate decisions that were needed to meet the new situation.

In February 1974 the keynote is uncertainty; it is our worst enemy, for it provokes inertia in the Community and gives rise to disorderly reactions and to back-pedalling. In the face of a challenge which has never before been felt so strongly, the Commission's task will be, more than ever, to find the answers that European solidarity alone can provide. Only determined, com-

mon action, coupled with a refusal to let ourselves be divided, will enable us to reduce the sources of uncertainty, and foremost among them those which are within our own control.

1973 showed us how far the dependence of Europe on outside sources of energy and raw materials can endanger its prosperity; our euphoria over the amazing economic development of our continent in the 1960's was such that we did not wish to see how the world was changing. Europe was still living on outmoded principles and out-dated terms of reference. Now, suddenly, we are being forced to come to grips with reality in an essential field. We must waste no more time, but must in future take the measure of this reality and appreciate its implications, for it must inspire and shape the whole of our strategy.

In saying this I am not questioning the conclusions of the Paris Summit Conference; what we must do is fix our priorities in the light of the new situation before us, in accordance with the wish expressed last December in Copenhagen by the Heads of State or Government.

We must respond by a greater degree of solidarity to the common difficulties arising from the energy crisis; we must respond to outside challenges with joint action on the international plane; we must speed up the movement towards the ultimate objective of European Union through a European will translated into action every day; these priorities will determine the initiatives to be taken by the Commission in the next few months.

This is why, with concern to place greater emphasis on the focal points of the work of our Institution in 1974, we present the Commission's detailed programme for this year in a separate Memorandum.

Circumstances compel us to deal with first things first.

React jointly in the face of the new challenge

1102. For the fact is there and cannot be denied: we had lost sight of the real dimensions of Europe. From now on we must always bear in mind these simple but basic truths, which events have taken it upon themselves to thrust under our noses.

Europe is poor in energy. Only a small part, less than 40%, of the energy it consumes is available on Community territory, and the Community is not extensively involved in exploiting resources elsewhere in the world. This, at any rate, is the case for the short and medium term. It is also a thesis of more general application, concerning not only the special problem of oil but the whole range of raw materials and certain agricultural and food products. Here I feel it is useful to recall a few figures, especially where they can be used to sum up facts of such great importance; in 1972, primary products accounted for more than half the total imports into the Nine and almost all of its imports—91% to be precise—from developing countries. We must fully realize the new situation of the European economy following the rise in energy and commodity prices.

The fact that these imports have become more expensive, thus imposing an additional burden on Europe's balance of payments, means that Europe, if it wishes to remain as prosperous as it is, must preserve and indeed strengthen its ability to sell abroad—in other words its power to compete. Total Community imports before the 1973 crisis cost nearly \$60 000 million. At present prices the figure will rise by more than \$17 000 million, or nearly 30%, which will weigh heavily on the Community's balance of payments. This change in the terms of trade thus corresponds to a relative impoverishment of the European economy. The blow will not be fatal, but Europe will be seriously handicapped.

No doubt, and this will be the most difficult, we shall have to adopt new habits and learn to live differently. Avoiding waste and economizing on scarce resources will, as a result of all these events, become a *sine qua non* of good management.

Finally, we shall have to make better use of our main—in fact, our real—source of wealth: the capacity for work, the creative imagination and the ability to move with the times of the 250 million citizens of the Community. Over the centuries, and especially in this century—I am thinking particularly of the havoc wrought by the last world war—Europe has been able to use its capacities to overcome the toughest of obstacles. Are we to believe that it cannot do so again?

However, this presupposes the will to act, and especially to react, jointly in the face of the new challenge!

The energy crisis has hit Europe where it hurts most. It has impaired its capacity to produce; the 1974 growth rate is likely to drop by one-and-a-half points. It will also affect the activities and employment of the working population, in particular in the construction industry, cars and the tourist trade. Above all, it is going to reduce the competitiveness of our economies by a further substantial price rise—by an average of two or three per cent.

Inflation, currency, competitiveness, standard of living: these are all joint problems. Never has the link between them been so strongly highlighted. For in these times of turmoil only one thing is certain: that we must treat the European economy as one single economy; since no individual measure can be guaranteed to succeed if it is contradicted or opposed by different policies applied by neighbouring States. No doubt the special problems arising in each Member State may sometimes justify specific measures, but

nobody has anything to gain, even when facing an exceptional situation, by provoking a free-for-all in the Community.

If we do not coordinate our action, Europe will be in danger of moving backward instead of forward and even what we have already achieved will be jeopardized. Current events impose the need for a renewal of Community solidarity; otherwise the destiny of Europe, and consequently of all peoples composing it, will get out of control more and more or will be controlled from outside.

For the fact of the matter is, our economies are so interdependent that, in circumstances like these, we must strengthen the links which bind us and eliminate the difficulties facing us all by concentrating our action on a few major objectives of intrinsic importance.

Such renewed solidarity must be expressed first and foremost in the introduction of a Community energy policy. The Copenhagen Summit Conference gave the first impulse to this, and laid down general principles concerning both how to implement a policy on stable supplies, which presupposes that the oil market will operate in an orderly fashion, and the elaboration of a long-term strategy for making the Community less dependent on others through intensive and rationalized exploitation of all available sources of energy and through growing recourse to nuclear power.

But it is not enough to achieve European unity on one particular point imposed on us by the situation of the moment. It must also be asserted by a common economic strategy in all fields and at all levels. The energy crisis affects everything which goes on in the Community. It must therefore be dealt with overall.

This means, firstly, that a common discipline, accepted by all, must be respected by all, and that we must refrain from wild-cat currency devaluations and restrictive trade measures. On

23 January the Commission proposed that the Council give such a commitment and invited the Member States to begin regular consultations on exchange policy, whether as regards interest rates or parity changes, and on Community solutions to balance of payments problems. In even more concrete terms, it proposed that reformed intra-Community credit machinery be brought into operation immediately, that arrangements for the orderly mobilization of resources available on the international capital market be elaborated and that consideration be given without delay to reintroducing gold transfers between monetary authorities.

The Commission expects of the Council that it will decide on interim measures—to which it proposes to add in the coming weeks—to strengthen Community solidarity and to avert that disruption of trade to which discordant attitudes by our Member States would lead us.

This will also mean that, in the framework of general guidelines laid down in common, the various national economic and monetary policies designed to maintain full employment and growth, to protect purchasing power and to combat inflation must be able to develop harmoniously and coherently. This is not just a matter of economic techniques but one of political will which, alone, can bring to life machinery of cooperation otherwise doomed to depressing formalism.

All this is essential if we are to succeed, but it is still not enough, for procedural arrangements alone cannot solve problems. We must get it clear that real progress is unthinkable until Europe has been made into a genuinely integrated economic entity. We must pay greater attention than in the past to the difficulty—dare I say the impossibility?—of implementing the common decisions of the European Institutions if the grass-roots reality remains too heterogeneous. This, especially in the context of the regional policy, is both a requirement of solidar-

ity and a basic precondition for economic and monetary unification.

It is quite clear today that, until our economic structures have been truly harmonized, and until we really begin removing disparities between the Member States, Economic and Monetary Union will remain at the stage of abstract ideas and pious wishes. This is one of the main lessons, perhaps even the most important lesson, to be learnt from the events of 1973.

Respond to the external challenges by joint international action

1103. The present situation requires an upsurge of Community solidarity on the part of the European countries. But in a changing world and for an entity like Europe, which is closely dependent on other nations for its supplies and its markets, and is thus of necessity open to the outside world, this cannot be enough.

The events of recent months have both increased the need to ensure an overall view and an exact assessment of the various developments and their interactions and made it more difficult to achieve. But these events have not called in question the Community's general strategy in its economic and trade relations with third countries; on the contrary, they have made it more obvious that it is vital for Europe to assert its own interests and responsibilities with the aim of avoiding a deterioration in international economic relations.

This means not only that Europe will have to be itself in its dealings with others, but also that henceforward it will have to accept others for what they are.

Only thus will Europe be able to define a satisfactory relationship with the developing countries on a footing of equality.

In this context, it is urgently necessary for us to redefine our relationship with the oil-producing countries and with the countries which produce raw materials. The best guarantee of the stability of the Community's supplies in this field will be cooperation based on the mutual satisfaction of the interests of both sides. It cannot be doubted that there is a great convergence of interests between the Community, a major importer, and certain exporting countries which can find in Europe, apart from an outlet for their raw or manufactured products, the fund of know-how, technology and experience which is indispensable for the development of their economies and particularly for the exploitation of their natural resources and their industrialization.

Here again, it is essential to avoid all rivalry between Member States, whose cooperation must be coordinated and must take its place in a policy defined at Community level. Otherwise, each will lose the advantages which a united Europe derives from its position as a major trading power.

We shall also have to retain the means of making a substantial contribution to the least favoured countries. These are in danger of being the most directly affected by the energy crisis, whose effects could even, in certain cases, make any development policy impossible. This is why it is so important and desirable to conclude the agreements which are being negotiated with several States in Africa, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific and with others in the Mediterranean Basin, and are designed to foreshadow a new kind of relationship between developing and industrialized countries.

Similarly, the Commission considers it necessary for the Community to have in future its own means of taking significant measures to help those non-associated developing countries which desire aid to promote their exports to the Com-

munity market or to reinforce their own regional economic cooperation.

Finally, the Community will have to seek, with the energy-producing countries, in the appropriate international bodies, ways and means of enabling the consuming developing countries to offset the additional charges resulting from the rise in the prices of petroleum products and thereby to maintain the value of the various contributions to their development.

In these troubled times, perhaps the best way of showing the strength of the European personality will be for the Community to play a determining role in the re-establishment of a more just and stable international order.

It must initiate genuine concerted action with the major industrialized countries which are facing difficulties similar to its own, in order to avoid the danger of a return to protectionism and the disruption of international trade.

The Commission is aware of the dangers for Europe in a reduction of world trade, which has been an essential factor in its development over the last twenty years. Moreover, it fears the risks for international monetary equilibrium of the concentration of additional monetary surpluses resulting from the new energy prices.

For these reasons, the Commission is convinced that Europe must not succumb to the dangerous temptation of isolationism but must, on the contrary, seek to preserve that freedom of trade which is of vital importance to it.

In this spirit, moreover, the Commission means to intensify and extend the dialogue in which the Community is engaged with its principal trading partners, notably the United States, Japan and Canada, on the understanding that these relations must not jeopardize, delay or otherwise affect the free development and future reinforcement of the European structure. In this connection, the energy conference which took place in

Washington and which the Community attended as such, must give Europe the opportunity to speak with one voice on this crucial problem.

For Europe must increasingly speak with one voice in the world. If it wants to be heard, it must assert its identity in a growing number of fields. This presupposes an increased concern for coherency between the various manifestations of the European personality in international political, commercial and monetary relations. In this connection, the Commission will continue to make its political and practical contribution to the work of political cooperation, while ensuring that solidarity between the Nine continues to grow with due regard for the responsibilities and procedures which are proper to the Community.

**Contribute by a European will,
brought into play everyday,
to bring us nearer to the final objective**

1104. It goes without saying that such internal solidarity and such joint action in the external field presuppose a more pronounced European commitment on the part of each Member State and an increased effort by each Institution to focus its activities on a few essential priorities.

The desire to show an 'everyday' European will must be reflected first of all in the improvement of the day-to-day running of our Institutions.

The Commission, which is and which intends more than ever to remain, in the difficult period through which Europe is passing, the interpreter of requirements and the initiator of action, must not only make proposals but also ensure that each idea and each proposal is consistent with the others and fits in with the main lines of Community development. In 1974, improved programming of work in our Institution will enable this requirement to be met.

To speak in more general terms the implementation of action programmes should give a greater sense of urgency to the work of the Community Institutions, although this should not prevent the Council, acting on a Commission proposal, from amending certain aspects of these programmes where necessary in order to take account of changed circumstances or new priorities.

Of course, this greater vigour and coherence must not be envisaged purely in the administrative or even technocratic sense. These efforts will take on their true meaning only if the Commission is able to breathe into them a constant concern to respond to the aspirations of the citizens of Europe, of which the Parliament is the interpreter *par excellence*.

The Commission will, moreover, endeavour to promote increased participation by the two sides of industry in the Community's economic and social decisions by further improving the conditions of the dialogue with them, which have already been made more effective.

As regards the functioning of the Council, this is less a question of procedure than a problem of political will. We must no longer play at building Europe. Henceforward, we must take concrete decisions inspired by a true Community spirit. The days of half-measures and fallacious compromises, mental reservations and subterfuges, must be put behind us. Nobody is asking the Community or Europe to do or prove the impossible. But circumstances require us to do everything possible, and show a clear common resolve.

This, I think, will be the best way to confirm the fundamental choice of the European union, which will have no meaning unless, in 1974, the Nine seize the opportunity of reacting together to current difficulties. But if they do so, the idea of European union will take on a new and increased significance. It will become the expression of a political choice to face a shared

destiny together and not to stop at the routine implementation of the Treaties. The final goal will then really be very close.

A number of steps in this direction were taken in 1973. I am thinking in particular of the proposals on the strengthening of the budgetary powers of the European Parliament, which, in view of the time required for ratification, the Council must adopt as soon as possible if the new procedure is to apply to decisions concerning the 1975 budget.

Beyond these first steps, we must now get down in earnest to the task of preparing European union in accordance with the wishes of the Heads of State or Government. All the Institutions have been invited to make a contribution, and they must do so. The Commission for its part is continuing to prepare its own. It is following the efforts already made by your Assembly and proposes, in the hope of arriving at common positions, to cooperate closely with the European Parliament at all stages.

The Commission hopes to make a positive contribution to the work which will be carried out, in particular, in your Political Affairs Committee to define the form and content of European union.

We felt it desirable to unite our efforts, both of reflection and imagination, to define the framework of future developments in Europe with those of the Institution which must express the aspirations of the peoples of our nine countries.

I began this address with a call for lucidity. I would like to end with some words of hope. We must not play as though we were already beaten.

For being lucid and facing facts also means recognizing the assets which Europe has at its disposal.

And Europe's main asset, I would like to stress again, is its citizens. 'Men are the only

wealth'. That is the very foundation of political economy, whether Liberal or Marxist. That, above all, gives the promise of better tomorrows for a continent whose human, intellectual, scientific and cultural potential is very great.

For present difficulties must not make us forget the true meaning behind the building of Europe, whose aim is first and foremost a human one. On the contrary, those difficulties emphasize the true goal of our efforts and our work over the coming months.

This goal is seen in very simple and very concrete terms by millions of citizens in our countries: work and employment, standards and conditions of life. It also implies that in 1974 we shall be directly accountable to our citizens both for our successes and our failures. The destiny of Europe is in the balance: we are all aware of that. It is up to us to act so that once again the scales of history tip the right way.

Between the easy, all too easy, but unacceptable path of division and renunciation and the path, difficult but alone worthy of Europe, of unity and effort, the Commission has already made its choice.

2. The Washington Energy Conference

Washington Energy Conference

1201. The Conference on energy, called after proposals from the United States in December 1973 and January 1974,¹ was held on 11-13 February in Washington.

Thirteen consumer countries were represented: the United States, Canada, Japan, Norway and the nine members of the EEC: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The Community also took part as one delegation represented by the Council and the Commission led by Mr Walter Scheel, President-in-Office of the Council and Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission and including Sir Christopher Soames, Mr Haferkamp and Mr Simonet, Vice-Presidents.

After a series of introductory statements by each participating country, by the President of the Council, the President of the Commission and the Secretary-General of the OECD, the Conference proceedings were for the most part devoted to preparing a Communiqué. In parallel with these deliberations, the Conference, within separate working parties, considered the economic implications of the rise in energy prices, energy policy matters and research and development issues.

Hereafter follow the texts of the statements made on behalf of the Community by Mr Walter Scheel and Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, together with the final Communiqué from the Conference:

The Position of the Community

Statement by Mr Walter Scheel, President-in-Office of the Council

1202. The exceptionally grave situation on the energy market affects the world economy as a whole, though not all countries and regions to

the same extent. The worldwide nature of the problem requires treatment transcending a regional context. Isolated replies cannot but be inadequate when the balance of world economy is at stake.

This situation is a test of the strength and durability of the European Community at an important stage in its development. The European Community's contribution to the solution of the problems will increase in proportion as progressing toward European Union it achieves its own identity on the path. It is resolved, in awareness of its worldwide responsibility, to respond to the new challenges in a spirit of Community and international cooperation.

Thus, in my capacity as President of the Council of the European Communities, I should like to welcome the initiative of the President of the United States in convening this Conference.

The European Community—whose spokesmen here will be the President of the Commission, Mr Ortoli, and myself—hopes that this Conference will see:

- (i) firstly, a fruitful exchange of the analyses drawn up by the countries represented here, the European Community and the OECD, of the current energy situation and its repercussions on world economic balances.
- (ii) secondly, the joint determination of the most important subjects for international cooperation.
- (iii) thirdly, an examination of effective methods for this cooperation, that is an organizational framework and a timetable which must not fail to include both groups of countries not represented here, namely the energy-consuming developing countries and the producer countries.

¹ Bull. EC 1-1974, Part 1, Chapter 1: 'The Community and the Energy Crisis', points 1112-1114.

I should like here and now to stress that the Community sets the greatest store by a comprehensive discussion of this kind. We must be guided by a spirit of cooperation, not of confrontation.

Analysis of the situation

1203. The particular dangers and difficulties currently confronting the world economy are of course not solely due to the critical development of the oil supply situation. The oil shortage—and now that this concern is beginning to fade slightly—its economic and monetary aspects, particularly price trends, are nonetheless of basic importance for the stability, growth, full employment and foreign trade equilibrium of our national economies. Fundamental shifts in the terms of trade have already occurred.

By our calculations, the oil exporting countries will receive additional revenues of some \$60 thousand million in 1974, assuming prices stay at their present level. The result will be a world-wide upheaval in trade and capital flows. Appropriate economic measures must be taken on a world scale to ensure that the requisite adjustments are carried out along orderly lines. Only in this way can a new balance of the world economy be achieved. The need for joint effort seems to me to be apparent on two counts:

(a) The consequences of the rise in oil prices affect individual countries to an extent which varies in proportion to their dependence on energy imports. Energy importing developing countries are the hardest hit.

(b) Some countries are likewise more prone than others to adopt a beggar-my-neighbour attitude and corner markets or resort to other practices detrimental to the world economy which we believed to be a thing of the past.

The Community therefore considers one of the principal tasks of the Conference to be an

affirmation by those taking part of their political will:

(i) to ensure that international economic relations are not seriously disrupted by unilateral measures;

(ii) to take account of the specific problems of both the developing countries, some of which have special relations with us, and the producer countries by strengthening international cooperation.

We consider that a gesture of this kind would be highly significant in the critical phase through which the world economy is passing and would also fulfil one of the essential tasks of the Conference.

President Ortoli will subsequently be presenting the detailed Community analysis of the energy situation and its repercussions. My main aim was to point out the fundamental political as well as economic importance of these questions. The Community, in a spirit of worldwide cooperation, is resolved to collaborate in achieving constructive solutions.

The international discussion and the subjects for it

1204. The point of departure for any consideration of how best to conduct the international discussion i.e. the conversation between the interested countries and groups of countries in the many forms it might take should be the interests of those involved.

The consumer countries want to secure steady and stable oil supplies at prices acceptable to their national economies.

The developing countries, which are faced with particular difficulties, are looking for ways of preventing their growth from being retarded by the increase in the price of petroleum products,

which at present far outweighs the aid they receive for the development of their economies.

The producer countries, which only recently took control of their oil resources, wish to put them to optimum use and employ them as a tool for the long-term safeguarding of their economies.

All countries are, after all, interested in combating the detrimental upheaval in trade flows and capital movements sparked off in recent months by the spectacular rise in the price of oil.

The task of this Conference will be to find ways and means of reconciling these various requirements. We should not be discouraged by the fact that the Conference cannot itself resolve technical questions relating to international cooperation in the energy sector, partly because it is only of short duration, and partly because for some topics not all the necessary partners for the discussion are present. Our views as to which questions should be dealt with during this discussion scarcely differ from those of the United States. There are in our opinion three major areas to be discussed in addition to the repercussions of the energy situation on the world economy and worldwide monetary relations.

The first problem is that of obtaining supplies of hydrocarbons—oil and natural gas—which are stable in quantity and price. This subject obviously relates first and foremost to medium and long-term trends in oil supply and demand and the terms and conditions for a corresponding development of crude oil supplies. All those concerned:

- (i) the developed consumer countries,
 - (ii) the developing countries and
 - (iii) above all, the producer countries
- need to be won over to the idea of constructive collaboration.

We see this conference as the first step towards a comprehensive dialogue of this kind which, in the view of the Community, should begin by 1 April at the latest.

In connection with the problem of quantities and prices, I should like to refer two subsidiary themes, which principally concern consumer countries:

(a) the future role of the oil industry—a question closely connected with the increased involvement which governments—whether they like it or not—must inevitably accept in the oil sector;

(b) the allocation of energy resources in the event of supply difficulties. Work on these questions has been going on within the OECD for some time, but obviously requires a fresh impetus.

The second major area of discussion relates to the *strengthening of cooperation between producing and consuming countries*. Lasting and healthy relations in this field require cooperation founded on a fair balance of interests. The fact that the Community, in the spirit of the Copenhagen Summit Conference, must retain its freedom to take decisions in the important sphere of the formulation of a Community energy policy, by no means implies that it intends to avoid discussions in other appropriate forums. The better the functioning of worldwide economic relations, the less reason there will be to resort to bilateral, national arrangements. Experience shows that no one has so far concluded such arrangements with the intention of thereby hampering multilateral solutions.

I should like to stress in this connection how crucial it is to ensure that the other groups of consumer and producer countries are involved as soon as possible in this discussion. We wish to inaugurate it in order to lay the foundations for worldwide cooperation in the energy sector.

The third major field is that of cooperation in research and technology. The main purpose is to arrive at a more rational use of existing sources of energy and the development of new sources. Intensified efforts in research and development can contribute to a more balanced relationship between energy supply and demand only in the longer term. In the short term, it is necessary to explore all possible ways of reducing consumption and using energy more economically. This whole problem is not only a challenge to our technical creativity but also demands inventiveness and foresight in devising new ways of financing projects of previously unimagined scope.

Methods for subsequent work

1205. I now come to the third section of my speech: the question of the organization of the discussion. I should first like to point out that the Community does not consider it desirable that the Conference, particularly in its present composition, should become a permanent institution. Nor should a new forum of international cooperation be set up in which only the highly developed countries are represented and which usurps some of the functions of existing international organizations. After all, organizations such as the OECD and the IMF already have considerable experience behind them, in view of the Community, it would be preferable for these international organizations to play as full a part as possible. The work they are already doing should be given a fresh impetus in line with the present situation. Consideration should also be given to ways in which groups of countries which have not so far participated in this work could become involved in it.

On the initiative of the French Government—and more recently on that of the Algerian Government, in a wider context—a proposal has

been made for a world conference to be convened under the auspices of the United Nations. It would be important to decide on a procedure which would ensure that such a conference achieved rapid results.

The Community also considers that the basis for cooperation between industrialized countries must be strengthened in those spheres which affect them most closely. As an example I will cite research and development here. Participation by other interested countries should not be excluded in this sphere either. For the sake of efficiency, use should be made of organizations such as the OECD for this purpose.

The Community is hoping here that flexible procedures will be established for consultations between the countries taking part in this conference and the other consumer countries at international level in order to contribute to the solution of energy problems and their repercussions.

The Conference should, moreover, examine the possibility of setting up suitably composed working parties on a number of subjects in the short term. Such working parties would not, of course, perpetuate this Conference. In a spirit of cooperation between all parties concerned, they should be open to the various consumer countries and to the producer countries not attending this conference, provided they are not dealing with questions which involve one group of countries only. They could also make an important contribution to the comprehensive dialogue which we all desire.

The Community, as I hope I have made apparent, is taking part in this Conference in a constructive and cooperative spirit in order to come some way towards solutions to the vast and complex problems currently confronting our countries and the entire world economy.

**Statement by Mr François-Xavier Ortoli,
President of the Commission**

1206. The events of October revealed an energy crisis which has been brewing for some time.

This crisis has a considerable effect on the European Community: in order to understand this one only has to know that oil will probably continue to represent about 60% of its energy supplies over the next few years. This figure gives you some idea of the size of our problem and shows how our problems differ from those of other less dependent consumer countries.

At the moment we are facing a problem of quantity. All things being equal we may by 1974 have to meet a deficit of 50 million metric tons, i.e. 10% of our oil requirements, and 3% of our energy requirements. The present situation is causing everyone, and perhaps us more than others, balance-of-payments problems because of the spectacular increase in the price of crude oil.

Faced with this situation, the Member States have in the short term introduced energy-saving measures in the sphere of private rather than industrial consumption. They have also begun to exploit the possibilities of substituting other fuels (coal and natural gas) for oil in power stations and specific branches of industry such as steel, cement and non-ferrous metals.

These same Member States are aware of the general effects of the crisis which are well-known: immediate disruption of the terms of trade between consumer and producer countries, a marked increase of revenue from oil exports, major changes in international trade and capital movements.

I would stress in this connection that, depending on their degree of dependence on imported oil, the consumer countries will feel the increase in oil prices in very different ways. Certainly the

effects on the trade balance of the United States are not inconsiderable, but Japan, Europe and the developing countries will feel a much greater effect: in the short term because their dependence on imported oil is that much greater and has a more direct effect on their industrial costs; in the longer term because it will be far harder for them, without their own resources, to increase their self-sufficiency. But even more vulnerable are the developing countries where the cost of importing oil will be greater than the amount of official development assistance which they have been receiving over the past few years, assistance which has already scarcely covered their current payments deficit.

Our Community is particularly aware of this aspect of the problem, and not merely because of the economic ties it has with the developing countries for which it is both a major outlet and a very large supplier. It feels that it is particularly important that we stress here that all our positions take due account of the grave anxieties which the present energy situation is causing the third world. We must seek the most appropriate means of associating the non-oil-producing developing countries as closely as possible with cooperation on energy matters.

To come back to the Community, the increased price of oil will have a variety of effects in the immediate future. The effect on general price levels may be estimated at 2% for direct effects and 3% if we add indirect effects. The slowing down in production could be 1.5% by 1976 and economic growth in real terms would then be between 2 and 3%, with effects on employment.

Finally, balance-of-payments forecasts show very clearly the deterioration of the terms of trade of the European Community. Even supposing that there were a 10% reduction in oil imports in 1974, the additional net cost of them could be 17.5 billion dollars, which represents 1.5% of the Community's gross product or 17% of its exports.

The new situation created by the abrupt and substantial increase in the price of oil led us to outline for ourselves, in Copenhagen, the five main directions to be followed in a common energy policy:

- (a) the organization of an orderly functioning of the common energy market;
- (b) a more efficient use of energy and a reduction of wastage: incidentally for us this is a major topic for the future and we must approach it with unfailing understanding and purpose;
- (c) the definition of a comprehensive Community programme for developing alternative sources of energy—indigenous sources of oil and gas, coal, nuclear energy and unconventional fuels;
- (d) the effect of this will be to intensify efforts in the field of research and development. The Commission of which I am President will make far-reaching proposals for Community policy, and we also know that here there is scope for developing international cooperation;
- (e) the pursuit of extensive cooperation with the producer countries, for their economic and industrial development and for stable supplies at reasonable prices;
- (f) the study with other oil-consuming countries—under the auspices of the OECD—of means of dealing with the common long-term energy problems which arise.

In addition to energy problems proper, we should pay particular attention to the repercussions of the energy situation on world economy as a whole, particularly on monetary stability. In this area we must avoid dangerously conflicting policies. We must realize that competitive devaluation is not a remedy, we must avoid overbidding, we must guard against commercial protectionism. Consideration should be given—in appropriate forums—both to ways of avoiding disturbances due to the appearance of considerable additional liquidities and to ways of assisting the recycling and better use of the

international capital thus created, taking particular account of the capital requirements of non-producing developing countries, which will experience additional changes, likely to completely upset their development plans. This is a problem for the whole international community.

Discussing the reasons and the attitudes which led to the present energy situation and its repercussions on world economic balances could be useless unless the exercise serves to clarify—and it is this which interests us—the future responsibilities of everyone, taking differing situations into account.

The *consumer countries*, reassured by a past in which energy was abundant and cheap, generally neglected the energy problem, while world inflation and the erosion of monetary values—which largely originated in the consumer countries—confirmed the impression of the producer countries that they were being taken for a ride.

The *oil industry* was unable to anticipate and to adapt itself fully to an irreversible historical development, which became increasingly rapid and which led, by various means, to the gradual appropriations by the producer countries of their natural resources.

Finally, the *producer countries*, which are now acting with increased general solidarity, have raised their prices sharply over a short period. They must now determine how their decisions can fit in with the desire to prolong the expansion of the international economy and particularly to meet the legitimate growth requirements of the developing countries which do not possess energy, resources and raw materials.

For tomorrow, responsibilities are also shared: the problem of better energy supplies is a worldwide one.

This is of interest to:

- (i) Firstly, all the *consumer countries* which need adequate energy supplies at reasonable

prices to plan their economic growth, to maintain the balance of international trade and to make their contribution to the development of the poorer countries, and which must also know how to practice restraint in the use of energy.

(ii) Secondly, *the oil industry* whose future role cannot but be different with regard to the prerogatives it enjoyed in times which have now gone by. It will no longer be alone in fulfilling the role which it used to play. It must accept this and adapt. Inasmuch as it will often retain its 'technical tasks' of research, production, refining and distribution of hydrocarbons, the transparency of its management should be improved so that its financial needs, the way in which it deploys its financial resources, and its contribution to the best and fairest balance of the market are more apparent.

(iii) Thirdly, *the producer countries* which also have their own problems and responsibilities. The harmonious development of their economies depend on the ordered use of their resources, compatible with the gradual and necessary transition to alternative sources of energy; they must help to avoid the profound economic and monetary imbalances which will also affect them. It is obviously not in their interest to hinder the growth of the world economy, or even to slow it down.

Among *the consumer countries*, as I have already indicated, the situations differ. Some of them—and this is the case of the Community and Japan for example—have no hope of significantly and rapidly remedying their naturally imposed dependence on external sources of energy. Avoiding overbidding, they must pay particular attention to their supplies, which should moreover include access to new resources created in other less dependent industrialized countries. In any case, specific answers must definitely be found for these special situations. I shall not dwell at any length on the problems of the 'fourth world': they must be in all our

thoughts, because we must prevent a situation in which the attempts of the poorest countries to launch out are irrevocably compromised and the difference between their standard of living and that of other parts of the world is accentuated.

Within *the oil industry* itself there are differences and perhaps—to avoid regrettable but understandable overbidding—we should think about means of reducing the *de facto* discrimination which exists among the companies, between those which have direct access to oil and those which do not. This is an important problem, but the development of the policy of producer countries and a proposal for talks between consumer and producer countries perhaps afford the possibility of a solution.

Finally, it would not be realistic to ignore the differences between producer countries, whether they are differences of the extent and duration of resources available to them or of the economic and demographic problems which they must face.

This analysis has been brief and does not claim to be original. Basically, it seems to me that the task ahead is too great to be based on a black-and-white, simplistic assessment of individual roles and responsibilities. The challenge which we all face—producer and consumer countries alike—will have its effects on our patterns of development and our civilization. An answer will only be found through flexible concertation in which the interests of all be set forth and given consideration. It is our hope that the Washington Conference will be one element, among others, in helping to solve this problem.

Final Communiqué

1207. The following Communiqué was issued on 13 February 1974 after the Conference:

Summary Statement

1. Foreign Ministers of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States met in Washington from 11 to 13 February 1974. The European Community was represented as such by the President of the Council and the President of the Commission. Finance Ministers, Ministers with responsibility for Energy Affairs, Economic Affairs and Science and Technology Affairs also took part in the meeting. The Secretary-General of the OECD also participated in the meeting. The Ministers examined the international energy situation and its implications and charted a course of actions to meet this challenge which requires constructive and comprehensive solutions. To this end they agreed on specific steps to provide for effective international cooperation. The Ministers affirmed that solutions to the world's energy problem should be sought in consultation with producer countries and other consumers.

Analysis of the Situation

2. They noted that during the past three decades progress in improving productivity and standards of living was greatly facilitated by the ready availability of increasing supplies of energy at fairly stable prices. They recognized that the problem of meeting growing demand existed before the current situation and that the needs of the world economy for increased energy supplies require positive long-term solutions.

3. They concluded that the current energy situation results from an intensification of these underlying factors and from political developments.

4. They reviewed the problems created by the large rise in oil prices and agreed with the serious concern expressed by the International Monetary Fund's Committee of Twenty at its recent Rome

meeting over the abrupt and significant changes in prospect for the world balance of payments structure.

5. They agreed that present petroleum prices presented the structure of world trade and finance with an unprecedented situation. They recognized that none of the consuming countries could hope to insulate itself from these developments, or expect to deal with the payments impact of oil prices by the adoption of monetary or trade measures alone. In their view, the present situation, if continued, could lead to serious deterioration in income and employment, intensify inflationary pressures, and endanger the welfare of nations. They believed that financial measures by themselves will not be able to deal with the strains of the current situation.

6. They expressed their particular concern about the consequences of the situation for the developing countries and recognized the need for efforts by the entire international community to resolve this problem. At current oil prices the additional energy costs for developing countries will cause a serious setback to the prospect for economic development of these countries.

General Conclusions

7. They affirmed, that, in the pursuit of national policies, whether in the trade, monetary or energy fields, efforts should be made to harmonize the interests of each country on the one hand and the maintenance of the world economic system on the other. Concerted international cooperation between all the countries concerned including oil producing countries could help to accelerate an improvement in the supply and demand situation, ameliorate the adverse economic consequences of the existing situation and lay the groundwork for a more equitable and stable international energy relationship.

8. They felt that these considerations taken as a whole made it essential that there should be a

substantial increase of international cooperation in all fields. Each participant in the Conference stated its firm intention to do its utmost to contribute to such an aim, in close cooperation both with the other consumer countries and with the producer countries.

9.¹ They concurred in the need for a comprehensive action programme to deal with all facets of the world energy situation by cooperative measures. In so doing they will build on the work of the OECD. They recognized that they may wish to invite, as appropriate, other countries to join with them in these efforts. Such an action programme of international cooperation would include, as appropriate, the sharing of means and efforts, while concerting national policies, in such areas as:

- (a) the conservation of energy and restraint of demand;
- (b) a system of allocating oil supplies in times of emergency and severe shortages;
- (c) the acceleration of development of additional energy sources so as to diversify energy supplies;
- (d) the acceleration of energy research and development programmes through international cooperative efforts.

10. With respect to monetary and economic questions, they decided to intensify their cooperation and to give impetus to the work being undertaken in the IMF, the World Bank and the OECD on the economic and monetary consequences of the current energy situation, in particular to deal with balance of payments disequilibria. They agreed that:

(i) In dealing with the balance of payments impact of oil prices they stressed the importance of avoiding competitive depreciation and the escalation of restrictions on trade and payments or disruptive actions in external borrowing.¹

(ii) While financial cooperation can only partially alleviate the problems which have recently arisen for the international economic system, they will intensify work on short-term financial measures and possible longer-term mechanisms to reinforce existing official and market credit facilities.¹

(iii) They will pursue domestic economic policies which will reduce as much as possible the difficulties resulting from the current energy cost levels.¹

(iv) They will make strenuous efforts to maintain and enlarge the flow of development aid bilaterally and through multilateral institutions, on the basis of international solidarity embracing all countries with appropriate resources.

11. Further, they have agreed to accelerate wherever practicable their own national programmes of new energy sources and technology which will help the overall worldwide supply and demand situation.

12. They agreed to examine in detail the role of international oil companies.

13. They stressed the continued importance of maintaining and improving the natural environment as part of developing energy sources and agreed to make this an important goal of their activity.

14. They further agreed that there was need to develop a cooperative multilateral relationship with producing countries, and other consuming countries that takes into account the long-term interests of all. They are ready to exchange technical information with these countries on the problem of stabilizing energy supplies with regard to quantity and prices.

15. They welcomed the initiatives in the UN to deal with the larger issues of energy and primary

¹ France does not accept this paragraph.

3. The Social Report for 1973¹

Washington Energy Conference

products at a worldwide level and in particular for a special session of the UN General Assembly.

Establishment of follow-on Machinery

16.¹ They agreed to establish a coordinating group headed by senior officials to direct and to coordinate the development of the actions referred to above. The coordinating group shall decide how best to organize its work. It should:

- (a) Monitor and give focus to the tasks that might be addressed in existing organizations;
- (b) Establish such *ad hoc* working groups as may be necessary to undertake tasks for which there are presently no suitable bodies;
- (c) Direct preparations of a conference of consumer and producer countries which will be held at the earliest possible opportunity and which, if necessary, will be preceded by a further meeting of consumer countries.

17.¹ They agreed that the preparations for such meetings should involve consultations with developing countries and other consumer and producer countries.

Introduction

1301. The most important achievement of 1973 in the social field was the adoption by the Council of a Resolution embodying its support for a Programme of Social Action to be carried out over the next three years which sets out the objectives to be attained, the measures to be implemented and the priority actions.

The importance of this programme lies not only in what it sets out to achieve over the next three years from 1974-1976 through comprehensive and radical social reform; it also represents the first attempt by the Community to draw up a coherent social policy setting out in a purposeful way the initial practical steps on the road towards the ultimate goal of European Social Union. Clearly the precise nature of such a Union forms part of the broader issue of European Union generally.

The Community Social Action Programme, however, is geared to the relatively near future—the actions that can and should be achieved over the next three years to make the Community a better place in which to work and to live. In this context, particular attention is given to the situation of the more vulnerable sections of the population such as migrants, the handicapped, the elderly, and school leavers who have particular difficulties in regard to employment. Measures to eliminate discrimination against women in job opportunities, promotion, and pay are also included. Account has also been taken of the problems of people suffering from chronic poverty.

¹ France does not accept this paragraph.

¹'Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the Community in 1973' (Addendum to the 'Seventh General Report on the Activities of the European Communities' in accordance with Article 122 of the Treaty of Rome).

1302. Towards the end of 1973, the plight of these weaker groups within our Community was highlighted even more by the threat to employment and living standards brought about by both the effects of the shortage of supply, and later the increased cost of energy.

The Commission, at the request of the Council, is preparing a report on the consequences of the fuel situation on employment and a study on the systems for adjustment of wages to the development of the cost of living. The report will contain an assessment on employment prospects for 1974 and will consider the possibilities of action both by individual Member States and the Community as a whole. The extent to which the Social Fund might be utilized in this context will also be examined.

1303. The solution of the social problems arising from the energy situation will, obviously, be a major preoccupation in the Community in the months ahead. It is usually the weaker groups of the population which suffer most in time of hardship. This accentuates the need to press ahead with measures, such as those contained in the Social Action Programme, to effect fundamental social reform in the Community.

The new European Social Fund, which entered its full year of operation in 1973, has an essential role to play in the framework of the Action Programme. As one of the major instruments available for achieving the social objectives of the Community, the Social Fund must be able to provide the support necessary to carry out a number of the individual measures proposed. The Commission is committed to developing the potential of the Social Fund on the basis of the principle of Community solidarity and in close cooperation with other interested Community Institutions, Member States and the Social Partners.

1304. The Commission drew up a discussion document—Guidelines for a Social Action Pro-

gramme—published in April 1973 as a basis for consultations with the Institutions of the Community and the Social Partners on the nature and content of a Community Social Action Programme. Following these consultations, both formal and informal, the Commission drew up its definitive programme in October 1973 and transmitted it to the other Community Institutions together with a draft Council Resolution relating to the main objectives and actions contained in the Social Action Programme. The Council agreed the political content of its Resolution on 11 December 1973, and approved the final wording on 21 January 1974.

1305. The Resolution outlines the individual reforms which the Community intends to carry out over the next three years, 1974-1976. Furthermore, it sets down a time-table of decision-making which commits the Council to taking a decision on each implementing proposal submitted by the Commission within five months after the completion of the normal consultation process with the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

1306. The scope of the various actions in the Resolution of the Council reflects the three broad objectives expressed in the Communiqué issued at the end of the Paris Summit (19/21 October 1972):

- (i) Full and better employment;
- (ii) Improvement of living and working conditions;
- (iii) Greater participation of the Social Partners in the economic and social decisions of the Community.

1307. During the last quarter of 1973 the Commission submitted a group of seven actions which make up the *first stage* of the three year programme. These relate to:

- (i) assistance from the European Social Fund for migrant workers and handicapped workers;

- (ii) an action programme for handicapped workers;
- (iii) more effective legal application in the Member States of the principle of equal pay for men and women;
- (iv) the designation as an immediate objective in each Member State of the application of the principle of the standard 40 hour working week by 1975, and the principle of the 4 weeks annual paid holiday by 1976;
- (v) the setting up of a European Foundation for the improvement of the environment and living and working conditions;
- (vi) the protection of workers by the approximation of the Member States' legislation on mass dismissals;
- (vii) the setting up of a European General Safety Committee and the extension of the competence of the Mines Safety and Health Committee.

1308. The Commission announced its intention to submit a further group of three proposals before 1 April 1974 to be decided by the Council, in accordance with the time limit mentioned in paragraph 5 above, by the end of the year (*second stage*). These relate to:

- (i) a first action programme for migrant workers;
- (ii) the setting up of a European Vocational Training Centre;
- (iii) the protection of workers' acquired rights in the case of changes of ownership of companies, and particularly in the case of mergers.

1309. Finally the Council has specified in its Resolution nine other priorities in the Social Action Programme on which it wishes proposals to be drawn up by the Commission during 1974 (*third stage*). They relate to the following objectives:

- (i) Improved consultations between Member States on their employment policies and better cooperation between national employment services;
- (ii) The establishment of a comprehensive programme for migrant workers;
- (iii) The implementation of a common vocational training policy;
- (iv) Equality between men and women in access to employment, working conditions, training and promotion;
- (v) Coordination of policies of social protection in the Member States;
- (vi) Improved standards on health and safety at work;
- (vii) Preparation of a programme for pilot schemes to combat poverty;
- (viii) The progressive involvement of workers or their representatives in the life of firms;
- (ix) The increased participation of management and labour in the economic and social decisions of the Community.

1310. The successful implementation of the Social Action Programme will require the full support of Member State Governments and the Social Partners as well as the Community Institutions. Commission policy is not in any way directed towards the centralization of the solution of all social problems or harmonization for its own sake. Social problems differ in nature and degree in the various Member States as indeed do social systems.* In the Commission's view the role of Community Action is directed towards establishing minimum social standards capable of being regularly improved. For this reason the social policy of the Community should be regarded as a worthwhile aim in itself and not just as a means of counteracting the social ill effects of economic progress.

1311. The Council Resolution lays down the main guidelines for the Community's work in the social field during the period ahead but does not, of course, constitute a limit to such activity. The Commission retains its right of initiative to make proposals when it thinks fit, even regarding matters to which the Council did not attach a priority in its Resolution. Such proposals, for example, could well include the protection of workers against the abuses of temporary employment agencies. Naturally this right of initiative also applies to matters which the Council did not include in its Resolution such as the promotion of national systems of income maintenance for workers undergoing retraining. The schemes envisaged would encourage workers to undertake training that would not only be of great benefit to them but also protect them against loss of earnings during such training. In addition the Commission intends to pursue various studies, as announced in the Social Action Programme, such as the levels of minimum wages in the Community and the provision of social housing. These studies may well lead to proposals being submitted to the Council.

1312. The Commission will continue its practice of closely following social trends in the Community such as for example those brought about by the energy situation referred to in paragraph 2 above and will not fail to make proposals to the Council where unexpected problems arise for which it considers that action at a Community level would be appropriate and effective.

1313. Finally the Commission is anxious to promote throughout the Community higher standards of public health. In all Member States there appears to be a need for much closer coordination of public health policy, particularly in matters such as migrant workers and their

families, prevention of mental and psychosomatic illness related to working and living conditions and a wider approach to prevention and care of social diseases. For that reason the Commission will examine these areas in order to consider possible scope of Community action in the field of public health.

1314. In a Community of 255 million people, there is a wide diversity of priorities, needs and ambitions in the Social field, which a Community Social Action Programme must take account of and meet in a practical and relevant way. In the Commission's view the way this can be achieved most effectively is through the fullest possible consultations with other Community Institutions and with the Social Partners. Only by establishing this level of participation can the Community ensure the attainment of its social objectives.

1315. Whilst it is obvious that social policy must remain at the centre of the Community's attack on social problems, it is essential that all other Community policies must continue to include a strong social content which aims not only at improving the quality of life and standards of living of our people but also pays special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable sections of the population.

Furthermore, in the opinion of the Commission, the Community will in future have to allocate an increasing proportion of its budget to the achievement of a coherent and progressive social policy—a view shared by the European Parliament. By 1977, when the Community will dispose of all its own financial resources, the European Parliament will have a major contribution to make to the development of Community solidarity, on which all progress in social policy will ultimately depend.

The Social Situation in the Community in 1973¹

Employment

1316. The continued economic expansion during the first half of 1973 helped the employment market. The number of employed increased throughout the Community and total unemployment figures fell in most Member States. But there was an increase almost everywhere in the shortage of skilled labour required.

The increase in total employment was most marked in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and France and it was in these countries also that the fall in unemployment was the most noticeable. Unemployment rates remain highest in Italy and Ireland where the problems are mainly structural. In Belgium and the Netherlands the small increase in unemployment noted in 1973 can be attributed to the increase in the number of women who were previously unemployed and now seek work.

The statistics show that the female labour force often is simply a reserve which can be drawn upon when there are serious pressures on the labour market but when economic activity decreases women are among the first to be affected by the worsening of the employment situation. This characteristic also affects other categories of the population such as the young, the elderly and the handicapped.

Vocational Training

1317. The development of technical and vocational training as a part of continuing education is increasing in many Community countries. The intention is that training continues throughout the individual's life so that there is recurrent alternation between training and work.

Paid time-off for study is being granted on an increasing scale and more possibilities are being offered to workers and employees at all levels to obtain basic and advanced training within and outside companies.

In March 1973, the Council approved a certain number of actions as priorities to implement a common policy of vocational training including an information bulletin which will start publication this year. At the end of 1973 the Council approved as a priority within the framework of the social action programme the creation of a European Centre for Vocational Training.

Industrial Relations

1318. At numerous meetings throughout the year the Commission has associated the trade unions and professional organizations very closely in every stage of its work, especially in the drawing up of the social action programme. An important development during 1973 was the setting up of the European Confederation of Trade Unions representing 29 million workers affiliated to 17 organizations in 15 European countries.

During the past year there was a growing tendency for governments to influence collective bargaining in order to associate employers and workers more closely with the attainment of major objectives of general economic and social policy. Price increases and the worsening of inflation have been the main worry of governments, employers and workers and there were disagreements about the causes and measures to be taken.

The consequent unrest has made itself felt not merely in connection with pay problems but also with many aspects of working conditions. The

¹ Summary of the Social Report.

Commission has shown its preoccupation with these problems by proposing measures to protect workers in the case of mergers and collective dismissals. The proposals on the representation of workers on the supervisory boards of limited companies continued to stimulate discussion in the member countries.

Working conditions and labour law

1319. The report summarizes the present situation and recent developments in the member countries. The trend towards introducing the 40-hour week under collective agreements continued in most sectors and should be general by 1975. Similarly there has been an increasingly marked trend towards a fourth week of holidays with pay in many branches of industry.

Wages and asset-ownership

1320. For various reasons such as the increase in raw materials, anti-inflation policies did not achieve the expected results. How to reconcile the often contradictory requirements for higher incomes for different social groups which also demand greater stability of prices has become a problem which is perhaps more political than economic.

Concerning wage policies, the trend over the past three years towards increasing low wages proportionately more than the average wage increases continued but in a less marked fashion. A second trend was the wider application of the safeguarding of the purchasing power of wages by linking them to an automatic sliding scale system.

As regards asset formation, further concrete progress was made in Germany, France and the Netherlands but 1973 was marked as a whole by studies to find more advanced methods.

Housing

1321. Housing policy in the Member States is being increasingly faced with the same problems, notably, the rapid increase in the price of building land and construction costs and the paradox of a constant shortage of social housing at acceptable rents while there exists at the same time unoccupied housing at excessively high rents and which has been to a considerable extent subsidized by the state.

The social action programme proposed a double-pronged attack on these problems at Community level by means of studies on the most efficient use of finance to achieve the maximum social effect and secondly, assistance for pilot programmes to help solve the serious housing problems of special categories such as migrants.

Family Matters

1322. Certain family allowances were raised in Belgium, France, Ireland and Luxembourg in 1973 and the Italian government announced a similar measure. In Germany and the United Kingdom plans for a complete recasting of the allowances system in conjunction with tax reform are being examined.

Increasing numbers of married women are going out to work thus altering radically family needs and ways of life but the necessary adjustments which must be made by the public authorities are not keeping pace with the rate of social change. The lag is particularly great in the case of day nurseries for young children.

Social Services

1323. There has been a positive development in several countries due to the decentralization of social welfare. This is particularly true of Italy. In France much is expected from the economic,

social and advisory committees which are being set up in every region.

The serious problems of migrant workers and their families are far from being solved in spite of the efforts of public and private bodies to expand social services. The excellent system of municipal advisory councils for migrant workers on which migrant workers sit has grown to some extent. They now number 27 in Belgium and councils of this type have been set up in Germany and the Netherlands.

Social Security

1324. For the new Member States, the year of entry into the Community will also have been a year of important reforms in their social security systems; establishment of a public health service in Denmark, more complete protection in Ireland and reorganization of the National Health Service in the United Kingdom. Other trends noted throughout the Community are broader social welfare coverage, the rise in the level of protection and the rationalizing of existing systems.

The Commission has put forward suggestions in the social action programme which take account of these current trends.

Safety at Work and Public Health

1325. Despite all efforts there has been scarcely any reduction in the number of industrial accidents in 1973. The Commission has set out its intentions on industrial safety in two action programmes, one of which deals with the effect of environmental factors on health and the other with a specific safety programme for industry to be drawn up with the help of workers and employers and the authorities in the Member States before the end of 1974.

Social Indicators

1326. The Report concludes with a statistical annex of Social Indicators covering population, employment, education, industrial relations, working conditions, incomes, labour costs, consumption, standard of living, social security and social accounts. These figures, which were included for the first time last year, show the development of social trends in the Member States since 1958.

Selected Statistics from the Social Report 1973

Subject	Belgium	Germany	France	Italy	Luxem-bourg	Nether-lands	Total 6	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark	Total 6 + 3
Population (millions)	9.7	61.7	51.7	54.3	0.35	13.3	190.8	55.8	3.0	5.0	254.6
Labour force as % of population	39.9	42.4	41.1	34.7	43.5	35.2	39.3	44.4	36.8	47.7	40.6
Unemployed as % of labour force	2.4	0.9	2.4	3.7	0.0	2.5	2.2	3.3	6.4	1.0	2.5
Female employment as % (1971) ¹	29.6	34.0	36.7	26.5	26.6	23.3 (1968)	31.9	36.5	26.6	40.0	—
Foreign workers as % of wage and salary earners employed	7.2	10.5	7.3	0.4	34.0	3.0	6.7	5.5	0.3	1.9 (1971)	6.0
Number at school and university as % of population aged 5-24	63.6	57.3	61.1	58.6	53.9	59.7	59.3	63.2	68.2 (1971)	—	—
Workers in trade unions as %	69	38	22	50-55	55	41	39	48	48	~ 70 ¹	42
Working days lost (per 1 000 workers) in industrial disputes	116	3	228	1 315	0	35	365	1 081	287	11	547
Hours of work per week fixed											
a) by legislation (1973)	45	48	40	48	40-44	48	40-48	—	48	—	40-48
b) by collective agreements for manual workers in industry (1973)	40-42	40	—	40	40-44	40-42½	40-44	40	40	41¼	40-44
Annual paid holidays for adults											
a) by legislation (1973)	18	15-18	24	12	18-24	15-18	12-24		12	24	
b) by collective agreements (predominant systems) (1973)	20-22	18-24	24	14-20	18-24	17-20	14-24	15-18	18	24	14-24
Paid public holidays (1973)	10	10-13	8-10	17-18	10	7	7-18	6-7	6	9½	6-18
Completed dwellings per 1 000 inhabitants	5.6	10.7	10.9	4.4	6.5	11.5	8.8	5.9	7.0	10.0	8.1

¹ Based on the most recent figures, i.e. those of 1972, except where otherwise indicated. The data concerning the 'old' and the 'new' Member States are not comparable.

4. The Economic Situation of the Community at the Beginning of 1974

Economic Situation

In the absence of Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission who was attending the Energy Conference in Washington, Mr Ralf Dahrendorf on 13 February 1974 made a statement to the European Parliament on the Community's economic situation. Extracts of his statement are reproduced below.

1401. It has become a well-established practice to give you, at the beginning of each year, an outline of the economic and financial situation in the Community. Reviewing last year's developments and discussing the outlook for 1974 is no easy matter this time. Never have the clouds lowered so menacingly over Europe as now. The oil crisis has changed the framework for economic development in the member countries and also in most countries outside the Community. It came too late to have much of an impact on the figures for 1973, but in 1974 its effects will have serious implications for production, employment, prices and the payment balances in the Community.

Economic Development of the Enlarged Community in 1973

1402. In his annual review a year ago, Mr Haferkamp gave you an outline of economic developments in the enlarged Community in 1973 and in particular predicted that economic growth would gather additional momentum. His prediction proved correct.

Real gross Community product rose by 5.7% which was even faster than had been forecast in January 1973. This was the highest rate of growth since 1969. All the Community countries shared in the expansion; real gross national product probably rose by some 7% in Ireland and Luxembourg, by about 6% in France, Belgium and the United Kingdom, by 5½% in Germany and Italy, and 5% in Denmark. Only in the Netherlands did growth remain unchanged at 4%.

In 1973 as a whole *employment* also rose further in the Community. Even so unemployment figures in most member countries are higher than in similar phases of earlier business cycles. Supply and demand on the labour market are not in balance. Indeed for certain categories of workers, the situation has deteriorated; this is particularly true of young people looking for their first jobs. Nor has the drive to combat regional unemployment produced satisfactory results so far. And it would also be a mistake to dismiss as unimportant the fact that towards the end of the year the labour market situation deteriorated in several member countries.

However, what is most disturbing, to my mind, is that 1973 was the sixth successive year of accelerating inflation in the Community. *Consumer prices* climbed by some 8.5%, the highest rate ever recorded. This overall figure for the Community masks diverging trends in the various countries: the increase ranged from 6% in Luxembourg to 11.5% in Ireland.

The upsurge in prices is part of a general, worldwide movement and is by no means confined to the Community. We have to go back to the time of the war in Korea to find a period when inflation was progressing on such a wide front as in 1973.

The main causes are:

- (1) The upswing of the business cycle coinciding in the main industrialized countries, the result of which was overstrain in the general international economy;
- (ii) The uncertain monetary situation and especially the devaluation of a number of currencies; this encouraged speculative capital movements;
- (iii) Persistent supply difficulties for agricultural and industrial products and fresh bottlenecks emerging during the year. This led to sharp rises in raw material prices.
- (iv) As factors within the Community, I would mention habituation to inflation and the tend-

ency for inflationary behaviour to become ingrained; the efforts of the various economic and social groups to secure higher money incomes and, above all, the fall-off in productivity gains towards the end of the year.

The trend of the Community's *external balance* was much more unfavourable than previously, reflecting the deterioration in the terms of trade of most member countries. Most of the increase in the Community's official gold and foreign exchange reserves (some 11 000 million u.a., including Special Drawing Rights and the reserve position in the International Monetary Fund) was achieved in the first three months of the year, while towards the end of the year the tendency was downwards.

This was the situation when the *oil crisis* developed at the end of the year. Its first main effects are a further deterioration in the terms of trade, a fresh wave of cost and price increases in the Community and pressure on some Community currencies; this pressure was felt not only by currencies on an independent float but also by currencies in the Community's exchange rate scheme, the 'snake'. As you know, the dollar has picked up sharply since November. On 19 January, the French Government decided to suspend for six months obligatory intervention by the Banque de France on the foreign exchange markets, thereby withdrawing from the joint float of the European currencies.

The oil crisis has very serious implications both for our Community and for international economic relations. Unless oil prices fall below the level reached at the end of 1973, the oil-exporting countries will receive very large extra revenues of the order of \$60 000 million in 1974. This will be matched by an equivalent deterioration in the current accounts and a loss of real income in the oil-importing countries. Special problems arise here, particularly as to how the deficits are to be financed and, quite generally and worldwide, as to how the

extra oil revenues are to be invested. The oil-importing developing countries are also faced with special difficulties; the additional burden placed on them in the form of higher oil prices is larger than the public development aid they have been receiving in the past few years.

In 1974 the higher cost of oil alone will produce a *deterioration* of \$17 500 million in the *trade and services account* with non-Member countries. As the Community's dependence on oil imports from traditional supplier countries will probably continue for a long time to come, this additional burden may increase still further in the years ahead. The oil crisis therefore quite generally raises the problem of the Community's energy supplies. Oil prices are now higher than the break-even point for other energy sources. But the substitution process calls for immediate and sustained investment and research efforts.

The Outlook for 1974

1403. It is very hazardous at the moment to forecast the economic trend for the Community in 1974. But there can be no doubt that we shall be faced with major economic and financial difficulties.

Already the tentative forecasts made last autumn suggested that the economic trend would be less buoyant in all member countries. The oil crisis seems to have accelerated this process while the general uncertainty has increased. Prudent and objective analysis puts the *growth* in real Community product at between 2 and 3% this is assuming that the current labour disputes in the United Kingdom will not entail any unduly heavy losses of production. The improvement in the *employment* situation recorded in the past few years may be wiped out again by the direct and indirect effects of the oil crisis.

Other industrialized countries will probably experience an even sharper slowdown in the

growth of economic activity. In Japan, for instance, economic growth is likely to be very weak, and the US economy will probably be almost stationary. World trade which in 1973 grew by 13% in real terms, is also likely to be distinctly less buoyant.

At the same time throughout the Community the *outlook* for prices is alarming. In no single Community country will prices increase by significantly less than 10%, and in some countries the rate will probably be much higher still.

There is a great danger that *different economic policies* will be pursued in the various countries. Sensitivity to the problems of employment and inflation indeed varies with the member country, as does dependence on oil imports, and all the member countries' currencies do not react in the same way to changes in the terms of trade and to destabilizing movements of money and capital.

Moreover, in the new situation there is internationally the great risk of a return to *protectionism* and hence of a disruption of the present system of world trade.

Here, I must emphasize the very high *social cost* and dangers which such a step backwards would entail for our populations. It would mean *jeopardizing* the rise in living standards which we have enjoyed in the past sixteen years as a result of the establishment of the Common Market and the liberalization of world trade. We would run the risk of creating a climate of considerable insecurity for companies' investment decisions as investments policies in the past few years have been largely determined by the availability of a large market.

But in the present situation less investment means more unemployment. Reducing economic policy formulation to the national dimension would considerably increase the danger of beggar-my-neighbour attitudes developing—be it that member countries would devalue their cur-

rencies in order to secure a competitive edge on international markets, be it that a strong deflationary policy would be pursued for the same reason. In either case the partner countries would probably sooner or later resort to defensive measures so that in the end the level of employment would fall in all the countries concerned.

Today no single country could really afford the outlay on investment and research needed to develop quickly new energy sources at costs making the operations a paying proposition; such an effort is feasible only when supported by a large market and a common energy policy.

Similarly, in the forthcoming international negotiations with the oil-producing countries, the developing countries and the other industrialized countries the Governments of the European countries can achieve satisfactory results for their populations only if they act jointly.

Overcoming the Current Crisis

1404. The Community must therefore concentrate all its efforts on overcoming the current crisis, for it represents the greatest challenge the Community has yet had to face.

The danger of a breakdown of economic relations in the Community prompted the Commission to present an *emergency programme* to the Council on 23 January. In this programme it was pointed out that while the dependence of each individual European country on external trade and other external transaction had increased, no matching common policy had been developed to make the whole less vulnerable to destabilizing influences from the outside. There is a great danger that Member States will resort to unilateral measures whose consequences in economic and political terms would be incalculable. This is why the Commission believes that the Council should issue a statement expressing

the intention of the Member States to refrain from any currency devaluation designed to secure competitive advantage and from any measures that restrict trade. The Commission would also like the Member States to consult each other effectively and on a continuous basis on their exchange rate policies and the measures having a direct bearing thereon.

Consultations should be supplemented by the following steps:

- (i) The Community's credit mechanism, adjusted in accordance with the Commission's proposals concerning the increase in the quotas for short-term monetary support, must be brought into operation immediately;
- (ii) The Council should invite the appropriate Community bodies to work out without delay ways and means whereby funds available on the international capital markets can be mobilized in orderly fashion in a European action framework;
- (iii) The Council should invite the Monetary Committee and the Committee of Governors of Central Banks to prepare immediately an opinion on amendment of the rules governing the price at which gold may be transferred between monetary authorities within the Community and at international level.

Further steps have also been taken in the fields of trade and energy. Efforts are being made by the Community to overcome present difficulties through orderly channels, with an approach covering the entire international system. Applied to monetary policy this means that no country is to engage in competitive devaluation or to take other measures which are tantamount to unloading one's own problems on the neighbouring countries.

We should also look carefully into the proposal by the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund for the creation of new facilities in the IMF to help mitigate the balance of

payments disequilibria resulting from the rise in oil prices. This is not, of course, to say that we accept the sudden and disproportionately sharp increase in oil prices. Concerted action, taken worldwide, to avoid a disorderly scramble for international credits could also be very helpful in the present situation.

The special balance-of-payments problems facing the developing countries should also receive great attention internationally. The task here is to see that the industrialized countries do not cut back their development aid, and to look for ways, through international cooperation, of moving towards a solution of the special balance-of-payments problems experienced by the oil-importing developing countries. All these arrangements would, of course, have to be supplemented by other actions which are part of *wider international cooperation* and are aimed at finding a lasting solution to the crisis.

The formation of a common energy policy, the start of the Regional Fund and the transition to the second stage of economic and monetary union must now form the *centerpiece of an overall economic policy*, but institutional innovation has an important role to play; this policy must be aimed at restoring the conditions for balanced growth in the Community and for sustained full employment.

It is therefore very regrettable that the Member States should have failed so far to reach agreement on any of these key issues, especially the *transition to the second stage of economic and monetary union*.

You will remember that while agreement as to principle has been reached on the essential proposals for the second stage of economic and monetary union, adoption of the resolution on the implementation of the second stage of the remaining legal instruments has been shelved for the time being owing to disagreement over the Regional Fund. Such a postponement is difficult to understand in the present situation.

Economic Situation

With regard to the pooling of reserves, the Council has invited the Monetary Committee, the Committee of Governors of Central Banks and the Board of Governors of the European Monetary Cooperation Fund to draw up a report by 31 March 1974 on technical problems still outstanding, and that is all. Here, too, circumstances call for a speeding up of the decision-making process within the Community.

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1405. In view of the difficult situation confronting the Community I should like to repeat to you the Commission's solemn appeal of 31 January on the state of the Community.

Any return to independent national policies in the economic and monetary fields, as in any other field, involves the greatest risks for the Community and hence for the real incomes, jobs and living standards of its population.

2ND PART

**COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES**

IN FEBRUARY 1974

1. Functioning of the Common Market

Customs Union

Customs Union

Common Customs Tariff

Nomenclature

2101. After a favourable Opinion from the CCT Nomenclature Committee the Commission on 27 February 1974¹ adopted a Regulation on the classification of goods within subheading 23.04 B of the CCT. Adopted by virtue of the provisions of the Council Regulation of 16 January 1969,² the new Regulation specifies the required starch, protein and oil and fat content of residues from the extraction of maize germ oil by solvent or pressing, for this material to fall within subheading 23.04 B which is exempt from charges.

This Regulation will help to ensure uniform application of the CCT Nomenclature thus avoiding diversion of trade; and for the customs departments and trade it will simplify analysis of the products concerned when they undergo import checks.

Tariff Economy

Tariff Quotas

2102. To meet the Community's commitments towards the *Mediterranean countries*, the Council on 4 February 1974, on a Proposal from the Commission, adopted several Regulations on opening, allocating and administering 1974 Community tariff quotas for the following products:

Description of Goods	Quota Volume (tonnes) ³
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EEC-Spain Agreement

Products of Spanish origin:

— Dried figs, in ready packs containing 15 kg net or less ⁴	200
— Dried grapes, in ready packs ⁴	1 700
— Sherry wines ⁴ ex 22.05 C III a) 1	40 000 hl
— Sherry wines ex 22.05 C IV a) 1	
— Sherry wines ⁴ ex 22.05 C III a) 2 aa)	210 000 hl
— Sherry wines ex 22.05 C IV a) 2 aa)	
— Malaga wines ⁴ ex 22.05 C III b) 1	15 000 hl
— Malaga wines in containers of 21. or less ex 22.05 C IV b)	
— Jumilla, Priorato, Rioja, Valdepeñas wines ⁴ ex 22.05 C I a)	
— Jumilla, Priorato, Rioja, Valdepeñas wines ex 22.05 C II a)	15 000 hl
— Jumilla, Priorato, Rioja, Valdepeñas wines ex 22.05 C III b) 1	
— Certain petroleum products, refined in Spain ⁴	1 200 000
— Other cotton cloths ⁴	1 800

EEC-Malta Agreement

Certain products of Maltese origin:

— Cotton yarns not put up for retail sale ⁴	1 125
— Broken synthetic and artificial textile yarns ⁴	900
— Outer garments and clothing accessories ⁴	150
— Men's and boys' outer garments ⁴	450

¹ OJ L 57 of 28.2.1974.

² OJ L 14 of 21.1.1969.

³ Unless otherwise indicated.

⁴ OJ L 48 of 20.2.1974.

Description of Goods	Quota Volume (tonnes) ¹
EEC-Cyprus Agreement	
Synthetic and artificial fibres ²	100
Men's and boys' outer garments ²	500
EEC-Israel Agreement	
Other cotton cloths of Israeli origin ²	300
EEC-Egypt Agreement	
Certain petroleum products, refined in Egypt (ex Chap. 27) ²	360 000
Other cotton cloths of Egyptian origin ²	3 250
EEC-Turkey Agreement	
Certain petroleum products refined in Turkey (ex Chap. 27) ²	340 000
Cotton yarns from Turkey not put up for retail sale ²	885
Other cotton cloths from Turkey	2 085
Woollen or fine pile carpets from Turkey ²	160

Customs Systems for the Circulation of Goods

Transit

2103. The Joint Committee set up under the *EEC-Austria Agreement* on application of rules for Community transit³ which took effect on 1 January 1974, held its first meeting in Brussels on 8 February 1974. It agreed to delegate preparatory proceedings and investigation of any problem arising from practical application of the Agreement to a Working Party made up of customs specialists from the contracting parties. The Joint Committee may meet again this year to review the smooth running of the Agreement in the light of practical experience.

Origin of Products and Methods of Administration Cooperation

2104. On 21 February⁴ the Commission added to the list annexed to its Regulation of 20 December 1973⁵ on derogations from the definition of the concept of 'products originating' in the application of generalized tariff preferences granted by the Community for certain products of the developing countries. The additional products in question are *shellac*, *natural resins* and *balsams* (ex 13.02 of the CCT) as well as *basic oils* (ex 33.01). They are now included in the list of products benefitting from the derogation when they originate from Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand and are exported via Singapore. The derogation derives from the Joint Declaration of Intent annexed to the Act of Accession and concerning trade relations with certain Asian countries.

2105. On 28 February⁶ the Commission adopted a Regulation introducing the '*attestation of authenticity*' to be borne by the certificate of origin issued by the countries enjoying generalized preferences, for raw tobacco of the 'Virginia flue-cured' variety.

2106. During the sitting of 11-15 February 1974, the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion on a Commission Proposal to the Council for the total or partial suspension of CCT charges on certain products of Maltese origin.

¹ Unless otherwise indicated.

² OJ L 48 of 20.2.1974.

³ OJ L 294 of 29.12.1972.

⁴ OJ L 55 of 26.2.1974.

⁵ OJ L 358 of 28.12.1973.

⁶ OJ L 57 of 28.2.1974.

Internal Common Market

Free Movement of Goods

Protective Measures

United Kingdom: Coal, Iron and Steel

2107. Following events in the United Kingdom towards the end of 1973 causing a severe drop in coal and coke output to the extent of compromising normal stocks for the British economy and provoking fundamental and persistent disturbances, the British Government on 8 February asked the Commission to consider appropriate measures to meet the serious and exceptional problems now besetting the nation's coal and steel production.

In view of the valid arguments put forward by the British Government the Commission decided to take action to deal with the situation; it adopted two decisions in this connection. The first, taken on 14 February 1974¹ under Article 135 of the Act concerning the Conditions of Accession and the Adjustments to the Treaties, authorizes the United Kingdom to bring in a licensing scheme for certain *iron and steel products* under Chapter 73 of the CCT (products *not governed by the ECSC Treaty*). This will enable exports of these products to non-Member countries to be curtailed, and supplies to other Member States to be closely controlled and, where necessary, limited.

The second Decision² taken after consulting the Council on 18 February 1974 concerns application of Article 37 of the ECSC Treaty and authorizes the United Kingdom to set up a similar licensing scheme for products covered by Article 81 of the Treaty (*coal and steel*) excluding those products falling within heading 73.03 of the unified ECSC tariff.

In both Decisions it was stipulated that the scheme applicable to Member States may in no case be more restrictive for any of the products in question, than the scheme covering exports to non-Member countries.

The Commission will reappraise the whole situation when the Decisions have been in force three months. Without prejudice to provisions which the Commission may apply as amendments or extensions to the Decisions, they are valid until 15 July 1974.

Removal of Technical Barriers to Trade

Motor Vehicles

2108. On 18 February 1974³ the Council formally adopted three Directives on the approximation of Member States' laws on *wheeled farm and forest tractors*. The provisions adopted cover: certain parts and features of tractors, their maximum construction speed, their loading platforms and the type approval procedure.

2109. On 11 February⁴ the Commission initially supplemented the Council Directive of 26 July 1971⁴ concerning the *braking systems* of certain types of heavy goods vehicles and their trailers. This Directive in line with 'adaptation to technical progress' lays down further requirements with the aim of reducing the number of accidents caused by rear wheel lock, especially in the case of lorries, when the brakes are applied. All vehicles not equipped with an anti-locking device will have to be fitted with such a device so that braking will be matched to the load.

¹ OJ L 74 of 19.3.1974.

² OJ C 29 of 18.3.1974.

³ OJ L 84 of 28.3.1974.

⁴ OJ L 202 of 6.9.1971.

2110. On 23 February the Commission sent the Council a proposed Directive in line with 'adaptation to technical progress' to amend the Directive of 20 March 1970,¹ concerning the approximation of Member States' laws on 'measures to be taken against air pollution by gases from motor vehicle engines with controlled ignition (*exhaust gases*).'² The aim of the Directive, in view of technical developments in engine construction, is to amend the 1970 Directive by lowering the admissible limits of carbon monoxide by 20% and unburnt hydrocarbons by 15%. When applied the new limits will mean a considerable reduction of air pollution and will appreciably improve urban environment.

Sulphur Content of Gas-oils

2111. The Commission has submitted another Proposal within the overall Community action for removing technical barriers to trade and for protecting the environment. This is a proposed Directive sent to the Council² on 13 February and concerns the 'approximation of Member States' laws on the sulphur content of liquid fuels.' The Directive will limit the sulphur content of gas-oils, fuels chiefly used for domestic heating and diesel-engined vehicles. This will mean a marked reduction in air pollution by sulphur compounds through the burning of gas-oils.

Companies

Harmonizing the Annual Accounts of Capital Companies

2112. On 26 February the Commission laid before the Council an *amended proposed Directive* concerning annual company accounts. The Proposal, of which the first version had been sent to the Council on 16 November 1971³ fits into

the programme for harmonizing Member States' company law. It aims to coordinate national laws governing the layout and content of annual company accounts and management reports, together with the methods for interpreting and publicizing these documents.

The basic objective is to put the information available in company accounts throughout the Community on a standardized basis of comparable values. Besides facilitating certain trans-national company operations this will also boost the development of a European capital market, once investors are able to compare standardized company financial data.

In the modified Proposal the Commission paid careful attention to the amendments suggested by the European Parliament. The Proposal was also adjusted to take account of legislation in the new Member States. The Commission also listened to the Study Group of EEC Accounting Experts, representing all the professional bodies in the nine Member States, who put forward ideas on the subject.

The major changes can be summarized thus:

- (a) greater prominence is given to the basic objective of annual accounts which is to give a true and fair view of the company's position (Art. 2, para 2);
- (b) the structure and layout of accounts has been made more flexible in that companies can provide a certain amount of data in the balance sheet or in the profit and loss account or in the appendix (Art. 4, para 3);
- (c) some general principles of interpretation, highly developed in the United Kingdom, and also practiced in most other Member States, have been spelled out in detail (Art. 28);

¹ OJ L 76 of 6.4.1970.

² OJ C 35 of 28.3.1974.

³ Supplement 7/71—Annexed to Bull. EC 12-1971.

(d) Member States have been given appreciably greater scope in letting their companies assess certain factors of their accumulated assets (patrimoine) by methods allowing for the effects of inflation;

(e) in following the example of British law, data on turnover or the volume of business must be supported, where necessary, by information on the various industrial or commercial activities of the company and their respective contribution to the volume of business and the results for the financial year, which will enhance the transparency of the accounts.

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2113. During the sitting of 11-15 February, the *European Parliament* gave Opinions on three proposed Directives submitted by the Commission to the Council. They cover the removal of technical barriers to trade, electricity meters and radio interference (atmospherics) caused by radio and television receivers.

Competition Policy

Restrictive Agreements, Concentrations, Dominant Positions: Specific Cases

Adaptation of a Restrictive Agreement (Association) to the Treaty Competition Rules

2114. All obstacles impeding free competition on the Dutch record market have been removed since the beginning of the year. This is a direct result of the intervention of the Commission, which had laid a complaint during 1973 against the association, comprising about twenty manufacturers and importers all grouped within the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Grammofoonplaten Importers (NVGI). This association had

close ties with about 1 600 record retailers in the Netherlands, all members of the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Grammofoonplaten Detailhandelaren (NVGD).

The NVGI controls approximately 90% of the Dutch record market and consists of the major Dutch record manufacturers as well as subsidiaries and importers of world-renowned trademarks such as Ariola, Eurodisc Benelux, Barclay Nederland, BASF Nederland, Bovema (EMI), CBS-Artone, Inelco Holland (RCA), Miller International, Phonogram (Philips), Polydor Nederland (Polygramm) and Vogue Nederland.

The association's agreement contained certain provisions which ran contrary to the Treaty of Rome (Art. 85) rules on competition, but all these have now been eliminated. Their object was to severely restrict all possibilities of supply and marketing on the Netherland's record market.

Where prices are concerned, certain of these provisions limited the suppliers' freedom to modify their prices independently and to fix freely the discounts granted to their clients: on the other hand, the retailers were subject to minimum selling price rules.

Having eliminated all these restrictions, the Commission notes that from now on, records on the Dutch market will be bought and sold freely and prices will be fixed individually on the basis of supply and demand.

State Aid

Regional Aid Schemes

The Netherlands

2115. Following *modifications* by the Dutch Government to the existing *regional aid schemes*

in the Netherlands, the Commission resumed its scrutiny of the schemes and took a position on 13 January 1974. The modifications which basically amount to simplification make no changes in range or volume. The Commission therefore saw no grounds for objections.

Moreover, since the Dutch regional aid schemes meet the demands of the coordination principles now in force¹ the Commission decided to close the procedures of Article 93, paragraph 2 of the EEC Treaty which had been invoked against the schemes as part of the overall action taken by the Commission at the time regarding the main regional aid programmes of Member States.

The Commission did, however, decide to invoke the procedure of Article 93, paragraph 2 over the *tariff subsidy* measure applied to the *supply of natural gas* in the three northern Dutch provinces near the Groningen deposits. This measure amounted to a 5% tariff cut granted indiscriminately to all companies in these provinces. Although it resembled a regional aid scheme, this subsidy was of the nature of running aid which in its present form was incompatible with the common market. Neither was it 'transparent' in the sense of the common method for assessing aid and of the principles defined in the solution for coordination in force since 1971 for regional aid schemes in the central areas of the Community.

Sectoral Aid

Timber and Wood Pulp

2116. The Commission decided to close the procedure of Article 93, paragraph 2 which had been invoked with regard to aid granted to the 'timber and wood pulp for paper' sector in France.² The French Government had in fact complied with the Commission Decision of

6 December 1972³ by undertaking to discontinue production premiums for wood pulp. It has also cut from 0.70 to 0.30% the rate of parafiscal tax on paper and board imported from other Member States. The national product and material imported from non-Member countries remains subject to the tax of 0.70%.

So in line with the Commission's Decision, only the aid in favour of the forestry sector will henceforth be financed by the proceeds from the parafiscal tax on paper and board imported from other Member States; this aid will no longer be used to finance research in the paper industry or in reducing pollution in the paper sector.

Derogating from the principle whereby it falls to the companies themselves to bear the cost of eliminating the pollution which they cause, the Commission this time decided not to raise any objections regarding the application of aid planned by the French Government for the paper sector in the 'branch contract' made with the industry concerning the campaign against water pollution.

This is in fact a sector which has to bear particularly heavy charges in order to respect the fixed pollution limits whilst having to face stern competition from the producers of certain non-Member countries where the pulp producers moreover enjoy substantial subsidies to finance purification plant required.

Wool Industry

2117. The Commission had to take an initial position concerning an aid scheme applied in the United Kingdom for the benefit of the wool industry as an application of section 8 of the

¹ OJ C 111 of 4.11.1971.

² Bull. EC 12-1972, point 21.

³ OJ L 297 of 30.12.1972.

1972 Industry Act. This programme provides for a sum not exceeding 15 million pounds to be allocated to encourage and help the wool sector to: rationalize production plant; improve the industry's structures; eliminate non-viable and useless plant.

The projects eligible for aid under this programme must be completed by 31 December 1967.

Although the Commission was not against the application of this aid scheme, it asked the British Government:

- (a) to make certain amendments to the provisions concerning the scrapping of equipment under subsidy so as to guarantee that the actual extent of use was at least ten weeks during last year;
- (b) to advise the Commission beforehand of the grants planned under the heading of 'overall major and widespread projects' or to explain in detail the criteria for entitlement to this type of grant;
- (c) to advise the Commission each year of the applications made for the aid scheme in question according to Article 93, paragraph 1 of the Treaty.

Environment Aid

Belgium

2118. The Commission decided to invoke the procedure under Article 93, paragraph 2 of the EEC Treaty concerning a draft Royal Decree, transmitted on 9 August 1973 by the Belgian Government which covers aid by subsidies for industrial companies to set up the plant required to *purify their waste water*. The subsidies which can only be granted to companies existing on the date when the Royal Decree takes effect

are rated degressively at 60% for investments made in 1973 and 1974 and only 30% for those made in 1980.

Generally speaking, the Commission considers that aid granted by Member States to certain companies or for certain manufactures in order to offset the costs of protecting the environment which normally they should bear can, in the same way as aid for other production factors, have an impact on competition and Community trade and that like all other subsidies, they are therefore subject to the relevant EEC Treaty rules.

In this specific case the Belgian Government will be able to favour any company regardless of its geographical relocation or sectoral affiliations. It is therefore a general aid scheme where without adequately specified geographical or sectoral applications, the Commission cannot check whether or not its effect will be incompatible with the common market.

The Commission therefore decided on 15 February 1974 to invoke the procedure of Article 93 paragraph 2 regarding this aid scheme by advising the Belgian Government that it would withdraw the objections if the aid was solely intended to deal with clear-cut regional or sectoral situations and that such operations fell within the specific programmes for same, of which the Commission was informed in advance according to the provisions of Article 93, paragraph 3.

Insofar as it could be proved that failing a financial intervention by the State, the investments by the companies concerned out of their own resources would be likely to get them into difficulties and provoke unacceptable industrial, regional or social consequences, the Commission could then deem compatible the aid provided in those programmes.

The position which the Commission was thus led to take under Articles 92 and 93 regarding the

aid planned tallies logically with the overall guidelines adopted by the Council, the Member States and the Commission itself with regard to environment policy. The guidelines indicate that the policy is to be based on the principle that the 'polluter pays.' Protection of the environment is therefore not to be ensured by national policies which would proliferate State aids, but by actually charging the offenders with the costs of their harmful effects. State aid cannot be exempted from the principle except in peculiar regional or sectoral circumstances and in order to help existing companies adapt to the consequences of new responsibilities imposed on them with regard to the environment.

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2119. The *European Parliament* during the sitting of 11-15 February and the *Economic and Social Committee* meeting on 27-28 February 1974 both issued an Opinion on the Commission's Proposal concerning a Regulation on monitoring concentrations.¹

Fiscal Policy and Financial Institutions

Taxation

Direct Taxes

2120. The problems involved in standardizing systems of taxation at source on income from bonds² were discussed by a Working Party who met for the first time on 18-19 February in Brussels. The group examined the problems concerning income from loans where Community borrowers are involved. It paid special attention to defining income liable to be withheld,

the charging and possible reimbursement of the sum withheld, the non-discrimination clauses in relation to the origin of the income and the clearing system to be set up between Member States when withheld sums are to be charged or reimbursed.

Financial Institutions

Insurance

Abolition of the Green Card

2121. On 6 February 1974³ the Commission adopted two decisions which will make the free movement of self-propelled vehicles considerably easier within the Community and between the Community and some neighbouring non-Member States. It also adopted a Recommendation to the Member States.

According to the first decision, Member States will be no longer required from 15 May 1974 to make checks on third party insurance cover (green insurance card) in respect of vehicles normally based in the territory of one Member State but travelling in another Member State. The Commission is thus implementing a directive adopted by the Council in April 1972.⁴ In accordance with a recommendation from the Commission the original six Member States had already abolished checks on the green card as from 1 July 1973.⁵ Now the whole Community is abolishing these checks.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, Part I, Chapter 4: 'Control of Concentrations: Commission Proposal'.

² Bull. 11-1973, Part 1, Chapter 3: 'Direct Taxes: Commission Decisions on the Proposals it expects to make to the Council'.

³ OJ L 87 of 30.3.1974.

⁴ OJ L 103 of 2.5.1972 and Bull. EC 6-1972, point 10.

⁵ Bull. EC 7/8, point 2123.

2122. The second decision¹ provides that checks on green cards will be abolished—also from 15 May 1974—at the frontiers of the Community for vehicles coming from certain non-Member Countries, namely Sweden, Norway, Finland, Austria and Switzerland. These countries have long been linked to certain Member States by bilateral agreements which provide for the abolition of frontier checks on third party motor cover. The new Community rule must ensure that checks made at the external frontiers of the Community on vehicles coming from non-Member Countries, as provided for in principle by the 1972 Council Directive, do not result in the reestablishment of checks which were already abolished under bilateral agreements with the said non-Member Countries.

The abolition of frontier checks—both in relations between Member States and between them and the non-Member Countries in question—is subject to a comprehensive guarantee, given by the national motor insurers' bureaux of these countries, to settle claims in respect of accidents caused by vehicles normally based in the territory of another Member State or one of these non-Member Countries.

The national bureaux of all the Member States and non-Member Countries mentioned, which represent all the motor insurance undertakings in their countries, have bound themselves in this sense under an agreement concluded on 12 December 1973.

The comprehensive and mutual guarantee of the national motor insurance bureaux not only makes it possible to abolish frontier checks on the green card, but also considerably improves the situation of the insured party; in order to obtain compensation a person injured by a foreign car need no longer initiate proceedings abroad, sometimes a rather expensive business, but can now apply directly to his national motor

insurance bureau. The latter will be able to settle the claim in cooperation with the national bureau of the driver of the car.

2123. In addition the Commission approved a recommendation to Member States¹ to ensure that third party policies, in respect of the use of self-propelled vehicles, concluded in the form of frontier contracts before 15 May 1974, have a period of validity of not less than 15 days. Up to now insurance undertakings followed very different practices with regard to the conclusion of third party contracts, of limited duration, with drivers not possessing a green card: certain Member States allowed a period of validity of not less than two days, while others required a longer period. The minimum period of validity of insurance policies concluded at the frontier must be at least 15 days in order to ensure that vehicles from non-Member Countries do not continue their journey in other Member States without valid third party cover and without further checks.

Banks and other Finance Houses

2124. Preparatory work is underway to finalize a *sales prospectus for securities offered by collective investment undertakings*. The prospectus should provide all the required information for investors and their professional advisers to assess the situation of the collective investment undertaking whose securities they wish to acquire. The results from this work will serve as the basis for the preparation of a draft Directive by the Commission.

¹ OJ L 87 of 30.3.1974.

2. Economic and monetary union

Economic, Monetary and Financial Policy

Economic, Monetary and Financial Policy

Council Meeting of 18 February 1974

2201. The Council of the European Communities held a meeting on 18 February 1974 chaired by Mr Helmut Schmidt, Germany's Minister of Finance. The following Communiqué was issued at the close of the proceedings:

'1. During its meeting on 18 February 1974, the Council discussed the whole range of factors which form part of the economic situation of the Community, in the light of the foreseeable repercussions of the energy crisis and of the Decisions which have been taken in the field of economic and monetary policy, in particular the Decision of the French Government to withdraw, for a period of six months, from the agreement on the narrowing of margins of fluctuations (SNAKE).'¹

2. The Council formally adopted, in the languages of the Community, the following acts:²

- (i) the Decision concerning the achievement of a high degree of convergence in the economic policies of the Member States of the European Economic Community;
- (ii) the Directive concerning the stability, growth and full employment in the Community;
- (iii) the Decision setting up an Economic Policy Committee;
- (iv) the Resolution concerning the short-term monetary support.

3. The Council took note of the Report of the Commission concerning the 'present or foreseeable impact of the energy supply situation on production, employment, prices, the balance of payments and the monetary reserves'.³

4. The Council also examined the Communication of the Commission concerning the 'State

of the Community: Urgent Measures'. It invited the Committee of Central Bank Governors and the Monetary Committee to examine the recommendations contained in it and to report to the Council on them as quickly as possible.

5. The Council believes that the deterioration in 1974 of the current balance of payments of the Member States which will result from an increased level of oil prices, should neither lead to competitive depreciations of their currencies nor to restrictive actions in the field of trade which would threaten to bring about protectionist chain reactions.

6. The Governments of the Member States undertake to hold detailed consultations on the evolution of exchange rates, on interest rate policies, on ways to tap the international finance markets and on the utilization of reserves, on the basis of the Decision on the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of the Member States.

7. The Community will adhere to the principles outlined above in its relations with third countries and will endeavour to ensure that the whole of the international community adopt, in the field of money and trade, policies which would assure stable and orderly relations.

Economic Situation

Developments in the Cost of Wages

2202. Following the initial assessments of the Commission departments whose methods and results will be explained in a forthcoming quar-

¹ Bull. EC 1-1974, Part 1, Chapter 1, point 1301.

² OJ L 63 of 5.3.1974, C 20 of 5.3.1974 and Bull. EC 11-1973, Part 1, Chapter 1: 'Transition to a Second Stage of Economic and Monetary Union' and Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2201.

³ Bull. EC 1-1974, points 2201 and 2202.

terly report, the cost of wages per unit of added value (at constant prices) in industry, including building, have continued to grow at a rapid pace throughout the Community. Except for Ireland and the United Kingdom all countries have registered a faster rise compared with the 1972 results.

The sharpest increase in wage costs per unit of added value (in national currency) in 1973 occurred in Italy reaching about 13% as against 5.5% in 1972. Denmark registered 9% (against 6.3%), France and Belgium 8% (against 6.3% and 5.4% respectively), the Netherlands 7.5% (against 4.6%), Germany 6% (against 5.7%), Ireland and the United Kingdom both 5% (against 8.6% and 9.8% respectively). In the United States the advance was not so marked, reaching 2.5% against 2.1% in 1972.

If the recorded parity adjustments are taken into account and the growth rates of wage costs are expressed in European units of account (one unit of account = 0.888671 gm. of fine gold = 1 SDR), the picture is even more unfavourable for some Member States. In these terms, the increase amounts to: 11% in Germany (against 5% in 1972), 9% in Denmark (against 3.3%), 8.8% in the Netherlands (against 3.9%), 7.5% in Belgium and France (against 5.2 and 5.5%), 3% in Italy (almost the same as for 1972). The United Kingdom and Ireland have both registered a decrease of 6 and 6.5% respectively in wage costs expressed in European units of account. In the United States wage costs have dropped by as much as 7% compared with 1972.¹

Monetary Committee

2203. The Monetary Committee held its 188th meeting on 4-5 February 1974 with Mr Emminger in the Chair. The Committee reviewed the main monetary and financial problems likely to be discussed at the Wash-

ton Conference and then, on the basis of a note from the Italian delegation, got down to a thorough analysis of the problem of activating the 'gold' constituent of reserves.

Regarding the work on the second stage of economic and monetary union, the Committee adopted the report of the Group 'Group for harmonizing the instruments of monetary policy' and prepared a draft brief for the Group on 'short-term capital movements.'

2204. At a special meeting in Brussels on 18 February 1974, the Monetary Committee was consulted over the Italian Government's plan to ask the IMF for 'stand-by' credit.

Medium-Term Economic Policy Committee

2205. The Medium-Term Economic Policy Committee and its deputies met on 7 and 13 February 1974 respectively. They studied a note to the Study Group on medium-term economic prospects concerning the medium-term economic features of the energy crisis for the Community. It was proposed that this paper be considered in preparing projections for 1973-78, that it be used as the basis of work in this field and that it be consolidated by analyses per country and per sector so as to highlight the specific situation of each and enabling Community options to be prepared. A number of observations were also made concerning the report on the medium-term problems of progress towards economic and monetary union (updating of data, new approaches to structural problems, etc.) which at the moment is being radically reappraised.

During the plenary session of the Committee, the Chairman, Mr Schlecht, reminded members that

¹ Source: 'Graphs and Notes on the Short-Term Economics Situation in the Community'.

this meeting was probably the last one before the Short and Medium-Term Economic Committees and the Budget Policy Committee were all merged into an Economic Policy Committee. Mr Schlecht emphasized that the 'medium-term' tended to be neglected and said he hoped that present conditions obtaining in the Community would generate greater awareness of the value of a medium and long-term approach. In this context, Mr Schlecht wanted the Commission departments to develop three specific sides to the problem: the absorption capacity of the oil-producing countries, the chances for the use of substitutes for oil by the Community and the question of the extent of European dependence with respect to other commodities or production factors.

At the meeting of 13 February, the deputies were advised of the work undertaken by the Commission concerning the impact of the energy crisis. They approved the Commission's Proposals on the additional features to be put into national accounting (quality of life) and into the system of structural indicators.

Study Group on Medium-Term Economic Prospects

2206. The Study Group on Medium-Term Economic Prospects met on 11 February 1974 with Mr Kervyn de Lettenhove in the Chair. The experts discussed the changes entailed by the energy crisis in the work of preparing the 1974-78 projections.

On the basis of notes from the Commission which made an initial assessment of the medium-term aspects of the energy crisis and the provisional data from Member States, the experts held that the priority problem to be studied was disruption of payment balances and its effect on the internal development of national economies and on the functioning of the Community. The proceedings were therefore aimed

at highlighting the situation of each Member country and the national policies intended to deal with the problems of payment balances, internal adjustments and mounting pressure on prices. It should also be possible to identify the risks of incompatibility and anomalies at Community level.

Regional Policy

New Proposals and Projects

2207. Despite the Commission's efforts to reconcile the viewpoints, no agreement could be reached on the regional policy. The Council meeting on 18 February which was to tackle regional policy problems has been cancelled and the hope of reaching a solution during the meeting of 4 March has also proven vain.

The Commission, as it had intimated, had intended to submit 'at the right time' an amended Proposal concerning the creation of a Regional Development Fund. Following the talks which Mr Thomson had in the Common Market capitals, the Commission prepared a compromise Proposal covering the size of the endowment and the allocation of funds between the beneficiary regions. The Commission indicated to the Council during the meeting of 4 March, that this Proposal would be officially submitted if the Commission was assured that all the delegations were prepared to try and find a solution to this question, but the Council held that as matters stand politically it was better to consider the amended version at a forthcoming session.

Financing

2208. Under Article 56, 2 a), of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission subject to the Council's

confirmatory Opinion,¹ decided to grant a low-interest redevelopment loan of about 0.98 million u.a. to the firm of Ornatex BV at Kerkrade (*Netherlands*) to expand its synthetic fibres special processing plant. The planned investments will mean the creation of 120 new jobs with special priority for former Limburg miners.

Under the same Article, two new applications for loans have been sent to the Commission, concerning a project in France and a project in Great Britain.

Social Policy

Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the Community

2209. On 22 February 1974 the Commission approved the Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the Community in 1973² annexed to the Seventh General Report on the Activities of the Communities (according to Article 122 of the Treaty of Rome). The development and outlook for the social situation were also dealt with in a statement to the European Parliament on 12 February by Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission.³

Employment

2210. An ad hoc Group set up to study the problems in the *employment of women* met for the first time on 14 February. The Group is to help the Commission in preparing Proposals which, in carrying out the Social Action Programme, it has undertaken to submit to the Council by the end of 1974.⁴

After a summary review of trends in the employment of women, the Group took stock of the

available means for Community projects and drew up its work programme allowing for deadlines set.

Free Movement and Social Security of Migrant Workers

2211. The *Audit Board attached to the Administrative Committee* for the Social Security of Migrant Workers, meeting on 20 February, resumed its review of the problems involved in implementing the provisions of the Council Regulation of 21 March 1972⁵ which is intended to speed up payment of social security benefits for migrant workers. It was agreed to give priority to action enabling the insurance schedule of persons immediately affected by the provisions, i.e. the most advanced age groups, to be reconstituted and the methods of exchanging information on persons taking up a migrant occupation to eventually finalize.

2212. The *ad hoc group on Migrant Workers* held its second meeting on 6-7 February. Member States' experts got down to a discussion of the many problems besetting migrant workers and their families. They then reviewed draft Proposals by the Commission intended to specify action to be taken to accomplish the first part of its action programme for the benefit of migrant workers.

Social Security and the European Social Budget

2213. Independent experts from the three new Member States met on 22 February to review the

¹ Given on 21.3.1974.

² Part 1, Chapter 3: 'Social Report' 1973.

³ 'European Parliament' of this Bulletin.

⁴ Supplement 2/74 - Bull. EC.

⁵ OJ L 74 of 27.3.1972.

status of work on social security in agriculture which had been assigned to them. At the previous meeting in December they had discussed the difficulties they had found due to the different structures of social security schemes benefiting the population of the States in question. To allow for this, it was agreed that their work would not be confined to social security as such but would cover the broadest aspects of social assistance. This extended coverage approved by the Commission departments will also be proposed to the experts of the original Six. A meeting to be attended by all these specialists has been scheduled for late May.

Living and Working Conditions

2214. Under the first instalment of the 7th Financial Aid Programme for building *low-cost subsidized housing* for personnel of industries covered by the ECSC Treaty, the Commission decided to grant a loan of 120 million BFrs. to the National Housing Company (Société Nationale du Logement) in Brussels for financing a project of 518 dwellings in Tubize (Brabant) for employees of the Forges de Clabecq.

Health Protection

2215. On 11 February the Commission decided to launch a research programme on the *technical campaign against pollution from steelworks*. This will be the third programme since the ECSC was formed. The other two started in 1957 and 1967. The new programme will be endowed with an overall credit of 10 million u.a. over 5 years. Compared with its predecessors, it also covers, besides air pollution, industrial waters and noise.

The traditional activities of iron and steel production constitute the main headings of the programme: cokeries, pig-iron and steel, rolling

mills. One part covers general problems including the disposal or recycling of waste products. Measuring techniques and the physical properties of pollutants also have their place. The new programme will open right at the start of 1974.

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2216. During the sitting of 11-15 February 1974, the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion on Commission Proposals concerning interventions by the European Social Fund in favour of handicapped people and migrant workers and concerning the Commission's Communication to the Council on an action programme for the employment of handicapped people in an open market economy.

The *Economic and Social Committee* which met on 27-28 February issued an Opinion on the Commission's Proposals to the Council concerning the formation of a General Committee for Industrial Safety and on further action by the Mines Safety and Health Commission.

Agricultural Policy

2217. The tension affecting the world market since mid-1973 meant that in February the ban on exports of Durum wheat had to continue and that the levy on exports of other cereals, rice, sugar and olive oil had to stay.

The high level of the rates on the world market has particularly affected the Community importing countries. Thus, based on the fixed representative rates, the market prices for barley in Great Britain levelled out in mid-February at 27 u.a./tonne higher than the Community target price. The target price for maize in Italy was exceeded by 40 u.a./tonne. The higher prices for fodder cereals have continued to act unfavourably on production costs in the livestock sector.

The beef and veal situation is still difficult, despite measures taken in January.¹ Interventions made in this sector involved a total of 5 000 tonnes under standing intervention for the first two months of the year. With regard to the immediate intervention action consisting of grants for private storage, which sums are set through tenders, 6 730 tonnes were allocated after the Commission's first call for tender, on 7 February for a quantity of 17 000 tonnes.

During the Council meetings of 11-12 and 18-19 February² no agreement could unfortunately be reached on setting prices for the 1973/75 marketing year. But these prices, as agreed, should for the beef and veal and milk sectors be applicable from 4 March 1974.

On 14 February 1974³ the European Parliament asked for a substantial increase in prices for the 1974 marketing year⁴ and at the same time gave its Opinion on the Commission's Memorandum concerning improvements and adjustments to the CAP.⁵ The Economic and Social Committee issued an Opinion on these points on 28 February 1974.

It should also be noted that the Commission proposed to expand the battery of CAP instruments with forestry measures. This proposed Directive also fits in with the Commission's efforts for protecting the environment.

Measures connected with the Monetary Situation

2218. On 18 February 1974 the Council adopted two Regulation on certain agricultural measures to be taken by Italy in the wake of a new representative rate for the *Lira* which took effect from 28 January 1974.

Under the first Regulation⁶ the intervention and purchase prices valid in Italy, except for certain sectors, have been raised by 5% as from 25 February 1974. An increase of about 5% of

prices valid for the Italian beef and veal sector had already been applied on 28 January 1974.⁷

But the special situation in the wine, olive oil, sugar and tobacco sectors has led to their being excluded from the application of this Regulation which will not take effect in the above sectors until the start of the 1974/75 marketing year and in the case of tobacco will apply to the 1974 crop.

The second Regulation brought in the same measures to increase the valid prices for the colza and rape seed sectors in Italy.⁸

Following these Decisions by the Council the Commission on 22 February⁹ adjusted the existing rules concerning the amounts other than the intervention prices in Italy; the Commission defined the measures required and replaced the coefficients in the Regulations of 23 August 1973 for colza and rape seeds and of 21 December 1973 for the overall farming sector. Allowing for the new level of prices the compensatory amounts applicable in Italy from 25 February 1974 were also set.¹⁰

2219. Two aspects of the *application terms of monetary compensatory amounts* were clarified by the Commission: the time limit for payment of monetary and 'Accession' compensatory amounts was set in principle at two months from the date of submission of the complete dossier and the amount gathered on exports of skimmed milk or skimmed milk powder in the form of denatured skimmed milk powder or compound feeds is not considered as an export levy.¹⁰

¹ Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2231.

² 'Council' of this Bulletin.

³ 'European Parliament' of this Bulletin.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1974, Part 1, Chapter 2.

⁵ Bull. EC Supplement 17/73.

⁶ OJ L 47 of 20.1.1974.

⁷ Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2224.

⁸ OJ L 51 of 23.2.1974.

⁹ OJ L 54 of 25.2.1974.

¹⁰ OJ L 40 of 12.2.1974 and L 41 of 13.2.1974.

2220. Lastly, regarding the *setting of the amounts* developments in the exchange rates of certain currencies have led to adjustments of the compensatory and differential amounts for: Italy from 4 February 1974; the United Kingdom from 11 February; Italy and the United Kingdom from 18 February; France and Italy (owing to the new prices in Lire) from 25 February.

Moreover, the complications due to the fact that according to the cut of pigmeat, products can be variously classified and consequently subject to unjustified compensatory amounts have led the Commission to differentiate as from 25 February 1974 the compensatory amounts within certain tariff subheadings according to the value of the products in question.

Joint Organization of the Markets

Cereals and Rice

2221. Since 10 February 1974 the denaturation premium on soft wheat has been cut down to nothing. The Commission's Decision of 23 January 1974¹ follows on two successive premium reductions: the first one from 16 to 12 u.a./tonne was applied at the start of the 1973/74 marketing year, the second from 12 to 7 u.a./tonne was applied from November 1973.²

The Commission held that it was justified to abolish the premium chiefly because of the soft wheat market situation. The world market is coloured by even more difficult conditions and very high prices. Considerable price increases have also been noted in certain Community regions.

By discouraging denaturation the Commission hopes to free a sizable quantity of soft wheat for uses other than animal feeds and thus help to stabilize the market. This measure will also enable the EAGGF to make considerable savings.

Sugar

2222. As a result of the considerable increase in ocean carriage which has been developing for some time, the Commission on 11 February 1974³ took action to guarantee the United Kingdom's importing of sugar under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. Furthermore, the current shortfall situation of sugar on the world market together with very high sugar prices obliged the Commission on 18 February⁴ to bring in a special export levy on syrups and other sugars as for white and raw sugar. This was done to avoid possible outgoings of Community sugar in the form of syrups, etc.

Fruit and Vegetables

2223. On 19 February the Council following the Proposals made by the Commission in December 1973⁵ modified the special measures for improving production and marketing in the Community citrus fruit sector. The application of the new scheme of marketing premiums for the products concerned is connected with the coming into force of new agreements with the Mediterranean countries.

Because of the rates recorded on the representative markets, the Commission on 5 February 1974⁶ was able to discontinue the countervailing import tax introduced in 25 January 1974⁷ for certain varieties of sweet orange from Algeria and from 9-19 February 1974⁸ the CCT was applied to imports of the same produce from Spain.

¹ OJ L 20 of 24.1.1974.

² Bull. EC 10-1973, point 2234.

³ OJ L 40 of 12.2.1974.

⁴ OJ L 43 of 15.2.1974 and OJ L 44 of 16.2.1974.

⁵ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2237.

⁶ OJ L 33 of 6.2.1974.

⁷ Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2230.

⁸ OJ L 37 of 9.2.1974 and OJ L 47 of 20.2.1974.

Hops

2224. On 20 February 1974¹ the Commission adopted temporary measures for allocating aid to United Kingdom hop growers for the redevelopment of varieties and the restructuring of surface areas under hops. The Regulation is based on Article 63, paragraph 1 of the Act concerning the Accession terms and the amendments to the Treaties enabling temporary measures to be brought in to help the new Member States to move over from their current schemes to the system deriving from the joint organization of the market. Moreover, it also amounts to a departure from the Regulation on the joint organization of the markets in the hop sector which authorizes Member States to grant aid for redeveloping varieties and restructuring surface area solely to producer groups recognized under sharply defined rules. It was apparently equitable to allow the United Kingdom growers to benefit from this aid although the U.K. has not yet had the chance to form producer groups who meet Community criteria.

These measures are due to expire by 31 January 1975 at the latest.

Milk and Dairy Produce

2225. On 19 February 1974² the Council amended the basic Regulation on the joint organization of the markets in the milk and dairy produce sector. A new provision will enable the Commission to take the necessary steps under the Management Committee procedure to avoid disruptions which in the dairy sector could stem from the adjustment of prices in the transition from one marketing year to the next.

Beef and Veal

2226. For some time now a climate of uncertainty has dominated the beef and veal mar-

ket. To deal with this situation the Commission has activated a number of measures such as expanding the range of products eligible for refunds and granting aid for private storage.

But this action has not enabled a normal situation to be regained and to avert serious upheavals especially on the most sensitive markets, it has now proved necessary to fall back on protection measures at frontiers.

So with the Regulation of 21 February 1974³ the Commission has made imports of livestock or, beef and veal subject to surrender of an import certificate and made the issue of certificates in turn subject to the deposit of a guarantee. The Commission also decided to suspend until 21 March 1974 imports of fresh and refrigerated meat into France and Italy; this action, taken at the request of the Member States concerned has since been extended from 26 February⁴ to include Belgium and Luxembourg who had also made a similar request.

Lastly, on 26 February⁵ the Commission authorized the free circulation in the Member States of fresh and refrigerated meat which had reached the borders of those States just after the ban on imports had been applied and which was causing problems because it was no longer possible to route it elsewhere.

Fishery Products

2227. The temporary scheme set up in February 1972⁶ for imports of trout, carp, tinned sardines and tinned tunny from Tunisia and Morocco only ran until 31 December 1972. Since the Community import scheme for

¹ OJ L 49 of 21.2.1974.

² Bull. EC 1-1974, Point 2230.

³ OJ L 50 of 22.2.1974.

⁴ OJ L 55 of 26.2.1974.

⁵ OJ L 56 of 27.2.1974.

⁶ Bull. EC 3-1972, Part 2, Point 30.

these products had not been defined, the Council on 28 December 1972¹ had prolonged the temporary scheme until 31 December 1973. For the same reason the Council again decided on 4 February² to extend the arrangements until the end of 1974, but with the stipulation that the temporary scheme for Morocco and Tunisia should on no occasion be less favourable than the system applied to the same products originating from non-Member countries.

Structural Policy

2228. On 26 February 1974 the Commission sent the Council a proposed Directive 'concerning forestry measures'. This proposal follows the Council's commitment in its Resolution of 25 May 1971 concerning the new direction of the CAP.³ The proposed Directive was part of a position taken in the Memorandum 'on improving and adjusting the common agricultural policy' which the Commission submitted to the Council on 31 October 1973.⁴

The forestry measures contemplated in the proposed Directive form a vital complement to the Council's 1972 Directives for modernizing and restructuring agriculture and for the training of farming operatives.⁵ Forestry can help to improve agricultural structures. It provides employment locally and in the timber industry of the rural districts. It also allows a healthy use of land no longer suitable or required for agriculture and serves to protect neighbouring farming ground.

Besides these purely farming objectives, the proposal has other even more important aims:

(a) to expand output of timber raw material nearly half of which the Community has to

import whilst the world market supply situation is getting more difficult;

- (b) to help the efforts made concerning the environment;
- (c) to preserve ground, flora and fauna;
- (d) to promote the recreative function of the forest; in its Resolution of 25 May 1971 the Council quoted this further objective to be attained through joint forestry action.

All of the measures envisaged are of interest to the Community and are aimed at reaching the productivity targets defined by Article 39, paragraph 1 a) of the Treaty. This action will not be undertaken unless the cost which varies appreciably from region to region is substantially subsidized.

This is because considerable investment is needed and it will be many years before any timber yield is obtained. The inducements in the proposed Directive give Member States the option of determining for themselves the form and amount of aid for the afforestation of agricultural or uncultivated surface area, for the development of poor forest into productive forest and for afforestation projects to protect farming and the environment. The Community is helping financially by reimbursing the Member States with 25% of 'eligible' expenditure subject to certain conditions and limits.

This joint action is expected to take ten years to complete. After the provisions of the Directive have been applied for five years, their terms will be reappraised by the Council on Proposals from the Commission.

¹ OJ L 298 of 31.12.1972.

² OJ L 34 of 7.2.1974.

³ OJ C 52 of 27.5.1971.

⁴ Supplement 17/73 - Bull. EC.

⁵ OJ L 96 of 23.4.1972.

The European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

Guarantee Section

2229. On 4 February 1974¹ the Council amended certain Regulations concerning interventions by the EAGGF, Guarantee Section. They cover the following:

- (i) a change of financial method regarding account balances so that any credit balance becomes part of the financing for the current year;
- (ii) up-dating of the Annex to the Regulation of 28 December 1972² listing the measures which fit with the concept of interventions intended to regularize agricultural markets;
- (iii) a one-year extension of the time required for implementing the ground rules of financing intervention measures when amounts per unit have not been set.

On 28 February 1974 the Commission adopted a Regulation concerning the applications for reimbursement under the EAGGF, Guarantee Section, for the 1968/69-70 accounting periods. On 2 February the Council was sent an Addendum to the Commission's Proposal on price setting for some farm products and certain measures covered by the Memorandum on improving the CAP³ which includes an assessment of the financial repercussions of these Proposals on the 1974/75 marketing year.

Guidance Section

2230. On 18 February⁴ the Council extended for 1972, 1973 and 1974 certain deadlines for the granting of aid from the Guidance Section and for the submission of Member States' projects.

Competition Conditions

2231. On the basis of the provisions of Article 93, paragraph 3 of the Treaty, the Commission took a position on two German and four Italian measures.

It decided to invoke the procedure of Article 169 of the EEC Treaty for breach of Article 93, paragraph 3, first sentence with regard to a subsidy granted in *Germany* to cover storage outlay in favour of the fruit and vegetable preserving industry. Conversely, the Commission made no objections over a planned subsidy in Germany for the benefit of garden produce grown under glass.

Although it drew the *Italian* Government's attention to certain particular features of four draft regional laws, the Commission made no objection to subsidies concerning: special farming crops in the Molise region, farming in the province of Bolzano, development and improvement of livestock in Trento and farming cooperation in Sardinia.

Harmonization of Laws

2232. On 8 February 1974 the Commission adopted a Proposal to amend the Council Directive of 15 February 1971⁵ concerning *Health inspection* problems in the fresh poultrymeat trade. The aim is to lay down further sanitary requirements for the cutting up of poultrymeat and the improvement of cutting shops.

¹ OJ L 37 of 9.2.1974.

² Bull. EC 12-1972, point 66.

³ Bull. EC 1-1972, Part 1, Chapter 2: 'Agricultural Price Proposals for the 1974/1975 Marketing Year'.

⁴ OJ L 50 of 22.2.1974.

⁵ Bull. EC 4-1971, point 45.

2233. On 28 February 1974 the Commission adopted a proposed Regulation concerning livestock used for breeding thoroughbred beef cattle and a proposed Decision to set up a Standing Zootechnical Committee. The Regulation on cattle represents the first step towards harmonization undertaken in the zootechnical field. Other harmonization projects particularly with regard to pigs are being prepared by Commission departments.

Although they are covered by the Council Regulation of 28 June 1968¹ on the joint organization of the market for certain products listed in Annex II of the Treaty, thoroughbred beef breeding cattle are still subject to national laws provided that such legislation does not involve discrimination over the origin of the products. But even if no discrimination arises, the laws vary from one country to another to the extent that trade in this livestock is seriously held up or even completely stopped. Each country encourages the rearing of breeds traditionally its own and which are not always to be found amongst its neighbours. Alternatively, a widely distributed breed may be subject to different norms according to the country of origin. There can no longer be any rules in the Community, regardless of their character or origin, which aim at or result in prohibitions on the importing or rearing of breeding livestock.

The proposed Regulation is a basic text which cannot by itself settle all the harmonization problems of this sector. Methods to be applied in monitoring the observance of norms regarding anatomy, dairy produce etc. are still entirely a national matter. Community methods will therefore have to be worked out in order to get a uniform assessment of results. A Zootechnical Committee has been envisaged for this purpose and will enable the Commission to draw up the necessary application measures. Meanwhile, methods in current practice are recognized.

2234. During the sitting of 11-15 February the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion on several Commission Proposals concerning the following: action to be taken in the farming sectors in Italy after the setting of a new representative rate for the Lira, an extension for Denmark of the time limit set for implementing the 1972 Directive on inducement to give up farming, the agricultural prices for the 1974/75 marketing year and the increased guide prices for beef and veal, production subsidies for pineapple preserves, wine-making practices, and the definition of dessert wine and certain grape musts.

The *Economic and Social Committee* meeting in full session 27-28 February issued several Opinions concerning the Commission's Memorandum on 'improving the common agricultural policy', the farm price Proposals for the 1974/75 marketing year, the agricultural 'folio' of the Communication on the multilateral GATT negotiations and the definition of dessert wine.

Science, Research and Development, Education, Scientific and Technical Education

Science, Research and Development

Energy Research

2235. The issue of energy research was again reviewed by the 'Energy' Study Group of the European Research and Development Committee (CERD) which met on 7-8 and 28 February with Mr Della Porta in the Chair.

¹ OJ L 151 of 30.6.1968.

The Study Group's activity centred on two basic points: a review of particular areas of research which could be regarded as urgent priorities and the drawing up of an overall report on the Community energy situation so as to highlight the priorities for research in this quarter.

On the first point the Study Group began its work on the basis of reports received concerning the eight subjects adopted at its meeting of 10-11 December 1973¹ and which could well be instrumental in providing the swiftest possible remedy to the Community's energy problems. The Study Group picked out four of them for top priority: deep-sea oil prospecting, boosting thermal yields and improving the burning of fuels, satellite detection of terrestrial resources and solving the problems arising from the intensive and extensive use of nuclear reactors. It also recommended that the priority list should include the use of geothermal energy and the thorough investigation of hydrogen production methods.

As explicitly requested by the Commission, the Study Group also resumed its work of examining the various departments of energy research in order to determine the most suitable short, medium and long-term lines of action. The outcome of the discussions was summarized in an overall interim report which was itself discussed on 28 February 1974 so that it could be sent to the Commission and members of the CERD. The date of the next meeting for the Study Group was set for 2 April 1974.

European Research and Development Committee

2236. Two sub-Groups of the CERD met in February. Besides the 'Energy' sub-Group who resumed its work on energy research,² the Study Group for 'forecasting assessment and methodology' which had met for the first time

on 9 January 1974³ held its second meeting on 15 February in Brussels. The main results can be summarized as follows:

- (i) definition of the status of the 'Europe + 30' project Group and Committee and of the European Technological Evaluations Office;
- (ii) criteria to be adopted for selecting the project director;
- (iii) setting a timetable for implementing the project.

Action was initiated for the prompt nomination of Committee members and appointment of the project director. The Commission, between now and the autumn of 1975, is expected to submit its recommendations to the Council on the study 'Europe + 30' and on the technological assessments, in the light of a feasibility study to be completed in the meantime.

Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee

2237. The Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) set up by a Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities on 14 January 1974,⁴ held its inaugural meeting on 18 and 19 February 1974. This Committee, which is under the chairmanship of Mr Gunther Schuster, the Commission's Director-General for Research, Science and Education, is composed of leading figures responsible for scientific research in the various Member States of the Community.

At this inaugural meeting, the Committee determined the guidelines for its future tasks. In

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2259.

² Point 2235.

³ Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2245.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1974, Part One, Chapter 4: 'Scientific and Technological Policy: Adoption of an Action Programme', point 1402.

the initial phase, it intends to define the sectoral objectives in support of the various policies evolved within the Community whereby the needs accorded priority can be satisfied.

Particular attention will be paid to scientific and technical research in the energy sector, and in the next few weeks the Committee will instruct a working party composed of national experts to examine the Commission's proposals in this sector and put forward any helpful suggestions. The Committee plans to begin its comparison of national policy guidelines, structures and procedures, as provided for in the Council Resolution, with the energy and raw materials sectors.

Finally, the Committee has requested the competent departments of the Commission to present in time for its next meeting to be held at the end of March, some reflections dealing respectively with procedures for the furnishing of the information required for the proper performance of its tasks.

Thermo-nuclear Fusion and Plasma Physics

2238. A meeting took place on 13-15 February 1974 in Culham, England¹ of some fifty European specialists from all the European laboratories associated with the Commission in carrying out the Community Thermo-nuclear Fusion and Plasma Physics Programme. They discussed the joint practical creation of a large-scale appliance enabling physical conditions to be obtained similar to those which are required in a reactor and they also paid special attention to the required physical parameters of such a device, known as JET (Joint European Torus).

The delegates analysed the initial results of research on the project for this device. The research has been going on for some months in Culham under a team of about twenty physicists and engineers seconded from laboratories asso-

ciated with the Fusion Programme. The results are sufficiently encouraging for work on the project to be continued. Other meetings to deal with particular features of the device will be held shortly. When the definition stage of the JET project has been completed, it will be studied by the various scientific authorities of the Community Fusion Programme with the aim of including it in the fourth Fusion Programme, due to start by 1976.

All the controlled nuclear fusion and plasma physics research carried out in the Member States has been incorporated since 1959 into an association scheme as part of the Community programmes.

Multiannual Programme

Euratom Scientific and Technical Committee

2239. The Euratom Scientific and Technical Committee met in Brussels on 27 February 1974. After a short address by Mr Ralf Dahrendorf of the Commission, the Committee unanimously appointed Mr Cesoni Chairman and Mr Goens Vice-Chairman.

The Committee was advised of the Community's scientific and technological policy objectives and the content of relevant decisions taken by the Council, in particular the four Resolutions passed on 14 January 1974.²

After a discussion of the draft revision of the JRC multiannual research programme, which will again be on the agenda for the next meeting, the Committee heard a statement by Mr Palumbo on the status of the Fusion Programme following the enlargement of the Community

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2258.

² Bull. EC 1-1974, Part One, Chapter 4.

and the Council Decision of 17 December 1973 on the second set of priority projects and on initiating the design stage of the JET project.¹ The Committee then designated Mr O'Ceallaigh and Mr Schulter as its representatives to the Fusion Liaison Group.

Lastly, the Committee approved the improvements to the supplement of the Biology Programme entailed by the enlargement and renewed the briefs of the expert groups in the field of health protection (basics norms, radioactive effluent discharges) as specified by the Euratom Treaty.

The Committee's next meeting was set for 29 March 1974 in Brussels.

Consultative Committees for Programme Management

2240. The CCMGP for *Environmental Research*² held its second meeting on 28 February and 1 March 1974. It carried on vetting research proposals submitted as part of the indirect project of the Environmental Research Programme. A favourable Opinion was given on the conclusion of thirty-three split-cost research projects for a total of about 3.2 million u.a. The projects will explore the harmful effects of lead, the action of micropollutants on human organisms and the environmental effects of water contaminants.

There was an initial discussion on the contract management of research projects. The Committee also acknowledged proposals for remodelling the 1974 and 1975 direct project programmes. It will meet again on 4-5 April 1974 to resume the review of research proposals under indirect projects.

2241. The third meeting of the CCMGP for *High Flux Reactors* took place in Petten on

13 February. The tariffs for irradiations and services in 1974 were approved and the estimated expenditure for 1974 was reviewed. The question of financing the uranium stock, arising from the United States' withdrawal from the 'rental' agreement, came under discussion.

The Commission was advised to explore the possibility of raising a bank loan for this purpose, one delegation being unwilling to increase the 1975 budget allocation.

Analysis of reactor utilization in 1973 revealed that 20% of the work demanded failed to materialize in time. It was decided to overbook by a small amount to provide 'stand-by' experiments and thus avoid under-utilization in future.

It was agreed that frequent and regular detailed progress information be given to participating Member States to ensure the efficient coordination of their HFR irradiations in their national programmes. After a review of the 'state of the art' in high temperature thermometry, the Petten thermocouple development activity and the Europatom/UKAEA joint thermocouple irradiation programme was examined.

The next meeting will take place on 28 May 1974.

Scientific and Technical Information and Information Management

2242. On 18 February 1974 there was a meeting of the Working Party attached to the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation (CIDST), which deals with the *technical side of the European information and documentation network*. It will be

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2258.

² Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2249.

remembered that the setting up of this network is one of the main points covered by the Council resolution of 24 June 1971.¹

Some major guidelines emerged from the discussion. It was agreed that the system should develop out of two parallel efforts. One would gradually introduce certain standardized practices and the other would anticipate more practical applications, meaning that projects would be undertaken which were directly linked with the installation of systems. It has indeed repeatedly been found that although the working out of standardized practices is vital to the development of the network, it entails a good deal of work which would inevitably be stretched over several years. But it is out of the question to wait so long before getting some practical action underway.

In following the first line, every effort will be made to finalize multilingual systems and glossaries, to standardize the presentation of data for use in the network and to harmonize classification schemes, etc.

The second line will lead the Commission and the Member States to launch studies on identifying the needs of information users in the years to come and to assess the various options available (for instance, is it better to set up a network with many small systems, or with comparatively few large-scale systems?). Apart from this, temporary measures will be brought in as promptly as possible to connect up information and documentation systems already working or under development. So once the various above-mentioned studies have been completed, it will be possible to start assembling the network even if it is to take on a slightly different shape afterwards.

On 20 February 1974, a new Working Party formed under the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation (CIDST) met for the first time. This group has

been assigned to deal with the *training of information and documentation specialists*. Both the Commission and CIDST had seen the need for thorough study and discussion of the problems in this field, if the Community is to have a well integrated information and documentation network.

It was decided that in the years ahead efforts would focus on a study to assess the need, qualitatively and quantitatively, for specialists between now and 1985. Besides documentalists, the study would cover members of the more traditional professions such as librarians. The various training programmes now running in Community countries will be collated with the aim of some eventual standardization, especially with regard to diplomas, so that specialists may move freely within the Community.

It was acknowledged that certain countries have particular needs and resources. To quote a few examples, France has considerable experience in preparing and handling multilingual vocabularies. In the United Kingdom techniques for running major documentary systems have been highly developed. Much work has been done in Ireland on the channelling of information from the laboratory to industry. Prospects of mutual assistance are therefore already developing.

2244. During the sitting of 11-15 February, the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion on a Commission Proposal to the Council concerning the scheme for dissemination of knowledge related to the EEC research programmes.

¹ Bull. EC 8-1971, point 39.

Energy Policy

The Washington Energy Conference

2245. Following on the proposals by the United States in December 1973 and January 1974,¹ a Conference on energy was held in Washington on 11-13 February 1974.² The EEC was represented as such by the President-in-Office of the Council and the President of the Commission.

Hydrocarbons

2246. In accordance with Article 3 of the Council Regulation of 18 May 1972³ concerning the *notification of hydrocarbon imports*, the Commission asked the Member States to advise it of their planned imports for 1974, per quarter and broken down by company, thus enabling the Commission to assess the supply position.

2247. In a Communication published in the Official Journal of the Communities⁴ concerning 'the *support of Community projects* in the hydrocarbon sector,' the Commission asked those concerned to submit within thirty days of publication of this announcement the request for support which could be considered in the 1974 budgetary financial year. This is an application of the Regulation adopted by the Council on 9 November 1973⁵ whereby the Community can foster technological development activities directly connected with prospecting, operating, storage and transport of hydrocarbons, which could promote the security of the Community's energy supply. Several undertakings or research groups have meanwhile submitted such projects to the Commission for review.

Nuclear Energy

Promoting the Use of Nuclear Energy: Action Programme proposed by the Commission

2248. On 8 February the Commission sent the Council a Communication and draft Decision concerning a full programme of action to promote the use of nuclear energy in the Community. This programme fits into the framework of commitments made by the Commission, when the Council, on 22 May 1973, discussed the 'Guidelines and priority action for a Community energy policy.'⁶ Since then, the immediacy of and interest in this issue have sharpened following the developments on the world petroleum market.

There are three aspects to the action being considered. To begin with, the Commission is stressing:

Protection of public health and preservation of the environment: A number of analyses, reviews, studies and draft Directives are envisaged in this context, their aim being to strengthen the measures taken to make nuclear energy safe.

Action taken under the programme will concern in particular the radiation risk from nuclear power plants, the associated thermal effects, transport and storage of radioactive substances and the technical safety of nuclear power plants.

An industrial, scientific and technological base is the second aspect of nuclear development being

¹ Bull. EC 1-1974, Part One, Chapter 1: 'The Community and the Energy Crisis', points 1112 and 1114.

² Part One, Chapter 2: 'The Washington Energy Conference'.

³ OJ L 120 of 25.5.1972.

⁴ OJ C 19 of 28.2.1974.

⁵ OJ L 312 of 13.11.1973.

⁶ Supplement 6/73 - Bull. EC.

considered. The Commission believes there is still progress to be made in the very varied sectors affecting industry, such as the proper functioning of equipment, especially reliability, the effective achievement of a common market in such equipment and the practical possibilities for gaining export markets. The Commission again underlines the need for an implemented scientific and technological policy at Community level with nuclear energy as a prime objective in view of its immense possibilities and because of the high cost of developing.

Finally, the Commission feels that the problems of the *supply of nuclear fuels* should likewise be tackled jointly. The Community's own resources of economically workable natural uranium are too small to support the medium and long-term growth of a source of energy which, well before the turn of the century should be providing one third of the energy supplies for all the Member countries. The Commission is at present drafting proposals on these problems which it will forward to the Council in due course.

The Commission would also recall its earlier proposals to create European capacities for uranium enrichment; these proposals have yet to be discussed by the Council.

If the situation called for it, the Commission would submit further Proposals to the Council.

Coal

Technical Research

2249. In line with the provisions of Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission decided to confer with the Consultative Committee and obtain the Council's confirmatory Opinion on seven Memoranda concerning applications for financial aid; they have to do with research projects adopted by the Commission in the

following areas of the 'medium-term programme on aid for technical coal research': technique for preparatory workings, operating methods and winning techniques, carbonization of coal, physical and chemical upgrading, strata control and supports and general underground services.

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2250. During the sitting of 11-15 February, the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on action to be taken on energy policy following decisions taken at the Copenhagen Summit Conference.

Transport Policy

Infrastructures

2251. Under the procedure set up by the Council Decision of 28 February 1966¹ on transport and infrastructure investments, a consultative meeting was held on 7 February 1974 concerning the *Channel Tunnel* project. It was attended by Member States' representatives. The discussions helped to answer many technical and economic questions involved in completing the tunnel. The problem of integrating the tunnel into the Community communications network was also brought up and various features of the possible impact of the completed project on national transport development and modernization programmes were also highlighted.

2252. The ad hoc Group of government experts met on 21-22 February 1974 to resume

¹ OJ C 74 of 10.7.1972.

² OJ 42 of 8.3.1966.

the investigation of *methods for computing the marginal cost of use of infrastructures* which are to be put into the Annex of the proposed first Council Directive on adjusting national taxation schemes covering utility vehicles.¹ The talks helped to a great extent to reconcile viewpoints, especially on the methodology to be employed in computing the marginal cost of renewal, an issue on which Member States had appreciably differed.

Harmonization

2253. A meeting of the Advisory Committee was held on 1 February 1974 in Luxembourg. The Committee had been formed under Article 6 of the Council Regulation of 4 June 1970 concerning *aid granted for rail, road and inland waterway transport*,² and had been assigned to help the Commission in its review of aid granted by Member States to transport companies. Since this was the first meeting after the enlargement of the Community, the Committee first of all adapted its running procedures to the new situation. It then reviewed the following matters:

- (i) compensation granted by Belgium to the SNCB against disadvantages deriving from application of the ECSC direct international tariffs;
- (ii) reimbursement to Denmark of the fuel tax on international road transport;
- (iii) arrangements in Italy concerning regional aid for road passenger transport;
- (iv) aid granted under Article 4 of the Regulation of 4 June 1970.

The conclusions which emerged will enable the Commission to take a position on the various transport subsidies granted by Member States.

2254. On 18-19 February 1974 a meeting was held at the request of several Member States firstly in order to clarify or interpret some parts

of the Regulation on introducing a *recording device in road transport*³ and secondly to see whether certain points of the Regulation were not due for amendment in the light of practical experience gained so far. A second meeting has been scheduled to deal with matters still outstanding.

Functioning of the Market

2255. At their meeting of 11 February 1974⁴ the ECSC Member States Government Representatives meeting within the Council adopted the *revised nomenclature for rail carriage of coal and steel*. They agreed to simplify the procedure for future revisions. Amendments will not have to be submitted for their approval and revisions will be made under ECSC Tariff 9001 by the railway companies themselves acting with the Commission and in line with the other nomenclatures in question. When finalized, the amendments will be published as railway tariff bulletins in the same form as the tariff provisions under international ECSC Tariff 9001.

2256. On 4 February the Commission decided to send the Irish Government an *Opinion* on the draft Regulation 'European Communities (International Carriage of Passengers) Regulations, 1973' concerning the *international carriage of passengers by buses and coaches*. In the Opinion⁵ the Commission notes that the content of the provisions in the draft of the Irish regulation meets the obligations of Member States under the relevant Community rules. But the Commission regretted that the Irish Government had not respected the deadline for adopting the measures to enforce these rules.

¹ OJ C 95 of 21.9.1968.

² OJ L 130 of 15.6.1970.

³ OJ L 164 of 27.7.1970.

⁴ OJ C 29 of 18.3.1974.

⁵ OJ L 87 of 30.3.1974.

Transport Consultative Committee

2257. On 25 February 1974 the Commission approved a report on private contracts entailing the application of prices outside the brackets of rates adopted for intra-Community road freight haulage, in discharging the Council Regulation of 30 July 1968¹ on the *introduction of a system of bracket rates applicable to intra-Community road freight haulage*. The Commission also acknowledged the second report of the Committee of experts set up under Article 11 of the same Regulation on the development of the intra-Community road freight haulage market, and authorized these documents to be sent to the Council and the Member States.

2258. The rapporteur groups assigned by the Transport Advisory Committee to examine matters on which the Commission wants opinions during 1974,² began work in February. During the early meetings they defined the guidelines for the draft opinions which they have been asked to prepare on 'the future role of the railways', 'the role of transport in land and regional development', 'advice on the situation and development of the freight carriage market' 'coordination of transport infrastructure investments'.

At its meeting of 21 February 1974, the sub-Group working on 'structural policy for inland waterway transport' agreed to draw conclusions from data collected in the Member States on problems under study and to prepare a report for review by the Committee in the autumn.

Meeting with Port Representatives

2259. Invited by the Commission, the representatives of the main Community ports met on 19 February 1974 in Brussels to resume discussions on the *port policy*. The following ports and organizations were represented: Amsterdam, Antwerp, Bordeaux, Bremen, Copenhagen,

Dublin, Dunkirk, Ghent, Hamburg, Le Havre, Marseille, Rotterdam, Venice, the British Ports Association acting for the British ports, the Association pour le développement des grands ports français and the Union des ports autonomes et des Chambres de commerce et d'Industrie maritimes. The representatives from Genoa, Naples and Trieste were unable to attend.

The meeting was opened by Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, who spoke of the work accomplished since 1972 and the main lines of action which had emerged. All the delegates agreed that before reviewing port projects to be initiated at Community level, the institutional and administrative structures of the big Community ports would have to be collated in sufficient detail and the content of certain terms referring to port activities would have to be spelled out. A Working Party was set up to make these preparations and will submit a report by the end of 1974. The Commission will also make an analysis of the current position of traffic relations between the ports and their hinterlands with special emphasis on competition conditions between them.

Meeting with Representatives of the EEC Ship-Owners Association Committee

2260. On 22 February 1974 Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, met representatives from the EEC Ship-Owners Association Committee. The meeting took a birdseye view of the major problems in ocean shipping which directly affect the Community. The ship-owners' representatives emphasized the problem of fueling ships in view of the oil crisis. Permanent links will be made

¹ OJ L 194 of 6.8.1968.

² Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2265.

3. External Relations

Transport Policy

between the Committee and the Commission departments in order to watch the repercussions of the crisis on transport activity and trade by ocean shipping.

Special attention was also paid to the difficulties experienced by the ship-owners in securing cargoes in commercial activity with State-trading countries and in all cases when the securing of cargoes is subject to legal or administrative provisions which give priority to national flags. The representatives stressed the negative effect of this practice on the efficient organization of ocean shipping and consequently on the smooth running of trade.

From this angle, flag discriminations were tantamount to non-tariff barriers to trade and should be regarded as such within the compass of GATT. At the same time solutions to the problem should be sought within the bilateral relations between the Community and the non-Member countries practising, directly or indirectly, flag discriminations. It was therefore agreed to forge permanent links between the Committee and the Commission departments to find solutions to these problems, as part of the Community's bilateral moves and within international organizations.

The last part of the meeting focussed on the consequences for ocean shipping of Community action in insurance, taxation and shipbuilding. These matters will eventually be studied in greater detail with the aim of avoiding ill effects on the competitiveness of Community shipowners and on the world ocean shipping market.

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2261. During the sitting of 11-15 February 1974, the European Parliament passed a Resolution giving an Opinion on the proposed Directive concerning harmonization of Member States' laws appertaining to the road-worthiness tests of motor vehicles and trailers.

Multilateral Negotiations

Trade Negotiations Committee

2301. Following intensive consultations among the principal delegations,¹ the Trade Negotiations Committee met on 7 February and adopted a programme of work to be carried out in the analytical and preparatory phase of the negotiations during the coming months. The programme of work sets out specific tasks of a statistical and analytical nature to be performed by four of six groups to be set up in accordance with the subject groupings listed in paragraph 3 of the Tokyo Ministerial Declaration.² The work to be done by the other groups (sectoral approach and safeguards) will be specified at an appropriate time by the Committee. The group on tropical products was scheduled to begin its work on 18 February with meetings of the groups on agriculture, non-tariff barriers, and tariffs scheduled at weekly intervals thereafter.

The programme of work resulted from a move by the EEC following failure to agree at the October 1973 meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee on the organizational structure for the preparatory phase of the negotiations.³

The main difficulty encountered then had centred on the arrangements for dealing with agriculture. After adoption of the programme of work on 7 February, the Community spokesman made a declaration in which he referred to the special nature and problems of agriculture which, in the context of the negotiations, required a global examination in a single body, as illustrated in the programme of work.

¹ Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2301.

² Bull. EC 9-1973, Part One, Chapter 1: 'The GATT Ministerial Conference in Tokyo', point 1106.

³ Bull. EC 10-1973, point 2334.

Tropical Products

2302. The Tokyo Ministerial Declaration stated that the negotiations should aim to 'treat tropical products as a special and priority sector'. Accordingly, of the groups created by the Trade Negotiations Committee on 7 February for the analytical and preparatory phase of the negotiations, the group on tropical products was the first to meet. It held its first meeting from 18-20 February.

The programme of work adopted by the Trade Negotiations Committee envisaged that this group would continue, in the light of work undertaken by the Committee on Trade and Development and other international bodies, studies of all the pertinent data on trade in tropical products, due account being taken of the factors which influence this trade, such as supply, demand, prices and the level of the export receipts of developing countries. The group's first meeting was entirely satisfactory. Differences of emphasis among delegations did not lead to controversy; disagreement on the definition of tropical products was avoided by concentrating in the first place on the elaboration of data on products for which statistical material was available. At the request of the Community this data will include information on fluctuations in the value and volume of exports to support analysis of the problem of market access. The next meeting of the group is expected to scrutinize this data.

2303. During the sitting of 27-28 February 1974, the *Economic and Social Committee* issued an Opinion on the agricultural folio of the Commission's Communication of April-May 1973 to the Council concerning the 'preparation of a global concept for the forthcoming multilateral negotiations'.¹

Commercial Policy**Preparation and Implementation of the Common Commercial Policy****Protection Measures****Imports of Tape-Recorders by Italy**

2304. During the session of 4-5 February the Council reviewed the problems arising over Italian imports of tape-recorders from certain Asian countries. The discussion bore mainly on the question whether the Community ought or ought not to fall back on the protection measures,² based on Article XIX of GATT and which in 1973 were applied for Italy's benefit.

For technical reasons the Council could not reach a final decision. So, on a Proposal by the Commission, it extended as an exception and until 5 March 1974, the period (laid down by Art. 12, para 4, of the Regulation of 25 May 1970³ concerning the joint import system) within which the Council is required to take a final decision on this matter.

2305. To remedy the serious injury which Italian industry is likely to suffer from the increased exports and the prices involved from Tai-Wan onto the Italian market, the Commission on 5 February 1974⁴ decided, under Article 10 of the Regulation of 25 May 1970, to set up an import authorization scheme in Italy for tape-recorders from Tai-Wan with a ceiling quantity for the whole of 1974 fixed at 20 000 sets.

¹ Supplement 2/73 - Bull. EC.

² Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2329 and 12-1973, point 2318.

³ OJ L 124 of 8.6.1970.

⁴ OJ L 33 of 6.2.1974.

Imports of Cotton Yarns by the United Kingdom

2306. As a protective measure taken under the Council Regulation of 25 May 1970¹ on establishing a joint system applicable to imports from non-Member countries, the Commission on 8 February 1974² set up an authorization scheme for imports into the United Kingdom of cotton yarns from non-Member countries.

Then on 22 February it sent the Council a proposed Regulation on 'appropriate measures' to be taken afterwards by the Council and on which the latter must decide, since the action taken by the Commission is of a conservatory nature. The Proposal would authorize the United Kingdom to import cotton yarns in 1974 from non-Member countries subject to prior authorizations and with an overall ceiling volume of 17 000 tonnes.

This in fact amounts to renewal of a scheme already in force, since the United Kingdom had been authorized to take identical measures over the period 1 April-31 December 1973.³

Since the emergency action by the Commission was of a conservatory nature, a Proposal on the 'appropriate measures' which the Council is afterwards asked to take was submitted to the Council.

Individual Measures of Commercial Policy

Textiles

Arrangement for the International Textile Trade

2307. On 27 February the Commission sent the Council a draft Recommendation asking it to conclude on behalf of the Community the Agree-

ment on the international textile trade negotiated under GATT.⁴ This multilateral 'all-fibre' arrangement will create the required conditions for the systematic liberalization of the international textile trade, subject to satisfactory protection provisions and the conclusion of acceptable bilateral agreements such as can be authorized under the arrangement.

Negotiations with Bangladesh

2308. The negotiations initiated between the Community and Bangladesh for an Agreement on *jute products* wound up on 8 February 1974. Both parties agreed a draft Agreement to be submitted to their respective authorities. The new Agreement will supersede its predecessor which expires on 31 December 1972 and whose provisions had been extended de facto until 30 June 1974.

The main provisions of the Agreement are:

- (i) discontinuance of quantity restrictions in force in the Member States for certain jute product categories (broadcloth and jute yarns), with in return the autolimitation by Bangladesh of such exports at agreed levels;
- (ii) suspension by the Community of CCT charges according to a schedule determined within the generalized preferences;
- (iii) creation of a Joint Cooperation Committee with wide powers.

2309. During its meeting of 18-19 February, the Council authorized the Commission to negotiate for Agreements between the Community and Bangladesh on trade in silk cloths or silk

¹ OJ L 124 of 8.6.1970.

² OJ L 37 of 9.2.1974.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2328 and 9-1973, point 2317.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2319.

floss (schappe), cotton cloths woven on hand-looms and on trade in handicrafts.

2310. During the sitting of 11-15 February, the *European Parliament* gave an Opinion on the Commission's Communication and Proposal to the Council concerning the cooperation agreements between Member States and non-Member countries as well as on the Commission Proposal for setting up a Community guarantee scheme for private investments in non-Member countries. The latter Proposal was also the subject of an Opinion issued by the *Economic and Social Committee* during its meeting of 27-28 February.

Development and Cooperation

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2311. The Working Party for the *Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States*, a group within UNCTAD, held its 3rd meeting on 4-22 February in Geneva. Agreement was reached on the number of texts to be included in the future Charter. But the group will resume its review of the bulk of the outstanding questions to be dealt with when it meets again in June 1974. Important matters for the Community are still to be discussed including regional cooperation, international division of labour, movement of technology and sovereignty over natural resources.

2312. FAO-UNCTAD talks on oilseeds and oils and fats were held in Rome on 25-27 February. This meeting was part of the 'intensive intergovernmental consultations on commodities'¹ organized under the relevant

Resolutions adopted by UNCTAD at the Santiago 1972 meeting and by the UNCTAD Commodities Committee.

The purpose of the consultations is to examine problems involved in liberalizing trade and in price policy in order to offer governments practical proposals to boost trade in commodities in which the developing countries have an export interest and which will help to swell their currency receipts.

The consultation meeting on oils and fats made a number of proposals bearing on market access and price stabilization which will be forwarded to the governments so that they can decide on action to be taken.

Food Aid

2313. On 18 February the Commission sent the Council a Proposal concerning the food aid programme for cereals during 1973 and 1974 which is to be carried out under the commitment made by the Community within the 1971 Food Aid Agreement. The programme involves a total of 1 287 000 tonnes. The Community projects account for 580 000 tonnes with the remainder coming from national plans.

Commodities and World Agreements

Wheat

2314. The *International Wheat Council* met in London on 19-22 February 1974. It examined the measures to be applied to extend the

¹ Bull. EC 11-1973, point 2331 and 1-1974, point 2304.

two Conventions (on the wheat trade and food aid) which make up the 1971 International Wheat Agreement which expires on 30 June 1974.

Although the two Conventions are legally separate from one another, most of the participating governments regard them as one entity. They have made extension of the Food Aid Convention dependent on prolongation by the Community. But the Community has as yet been unable to reach agreement on this.

Lastly, the International Wheat Council approved the text of two Protocols to extend the two Conventions for one year. Both of them can be signed from 2 to 22 April 1974 and must be ratified by 18 June. The Protocol to extend the Food Aid Convention excludes any mention of the Community but carries provisions enabling it to sign within the scheduled time limits or join later on. The Community's partners have accepted this with the proviso that the extension will not take effect unless the Community accepts.

Dairy Produce

2315. The Standing Committee for the OECD gentleman's agreement on *whole milk powder* met on 13 February 1974 in Paris to examine an Australian proposal to raise the minimum price.

Since the market price is now at 88 dollars or more per 100 kg whereas the minimum price is 55 dollars and since the value of the US dollar has dropped since the price was set and production costs are mounting steeply all the time because of the energy crisis, most of the governments involved found no problem in accepting the Australian proposal.

But New Zealand and the Community insisted on the need for the minimum price to remain a safeguard price and that the market swings should not be too closely followed.

The Committee finally agreed on an increase of 5 dollars, bringing the minimum price up to 60 dollars per 100 kg as from 1 March 1974.

International Organizations

Council of Europe

2316. Following on a Resolution on the future role of the Council of Europe, passed by the Council's Ministerial Committee on 24 January in Strasbourg, the Director of Legal Affairs for the Council of Europe made an official visit to Brussels on 11-12 February. He met many people from the Commission departments and discussed the following issues with them in the course of working meetings:

- (a) working relations between departments of the Commission and the Council of Europe with special emphasis on the politico-institutional side;
- (b) legal matters themselves and a study of the possibilities for transposing certain Community materializations into all the Member States of the Council of Europe;
- (c) collaboration on a number of matters in the harmonization of national laws (commercial law, international private law, criminal clauses, bankruptcy, producer responsibility for products, etc.);
- (d) coordination of work being done on the environment and consumer protection.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

2317. The OECD *Trade Committee* met on 27-28 February in Paris. Representatives from

Commission departments attended the meeting which was devoted to an unofficial but very thorough review of the effects of the oil crisis on international trade.

The talks bore mainly on the following points:

- (i) important developments in the commercial policy;
- (ii) government purchasing and its possible liberalization within the OECD;
- (iii) protection clause for sectoral difficulties;
- (iv) 1974 work programme;
- (v) work underway on a series of additional activities including, inter alia: tariff preferences; consultations on commodities, restrictions on exports, preparation of a study on Australia's and New Zealand's trade policies; modification of agricultural trade policies in order to resist inflation.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

2318. The Working Party formed by the GATT Council under the procedures of Article XXIV to examine the EEC-Norway *Free Trade Agreement* held its second meeting on 5 February 1974 to draw up its report. As was the case in the five other Free Trade Agreements reviewed, i.e. the Agreements with Switzerland, Sweden, Austria, Portugal and Iceland,¹ the report finds once again that the contracting parties were unable to agree unanimously on the compatibility of the Agreement with the provisions of GATT. The report simply notes the diverging opinions of some of the contracting parties, in particular the United States, Canada and Brazil on one side and the two signatories to the Agreement on the other.

United Nations

World Food Conference

2319. The Committee assigned to prepare for a World Food Conference which on 17 December 1973 the General Assembly of the United Nations had decided to call, held its first meeting in New York on 11-15 February. The EEC was represented.

This *preparatory Committee* was formed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council who has been entrusted with overall responsibility for the Conference. The Committee's main job was to examine the draft of a provisional agenda for the Conference by the Secretariat; the Committee was also to review certain questions concerning the organization of its work and the proceedings of the Conference.

The Committee did not adopt the draft agenda but did agree that the Secretariat would go on preparing material for it, using the draft agenda and its notes as a basis and allowing for the views expressed by the various delegations. It was decided that the Economic and Social Council should be recommended to set the date of the Conference for 5-16 November 1974.

The Committee's second meeting could be in Geneva on 4-8 June and the third would be in Rome. The next meeting should deal with the data for assessing the situation, the draft of the Conference procedure and the draft of the provisional agenda.

Economic Commission for Europe

2320. The Committee on Agricultural Questions of the ECE held its 25th meeting in Geneva on 4-8 February attended by delegates from 28

¹ Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2343.

countries; several international organizations and the Community were represented.

The delegations reported to the Committee on the development of agriculture in their countries during 1973. Several papers prepared by the Secretariat concerning the cereal, meat and dairy produce markets were passed to the Committee for review. The Committee also took a hard look at the normalization of perishable food-stuffs and at trade practices involving certain farm products.

The next meeting of the ECE Committee on Agricultural Questions will be in Geneva in January and February 1975.

African, Caribbean and Pacific Ocean Countries

Yaoundé Convention

European Development Fund

New Financing Decisions

2321. Following the favourable Opinion from the EDF Committee, the Commission on 4 February 1974¹ took financing Decisions regarding four investment projects in Zaïre, the Senegal, the Dutch Antilles and Upper Volta for a total sum of 25.6 million u.a.

The projects concerned are:

Zaïre — Construction of a hospital complex in Goma: 7 653 000 u.a. from the 3rd EDF;

Senegal — A crossing on the Casamance River at Ziguinchor: 6 554 000 u.a. from the 3rd EDF;

Upper Volta — Development and asphaltting of the Ouagadougou-Lomé road link near Niangue-

di on the Togoland border: 324 000 u.a. from the 2nd EDF and 4 285 000 u.a. from the 3rd EDF;

Dutch Antilles:

- Building and equipping a secondary technical school at Aruba: 1 436 000 u.a. from the 3rd EDF.
- Extension to Curaçao airport: 1 020 000 u.a. from the 3rd EDF and a loan of 4 380 000 u.a. on special terms from the 2nd and 3rd EDF.

As a result of these Decisions the Commitments of the 3rd EDF now amount to 668 million u.a. for 244 financing Decisions.

Non-Member Countries

Industrialized Countries

United States

2322. The European Community participated as such in the Energy Conference, attended by thirteen consumer countries including the nine Member States and held on 11-13 February in Washington.²

Japan

Official Visit of President Ortoli

2323. In response to an invitation from the Japanese Government Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, made an official visit to Japan from 18 to 23 February

¹ OJ C 17 of 22.2.1974.

² Part One, Chapter 2: 'The Washington Energy Conference'.

1974. He was received by the Emperor and met Mr Tanaka, the Prime Minister. The final Communiqué at the end of the visit indicated that 'the two leaders had given very careful thought to the recent situation in the energy sector, the resumption of the GATT multilateral negotiations, the short-term international monetary situation implying that the battle against inflation was to be continued at international level, and lastly the urgent problems in the developing countries.'

Mr Ortoli also talked with the Foreign Minister, Mr Ohira, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment, Mr Miki, the Finance Minister, Mr Fukuda, the Minister for Industry and External Trade, Mr Nakasone, the Minister of State responsible for Economic Planning, Mr Uchida and the Minister of State responsible for Science and Technology, Mr Moriyama. The joint Communiqué said:

'The talks bore on relations between Japan and the European Communities and on many important issues of world economy affecting Japan and the Communities.'

The Foreign Minister and the Ministers expressed their satisfaction that the Commission was going to establish a delegation in Tokyo in order to strengthen still further the relations between Japan and the Communities and they confirmed that they were prepared to provide any necessary help in installing the delegation. An agreement thereon and covering the privileges and immunities of the Commission delegation was initialled on 22 February.

Worthwhile discussions focussed on energy developments at the end of last year and on the outcome of the Washington Conference of 11-13 February and on future action to be taken. On these issues everyone recognized that in order to get a swift solution to the short and long-term energy problems, multilateral and constructive talks should be initiated with the oil-

producer countries and with the developing countries and that closer cooperation between Japan and the European Communities should be secured. It was also recognized that cooperation between Japan and the Communities on research and development would have to be intensified especially with regard to substitute forms of energy, notably nuclear.

It was acknowledged that against the present international economic background, it was all the more vital to develop international cooperation and advance the liberalization of trade between nations. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to act so that the multilateral GATT negotiations, which the Ministerial Conference in Tokyo on 12-14 September 1973 had decided to open, could actually start as soon as possible.

It was agreed to follow up the moves to consolidate relations between the Communities and Japan and to foster a mutually satisfying development of economic relations, notably trade, by keeping open a permanent dialogue at Ministerial or any other level.

During his visit the President also talked in Tokyo and Nagoya with leading economic and financial figures.

African and Latin American Developing Countries

Indonesia

2324. Following his official visit to Japan the President of the Commission stopped at Djakarta where he had talks with President Soeharto. He also met the acting Foreign Minister and the Ministers for Trade, Agriculture and Industry. The talks focussed on the energy crisis, economic cooperation between Indonesia and the Community and the outlook for trade relations between the Community and the ASEAN

4. Institutions and Organs of the Communities

Community Diplomatic Relations

countries (Association of the South East Asia Nations), a group embracing Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.

Diplomatic Relations of the Community

2325. On 5 February 1974,¹ the President-in-Office of the Council and the President of the Commission received Ambassador Gamani Corea, Head of the Sri Lanka Mission, who presented his credentials as Ambassador to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC).

European Parliament

Part-Session from 11 to 14 February 1974

2401. The European Parliament met from 11 to 14 February in Strasbourg.¹ The main features of the debates during this sitting were:

- (i) the current situation of the Community;
- (ii) presentation of the Seventh General Report on the Activities of the Communities in 1973 and of the Commission's 1974 Programme;
- (iii) agricultural policy matters, especially the setting of prices for the various farm products;
- (iv) the Memorandum on improving the common agricultural policy;
- (v) Question Time.²

The appointment was ratified of the new member from the Danish Folketing, Mr Kristian Albertsen.

At the start of the sitting, the House paid tribute to one of its members, Mr Klaus Dieter Arndt, who died on 29 January 1974.

¹ The report on this sitting of Parliament was prepared from the German edition of 'Informations' published by Parliament's General Secretariat.

The Political Group and nationality of members speaking in the debates are indicated in brackets after their names and abbreviated as follows: C-D = Christian Democrats, S = Socialist Group, L = Liberal and Allied Group, C = European Conservatives, EPD = European Progressive Democrats, COM = Communist and Allied Groups (SF, Ind. Sin.); B = Belgium, DK = Denmark, G = Federal Republic of Germany, F = France, IRL = Ireland, I = Italy, L = Luxembourg, NL = Netherlands, GB = Great Britain.

² The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament during the February sitting are reproduced in OJ C 23 of 8.3.1974 and the verbatim report of the sitting is contained in OJ Annex 171.

¹ OJ C 16 of 20.2.1974.

**Debate on the situation of the Community
(12 and 14 February)**

**Statement by President Berkhouwer
on the Situation of the Community
(11 February)**

2402. Opening the meeting, President Cornelis Berkhouwer, (L, NL) made a statement, in which he expressed his concern over the present status of Community integration.

The President said that the Community was going through one of the worst crises in its history. Europe could not become a reality except through a real effort of will on the part of the Member States. Only by such a common resolve could we hope to weather the difficulties and advance towards European Union. Europe's very existence was at stake. It was vitally important for Member States to place the Community's interests first and seek common, not national, solutions to every problem. He warned against the attitude that European development had reached the point of no return. There was no such point. The construction of Europe was founded solely on a common resolve, and without it everything would collapse. President Berkhouwer hoped that the Member States would respond to the Declaration of the Commission on the Community's situation, which had clearly shown where their responsibilities lay.

The President strongly recalled Parliament's viewpoint expressed in its Resolution of 5 October 1973 dealing with budgetary powers.¹ The House had therein proposed a solution which represented an absolute minimum. But the right to reject the draft budget was essential and must be formally granted as required in any democracy.

In conclusion the President reaffirmed that the House attached the utmost importance to the

extension of its budgetary powers and urged the Council to take the necessary action.

**Seventh General Report on the Activities
of the European Communities in 1973
The Commission's 1974 Action Programme
(12 and 14 February)**

2403. Acting for the President of the Commission, Mr Ortoli, detained in Washington by the Energy Conference, Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza presented the Seventh General Report on the Activities of the European Communities in 1973 and the Commission's 1974 Action Programme.²

Under the weight of 'crisis' developments, the debate on the Report and the Action Programme was expanded to cover the current situation of the Community.

The Chairman of the Christian Democrats, Mr Lücker (G) doubted whether the European governments were really sincere in their desires. Perhaps through European declarations of intent they simply wanted to return to the nationalism of old. Confidence in the Community had been shaken. A fair-weather Community for Europe, which only functioned when there were no problems, and even then did not work very well, was of no use whatsoever. European identity was important, but we must first create solidarity as its foundation and then give this identity a personality.

Mr Vals (F), Chairman of the Socialist Group, regretted France's decision to leave the EEC currency 'snake' and deplored the delays over the creation of the Regional Fund. The Chairman of the Liberal and Allied Group, Mr Durieux (F), contended that the outward appearance of

¹ Bull. EC 10-1973, point 1502.

² Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza's speech has been included verbatim in Part One of this number of the Bulletin (chap. 1).

the Summit Conferences could no longer conceal Europe's disintegration. He asked for a detailed programme for 1974 from the Commission. Lord *Bessborough* (GB) speaking for the Conservatives advocated genuine European solidarity, especially with regard to energy. The spokesman for the EPD Group, Mr *Yeats* (IRL), feared that economic activity would slow down because of the increased energy prices and urged the installation of a European Regional Fund for a 'regional' Europe. Mrs *Iotti* (I), for the Communists, connected Europe's crisis primarily with capitalism. The President of the Commission, Mr *Ortoli*, who had only just returned from Washington regretted that up to the very end the Community had been unable to find a common position. He pointed out that the Community had at all events put across its view that the dialogue with the oil producing countries must be pursued. Mr *Ortoli* conceded that the Community had only proved itself in fair weather, while reacting unsatisfactorily to problems impinging from outside. He regretted the disunity openly exhibited in Washington but excused it in that the Community was still only on the threshold of a common energy policy. He urged the governments to reach clearcut decisions over the weeks ahead on the four following key issues: the setting of farm prices for the coming marketing year, regional policy and the formation of the Regional Fund, further efforts to accomplish economic and monetary union and the development of a common energy policy, which must transpire from proposals made up to now. Mr *Ortoli* reminded the House that the Commission had submitted in good time Proposals for the Regional Fund and the pooling of reserves. But they had not met with approval by the governments.

Mr *Giraudo* (C-D, I) Chairman of the Political Committee, dealt with the structural weaknesses of the Community, urging that the Community machinery be strengthened and the institutions improved. The Community must adopt a

strong line and take fresh political action. Mr Maurice *Faure* (S, F) former Secretary of State at the French Foreign Ministry, claimed that in the general debate, the French Foreign Minister, Mr *Jobert* was primarily responsible for the Community's disarray in Washington. Europe could not be designed in opposition to the United States nor in opposition to the Soviet Union. The case put by Mr *Jobert* in Washington, calling for respect first of all for the European identity would have been far more telling, if after Copenhagen he had refrained from going alone to one Arabian country after another. European identity should immediately have shown itself in the energy crisis. Mr *Faure* sharply criticized President *Ortoli*, reproaching him with being the first Commission President to champion the Luxembourg compromise with regard to Council unanimity. Mr *Petersen* (L-DK) complained that national interests were still too deeply ingrained in the Community. Mr *Scelba* (C-D, I) thought that the dilemma was a major cause of the Community crisis. The oil crisis had again shown up the lack of political agreement between Member States. For the Danish members of the Socialist Group, Mr *Nielsen* defended the Luxembourg compromise but shared the general concern over the regional, monetary and energy policy situation.

Resolution on the Current Situation of the Community (14 February)

2404. During the debate the Christian Democrats, the Liberal and Allied Group, the European Conservatives and the EPD Group tabled a Resolution motion on urgent procedure with regard to the present situation in the Community. The House approved it and in the Resolution Parliament shared the concern expressed in the Commission's Declaration and urgently

appealed to the Community institutions, the governments and political forces of the Member States to eliminate obstacles to progress towards European Union by providing a solution to the following immediate problems: regional policy, energy policy, the new stage of economic and monetary union, social policy and increasing the powers of the European Parliament.

Agricultural Policy (13 and 14 February)

Commission Memorandum on Improvements to the Common Agricultural Policy (Interim Report by Mr Scott-Hopkins (C, GB) — *Commission Proposals for Regulations setting the Prices for various Farm Products and for certain Measures specified in the Memorandum on Improvements*. (Rapporteur: Mr Scott-Hopkins (C, GB), co-rapporteurs: Mr Gibbons (EPD, IRL) and Mr de Koning (C-D, NL).

2405. In his statement on the Memorandum on Improvements to the CAP, Mr Scott-Hopkins concentrated on farming incomes, consumer interests, structural policy, marketing and the balancing of agricultural markets and external agricultural relations. He felt that the farm Proposals were coming in at a time when the unsettled monetary situation was generating additional problems. Because of this it was desirable that certain aspects of the CAP be scrutinized. The Committee on Agriculture was confident that the Community was capable of taking special measures to cope with the difficulties, in particular those stemming from the oil crisis. The Committee was moreover convinced that there was no feasible alternative to the present organization of the CAP. The Committee had therefore by and large approved the basis of the price policy. But reservations had to be made as to the ways and means by which the Commission had come up with the general price levels and how it had considered the exchange relationships between prices applicable to the farming sector and the costs in other

sectors. With the currently applied methods the problem arose that forecasts on farm incomes and production costs were based on two-year old statistics, whereas the prices were evaluated on the basis of current market prices. Extraordinary cost increases and unexpected developments, like the energy crisis, had obviously not been taken into account. Mr Gibbons, the co-rapporteur who dealt with livestock products, claimed that the farmers were the only people whose labour had been rewarded with a cut in income. In working out its Proposals, the Commission had apparently ignored the enormous rise in subsistence costs.

Mr de Koning, the co-rapporteur dealing with plant products, stressed that the previous year's price increases for cereals had been very slight and the rise in production costs had not been offset. He advocated that the target price for soft wheat be increased by the average percentage adopted for the other cereals.

Mr Bersani (I) and Mr Martens (B) both speaking for the Christian Democrats highlighted the tight link between farm prices and inflation; production costs had mounted unchecked and the farmers had been the hardest hit by inflation. For the Socialists, Mr Laban (N) and Mr Frehsee (G) contended that price policy must acknowledge reality, but should not remain confined to agriculture. Mr Frehsee brought up objections against paragraph 24 of the motion according to which the system of denaturing premiums was to be phased out only gradually. Seeing the worldwide shortage of the vital cereal, wheat, and in view of the famine affecting large areas of the world, the Socialist Group regarded the practice of rendering wheat unfit for human consumption as not merely questionable but positively scandalous. For the Liberal and Allied Group, Mr Baas (N) claimed it was socially unjustifiable that agriculture alone should bear the consequences of the economic crisis. The spokesman for the Conservatives,

Mr John Hill (GB), urged the Commission to examine how far improved marketing and distribution could help in resisting the pressure of inflation. Mr Liogier speaking for the EPD Group recognized positive elements in the motion, even though he could not accept the overall design of the Memorandum. Mr Cipolla (I) on behalf of the Communist and Allied Group was disappointed with the Memorandum which merely plugged up a few holes and offered no solution to the crisis.

After the rapporteurs' statements and the Group spokesmen's comments, Mr Lardinois of the Commission took the floor. He conceded that there were some weaknesses in the price-settings. But it must be remembered that the Commission was primarily trying to steer a dynamic and realistic economic policy to resist inflationary trends. Prices for farm products should not be set too high because the consumer would then stop buying them or find substitutes. The price setting had been complicated because of the steadily mounting costs. Other complications arose from the fact that among the Nine, three were newcomers, France and Italy had seceded from the common currency 'snake' and the Commission in working out the prices could only enlist in terms of reference quantities the remaining four original Member States who were still with the 'snake'.

The pricing operation bristled with idiosyncrasies which all had to be considered and brought down to a common denominator.

The next speaker, Mr Früh (C-D, G), endorsed the principles of the Memorandum insofar as they helped to diminish the imbalances on the agricultural markets. But he called for a substantial increase in prices which was implied by the Commission's Proposals. Mr Durand (L, F) emphasized the stability of European prices vis-à-vis world market prices, a stability which worked in favour of the European consumer. He recommended urgent action for the

benefit of the meat producers. Lord St. Oswald (C, GB) asked the Commission to rectify some particular miscalculations in the price settings. Agriculture was the special victim of inflation and we should promptly get a grip on prices and surpluses. Mr Liogier (EPD, F) said that agricultural production was just as important as the Community's energy supply. Mr Vals (S, F) dealt primarily with the question of wine and pointed out that wine prices had not up to now been affected by the price calculations. Mr Vetrone (C-D, I) contended that the Commission's price Proposals were unrealistic because they did not adequately reckon with the increases in production costs. Miss Lulling (S, L) defended her tabled amendment which aimed at protecting the consumer's interests. Mr Aigner (C-D, G) dealt with the oil crisis and the imminent raw material crisis and declared that as matters stood, the Community simply could not afford another agricultural crisis or even a food-stuffs crisis.

The Commission's estimates were based on obsolete statistics. He stressed that a 70 or 75% degree of self-sufficiency must be maintained in the Community. He asked for prices to be raised by a minimum of 10%. Mr Lemoine (COM, F) said increased production costs made the intended price Proposals inadequate. Moreover the Memorandum neglected the small family holdings. Mr Premoli (L, I) and Mr Della Briotta (S, I) spoke of the complications in policy decision-making owing to the dwindling number of producers and the steady proliferation of consumers. Agricultural policy had to be based on a defence of farm incomes. Both speakers identified themselves with the fears of the Italian olive oil producers. Mr Nielsen (S, DK) supported the Commission's concern to protect the consumer and resist inflation, emphasizing that he did not share the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture.

In the Resolution on the Commission's farm price Proposals and the motion tabled by

Mr Aigner (C-D, G) and other M.P.s for raising the guide price of beef and veal, the House noted that the Commission in preparing its Proposals had only considered developments up to November 1973 and had therefore left out of account the very sharp rises in costs occasioned by the oil crisis. It was therefore doubtful whether the price increases proposed for the 1974-75 marketing year would be adequate to safeguard the income of the farming population. The House insisted that in future the Commission use more up-to-date statistics for setting prices and that in computing farming costs a shorter reference period be taken than the four-year period adopted hitherto. It was requested that the general level of the proposed prices be increased substantially and the prices of products adjusted accordingly and recommended that incentives be brought in for products in short supply. The House accepted that price policy would remain a very important instrument of the CAP, even if it required complementary structural, social and regional policies. Objections were raised against the Commission's proposed methods for cutting down surpluses in the dairy sector and the House took the view that an equitable increase in the guide price for beef, and the retention of a guide price for veal, were necessary to maintain the incomes of the producers and ensure adequate future supplies. Further consideration should also be given to the impact of beef imports on producers' incomes. Parliament deplored the fact that excessively high increases in the price to consumers of certain food products, which increases also resulted in a reduction in the producer's share in the final price, led to a decrease in the consumption of certain products, thereby further aggravating the problems confronting agriculture in the Community. The House agreed with the Commission's aims, as expressed in the price Proposals, to create a better relationship between the production of cereals for human consumption and fodder cereals. But the price relationship

between wheat and fodder grain must be brought more into line with the supply and demand situation within the EEC. The House believed that the export system had to be adapted in such a way as to ensure that possible wheat surpluses could be disposed of in the first instance on the international market. The denaturing premium scheme should be not abruptly but gradually abolished. The Commission was asked to rescrutinize the guide prices for the various types of wine. The proposed amendment regarding the olive oil sector was approved. The Resolution was passed with the EPD Group and the Communists voting against and the Italian Christian Democrats abstaining. Many amendments, finally rejected by a majority, had been tabled by the EPD Group for raising even further the agricultural producer prices, while the Italian members had opposed the trimming of EAGGF outlay for hard wheat and olive oil, as proposed by the Commission and eventually approved by Parliament.

In connection with the above Resolution, Parliament also approved the motion concerning the interim report on improving the CAP. In this Resolution the House considered that the Commission was right in asking the farmers to assume a measure of joint responsibility for the disposal of surplus production. It also felt that in line with Article 39 of the EEC Treaty and paragraph 30 of the Commission Memorandum, the price Proposals should be made compatible with the general anti-inflationary policy of the Community, but recognized that restraints against inflation should be applied to all prices and not to farm prices alone. The House considered that the Commission must act more resolutely to move expenditure under the EAGGF from the Guarantee to the Guidance section and did not believe that price policy alone could achieve the necessary balance between livestock, milk and cereal production, and in regional variations in income. With regard to the CAP, a balance had to be reached between measures

designed to improve farm incomes, and the interests of the consumer so that he would benefit from a wider choice of farm products at reasonable prices. The House called for a strengthening of the machinery for consulting professional organizations, especially in connection with price setting. It was regretted that the Memorandum did not yet contain concrete Proposals for a marketing organization leading to the establishment of a fund for promoting the disposal of dairy products. The House approved the Commission's intention to submit early in 1974 Proposals for joint action in the sphere of market structures and called for a scrutiny of the Commission's conclusion concerning the rejection of direct grants to improve farming incomes. These should be restricted to specialized aid by region or certain products to be developed, particularly to help farmers in underprivileged areas who bear responsibility for soil preservation and environmental protection.

Certain Agricultural Measures in Denmark

Commission Proposal for a Directive to delay implementation of the Directive on measures to encourage withdrawal from farming and on reallocation of utilized agricultural areas for the purposes of structural improvement, of 17 April 1972 for the Kingdom of Denmark. (Report by Mr Frehsee, S, G).

2406. The rapporteur told the House that Denmark had asked for application of the Directive on agricultural structures to be deferred until 31 December 1976. The Committee on Agriculture had found that a number of Member States had still not complied with this Directive. The Committee was therefore proposing that the time limit be extended not only for Denmark but also for the other Member States—not, however, until 31 December 1976 but until 31 December of this year. The rapporteur contended that the structural Directives were a mainstay of the CAP and that Community policy

should be adhered to with respect to agricultural structure as much as anything else. Mr Lardinois of the Commission pointed out that Denmark was obliged to improve her agricultural policy and she should therefore be allowed the necessary time. On the other hand Community transitional measures should not be exalted into overall rules.

Agricultural Policy Measures in Connection with the Setting of a new Rate for the Italian Lira

Commission Proposal for a Regulation on certain measures to be taken in the Italian farming sector following the setting of a new representative rate for the Italian Lira, as from 28 January 1974. (Report by Mr Héger, C-D, B).

2407. The rapporteur claimed that today devaluations and revaluations were prized as instruments of short-term economic policy. But they put the CAP at risk. He recommended the House to accept the Commission's Proposal, since the new Regulation would work for market unity.

For his Group, Mr Cipolla (COM, I) claimed the same laws for the agricultural market as for the industrial market. He spoke of regrettable partial solutions and asked for it to be made clear whether we still wanted a common agricultural policy. Mr Lardinois of the Commission also deplored the 'repair work' entailed by the currency fluctuations. Europe was suffering under this situation which would change only if the Community made greater strides in economic and monetary policy. As matters stood it was still better to keep on with the repair work rather than do nothing to resist the fluctuations. Mr Burgbacher (C-D, G) said that the agricultural prices were not always adequate. The Commission and agriculture itself ought to make its policy so comprehensible that the consumer finally understood how much or how little he was affected by agriculture.

Question Time (13 February)

Questions to the Council

European Fund for Monetary Cooperation

2408a. Mr Cousté (EPD, F) asked the Council whether the decisions taken on 17 December 1973 concerning the European Monetary Cooperation Fund restricted credit allocations to those Member States who kept their currencies within the Community 'snake'.

The President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Apel, the German Secretary of State, told the House that during its session of 17 December 1973 the Council had approved the text of a Resolution inviting the Executive Committee of the Monetary Cooperation Fund to modify short-time monetary support arrangements until such time as the Council could come to a decision on the Commission's Proposal regarding the Fund. But this Resolution had not yet been fully adopted since it had been linked with the eventual solution to the problem of the Regional Fund. It was not planned to extend short-term monetary support only to those countries whose currency fluctuations were contained within the limits of the Community snake.

The Council's Working Methods

2408b. Lord O'Hagan (Non-affiliated, Independent, GB) asked what steps the Council was taking to improve its working methods. The President-in-Office of the Council replied that on 4 and 5 February 1974 the Council had taken decisions on how its work could be improved. He left it to members of the House to judge the scope of these measures. To a supplementary question from Lord O'Hagan, Mr Apel said that in his personal opinion these rules concerning the Council's working methods

were all good and proper ones but did not settle the fundamental question, which was whether the rules of procedure in the EEC Treaty were applicable to the Council of Ministers or not.

Parliament's Budgetary and Legislative Powers

2408c. To this Question from Mr Patijn (S, NL), the President-in-Office of the Council told the House that during its session of 4-5 February the Council had had a very comprehensive and thorough discussion of this matter. The debate would be resumed on 4 and 5 March. In the interests of this issue he hoped that it would be appreciated that he could not at this stage reveal details of individual thinking within the Council. In any case the Council would only decide on guidelines and would then have to discuss the matter with Parliament, so that the House would retain full freedom of action on this question. Then, as already resolved by the Council, a joint statement would be ratified on the strengthening of Parliament's powers.

Questions to the Commission

Establishment of Joint Undertakings

2408d. Mr Armengaud (L, F) asked whether in the Commission's opinion the time was not ripe for the establishment of joint undertakings to safeguard Europe's supplies, on a Community basis, of essential raw materials, especially crude oil. In reply, Mr Spinelli of the Commission said that the Commission was convinced that the creation of joint undertakings to safeguard Europe's supply of raw materials essential for its own development would be extremely useful. Two Commission Proposals had been laid before the Council at the end of 1971. The Council had not accepted the Proposal on creating joint undertakings in the hydrocarbon sector and had merely approved a draft Regulation

providing for the possibility of supporting specific Community projects in the hydrocarbon sector. The second Proposal covering the creation of joint undertakings in the remaining sectors of activity under the EEC Treaty had not yet made any headway with the Council, owing to varying degrees of opposition among a majority of the Member States. The Commission considered that national interests could be overcome only when the Community was vested with genuine autonomous legislative power.

Increase in Budget Appropriations for Research

2408e. Mr Noë (C-D, I) asked whether, in view of the grave energy crisis the Commission intended to increase the budget appropriations for research into the thermo-chemical decomposition of water and to cooperate on research into coal liquefaction.

Mr Dahrendorf of the Commission replied that the recovery of hydrogen from water by the thermo-chemical process was part of the long-term research programme of the Joint Research Centre. The possibilities of strengthening this project were being studied within the compass of current revision of the programme.

The Commission had made liquefaction of coal a priority subject in its outline programme for energy research. Advantage would also be taken of the scope offered by cooperation with non-Member countries if this seemed necessary or expedient. To supplementary questions from Mr Noë, Lord Bessborough and Mr Memmel, Mr Dahrendorf replied that the Community had been collaborating for some months now with the United States and Japan in this field. Finance for research was going not only to the Joint Research Centre but also to research stations set up in individual Member States. A common commitment could probably not be fulfilled by carrying out research only in Community research institutes.

Trade Relations between the Community and Iran

2408f. Mr Boano (C-D, I) asked the Commission what proposals it intended to submit with the aim of re-appraising trade relations between the EEC and Iran, having regard to the persistent energy crisis and the attitude adopted by Iran in this connection. Mr Dahrendorf confirmed that on the basis of initial exploratory talks, the Commission would submit Proposals to the Council for a comprehensive Cooperation Agreement which took into account Iran's major role as an energy supplier. To a supplementary question, Mr Dahrendorf reminded the House that the Commission had sent Proposals to the Council for setting up Community machinery which would enable us to conclude cooperation agreements with energy producing countries. It was not intended to place further restrictions on preferential trading agreements.

Application of the EEC-Greece Association Agreement

2408g. Mr Ariosto (S, I) asked whether the Commission considered it compatible with the Association Agreement that a delegation of the Socialist International, including several M.P.s. from Member States of the Community, should be held up for more than twelve hours at Athens airport and then expelled from the country. Did the Commission intend to take any action to put an end to such conduct by the Greek regime? For the Commission, Mr Dahrendorf said that the Agreement gave the Community no leverage, when something like this happened, to take action as a Community. This was largely because we had put the Agreement on ice for a number of years, which meant that we were confined to the administration of current business. The Commission had never left any doubts as to its political assessment of the situation in Greece. But it had always insisted that the Community should hold to its obligation and the Commission saw no reason now for departing from this view.

**Scientific Research
in the Energy and Raw Materials Sectors**

2408b. Mr Gerlach (S, G) asked the Commission what policy ways and means were available to the Community to meet the challenge to research and science to remove the threat to the continued economic and social development of the Community posed by the energy shortage and difficulties in the raw materials sector, considering that the importance of both basic research and research in the economic and technological sectors in warding off such threats had still not been fully recognized.

In reply, Mr Dahrendorf pointed out that in the nuclear field some 37 million u.a. had been spent. In addition, by no means negligible sums had been spent on coal research. On 14 January this year the Council had agreed a Community programme for scientific and technological policy. As part of this programme a joint expert body had been set up to coordinate research outlay which had so far been controlled at national level. Energy research was a Community leitmotif. The Commission had therefore set up two Committees who were working on proposals concerning research requirements with which the Community had recently been faced. Initial results were already to hand. It was intended in May that the Council would deal with research matters. To a supplementary question from Mr Giraud (S, F) on the relationship between Community and Member States' expenditure, Mr Dahrendorf told the House that five times more money was being spent in Member States than the amount we had at our disposal in the Community.

EEC-Afghanistan Trade Relations

2408i. Mr Jahn (C-D, G) wanted to know the Commission's standpoint with regard to the wishes expressed in government circles in Afghanistan for the conclusion of a preferential

Trade Agreement between the EEC and Afghanistan as soon as possible. Mr Dahrendorf replied that the Commission had so far received no request from Afghanistan for such an agreement and did not intend to make one. The Commission thought that a limitation on preferential agreements was desirable. There had been an exchange of views on the application of general tariff preferences regarding Afghanistan as was normal in the case of all countries enjoying tariff preferences. But there had been no discussion of any kind about special preferences.

Trade Relations with Japan

2408j. Mr Brewis (C, GB) had asked the Commission what improvements had recently been made in access for Community products into the Japanese market. Mr Dahrendorf summarized the measures taken by Japan to facilitate imports. These measures, together with Japan's economic boom in 1973 had resulted in an increase in exports from the EEC to Japan for the period January-September 1973 of 54% over the corresponding period last year. But this above-average growth in EEC exports to Japan had not greatly affected the bilateral balance of trade. The Community's trade deficit in 1972 amounted to 1 200 million dollars and by end September 1973 had already almost reached 1 000 million dollars.

**The Community's Economic Situation
(14 February)**

2412. Acting for Vice-President Haferkamp, Mr Dahrendorf of the Commission presented the Commission's Report on the Economic Situation in the Community.¹ The Report was referred to the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee.

¹ Points 1401-1405.

Community Industrial Policy (11 February)

2413. The rapporteur for the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, Mr *Couste* (EPD, F) pointed out that the Community had still not managed to set up joint European industrial structures. He recalled that the Paris Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government had called for an effort to create a unified industrial base for the whole Community. Mr *Couste* then dealt with the Commission Memorandum on industrial policy and its proposed Action Programme for industrial and technological policy. In conclusion he highlighted the link between industrial policy and the other objectives of the Community especially regarding energy, social and commercial policy. For the Socialist Group, Mr *Lange* (G) felt that one had the impression that the label 'industrial policy' was just a name used to cover up the fact that in certain quarters there was simply no progress being made. The removal of technical barriers to trade amounted to domestic market policy and not industrial policy. Mr *Lange* urged the Commission to submit, instead of a host of proposals covering separate obstructions, a basic Regulation enabling the technical details to be dealt with without particular problems. The Commission should also in the near future present practical measures for industry. Mr *Ar-mengaud* (L, F) made reservations for his Group over various parts of the Resolution motion and urged the Commission to make more dynamic proposals in the field of advanced technology than those embodied in its Action Programme. Europe had to make a joint effort to get on equal terms with the United States and the Soviet Union. For the European Conservatives, Lord *Reay* (GB) supported the *Couste* report and emphasized the role of Europe's small and medium-sized undertakings. The spokesman for the Communist and Allied Group, Mr *d'Angelosante* (I), announced that his Group

would vote against the *Couste* report which did not even come up to the Commission's overall Proposals.

Mr *Spinelli* of the Commission, responsible for industrial policy, first reminded the House that the Commission's programme did not exhaust industrial policy. It was simply the beginning of a common industrial policy. The Commission had already laid before the Council a mass of proposed measures covering industrial policy. Should they be approved, Community industrial policy would take firm shape.

Before the Commission could put in further Proposals, on which it was already working, we had to know what was going to happen to the first set, meaning it must be clearly ascertained whether the Council really wanted a Community industrial policy, and whether consequently the Commission would dispose of the instruments required to carry it out. Mr *Spinelli* was also dissatisfied with the tortuous progress towards the removal of technical barriers to trade afforded by the unwieldy and ineffective procedure: for every barrier removed two new ones were sure to arise in its place. With regard to the aeronautical industry, Mr *Spinelli* said that it was hardly reasonable to try and find a common basis for an industry of which more than two thirds was involved in military supplies, thus going beyond the Community's present terms of reference. But this case showed that a genuine industrial policy was possible only if the Community changed completely into a true political union. In the approved Resolution Parliament drew attention to the need to establish a Community industrial policy, bearing in mind that it is of prime importance to the achievement of Economic and Monetary Union. The House stressed that industrial policy must also be directed towards the organization of large economic areas, thus enabling undertakings to make use of the opportunities offered by the European

market. Company mergers must meet the requirements of fair competition. The Commission was urged to submit a greater number of concrete proposals for accomplishing its Action Programme. The House also emphasized that industrial policy measures must be consistent with other policies, particularly social, regional and environmental policy. It approved the creation of multinational European industrial groupings but urged that at the same time more attention be paid to the small and medium-sized undertakings. Regarding the removal of fiscal barriers to cooperation between companies, the House endorsed the Commission's view that the Council should decide by the end of the year on the Directives already submitted. It was considered to be essential to bring in a joint policy in the technological sector as promptly as possible, in view of its crucial importance for the competitiveness of European industry.

Energy Policy (14 February)

Energy policy measures to be taken following the decisions of the Copenhagen Summit Conference of Community Heads of State or Government with particular reference to the Commission's Proposals for legislative action in this field. (Report by Mr Lautenschlager, S.G.)

2414. The rapporteur stressed that it could never be in the Community's interest to persist in its present dependent position regarding energy supplies. The measures to be taken in the energy sector had to be upheld, if the energy shortage was to be overcome. Besides ensuring a balanced energy supply, they also should serve to protect individual Member States' currency reserves, and protection would be necessary until the oil import dependency had shrunk to proportions which was tolerable from the angle of currency policy. Mr Noë (C-D, I) for his Group reviewed the manifold problems of energy policy and pointed to the numerous substitute sources. It was urgently necessary to examine them

thoroughly and make the most viable of them open to Community exploitation. For the Liberal and Allied Group, Mr Petersen (DK) supported the motion and said that owing to the higher prices for crude oil, the proposed measures would have to stay in force for a year at least. For the European Conservatives, Lord Bessborough (GB) also approved the motion and called for a more thorough debate on the Washington Energy Conference. For the Communist and Allied Group, Mr Bordu (F) asked the Commission to carry out investigations into the business practices of the big multinational oil companies. Speaking on behalf of Vice-President Simonet, detained in Washington by the Energy Conference, Mr Thomson of the Commission told the House that the Commission on legal grounds could not fall in with Parliament's suggestion to extend the various measures until 31 March 1975. Under Article 103(4) of the EEC Treaty no long-term measures could be taken. The Commission would shortly be putting forward longer-term Proposals to ensure the orderly operation of the energy market. In the Resolution Parliament regretted that the Declaration of Intent made by the Heads of State or Government in respect of energy policy on 15 December 1973 had not yet led to initial steps towards the achievement of a Community energy policy. The House took the view that the facts underlying the Commission's Proposals were structural rather than conjunctural and that the effect of the Council's acts should therefore not be limited to a few months. It was feared that the increases that have already occurred in the price of imported hydrocarbons and those still to be expected will lead to a marked depletion of Member States' currency reserves and hence to a chronic disequilibrium in the balance of payments, which in turn will have detrimental effects on the internal economic relations of the Member States and result in a decrease in real incomes. The Commission and Council were therefore requested to reduce the

Community's dependence on imports for primary energy sources on the basis of available and potential solutions. The Commission was urged to submit to the Council, Proposals for compulsory coordination of measures by Member States with respect to energy conservation.

Recent Monetary Events and their Repercussions (13 February)

2415. Mr *De La Malène* (EPD, F), Chairman of the External Economic Relations Committee, spoke to the Oral Question with debate which he had put on behalf of his Group to the Council and Commission and which concerned the impact of the latest monetary developments. He highlighted the interdependence of monetary questions and trade policy problems and said that the outcome of the GATT negotiations was crucial for the Community, for the whole gamut of trade, aid measures, general preferences for the developing countries and all the European economic measures where affected by monetary disorder aggravated by the energy crisis.

Agreeing with Mr *De La Malène*, Mr *Dahrendorf* of the Commission said the GATT negotiations were more vital than ever. The Commission would regard it as a grave mistake if the Community were to consider changing the position it had taken up with regard to the trade talks. At the next session of the Finance Ministers, the Council should make a declaration to strengthen the determination of the Member States to avoid devaluing their currencies for the sake of gaining a competitive advantage and refrain from entering a protectionist race. In accepting such a declaration the Community would be helping to maintain orderly, non-protectionist, international trade and monetary relations. For the Socialists Mr *Lange* (G) described the release of the exchange rate by the

French Government as an act endangering the Community structure. France had also tried to hang on to her commercial freedom in the oil crisis without thinking of the Community interest. There was no point in advancing in isolation on the monetary front if we did not reach a corresponding Community agreement on short and medium-term economic policy and its instruments. Mr *Bordu* (COM, F) charged the United States with responsibility for the present monetary problems and pointed to the accumulated liquidity of the multinational concerns.

Community Regional Policy (13 February)

2416. Mr *Delmotte* (S, B) spoke to the Oral Question with debate on Community regional policy, which Mr *James Hill* (C, GB) had put to the Council on behalf of the Regional Policy and Transport Committee. The speaker deplored the delays over the regional policy, especially in the setting up of the Regional Fund by the Council. The President-in-Office of the Council, Mr *Apel*, the German Secretary of State explained that in view of the interests at stake agreement on the major problems of the Regional Fund had proved more complicated than had been expected. The Council had so far examined the Regional Fund issue during four sessions and the viewpoints of the delegations had drawn closer together. In a personal statement Mr *Apel* said that a longer delay over the Regional Fund decision (the Council session scheduled for 18 February had been postponed) was not necessary. He reminded the House that Germany had substantially raised her offer, although France had decontrolled her exchange rate. But the regional policy was not the only pebble on the beach. Where was the second stage of economic and monetary union? Had it not turned into a *Fata Morgana*? He reiterated

his doubts over the validity of the Commission's model according to which 52% of Community territory would benefit. We must therefore concentrate and succeed in achieving the same volume of aid, with less assistance from the Fund, for the real development regions of the Community.

Mr *Lenihan* (EPD, IRL) for his Group, regretted the delays over regional policy and asked whether in the last analysis we should not fall in with the Commission's model. Mr *Apel* rebutted this view; effective aid for the real Community development regions must be the outcome for regional policy. Mr *Mitterdorfer* (C-D, I) asked whether the deferment of the decision on regional policy really did in fact turn on the volume of the Fund's endowment or whether the squabble was a symptom of the lack of resolve to act as a Community.

Mr *Lange* (S, G) received no answer from the Council President to his question as to when and how far did the Council intend to complete the transition of the Economic Community to the second phase of economic and monetary union. Lord *Mansfield* (C, GB) for the Conservatives highlighted the symbolic value of the Regional Fund. Mr *Giraud* (F) for the Socialists recalled the remarks of Mr *Messmer*, the French Prime Minister who had come out against organic cooperation between French regions and neighbouring foreign regions. He asked for a regional development policy within a European framework. For the Communist and Allied Group, Mr *Fabbrini* (I) complained that Parliament's opinions on regional policy were largely ignored by the Council. Mr *Scholten* (C-D, NL) deplored the Council's indecision over regional policy and Mr *Thiry* (Non-affiliated, FDF-RW, B) emphasized the human side of regional policy.

Cooperation Agreements with non-Member Countries

(11 February)

Commission Communication to the Council on problems arising from Cooperation Agreements — Proposed Decision on a consultation procedure for Cooperation Agreements with non-Member countries. (Report by Mr Jahn, C-D, G).

2417. The rapporteur welcomed the fact that with the Commission's Proposals initial Community progress in the sphere of cooperation could at last be made. This was of increasing importance for trade policy. Mr *Jahn* recalled that cooperation agreements fell within the jurisdiction of Member States and did not come under the common commercial policy which came into being on 1 January 1973. This ran counter to the Community's objectives. Consultation between the Member States in the field of cooperation agreements had become an absolute requirement in Community trade. Therefore Community rules and uniform bases would have to be laid down for the drawing up of agreements and including credit policy and insurance. Moreover the External Economic Relations Committee wanted the consultation procedure proposed by the Commission to include not only cooperation agreements with State-trading countries but to be applied to such agreements on a worldwide basis. The rapporteur concluded by recommending that the House endorse the Commission's Proposals.

The speaker for the Christian Democrats, Mr *Boano* (I) took the view that the Commission's Proposal no longer reckoned with the type of cooperation agreement usually made today, which for the most part did not involve State-trading countries but increasingly concerned other non-Member countries. He described the recent crop of bilateral agreements with energy producing countries as distinctly 'anti-Commun-

ity' and urged the Commission to counter this trend. The spokesman for the Socialists, Mr *Lange* (G) described the Commission's consultation procedure as legalized evasion of the common commercial policy. Cooperation agreements were to be understood in the context of common commercial policy and were therefore covered by Community instruments and procedures and by procedures involving the exchange of information. The Socialist Group regarded the Commission's Proposals as an initial attempt to marshal the field of cooperation agreements on a Community basis. But the Group could albeit reluctantly agree the Proposals.

For the Liberal and Allied Group, Mr *Baas* (NL) tended to side with the scepticism expressed by Mr *Lange*. Against this, Mr *de la Malène* (F) speaking for the EPD Group endorsed the Commission's pragmatic approach of achieving a common commercial policy via standardization of cooperation agreements. For the Communist and Allied Group, Mr *Sandri* (I) called the Commission's proposed consultation procedure modest though realistic. His Group would back the Proposal.

Mr *Dahrendorf* said that it was a crucial question for the future of the Community how much of the gap between a restrictive interpretation of commercial policy and external economic relations in general could be filled by the Community. The Commission had most carefully watched recent developments, when the Member States have tended more and more to sign cooperation agreements first with State-trading countries and later on with the energy producing countries. The Commission could see the danger that the common commercial policy could be undermined through such bilateral agreements. The Commission regarded the procedure not as a means of testing the Community loyalty of Member States but as the initial development of a Community policy in fields

covered by the cooperation agreements. Through the consultation procedure and on the unequivocal declaration by Member States that they are aware of their Community obligations, the Commission's policy is aimed at providing the instruments to facilitate a Community cooperation policy and intended to specify further requirements for the development of a Community foreign policy.

In the Resolution Parliament welcomed the development of cooperation with the State-trading countries as a contribution towards the promotion of trade and worldwide efforts to achieve détente. The House would like greater use to be made of the policy of cooperation with third countries throughout the world, particularly with regard to joint projects to secure Member States' requirements in respect of energy and other raw materials. The House gave urgent warning that certain bilateral cooperation agreements might jeopardize the common commercial policy and considered the proposed consultation procedure to be a necessary first step towards improving information and coordination within the Community in the matter of cooperation with third countries.

Guarantee Scheme for Private Investments in non-Member Countries (13 February)

Commission Proposal for a Regulation to introduce a Community guarantee scheme for private investments in non-Member countries. (Report by Mr Armentaud, L, F).

2418. As the rapporteur for the Development and Cooperation Committee pointed out, this guarantee scheme was a useful tool for creating a Community raw materials policy and a dynamic commercial policy. It also constituted at European level an effective consolidation of national facilities and would cover the political risks not

considered by national arrangements as far as Community interests and plans were concerned which were jointly implemented by investors from the various Community countries. The setting up of a European Guarantee Office for Private Investments, vested with financial autonomy, was a sound and welcome idea; but it must be ensured that the Office came under the Commission's direct supervision. Mr Armen-gaud stressed that the Commission's Proposal matched Parliament's repeated requests.

For the Christian Democrats, Mr Boano (I) took the view that some of the technical aspects (for instance, types of investment) would have to be more sharply defined. The scheme would have to be effective socially, meaning that it should protect labour and must prevent racial discrimination. For the Socialists, Mr *van der Hek* (NL) queried the Community's credibility in the eyes of the developing countries, since on one side it was putting in a guarantee scheme to cover political risks but on the other was proving incapable of mounting a genuine policy of aid for the Third World. He insisted that the Regulation be based not solely on Article 113 of the Treaty but on Article 235 as well. For the Conservative Group, Lord Reay (GB) expressed doubts on particular features of the Commission Proposal and on projects of that kind. He asked whether the developing countries should not settle these problems directly with the private investors.

Mr Spénale (S, F) recalled that already on 22 November 1965 during the debate on the industrialization problems of the developing countries, Parliament had advocated a guarantee scheme for investments, as was now being proposed.

Mr Cheysson of the Commission conceded that the technicalities of the draft had not yet been completely ironed out. A revision clause had therefore been provided for. At all events the European Guarantee Office would come under

the supervision of the Commission, but only practical experience would show whether the planned capital was adequate. Mr Cheysson also recommended that this insurance scheme against political hazards be eventually developed further.

In the Resolution Parliament approved the setting-up of a Community guarantee scheme for private investments and accepted the Commission's Proposal. The House considered that the Regulation should be based not only on Article 113 but also on Article 235 of the EEC Treaty. It also approved the establishment of a European Private Investment Guarantee Office which, although financially autonomous, would be under the direct supervision of the Commission, the latter being responsible for important decisions and for reporting annually to Parliament and the Council. The House believed that the Regulation would not be effective unless all Member States considered that it was truly an important and useful instrument of Community development aid policy.

Monitoring Concentrations between Undertakings (12 February)

Proposal by the Commission for a Regulation on the control of concentrations between undertakings. (Report by Mr Artzinger, C-D, G).

2419. The debate on controlling concentrations between undertakings had already taken place on 15 January 1974.¹ Because of the many tabled amendments the report had been referred to the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee. The rapporteur was now presenting a supplementary report. After brief comments from Mr Borschette of the Commission, the House first reviewed the amendments in the

¹ Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2403.

Artzinger report and the supplementary document and then decided to combine the two Resolutions into one text. In the final version Parliament approved the Commission's Proposal but suggested certain amendments. The House was gratified by the Commission's compliance with Parliament's request to submit a Proposal to the Council for a Regulation on the control of concentrations between undertakings. It was considered necessary, if the Regulation was to be properly enforced, for the Commission to have full knowledge of market conditions at all times, thus enabling it to stage its views on planned concentrations generally within a much shorter period than specified in the proposed Regulation. The House felt that the emphasis in preventive control of mergers should be placed on the maintenance of an adequate number of economic decision-making centres.

Improvement in the Free Movement of Goods and Services (12 February)

2420. Mr Kirk (C, GB) spoke to the Oral Question with debate which with three of his colleagues he had put to the Commission on behalf of the Conservatives. It concerned the approximation of laws to improve the free movement of goods and services. He described harmonization of the composition of beer, bread, jam, mustard and spaghetti as superfluous. He contended that it was far better to enact Regulations only when they served to protect public health and safety. On the question of the assessment basis for VAT, Mr Kirk criticized the harmonization of VAT collection on undertakers and book-keepers. The Commission's harmonization mania often bordered on the ridiculous. The Danish Conservative, Mr Thomsen described the harmonization of container and bottle sizes, especially the rules for standardized beer bottles as unnecessary.

Mr Gundelach of the Commission outlining the policy aims for harmonizing norms and statutory regulations, said that the Commission was not bent on harmonization for its own sake and did not want to spread drab uniformity throughout the Community. It simply wanted to eliminate certain barriers to trade in the interests of the consumer and with the aim of protecting the environment. The Commission would make every endeavour to choose the most flexible methods. Mr Gundelach enumerated three different types of harmonization:

- (a) Member States declare their willingness to accept goods which comply with the control requirements of the other country and to forego further checks on their own side;
- (b) optional harmonization, meaning that while goods for local and national use can be freely manufactured, trans-frontier traffic would be subject to certain conditions;
- (c) total harmonization in areas where it was absolutely necessary for the sake of the environment or on other compelling grounds. As an example Mr Gundelach quoted the regulations concerning the breakdown of chemicals in detergents.

He said it was impossible to abandon harmonization completely because the free movement of goods and services was a basic objective of the common market and a principle underlying economic and monetary union.

Dissemination of Knowledge related to EEC Research Programmes (11 February)

Commission Proposal for a Council Decision adopting provisions for the dissemination of information relating to EEC research programmes. (Report by Mr Petersen, L, DK).

2421. The rapporteur explained how the Council Decision of May-June 1973 on imple-

mentation of the four-year research programme made regulations necessary under Article 235 (EEC) on the collection and dissemination of information deriving from research projects. The Commission had been able to base its Proposal on experience gained under the ECSC and Euratom Treaties. The main thing was the transposition of existing Regulations to research projects which did not come under the ECSC and Euratom Treaties.

The rapporteur welcomed the Commission's intention to conduct the most open possible information policy on individual research projects, but would have preferred it to have been laid down in the proposed Regulation on the dissemination of research results, that the knowledge gained be published and made generally accessible. Mr *Giraud* (S, F) who expressed his Group's approval of the Proposal, dealt with the question of the relay of knowledge by the European subsidiaries of multinational companies; he also asked for a policy of reciprocity regarding patents and inventions in non-Member countries so that a two-way exchange could be established.

Mr *Dahrendorf* of the Commission announced that in the Proposal to hand, the Commission had provided for procedural improvements and simplifications with regard to the ECSC and Euratom Regulations. For instance the right of undertakings and persons in the Community to licences should no longer be restricted to patented inventions but might also be extended to unpatented inventions. Steps had also been taken by the Commission to create the necessary conditions for the conclusion of agreements with third parties on the regular exchange of information. The Commission intended, where possible, to publish research results, but with consideration for the special interest which the Community and industry held in research which was of direct use to them. In the Resolution the House approved the Commission's Proposal. It

was in principle agreed that the results of Community financed research should be published as widely as possible.

But the Community must take the necessary action to ensure that European industry was the first to benefit. The House expected the Commission to administer the proposed arrangements in the least restrictive manner possible and to pursue an open information policy in respect of the various research programmes.

Safety Windscreens for Motor Vehicles (12 February)

2422. Mr *Seefeld* (S, D) spoke to the Oral Question with debate which with Mr *Bermani* (S, I) he had put to the Commission on behalf of the Socialist Group. Dealing with the problem of safety windscreens, Mr Seefeld called for a ban on the use of 'toughened' glass and for the exclusive use of laminated safety glass. He urged the Council to approve as promptly as possible the Commission's proposed Directive. He deplored the fact that this Directive, prepared long ago, and already approved by Parliament was still waiting for ratification by the Council. He particularly complained that the German delegation to the Permanent Representatives' Economic Committee had put up unreasonable amendments to the proposed Directive. He highlighted the technical traffic value and safety of laminated glass and urged the Commission to resolutely prevent the Directive from being scuttled by national lobbyists since it would bring in enhanced safety and lessen the gravity of accidents.

Mr *Gundelach* of the Commission hoped that the arguments in favour of laminated glass would lead the Council to take swift practical decisions. In its December 1973 Resolution on industrial policy, the Council had undertaken to take a decision by July 1974 on safety screens

for motor vehicles. Mr *Bermani* deplored the Council's slowness on this issue, because it was prejudicial to road traffic safety. He further criticized the Council for not giving adequate consideration to Parliament's opinions.

WEU Assembly's Recommendation on European Security

(13 February)

2423. The Communist members, Mr *Amedola* (I), Mr *Bordu* (F), Mrs *Iotti* (I) and Mr *Sandri* (I) had put an Oral question with debate to the Council on the recommendation of the Western European Assembly concerning the status of security in Europe and relations with the United States. The President-in-Office of the Council, Mr *Apel*, the German Secretary of State, replied that it was not up to the Council to take a position on the issue raised by the questioners, since it did not fall within the Council's jurisdiction. In the general debate Mr *Klepsch* (G) speaking for the Christian Democrats regretted that the Community still did not have a common external and security policy. A policy of détente could be conducted with prospects of success only if the balance of forces and security was ensured. His Group saw no contradiction between endeavours to establish comprehensive security guarantees and a policy of détente. The spokesman for the Liberal and Allied Group, Lord *Gladwyn* (GB), opposed the attitude that the WEU resolutions were detrimental to East-West relations. For the Communists, Mr *Bordu* (F) described the WEU resolution as a kind of relapse into the cold war and criticized the encouragement to set up a European Atom Committee. Sir John *Peel* (C, GB), who is President of the WEU Assembly, said that the aim of the Assembly's recommendation was to strengthen security for Europe through additional consultations between the West and the maintenance of American military potential as a counterweight to Russian forces in

Europe. Experience had shown that in negotiations the Soviet Union respected only strength and not weakness. Mr *Corterier* (S, D) said that détente was passing through a new and difficult phase. Definite conclusions should now be drawn from the treaties on the renunciation of the use of force. It was a question of dismantling the instruments of force which were still to hand on both sides. The Soviet Union's attitude so far had scarcely been constructive and gave rise to some concern. A successful policy of détente could not be conducted unless a balance throughout the world and within Europe was guaranteed.

Mr *Spénale* (S, F) complained that the Council had agreed the inclusion of this issue in its agenda and had then declared through its representatives that the matter was outside its province. Mr *Burgbacher* (C-D, G) felt that there should be no defence policy or institution for Europe other than the NATO Euro-Group. Mr *Bertrand* (C-D, B) urged the Communist spokesman Mr *Bordu* to make representations to Moscow, to the effect that Soviet intentions of détente should be reflected by practical deeds.

The Arrest of Alexander Solzhenitsyn

(14 February)

2424. Sir Tufton *Beamish* (C, GB) spoke to the motion on the arrest and detention of Alexander Solzhenitsyn by the Soviet authorities. He had tabled the motion with four colleagues (Lord *Bessborough*, John *Hill*, Sir John *Peel* and Lord *St. Oswald*) on behalf of the European Conservative Group. Sir Tufton condemned the way in which Solzhenitsyn had been treated by the Soviet Union. The Soviet stamp of socialism had no human face. Mr *Bordu* (COM, F) called the resolution motion a blow against détente policy.

Lord St. Oswald, Mr Scelba, Lord O'Hagan and Mr Yeats did not agree with Mr Bordu's comments; they demanded freedom for all oppressed intellectuals and expressed their admiration of the Russian writer's courage and integrity.

In the Resolution the House expressed its dismay over the arrest and deportation of Alexander Solzhenitsyn. It considered this action a violation of human rights and an obstacle to the prospect of honourable détente between East and West.

Miscellaneous

2425. Parliament approved the Free Trade Agreement between the Community and Finland. It also approved, in some cases without a debate, the Commission's Proposals for:

- (i) a Directive on the approximation of Member States' laws relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers;
- (ii) a Directive concerning the harmonization of Member States' laws on electricity meters;
- (iii) a Directive concerning harmonization of Member States' laws in respect of radio interference caused by sound and TV receivers;
- (iv) a Regulation concerning Community financing of expenditure incurred in respect of the supply of farm products as food aid;
- (v) a Regulation on the total or partial suspension of CCT charges on certain products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the CCT and originating in Malta;
- (vi) a Regulation supplementing Regulation (EEC) 816/70 by introducing new provisions concerning oenological processes;
- (vii) a Regulation supplementing Regulation 816/70 regarding the definition of liqueur wine and of certain grape musts;
- (viii) a Regulation establishing a system of production aids for tinned pineapple, processed from fresh pineapples.

Council

2426. During February the Council held four sessions devoted to general matters, the agricultural policy and economic and financial questions.¹ The Council's proceedings were overshadowed by the present crisis facing the Community. Divergences over regional policy were again seen within the Council. In agriculture the Council was unable to reach a decision on farm prices for the 1974-75 marketing year. The Council took several major decisions on economic, financial and monetary policy and for the first time since June 1973 there was a debate on relations with the Mediterranean countries.

276th Session—General Matters (Brussels, 4-5 February 1974)

2427. President: Mr Scheel, the German Foreign Minister.

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President, Mr Haferkamp, Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Sir Christopher Soames, Dr Hillery, Mr Simonet, Vice-Presidents, Mr Spinelli, Mr Borschette, Mr Dahrendorf, Mr Thomson, Mr Lardinois, Mr Gundelach, Mr Cheysson, Members.

Member States' Governments were represented by: Mr Van Elslande, Foreign Minister (Belgium); Mr Guldberg, Foreign Minister, Mr Christensen, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Denmark); Mr Scheel, Foreign Minister, Mr Apel, Parliamentary Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Germany); Mr Jobert, Foreign Minister, Mr de Lipkowski, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (France); Mr FitzGerald, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Ireland); Mr Moro, Foreign Minister, Mr Pedini, Under-Secretary of

¹ For the various issues dealt with by the Council, see the relevant chapters of this number of the Bulletin.

State for Foreign Affairs (Italy); Mr *Thorn*, Foreign Minister (Luxembourg); Mr *van der Stoel*, Foreign Minister, Mr *Brinkhorst*, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Netherlands); Mr *Davies*, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Lady *Tweedsmuir*, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr *Howell*, Minister of State at the Department of Energy (United Kingdom).

Situation of the Community

After the Statements of Mr *Van Elslande*, the Belgian Foreign Minister, and Mr *Ortoli*, President of the Commission, the Council held a wide ranging and frank debate on the Community's present position and the difficulties facing it. The debate showed that these problems were due partly to internal causes and partly to particular external developments. At the end of the discussion the President of the Council was able to record that this reappraisal showed the unanimous determination of the Council Members to enable the Community to move forward by taking practical decisions in order to solve the problems now facing the Council.

The Council agreed to continue the discussion as soon as possible on the basis of considerations which its President and the President of the Commission might submit.

Report on European Union

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to undertake the preparation of the Council's part of the draft.¹

Improvement of the Council's Decision-Making Procedures and of the Cohesion of Community Action

The Council adopted a second series of practical measures specifically concerning its working methods.²

Parliament's Budgetary Powers

The Council had a broad discussion on the problems raised by the introduction of a conciliation procedure between the Council and the European Parliament for acts with important financial implications and certain amendments to the budgetary procedure now in force.

A consensus of opinion emerged within the Council on several points. However, the Council decided to continue discussing certain problems at a forthcoming meeting.

Energy Problems

The Council finalized the position which the Community is to take and which will be expressed by the Presidents of the Council and the Commission at the Washington Energy Conference.

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A Resolution was passed on the problems of the Faroe Isles. It was also agreed to prolong temporarily the validity of measures taken by the Italian Government regarding imports of tape-recorders from non-Member States, especially from certain Asian countries.

277th Session—Agriculture (Brussels, 11-12 February 1974)

2428. President: Mr *Ertl*, German Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr *Lardinois*, Member.

Member States' Governments were represented by: Mr *Lavens*, Minister of Agriculture (Belgium); Mr *Kofoed*, Minister of Agriculture and

¹ Point 2503.

² Point 2504.

Fisheries (Denmark); Mr *Ertl*, Minister of Agriculture, Mr *Rohr*, Secretary of State for Agriculture (Germany); Mr *Chirac*, Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development (France); Mr *Clinton*, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Ireland); Mr *Ferrari-Aggradi*, Minister of Agriculture, Mr *Cifarelli*, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture (Italy); Mr *Ney*, Minister of Agriculture (Luxembourg); Mr *van der Stee*, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Netherlands); Mr *Godber*, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (United Kingdom).

Agricultural Prices 1974-75

The Council examined in detail product by product the Commission's Proposals for setting farm prices and for certain ancillary measures. The debate enabled the delegations to make their positions clear with regard to the market developments and farm product prices, especially on the world market, and regarding the increased production costs in agriculture in the wake of overall economic trends, the impact of various monetary developments, the interests of consumers and the requirements for the smooth running of the markets.

The Council agreed to resume its considerations during the meeting of 18-19 February.

Beef and Veal

The Council formally adopted the Regulation temporarily allowing the grant of aid for private storage of boned meat. The Regulation will be in force until 31 July 1974.

Milk

The Council agreed an amendment to the basic Regulation by inserting a provision enabling the Commission, under the Management Committee procedure, to take the necessary action to avoid

upheavals on the milk market which could be provoked by price changes when one marketing year closed and the next one began.

*

The Council approved certain measures to improve its relations with the Economic and Social Committee. It also formally recognized the Committee's right in future to issue Opinions on its own initiative concerning issues involving Community work.

278th Session—Economic and Financial Questions (Brussels, 18 February 1974)

2429. President: Mr *Schmidt*, German Finance Minister.

From the Commission: Mr *Haferkamp*, Vice-President, Mr *Spinelli*, Member.

Member States' Governments were represented by: Mr *De Clercq*, Finance Minister, Mr *Vandepitte*, Governor of the Banque Nationale (Belgium); Mr *Andersen*, Finance Minister, Mr *Hoffmeyer*, Governor of the National Bank (Denmark); Mr *Schmidt*, Finance Minister, Mr *Klasen*, President of the Bundesbank (Germany); Mr *Giscard d'Estaing*, Minister of Finance and Economy (France); Mr *Dillon*, Permanent Representative, Mr *Whitaker*, Governor of the Central Bank (Ireland); Mr *La Malfa*, Minister of the Treasury (Italy); Mr *Dondelinger*, Permanent Representative (Luxembourg); Mr *Duisenberg*, Finance Minister (Netherlands); Mr *Macmillan*, Paymaster General (United Kingdom).

The Council considered all the factors colouring the Community's economic situation in the light of predictable repercussions from the energy crisis and from decisions taken in economic and

Council



Commission



monetary policy. It formally adopted the Decision concerning the achievement of a high degree of convergence between Member States' economic policies. Also adopted were the Directive on stability, growth and full employment in the Community, the Decision setting up a Committee on Economic Policy and the Resolution on short-term monetary support.

279th Session—Agriculture (Brussels, 18-19 February 1974)

2430. *President: Mr Ertl*, German Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Lardinois, Member.

Member States' Governments were represented by: Mr *Lavens*, Minister of Agriculture (Belgium); Mr *Kofoed*, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Denmark); Mr *Ertl*, Minister of Agriculture, Mr *Rohr*, Secretary of State for Agriculture (Germany); Mr *Chirac*, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (France); Mr *Clinton*, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Ireland); Mr *Ferrari-Aggradi*, Minister of Agriculture, Mr *Cifarelli*, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture (Italy); Mr *Ney*, Minister of Agriculture (Luxembourg); Mr *van der Stee*, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Netherlands); Mr *Godber*, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Lord *Ferrers*, Parliamentary Secretary (United Kingdom).

Resuming its work on farm prices the Council held a wide-ranging and candid debate on the subject. But it transpired that the delegations came up against considerable problems in reaching agreement. It was therefore agreed to break off the discussions and conclude them in March. The Council hoped that the Commission would take action concerning the beef and veal market.

Commission

Activities

2431. The Commission's activities in February were overshadowed by the energy crisis, the agricultural policy and the problems besetting the Community regional policy.

General Report for 1973 and the 1974 Programme

2432. The Commission adopted its Action Programme for 1974. The Programme together with the Seventh General Report on the Activities of the European Communities in 1973¹ were presented to the European Parliament on 12 February 1974 by Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission in the absence of President Ortoli who was attending the Washington Energy Conference.

Energy Policy

2433. The Commission drew up the balance sheet of research activity in the Community and the Member States concerning energy and assessed the level of coordination already achieved. This work was part of the preparations for the Conference on Energy in Washington on 11-13 February 1974.² The Commission also sent the Council a Communication and a draft Decision on promoting the use of nuclear energy in the Community.

¹ Part One, Chapter 1: 'Commission Programme for 1974'.

² Part One, Chapter 2: 'The Washington Energy Conference'.

Agricultural Policy

2434. The Commission took stock of the Parliamentary debates on farm prices and of the Council's proceedings where no agreement could be reached by the end of February. The Commission reviewed the problems on the French and Italian beef and veal markets and the requests concerning the application of safeguard measures brought in by the French and Italian Governments. It also examined the measures announced by the British Government concerning the grant of subsidies for certain agricultural products.

Departmental Organization

2435. The Commission decided on certain appointments and on certain changes in the organization of the Directorate-General of Industrial and Technological Affairs (see Annex).

2436. The Commission also appointed Mr Donald William Allen Principal Adviser to the Legal Service.

Court of Justice**New Cases**

Case 8/74—Ets. Fourcroy, Brussels, and Breuval & Cie. S.A., Brussels vs. Mr Benoît Dassonville and Mr Gustave Dassonville, Jette

2437. The Brussels Tribunal of first instance dealing with a case of fraud in the import and sale of whisky filed a request on 8 February 1974 with the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on interpretation of Articles 30-33 and 36 of the EEC Treaty with regard to a national

provision banning the import of brandy (eau-de-vie) bearing a denomination of origin adopted by a national government when the denomination is not supported by an official document issued by the government of the exporter certifying his entitlement to that denomination. The Tribunal also asked whether an agreement with the effect of restricting competition and impairing trade between Member States and being combined with a national regulation concerning the certificate of origin, was null and void if it only authorized or did not block recourse to this regulation by the sole importer in order to prevent similar imports.

Case 9/74—Mr Donato Casagrande, Munich, represented by his mother Mrs Graziella Casagrande, vs. the Landeshaupstadt, Munich, represented by the mayor

2438. In a legal action over the granting of training inducement to the son of an Italian subject, the Bavarian Verwaltungsgericht in Munich asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on whether Article 3, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the law supporting the Federal law on encouragement to take up individual training, as published on 5 December 1972,¹ was compatible with Article 12, paragraph 1 of Regulation 1612/68 of 15 October 1968 concerning the free movement of workers within the Community.²

Case 10/74—Commission Official vs. the Commission

2439. This is an appeal to quash the decision implying rejection by the Commission of the plaintiff's application for the reinstallation allowance when he permanently relinquished his post (volontariat).

¹ GVB 1973, p. 3.

² OJ L 257 of 19.10.1968.

Case 11/74—Millers Union of the Champagne, Rheims, vs. the French Government

2440. The French Council of State dealing with an appeal to annul a Decree setting cereal prices and determining the financial system for the marketing year 1970/71, asked the Court on 20 February 1974 for a preliminary ruling on whether Regulation 1210/70 of 29 June 1970 specifying for the 1970/71 marketing year, the main cereal marketing centres and the related derived intervention prices plus the intervention prices for maize¹ was compatible with Article 40, section 3, paragraph 2 of the EEC Treaty, with Article 4, section 1, paragraph 2 of Regulation 120/67 of 13 June 1967 on the joint organization of the cereal sector markets² and with Articles 1, 3 and 6 of Regulation 131/67 of 13 June 1967 setting the rules for the derivation of intervention prices and for the designation of certain marketing centres in the cereal sector.³

Case 12/74—The Commission vs. the Federal German Republic

2441. On 21 February 1974 the Commission lodged an appeal with the Court to the effect that the Federal Republic, by reserving the denominations, 'Sekt', 'Weinbrand' and 'Prädikatsekt' for products made in Germany, had failed to fulfill her obligations under the EEC Treaty, in particular Article 30 thereof, and under Article 12, section 2 b) of Regulation 816/70 of 28 April 1970 carrying a supplementary provision regarding the joint organization of the wine-vine market.⁴

Judgements

Joint Cases 15-33, 52, 53, 57-109, 116, 117, 123, 132, and 135-137/73—Commission, Council and Parliament Officials vs. the Commission, Council or European Parliament

2442. These appeals for payment of arrears of living-abroad allowance were rejected as inadmissible on grounds of foreclosure.

Case 146/73—Firma Rheinmuhlen Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf-Holthausen, vs. Einfuhr- und Vorratsstelle für Getreide und Futtermittel, Frankfurt/Main

2443. The Hessen Finanzgericht had filed a request with the Court on 20 June 1973 for a preliminary ruling on interpretation of Article 177 of the EEC Treaty regarding application to the Court, and on Articles 19 and 20 of Regulation 19 on the gradual formation of a joint organization of the markets in the cereal sector⁵ combined with Articles 14 and 15 of Regulation 141/64 of 21 October 1964 concerning the system for products processed from cereals and rice.⁶

By Decree of 12 February 1974, the Court ruled that the existence in internal law of a rule binding the courts to legal assessments by a higher court could not, on this count alone, deprive them of the option under Article 1977 of applying to the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

Regarding the second question, the Court ruled that in cases where the destination of the goods did not match the information on the export documents, the national authorities were obliged to cut down the refund granted so that it did not exceed the maximum limits set for the country of destination, leaving it up to the national authorities to decide whether further action should be taken under national law.

¹ OJ L 141 of 29.6.1970.

² OJ L 117 of 19.6.1967.

³ OJ L 120 of 21.6.1967.

⁴ OJ L 99 of 5.5.1970.

⁵ OJ L 30 of 20.4.1964.

⁶ OJ L 169 of 27.10.1964.

Case 152/73—Mr Giovanni Maria Sotgiu, Stuttgart, vs. the Deutsche Bundespost, represented by the Oberpostdirektion Stuttgart, Stuttgart

2444. The Bundesarbeitsgericht, having to rule in a legal action over discrimination between national and foreign employees regarding payment of a separation allowance, had asked the Court of Justice on 20 July 1973 to give a preliminary ruling on interpretation of Article 48, section 4 of the EEC Treaty and Article 7, sections 1 and 4 of Regulation 1612/68 of 15 October 1968 concerning the free movement of workers within the Community.¹

By Decree of 12 February 1974, the Court ruled that the exception provided for in section 4 of Article 48 referred solely to access to employment in the public service. The nature of the legal bond between the employee and the service was in this respect immaterial.

Article 7, sections 1 and 4, of Regulation 1612/68 were to be interpreted in the sense that separation allowance, paid on top of salary was part of the concept of 'working conditions' without any need to distinguish whether payment was made under an option or under a legal or contractual obligation. The Court furthermore recognized that the principle of non-discrimination, adopted in Article 48, section 2 of the EEC Treaty, could be contravened by provisions not directly related to the nationality of the person concerned but to his domicile at the time of appointment

Case 156/73—The Commission vs. Italy

2445. On 30 July 1973 the Commission had lodged an appeal with the Court of Justice to the effect that Italy had not fulfilled her obligations under Article 8 of Directive 493/69 of 15 December 1967 on the approximation of Member States' laws concerning crystal glass.²

By order of the Court the case was struck from the register on 20 February 1974.

Case 162/73—Birra Dreher, SpA, Venice, vs. Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato

2446. In a legal action over payment of the production refund for broken rice intended for beer brewing, the Pretura di Roma had asked the Court of Justice on 4 September 1973 for a preliminary ruling on the objective of Community provisions stipulating the said refund on the brewer's entitlement to the refund when he paid for the brokens at the market price and on the possibility for Member States to subject, if need be, the practice of that entitlement to the previous written consent of the producer of the brokens.

By Decree of 21 February the Court ruled that a brewery which had paid the market price for brokens intended for brewing beer could not directly assess entitlement to this refund. Through internal Acts of application, Member States could allow the refund entitlement to be transferred to the brewery with the express agreement of the producer.

Economic and Social Committee

Right of Initiative

2447. During its session of 11-12 February the Council formally recognized the right of the Economic and Social Committee to issue Opinions on its own initiative concerning matters affecting Community labour. It will be remem-

¹ OJ C 257 of 19.10.1968.

² OJ L 326 of 29.12.1969.

bered that at the Paris Summit Conference the Heads of State or Government had asked the Community institutions to recognize the Committee's right of 'autoseisin.' The Council also agreed that the Committee should itself publish the Opinions it has issued. The President of the Council will also once a year make a statement to the Committee on the work of the Council.

118th Meeting

2448. The 118th full meeting of the Economic and Social Committee was held in Brussels on 27-28 February with the Chairman, Mr Lappas, in the Chair. The Committee, approved eight Opinions and one study. Mr Borschette of the Commission attended part of the proceedings.

In his statement the Chairman, Mr Lappas reiterated the call to the occupational and trade union organizations represented on the Committee not to take a passive attitude towards the current Community crisis.

Opinions issued by the Committee, on:

(1) *the proposed Council Regulation for monitoring concentrations*

2449. The Opinion prepared from the reports by Mr Clark (United Kingdom — Employers Group) and Mr Friedrichs (Germany — Workers Group) was adopted by 74 votes against 15 with 25 abstentions. The Committee approved the Commission's Proposal subject to certain observations.

The Committee acknowledged the Community's need to monitor company concentrations in order to preserve the competitive system with all the benefits deriving from it for efficiency and free choice. The Committee also allowed that in some cases concentration can offer solid

advantages by enabling European industries to become competitive with those of the other big industrialized countries.

The Committee agreed that exemptions must be allowed for concentrations which although affecting competitiveness within the relevant sector are 'imperative if a priority objective for the general interest of the Community was to be attained.' The Committee acknowledged that it was impossible to determine in advance the criteria for granting exemptions and asked the Commission to develop the Regulation with more detail so as to give specific guidance to companies likely to be affected by it.

The Committee favoured a system of prior notification but stressed that the Commission must take appropriate measures to ensure that every case was swiftly and carefully vetted.

The Committee stressed the need to make it quite clear that only the Commission and not the national authorities was competent to rule on concentration operations falling within the coverage of the Regulation.

Mr Borschette of the Commission was present when this Opinion was formulated and in his remarks reminded the Committee that as matters stood the Commission was only vested with a posteriori powers of intervention when abusive concentrations were involved. He emphasized the need for the systematic monitoring of concentrations which could impede effective competition.

Regarding the various aspects of the Regulation, Mr Borschette stressed the advantages of pre-vetting: a system of this kind offered a more positive approach for companies than any deconcentration procedure. It would, moreover, avoid the often lengthy delays involved in deconcentration. Lastly, the rules of procedure ensured legal security for the companies regarding the compatibility of their projects with the rules of the common market.

(2) Commission Memorandum on improving the Common Agricultural Policy

2450. The Opinion prepared from the report by Mr Bourel (France-Employers Group) was approved by a big majority with only three members voting against and ten abstaining. Already debated at the previous meeting the Opinion stressed the importance of the CAP in the process of European integration.

Judging the various economic, social and technical aspects, the Committee found that the basic flaws of the CAP stemmed from the lack of comparable policies in the other sectors of economic and social activity. In concluding its Opinion the Committee emphasized the impossibility of creating a common agricultural policy if its underlying principles were regularly breached by Member States wanting to secure specific additional or conflicting advantages. Moreover, the international agricultural scene had radically changed since the Treaty of Rome was signed. Thus the Committee considered that only political will would enable Member States to come up with the solution, especially in the case of agriculture. Without this vital element, the Committee feared that the Community would not get out of the present chaotic situation for a long time to come.

(3) Commission Proposal on the setting of prices for certain agricultural products and on certain measures covered by the Memorandum on improving the CAP

2451. This Opinion prepared from the report by Mr de Cafarelli (France-General Interests Group) was adopted by 66 votes against 16 with 18 abstentions. It put the Commission Proposal against the current economic background. The Committee held that the reference period taken by the Commission as the basis for computing

the average price increase for farm products was not valid. The 7.2% rise proposed by the Commission was considered inadequate by the Committee if the objectives set by the Commission itself were to be attained. The Committee proposed to bring in a corrective coefficient so that the very heavy increase in production costs seen in late 1973 could be more closely reckoned with. The Committee also took an unfavourable view of the Proposal to bring in a production tax in the dairy produce sector and asked the Commission to examine the new subsidies for beef and veal producers. The Committee came out against any amendments to the current Regulations governing Durum wheat and olive oil.

Lastly, it found that the Commission's Proposal on the management of agricultural markets made producer incomes even more dependent on such management. The Committee suggested that the occupational groups, in particular the agricultural producers be brought more closely into the management of markets.

(4) Commission Communication to the Council on preparation of a global concept for the forthcoming multilateral negotiations (agricultural folio)

2452. Except for two abstentions the Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion on the agricultural folio of the GATT multilateral negotiations prepared from the report by Mr Rømer (Denmark-Employers Group). The Committee agreed that, to comply with the Declaration by the Ministers in Tokyo on 14 September 1973, the approach to the negotiations, whilst in line with the overall objectives, must also allow for the idiosyncrasies and problems of the agricultural sector. The Committee held that the harmonious development of world trade must match the Community's efforts to rectify existing regional, social and sectoral

imbalances. The development of world trade was not to impede the harmonious development of the agricultural sector. The Committee stressed that the negotiations did not involve the principles or the basic machinery of the CAP.

The Committee contended that the conclusion of world agreements by product and the applications required to run them entailed reorganization which would ensure a stable international monetary system. It took the view that a system should be organized on the world market for certain agricultural products by means of appropriate international agreements. The Committee held that under world agreements by product the aim must be reciprocity through equivalent commitment, but that this must not prevent the Community from taking a sufficiently flexible attitude in assessing various products, when the practical need arose.

(5) Proposed Council Regulation setting up a Community guarantee scheme for private investment in non-Member countries

2453. With only five votes against and two abstentions the Committee adopted this Opinion prepared from the report by Mr Carmichael (United Kingdom-Employers Group). The Committee heartily approved the Commission's initiative in proposing an insurance scheme for Community investments which would facilitate private investment in non-Member countries, especially in the developing countries. It was pointed out that the scheme should not only complement existing national schemes and cover investments made jointly by undertakings from two or more Member States, but should also offer facilities to States who did not have a guarantee scheme. Running the scheme should be made as simple as possible and the links with Member States could be modelled on the lines of the EIB. Under the scheme any investment project afforded the guarantee should have prior

approval from the government of the host country. Regarding financing, the Committee contended that although starting capital was needed to meet the outlay for setting up the European Guarantee Office for Private Investments, the essential thing was for the running commitments of the Office to be guaranteed by the Community rather than by allocating capital.

(6) Proposed Council (EEC) Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 816/70 regarding the definition of dessert wines and certain grape musts

2454. This Opinion prepared from the report by Mr Guillaume (France-General Interests Group) was unanimously adopted. The Committee held that the definition submitted by the Commission should be embodied into a set of Community rules for the dessert wine and aromatized wine markets.

(7) Recommendation for a Council Decision on forming a Committee on Youth Questions Council-Recommendation to form a Youth Advisory Committee

2455. With only three members voting against the Committee adopted almost unanimously this Opinion prepared from the report by Mr van Rens (Netherlands-Workers Group). Regarding the Committee on Youth Questions the E & S Committee welcomed the institutional association of youth organizations with the construction of Europe but wondered whether the representation of Member States' governments was not out of proportion with that of the Commission. The Committee feared that national aspects could take over the European dimension of the problem. It also held that the Committee was not to be an alibi for no further practical action to bring youth into the construction of Europe.

For the Youth Advisory Committee, the Committee considered that the Commission should remodel its Proposal which should focus on the restructuration and development of the Community youth fund, the creation under the aegis of the Commission of a Community youth cooperation centre and the allocation of financial resources for organizing annual discussions with youth organizations. The Committee took the view that it was too early to set up a Youth Advisory Committee, since a major information drive had to be mounted but it acknowledged that at a later stage such a committee could do a useful job within the proposed organizational structure. Lastly, it was hoped that the Commission would advise the European Parliament and the E & S Committee every year of all action and projects concerning youth.

(8) *Draft Council Decision on setting up a General Committee on Industrial Safety — draft Council Decision assigning the Mines Safety and Health Commission to carry on its industrial safety work in all the extracting industries*

2456. The Committee, unanimously adopted its Opinion prepared from the report by Mr Bornard (France — Workers Group). The Committee approved the Commission Proposal to set up a General Committee for Industrial Safety, whose job will be to centralize information on accident prevention and coordinate Community activity in this field. But the Committee felt that there was a need to rationalize these activities and avoid a proliferation of similar bodies by paying careful attention to sectoral problems and keeping up the activities of the General Committee on Iron and Steel.

The Committee supported the Proposal to assign the Mines Safety and Health Commission to carry on its industrial safety work in all the extracting industries. The Committee also

asked that oil and gas extraction and research work should come under the jurisdiction of the MSAC.

Study on the 'Commission's report to the Council on the forecast development of vineyards and the replanting of vineyards in the Community and on the current relationship between production and use in the wine-vine sector'

2457. The study prepared by Mr Guillaume (France — General Interests' Group) reviewed the situation, the conclusions and the guidelines as presented by the Commission's report. It was unanimously approved.

European Investment Bank

Loans Granted

Ireland

2458. The EIB has granted a loan equivalent to 4 million Irish pounds (8.2 million units of account) to Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE), the Irish public transport organization. The loan which is for a term of 20 years at a rate of $8\frac{3}{4}\%$, will contribute to investments in a comprehensive modernization plan for the whole CIE railway network.

The money provided by the EIB will be allocated in particular to improvements in passenger train services, wagonload freight services and the signalling system.

This is the fourth EIB loan for a project in Ireland. In 1973, the first year of Irish EEC membership, three loan operations were concluded for a total amount of 11.1 million Irish pounds (22.6 million u.a.).

5. Institutional Questions — European Policy

European Investment Bank

Turkey

2459. The EIB is to lend 10 million units of account (about US\$ 12 million) to the Republic of Turkey for a land reclamation project in the Gediz Valley, north of Izmir. This project is part of a programme which in its first stage was assisted by a Bank loan of 15 million u.a. made in 1966. With the completion of the second and final stage, expected by 1980, some 107 000 ha. of irrigable land in the Gediz Valley will have been reclaimed through irrigation, drainage, land consolidation and levelling.

The loan is made to the Turkish State for a period of 30 years, including an 8-year deferred payment period, at a rate of interest of 2.5%, p.a. This loan brings total EIB lending in Turkey granted so far under the Second EEC-Turkey Financial Protocol, which came into effect on January 1, 1973, to 86.4 million u.a.

Political Cooperation

2501. The Conference of Ministers scheduled for 14 February had to be postponed to 4 March since the Washington Energy Conference lasted longer than expected.

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

2502. A Commission representative put forward the Community viewpoint to the sub-Committee on Environment of the CSCE which is now in its second stage in Geneva.

European Union

2503. At the Paris Conference, the Heads of State or Government had set themselves the major objective of transforming, before the end of the present decade and with the fullest respect for the Treaties already signed, the whole complex of the relations of Member States into a European Union. They had requested the Community institutions to draw up a report on this subject for submission to a later Summit Conference.¹

At the Copenhagen Conference, the Heads of State or Government decided to speed up the proceedings for defining European Union. They requested the Presidency to make suitable proposals for this.

Complying with these Decisions the various Community institutions have initiated action to make their contribution towards compiling the report on European Union.

¹ Point 16 of the final Communiqué, Bull. EC 10-1972, Part One, Chapter 1.

It can now be seen that in this preliminary stage of work on the European Union each institution is going ahead with preparing separate interim reports.

The interim reports could be submitted to the next Presidential Conference so that it can take the necessary decisions for carrying on the works towards European Union.

A meeting has already been held in January between the President of the European Parliament, the President of the Commission and the President of the Council at which they exchanged information on the status and prospects of the work of each institution.

Parliament's efforts in this direction were centred on the Political Committee. Mr Bertrand's draft report was discussed by the Committee when it met on 21-22 February.

On a proposal from the Presidency in line with the conclusions of the Copenhagen Conference, the Council on 5 February took the following procedural Decision to speed up its proceedings: "The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to make an immediate start on preparing the Council's part of the draft report provided for in paragraph 16 of the Communiqué of the Conference of Heads of State or Government held in Paris in October 1972.

For this purpose the Permanent Representatives Committee may arrange to be assisted by an ad hoc Working Party whose members will be nominated by the Governments of Member States.

The Permanent Representatives Committee must submit its work to the Council in time to enable the latter to present the interim report at the next Conference of Heads of State or Government.

The Council also agreed to ask its President to maintain contacts with the other Community institutions in order to facilitate harmonization of the work done in this connection.

The Permanent Representatives Committee started its work on this basis with the aim of submitting in May an initial report on European Union to the Council.

The *Commission* for its part had already had its initial discussions on this subject since last autumn and has now delegated internal groups with the preparatory work. These studies are being run under the authority of the President of the Commission and within the Commission's overall Directives.

Council Decision Procedures

Improvement of the Council's Decision-Making Procedures and of the Cohesion of Community Action

2504. During the Paris Conference in October 1972 the Heads of State or Government had asked the Council to take practical measures by 30 June 1973 to improve its decision-making procedures and the cohesion of Community action.¹ At the session of 23-24 July 1973 the Council had adopted an initial series of relevant practical measures.² During the session of 4-5 February 1974 it adopted a second series, more specifically applied to its working methods.

The Council agreed to confine its study of other measures to improve its decision-making progress and the cohesion of Community action, when it resumes its discussions on the current situation of the Community.

¹ Point 15 of the final Communiqué from the Paris Summit Conference, Bull. EC 10-1972, Part One, Chapter 1.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2404.

Measures concerning the Council's work

(1) As the Paris Declaration of the Heads of State or of Government pointed out, it is necessary to improve the cohesion of Community action. This essentially involves the need to ensure that the positions and decisions adopted in the various Community bodies and in the various fields are sufficiently coordinated to avoid any contradiction.

Thus, as regards the Council, the fact that it meets both as a Council of specialized Ministers and as a Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs is sometimes likely to endanger the cohesion of its work.

In order to remedy this drawback the Minister who principally exercises the office of President of the Council is to take as broad a view as possible of his coordinating role. For this purpose periodic contacts will take place between the President of the Council and the President of the Commission.

(2) The President will submit to the Council, at the beginning of each six-month period, a programme of work together with a timetable for its implementation.

(3) In principle, seven months before the beginning of a term of presidency, the Member State which is to hold the office will make known the dates it envisages for Council meetings.

(4) Related items should be grouped on the agenda so that they can be dealt with in reference to each other.

(5) After an agenda item has been discussed and if the Council deems necessary, a working party will be instructed to sum up the Council's conclusions while the meeting is still running, to enable the Council itself to resolve any problems in respect of the item and thus avoid lengthy discussions on implementation.

(6) The Council reaffirmed its determination to speed up the decision-making procedure within the Community by seeking solutions which take account of the need for the Community to move ahead in various fields. To this end Member States will give their representatives in meetings held at all levels in the Council framework instructions which may enable them to arrive at decisions within reasonable periods of time.

Right of Initiative for the Economic and Social Committee

2505. At the Paris Summit Conference of October 1972, the Heads of State or Government had asked the Community institutions to recognize the right of the Economic and Social Committee to issue Opinions on its own initiative concerning all matters affecting Community work. Formal recognition of this right began with a revision of the Committee's internal rules. The Committee has already used its new prerogative in 1973 by preparing several Opinions on its own initiative.

At the session of 11-12 February 1974 the Council formally recognized the Committee's right to issue Opinions on its own initiative concerning all matters affecting Community work.

It also agreed that the Committee should itself publish the Opinions it has issued. Two claims made by the Committee since it was formed have thus been met.

The Council also approved a set of measures to improve its relations with the Economic and Social Committee. Thus the President-in-Office of the Council will make an annual statement to the Committee on the Council's work. Moreover, the Permanent Representatives will be invited to attend the Committee sessions as observers and every effort will be made to keep the Committee well advised of the content and

direction of the Council's work. All these moves fulfill the wishes of the Committee especially regarding regular cooperation in the preparation of its Opinions.

Faroe Isles

Council Resolution on the Problems of the Faroe Isles

2506. The Faroe Isles although part of the Kingdom of Denmark did not join the Community when it was enlarged. But they may well do so since their membership, on the terms of the Act of Accession, hinges on a Declaration by the Danish Government to be made at the latest by 31 December 1975.

The problems of the Faroe Isles were brought to the Council's attention following a Declaration by the local government. In view of their political position and the fisheries situation, the Council deemed it appropriate to pass the following Resolution during the session of 4-5 February:

(1) The Council takes note of the statement by the Danish Government that, following a resolution of the local Faroese Government, it is not in the present circumstances in a position to declare that the Treaties should apply to the Faroe Islands.

The Council has moreover taken into consideration that, in the present context, it is not to be expected that such a declaration would be made before the date set out in Article 1 of Protocol No 2 to the Act of Accession. While regretting this situation, the Council expresses its intention to seek acceptable solutions in the longer term.

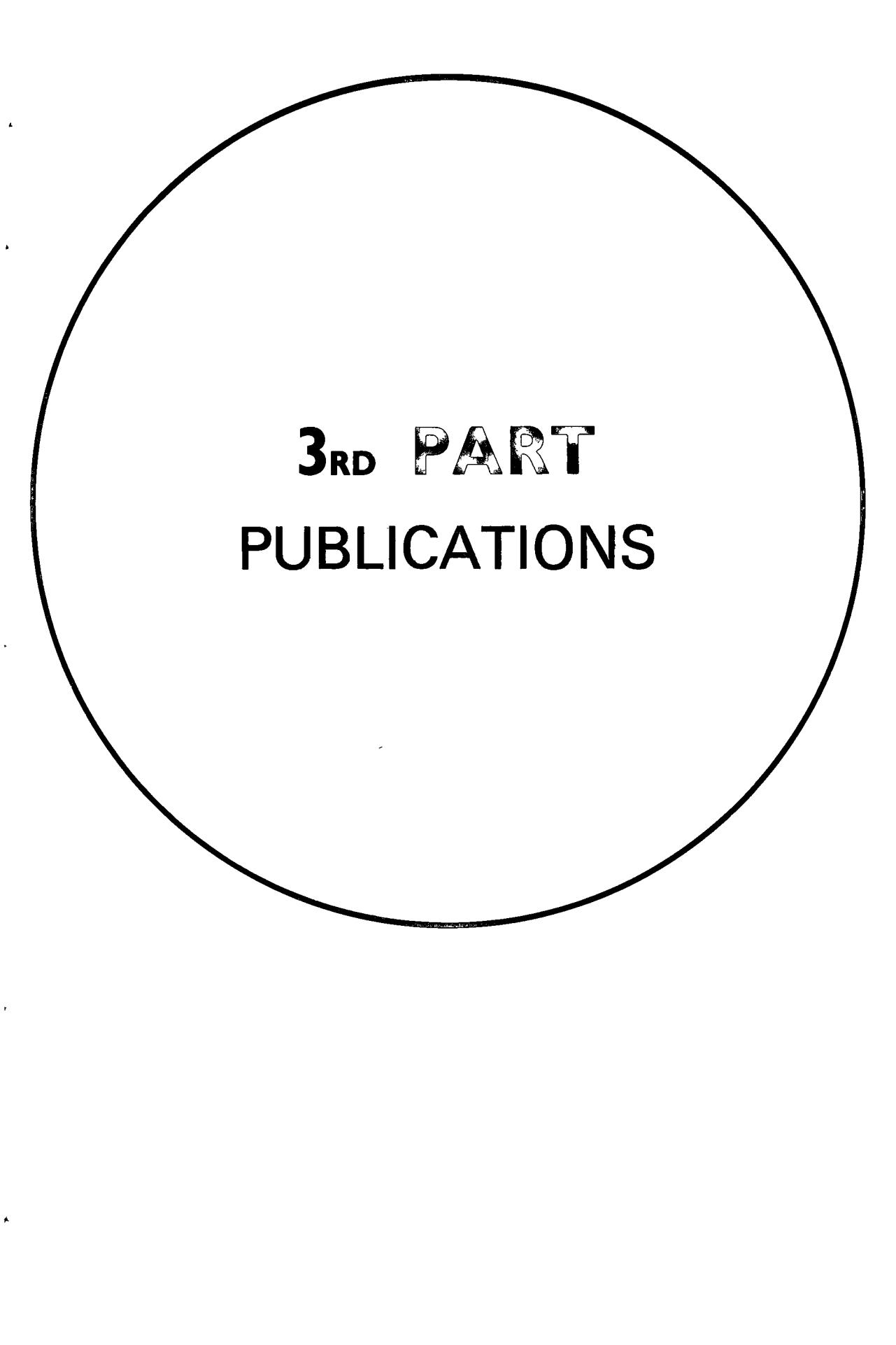
(2) In order to promote Faroese exports to the Community, the Council is at present prepared to adopt an arrangement providing for the

progressive elimination of customs duties on imports of products originating in and coming from the Faroe Islands which are essential for their economic and social development. This arrangement would be along the lines of Article 32 of the Act of Accession.

The Council has in fact been informed that the Commission intends to make proposals to this end before 31 March 1974.

(3) The Council recognizes the vital importance of fisheries for the Faroe Islands and for Greenland and considers that, because of the geographical location of these regions of the Kingdom of Denmark, fishing and related industries are essential activities for their populations, possibilities of alternative employment being extremely limited.

Wanting the Community to play its part in promoting the development of the Faroe Islands and of Greenland, the Council is prepared, in the light of the results of the Conference on the Law of the Sea, to reexamine the decisive factors for economic and social development in these two regions of the Kingdom of Denmark.



**3_{RD} PART
PUBLICATIONS**

Published in the Official Journal

Published in the Official Journal

This tabulation covers the numbers of the Official Journal published during February 1974.

European Parliament

1973-1974 Session

Report of Proceedings from 14 to 18 January 1974
Annex 170, February 1974

*Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Monday,
14 January 1974*
C 11, 7.2.1974

*Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Tuesday,
15 January 1974*
C 11, 7.2.1974

Resolution on the second report from the Commission of the European Communities on competition policy and on the communication from the Commission of the European Communities on the implementation of the principles of coordination of regional aid in 1972

Oral Question 156/73 with debate, by Mr Jahn, Mr Früh, Mr Memmel, Mr Springorum and Mrs Walz to the Commission of the European Communities: Establishment of a European Foundation for the Improvement of the Environment and Living and Working Conditions

*Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Wednesday,
16 January 1974*
C 11, 7.2.1974

Question Time

Questions put to the Council of the European Communities:

- (i) 155/73 by Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker: Collective underwriting of settlement of the Arab/Israel conflict
- (ii) 178/73 by Mr Ansart: Further action on positions adopted by the European Parliament on the situation in Chile
- (iii) 179/73 by Mr Vals: Further action on the European Parliament's resolution on the military coup d'état in Chile
- (iv) 190/73 by Mr Cousté: Arab-European Conference

Questions put to the Commission of the European Communities:

- (i) 170/73 by Mr John Hill: Qualifications relating to the veterinary profession
- (ii) 174/73 by Mr Broeks: Ratification procedures for the Convention establishing a European University Institute

Oral Question 101/73 with debate, by Sir Tufton Beamish on behalf of the European Conservative Group to the Council of the European Communities: Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Oral Question 138/73 with debate, by Mr Blumenfeld, Mr Aigner, Mr Glesener, Mr Kollwelter and Mr Mursch to the Council of the European Communities: Community representation at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and in relations with the USA

Oral Question 157/73 with debate, by Mr Jahn, Mr Aigner, Mr Artzinger, Mr Früh, Mr Klepsch, Mr Memmel, Mr Mursch and Mr Schulz to the Commission and the Council of the European Communities: Possibilities of improving relations between the Community and the United States of America

Resolution on the outcome of the Conference of Heads of State or Government held in Copenhagen on 14 and 15 December 1973 and on measures taken as a result

*Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Thursday,
17 January 1974*
C 11, 7.2.1974

Oral Question 108/73 with debate, by Mr Blumenfeld, Mr Artzinger, Mr Bertrand, Mr Burgbacher, Mr Noè, Mr van der Sanden and Mr Springorum to the Commission of the European Communities: Credit aid to State-trading countries

Oral Question 137/73 without debate, by Mr Blumenfeld to the Commission of the European Communities: Energy policy

Resolution on the proposal for a Regulation relating to the supply as food aid of skimmed-milk powder

Resolution on the proposals for:

- I. a Directive concerning the content, supervision and distribution of the prospectus to be published when securities issued by companies or firms within the meaning of the second paragraph of Article 58 of the Treaty are officially quoted on a stock exchange for the first time

II. a recommendation concerning the content of the prospectus to be published when securities issued by States or their regional or local authorities are officially quoted on a stock exchange for the first time

Oral Question 173/73 with debate, by Mr Armengaud on behalf of the Liberal and Allies Group to the Commission of the European Communities: Development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes

Oral Question 176/73 with debate, by Mr Pêtre on behalf of the Committee on Budgets to the Commission of the European Communities: First financial report concerning the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund Year 1971

Oral Question 165/73/rev. with debate, by Mr Cipolla on behalf of the Communist and Allies Group to the Commission of the European Communities: EAGGF payments

Resolution on the tenth report of the Mines Safety and Health Commission and on the fourth report of the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission

Resolution on the further development of the economic and monetary union

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of the aid to producers for the 1972 harvest

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on the tariff treatment applicable to agricultural products contained in travellers' personal luggage

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for unmanufactured tobacco of the type 'flue-cured Virginia' originating in developing countries

*Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Friday, 18 January 1974
C 11, 7.2.1974*

Opinion on the proposal for a Decision on additional measures to be taken in agriculture following the revaluation of the German mark

Opinion on the proposal for two Regulations extending the period of application of Council Regulation (EEC) 227/72 and 228/72 of 31 January 1972 on imports into the Community of certain fishery products originating in Tunisia and Morocco respectively

Opinion on the proposals for:

I. a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for dried figs, in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less, falling under subheading ex 08.03 B of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Spain

II. a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for dried grapes, in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less, falling under subheading ex 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Spain

III. a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for sherry wines falling under subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Spain

IV. a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for Malaga wines falling under subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Spain

V. a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for Jumilla, Priorato, Rioja and Valdepeñas wines falling under subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Spain

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 2511/69 laying down special measures for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruits

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation extending the period for transitional measures for agricultural products in the new Member States

Opinion on the proposal for a Directive on a tenth amendment to the Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption

Written questions and replies

Written Question 25/73 by Mr Fellermaier to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: French petroleum companies' agreements restricting competition
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 172/73 by Mr Martens to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Meat prices for producers and consumers (Supplementary answer)
C 12, 9.2.1974

Published in the Official Journal

Written Question 208/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Dishonest practices by holiday 'operators'
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 215/73 by Mrs Caretoni Romagnoli and Mrs Iotti to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Spread of the African drought to Asia
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 230/73 by Mr Notenboom and Mr Scholten to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Informing the European Parliament
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 248/73 by Mr Johnston to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Extension of reciprocal arrangements
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 259/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Net spending by the EAGGF in support of the sugar market
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 270/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Investments by EEC States in the dollar area and comparison with investments in 1970, 1971 and 1972
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Written Question 271/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Legislation on vaccination in EEC Member States
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 277/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Statistics on returning migrant workers
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 279/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Statistics on migrant workers
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 319/73 by Mr Pêtre to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: British exports of animals for slaughter
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 324/73 by Mr Seefeld to the Commission of the European Communities

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Subject: Value added tax refunds to foreign transport undertakings
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 326/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Legislation affecting working mothers
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 331/73 by Mr Seefeld to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Introduction of right-hand drive in all EEC countries
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 333/73 by Mr Taverne to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: General System of Preferences
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 339/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Civil disaster relief
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 340/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Water pollution control in the Federal Republic of Germany
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 355/73 by Mr Antoniozzi to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Community policy on agricultural structures
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 357/73 by Mr Laudrin to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Floods in Pakistan

Written Question 359/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: New protectionist measures by the United States
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 360/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Increase in the number of workers from non-Community countries and the members of their families
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 371/73 by Mr Müller and Mr Kater to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: New maximum permitted levels for aircraft exhaust fumes in the USA
C 12, 9.2.1974

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Written Question 373/73 by Mr Bordu to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Better information for Members of the European Parliament
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 375/73 by Mr Walkhoff to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Financial support from the Commission for trade fairs and similar events
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 377/73 by Mr Taverne to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Comparison of European Standards on vehicle axle weights and dispositions
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 383/73 by Mr Laban and Mr Van der Hek to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Working party on an EEC food aid plan for milk and dairy products
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 387/73 by Mr Adams to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Withholding unemployment benefit from workers affected by lock-outs
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 390/73 by Mr Kater to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Statistics on incomes and wealth in the Community
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 391/73 by Mr Thornley to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Employment in the motor vehicle assembling industry
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 397/73 by Mr Notenboom to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Air pollution in the vicinity of frontiers between Member States
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 401/73 by Mr Wohlfart to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Education allowances for officials
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 403/73 by Mr Kater and Mr Müller to the Commission of the European Communities

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Subject: Harmonization of highway codes in the Community
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 405/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Convention on the disposal of waste at sea
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 406/73 by Lord Reay to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Application of the Communities Generalized Scheme of Preferences
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Written Question 407/73 by Sir Tufton Beamish to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Help for the physically handicapped
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 409/73 by Mr Kavanagh to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Market organization on mutton
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 410/73 by Mr Laban and Mr Lagorce to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Wine frauds in France
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Written Question 411/73 by Mr Müller and Mr Kater to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Reduction of noise pollution
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Written Question 413/73 by Mr Johnston to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Consideration of individual regions in the harmonization of food regulations
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Written Questions 415/73 by Mr Girardin to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Liberalization of the medical profession
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 418/73 by Mr Johnston to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Extension of EDF to include non Yaoundé Convention countries
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 419/73 by Mr Kater to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Harmonization of legislation against unfair competition
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Written Question 420/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Future of small and medium-sized undertakings in the EEC and steps that might be taken by the Commission to further their development

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Written Question 421/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Representation of the Community in Ankara and Tokyo

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Written Question 425/73 by Mr Kater and Mr Müller to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Harmonization of veterinary legislation

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Written Question 427/73 by Mr Seefeld to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Modern rapid transport systems

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Written Question 429/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Problems of unfair competition

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Written Question 431/73 by Mr Durieux to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Implementation of the rulings of the Court of Justice in the Member States

C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 433/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Lorraine-Saar-Luxembourg economic area

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Written Question 434/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Cross-frontier road haulage movement of goods

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Written Question 435/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: United Nations Environmental Protection Programme

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Written Question 437/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Construction of sewage farms

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Written Question 438/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Mobile environmental protection exhibition C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 439/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Rural planning in Europe

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Written Question 440/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Aid for reconstruction in South Vietnam

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Written Question 447/73 by Mrs Walz to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: More stringent anti-noise provisions

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Written Question 452/73 by Mr Kater and Mr Müller to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Equal pay for men and women

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Written Question 454/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Delay in reply to Written Questions

Written Question 458/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: House of Lords Committee on EEC Legislation

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Written Question 459/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: House of Lords Committee on EEC Legislation

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Written Question 460/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Delays in replies to Written Questions

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Written Question 461/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: Delays in replies to Written Questions

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Written Question 464/73 by Mr Antoniozzi to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Community aid for olive oil

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Written Question 465/73 by Mr Antoniozzi to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Implementation of decisions taken at the Paris Summit Conference

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Written Question 469/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Provisions of the Treaty of Rome
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Written Question 470/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Council of the European Communities
Subject: Provisions of the Treaty of Rome
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Written Question 488/73 by Mr Armengaud to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Position of the luxury perfume industry
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Written Question 492/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Cooperation in combating crime
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Written Question 493/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Location of the Institute for Economic Research and Forecasting
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Written Question 494/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Industrial fishing in the Baltic Sea
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Written Question 496/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: 1974 budget of the Federal Republic of Germany
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Written Question 498/73 by Mr Johnston to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Criteria for granting soft loans or grants from the EDF
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Written Question 502/73 by Mr Johnston to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Supervisory boards
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Subject: Market-sharing agreements
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Written Question 509/73 by Mr Johnston to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Proposals to reduce vehicle noise limits
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Written Question 514/73 by Mr Jahn to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Disturbing remarks by the Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities
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Written Question 530/73 by Mr Jahn to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Belated submission of the Social Action Programme by the Commission
C 12, 9.2.1974

Written Question 227/73 by Mr Müller and Mr Della Briotta to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Protection of European art treasures
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 344/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Tax exemptions in international travel
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Written Question 345/73 by Mr Scholten to the Council of the European Communities
Subject: Meeting of Finance Ministers on reform of the monetary system
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Written Question 365/73 by Mr Früh to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Common agricultural policy
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Written Question 368/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Safety in road transport
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Written Question 393/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Increase in farm land prices in the Community
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 398/73 by Mr Notenboom to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Reorganization of the French footwear industry
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 399/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: French Government bill making foreign workers eligible to become members of works councils, staff representatives and trade union representatives
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Written Question 428/73 by Mr Mursch to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Liberalization of the building market within the EEC countries
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Written Question 432/73 by Mr Willi Müller to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: 'Black market' in veterinary pharmaceuticals
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Written Question 441/73 by Mr Kater and Mr Müller to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Prohibition of insecticides
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Written Question 443/73 by Mr Scholten to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Coordination of Member States' budgets
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Written Question 445/73 by Mrs Walz to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Harmonization of basic research in the individual Member States
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Written Question 446/73 by Mrs Walz to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Action programme 1 (3)
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Written Question 450/73 by Mr Schwörer to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Subsidies for the shoe industry in France and Italy
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Written Question 457/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Whales
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Written Question 467/73 by Mrs Walz to the Council of the European Communities
Subject: Report on European union
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Written Question 471/73 by Mr Brewis to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Retrospective abrogation of national patent rights by provisions purporting to prohibit the artificial division of the common market
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Written Question 472/73 by Mr Brewis to the Council of the European Communities
Subject: Retrospective abrogation of national patent

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rights by provisions purporting to prohibit the artificial division of the common market
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Written Question 473/73 by Mr Fellermaier to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Motor vehicle guarantees
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 476/73 by Mr Johnston to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Aid from the ESF to the Six
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 484/73 by Mr Johnston to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: European Educational Research Centre
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 485/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Harmonization of Member States' budgets
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Written Question 486/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Protection of consumers in the Community
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 487/73 by Mr Seefeld to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Customs difficulties for railway passengers at the border between Belgium and Germany
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 497/73 by Mr Johnston to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Current size of the EDF
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 510/73 by Mr Johnston to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: Alternatives to road transport
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 513/73 by Mr Jahn to the Commission of the European Communities
Subject: VAT on stamps (collectors' sets) purchased privately by permanent subscriptions
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 515/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Council of the European Communities
Subject: Political cooperation meetings
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Questions 517/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Television programmes on European topics
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 528/73 by Mr Lagorce to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Measures to prevent the maltreatment of children
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 539/73 by Sir Tufton Beamish to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: European Political Cooperation on Foreign Policy—Consultations entrusted to Ambassadors
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Written Question 540/73 by Sir Tufton Beamish to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: Studies in the framework of European Political Cooperation on Foreign Policy
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 541/73 by Sir Tufton Beamish to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: European Political Cooperation on Foreign Policy—reports from the Ambassadors of Member States
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Answer to Written Questions 539/73, 540/73 and 541/73 by Sir Tufton Beamish
C 14, 15.2.1974

Written Question 545/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Public understanding of the work of the Commission
C 14, 15.2.1974

Council and Commission

Regulations

Regulation (EEC) 3584/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the tariff treatment of certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3585/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas for bullion lead and unwrought lead other than bullion lead falling within subheading 78.01 A I and A II of the Common Customs Tariff
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3586/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for unwrought zinc falling within subheading 79.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3587/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for ferro-silicon falling within subheading 73.02 C of the Common Customs Tariff
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3588/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for ferro-silico-manganese falling within subheading 73.02 D of the Common Customs Tariff
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3589/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for ferro-chromium containing not more than 0.10% by weight of carbon and more than 30% but not more than 90% of chromium (super-refined ferro-chromium) falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3590/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3591/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for unwrought magnesium falling within subheading 77.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3592/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community Tariff quota for dried grapes falling within subheading 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff (1974), in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3593/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain plywoods of coniferous species, falling within

heading ex 44.15 of the Common Customs Tariff
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L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3594/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for hand woven fabrics of silk, waste silk other than noil, and cotton, falling within subheadings ex 50.09 and ex 55.09 of the Common Customs Tariff
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3595/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain hand-made products
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3596/73 of the Council of 28 December 1973 on the definition of the concept of 'originating products' for the implementation by the new Member States of Articles 109 (2) and 119 (2) of the Act of Accession in trade with certain Associated States and overseas countries and territories
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3597/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 on the application of Decision 10/73 of the EEC/Austria Joint Committee amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, and Decision 3/73 of the Joint Committee laying down methods of administrative cooperation in the customs field

(i) Decision 10/73 of the Joint Committee of 12 December 1973 amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, and Decision 3/73 of the Joint Committee laying down methods of administrative cooperation in the customs field
L 365, 31.12.1973

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(i) Decision 10/73 of the Joint Committee of 12 December 1973 amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, and Deci-

sion 3/73 of the Joint Committee laying down methods of administrative cooperation in the customs field
L 365, 31.12.1973

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(i) Decision 10/73 of the Joint Committee of 12 December 1973 amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, and Decision 3/73 of the Joint Committee laying down methods of administrative cooperation in the customs field
L 365, 31.12.1973

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(i) Decision 10/73 of the Joint Committee of 12 December 1973 amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, and Decision 3/73 of the Joint Committee laying down methods of administrative cooperation in the customs field
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Regulation (EEC) 3601/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 on the application of Decision 7/73 of the EEC/Norway Joint Committee amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, and Decision 3/73 of the Joint Committee laying down methods of administrative cooperation in the customs field

(i) Decision 7/73 of the Joint Committee of 12 December 1973 amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, and Decision 3/73 of the Joint Committee laying down methods of administrative cooperation in the customs field
L 365, 31.12.1973

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(i) Decision 10/73 of the Joint Committee of 12 December 1973 amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, and Decision 3/73 of the Joint Committee laying down methods of administrative cooperation in the customs field

L 365, 31.12.1973

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(i) Decision 11/73 of the Joint Committee of 11 December 1973 amending Annex II to Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3604/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 on the application of Decision 11/73 of the Joint Committee set up under the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation amending Annex II to Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

(i) Decision 11/73 of the Joint Committee of 11 December 1973 amending Annex II to Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3605/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 on the application of Decision 11/73 of the Joint Committee set up under the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Sweden amending Annex II to Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

(i) Decision 11/73 of the Joint Committee of 11 December 1973 amending Annex II to Protocol 3

concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3606/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 on the application of Decision 11/73 of the Joint Committee set up under the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland amending Annex II to Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

(i) Decision 11/73 of the Joint Committee of 11 December 1973 amending Annex II to Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3607/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 on the application of Decision 11/73 of the Joint Committee set up under the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic amending Annex II to Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

(i) Decision 11/73 of the Joint Committee of 11 December 1973 amending Annex II to Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3608/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 on the application of Decision 8/73 of the Joint Committee set up under the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway amending Annex II to Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

(i) Decision 8/73 of the Joint Committee of 11 December 1973 amending Annex II to Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3609/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 on customs treatment to be applied to certain fishery products originating in Norway

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port wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Portugal
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Regulation (EEC) 3611/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for Madeira wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Portugal
L 365, 31.12.1973

Regulation (EEC) 3612/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for Setubal muscatel wines, falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Portugal
L 365, 31.12.1973

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- (i) Decision 1/73 of the Joint Committee amending the Agreement following the Accession to the European Economic Community of the Kingdom of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- (ii) Decision 2/73 of the Joint Committee amending the Appendices to the Agreement
- (iii) Decision 3/73 of the Joint Committee amending the Appendices to the Agreement (loading lists)
- (iv) Decision 4/73 of the Joint Committee on the Danish and English texts of the Agreement
L 365, 31.12.1973

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L 28, 1.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 281/74 of the Council of 30 January 1974 including further products in the list given in Annex I to Regulation (EEC) 1025/70 establishing common rules for imports from third countries
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Regulation (EEC) 293/74 of the Council of 30 January 1974 on information for the establishment of

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L 32, 5.2.1974

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L 33, 6.2.1974

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L 34, 7.2.1974

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L 34, 7.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 304/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 extending the period of application of Council Regulation (EEC) 228/72 on imports into the Community of certain fishery products originating in Morocco
L 34, 7.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 305/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters amending Article 7 of Annex 6 to the Additional Protocol to the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and Turkey
L 34, 7.2.1974

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L 34, 7.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 307/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 extending the period of application of Regulation (EEC) 227/72 on imports into the Community of certain fishery products originating in Tunisia
L 34, 7.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 324/74 of the Commission of 7 February 1974 amending Regulation (EEC) 1259/72 on the disposal of butter at a reduced price to certain Community processing undertakings
L 35, 8.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 313/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 concluding the two exchanges of letters relating to Articles 2 and 3 of Protocol 8 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic
L 36, 8.2.1974

Regulation (Euratom) 328/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 altering the conditions governing remuneration and social security for establishment staff of the Joint Research Centre employed in the Federal Republic of Germany
L 37, 9.2.1974

Regulation (Euratom) 329/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 altering the conditions governing remuneration and social security for establishment staff of the Joint Research Centre employed in the Netherlands
L 37, 9.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 330/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 amending certain Regulations on the financing of interventions by the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
L 37, 9.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 331/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 concluding the exchange of letters amending certain provisions of Protocols 1, 6, 7 and 8 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic
L 37, 9.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 335/74 of the Commission of 8 February 1974 providing for licences for the import into the United Kingdom of cotton yarn coming from non-member countries
L 37, 9.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 336/74 of the Commission of 8 February 1974 on certain measures to be taken by the intervention agencies in the context of Community aid to the Sahel countries
L 37, 9.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 342/74 of the Commission of 11 February 1974 amending Regulation (EEC) 475/73 concerning the detailed arrangements for the import of sugar under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement
L 40, 12.2.1974

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L 40, 12.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 344/74 of the Commission of 11 February 1974 supplementing Regulation (EEC) 3348/73 concerning the levying of a tax on the exportation of certain goods covered by Regulation (EEC) 1059/69
L 40, 12.2.1974

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L 41, 13.2.1974

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L 42, 14.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 374/74 of the Commission of 13 February 1974 amending Regulation (EEC) 1769/72 drawing up accompanying documents and determining the obligations of wine producers and traders other than retailers
L 42, 14.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 377/74 of the Council of 12 February 1974 making temporary provision for private storage aids for boned or boneless meat in the beef and veal sector
L 43, 15.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 389/74 of the Commission of 14 February 1974 laying down detailed rules for applying the special export levy on syrups and other sugars and amending Regulation (EEC) 2637/70
L 43, 15.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 391/74 of the Commission of 13 February 1974 re-establishing the levying of customs duties on cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale, falling within subheading 55.05 A, originating in Colombia, to which the preferential tariff arrangements set out in Council Regulation (EEC) 3503/73 of 18 December 1973 apply
L 43, 15.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 402/74 of the Commission of 15 February 1974 amending Regulation (EEC) 1009/73 adopting in respect of Denmark special measures for maize groats and meal used in the manufacture of glucose
L 44, 16.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 404/74 of the Commission of 15 February 1974 making derogation from Regulation (EEC) 1896/73 as regards the application of intervention measures in respect of certain qualities of beef and veal
L 44, 16.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 405/74 of the Commission of 15 February 1974 amending Regulation (EEC) 2096/73 as regards the buying-in prices for permanent intervention in respect of certain qualities of beef and veal in Great Britain
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L 47, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 412/74 of the Council of 18 February 1974 on certain measures to be taken in Italy for colza and rape seed as a result of the fixing, with effect from 28 January 1974, of a new representative rate for the Italian lira
L 47, 20.2.1974

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L 48, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 354/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain textile products falling within heading 55.05 and 55.09 and subheading ex 58.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1974), coming from Turkey
L 48, 20.2.1974

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L 48, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 356/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain petroleum products falling within Chapter 27 of the Common Customs Tariff, refined in Spain
L 48, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 357/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for Jerez wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Spain
L 48, 20.2.1974

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L 48, 20.2.1974

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Regulation (EEC) 359/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for wines from Jumilla, Priorato, Rioja and Valdepeñas, falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Spain
L 48, 20.2.1974

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L 48, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 361/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for dried grapes falling within subheading ex 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff
L 48, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 362/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for other woven fabrics of cotton falling within heading 55.09 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Israel
L 48, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 363/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for cotton yarn falling within heading 55.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Malta
L 48, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 364/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for man-made fibres (discontinuous or waste), carded, combed or otherwise prepared for spinning falling within heading 56.04 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Malta
L 48, 20.2.1974

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L 48, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 366/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for

the administration of a Community tariff quota for men's and boys' outer garments falling within heading 61.01 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Malta
L 48, 20.2.1974

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L 48, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 368/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for men's and boys' outer garments falling within heading 61.01 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Cyprus
L 48, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 369/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain petroleum products falling within Chapter 27 of the Common Customs Tariff, refined in the Arab Republic of Egypt
L 48, 20.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 370/74 of the Council of 4 February 1974 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for other woven fabrics of cotton falling within heading 55.09 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in the Arab Republic of Egypt
L 48, 20.2.1974

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L 49, 21.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 419/74 of the Council of 18 February 1974 amending Regulation (EEC) 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products
L 49, 21.2.1974

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L 49, 21.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 424/74 of the Commission of 20 February 1974 amending Regulation (EEC) 71/73

on the sale of butter from public stocks
L 49, 21.2.1974

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L 49, 21.2.1974

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L 50, 22.2.1974

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L 50, 22.2.1974

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L 51, 23.2.1974

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L 55, 26.2.1974

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L 55, 26.2.1974

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L 56, 27.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 470/74 of the Commission of 26 February 1974 re-establishing the levying of customs duties on knitted or crocheted fabrics, not elastic or rubberized, falling within subheading 60.01 A, originating in developing countries to which the preferential tariff arrangements set out in Council Regulation (EEC) 3505/73 of 18 December 1973 apply
L 56, 27.2.1974

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toms duties on glazed sets, flags and paving, hearth and wall tiles falling within heading 69.08, originating in South Korea, to which the preferential tariff arrangements set out in Council Regulation (EEC) 3501/73 of 18 December 1973 apply
L 56, 27.2.1974

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L 56, 27.2.1974

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L 57, 28.2.1974

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L 57, 28.2.1974

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L 57, 28.2.1974

Regulation (EEC) 428/74 of the Council of 16 January 1974 implementing Decision 1/74, 2/74, 3/74 and 4/74 of the Joint Committee set up under the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria on the application of the rules on Community transit
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Missions of third countries (Sri Lanka)
C 16, 20.2.1974

Council

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74/34/EEC:

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L 30, 4.2.1974

74/35/EEC:

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L 30, 4.2.1974

74/36/Euratom:

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L 30, 4.2.1974

74/37/EEC, Euratom, ECSC:

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L 30, 4.2.1974

74/59/EEC:

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L 38, 11.2.1974

74/60/EEC:

Council Directive of 17 December 1973 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the interior fittings of motor vehicles (interior parts of the passenger compartment other than the interior rear-view mirrors, layout of controls, the roof or sliding roof, the backrest and rear part of the seats)
L 38, 11.2.1974

74/61/EEC:

Council Directive of 17 December 1973 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to devices to prevent the unauthorized use of motor vehicles
L 38, 11.2.1974

74/62/EEC:

Council Directive of 17 December 1973 making a ninth amendment to the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption
L 38, 11.2.1974

74/63/EEC:

Council Directive of 17 December 1973 on the fixing of maximum permitted levels for undesirable substances and products in feedingstuffs

L 38, 11.2.1974

74/83/EEC:

Council Decision of 15 October 1973 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the supply of skimmed-milk powder as food aid

(i) Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the supply of skimmed-milk powder as food aid

(ii) Information on the signing of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the supply of food aid

L 53, 25.2.1974

74/84/EEC:

Council Decision of 15 October 1973 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Upper Volta on the supply of maize as food aid

(i) Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Upper Volta on the supply of maize as food aid

(ii) Information on the signing of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Upper Volta on the supply of food aid

L 53, 25.2.1974

74/85/EEC:

Council Decision of 10 December 1973 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Empire of Ethiopia on the supply of common wheat as food aid

(i) Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Empire of Ethiopia on the supply of common wheat as food aid

(ii) Information on the signing of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Empire of Ethiopia on the supply of food aid

L 53, 25.2.1974

74/86/EEC:

Council Decision of 17 December 1973 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Peru on the supply of common wheat as food aid

(i) Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Peru on the supply of common wheat as food aid

(ii) Information on the signing of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Peru on the supply of food aid
L 53, 25.2.1974

74/87/EEC:

Council Decision of 17 December 1973 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Malagasy Republic on the supply of flour of common wheat as food aid

(i) Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Malagasy Republic on the supply of flour of common wheat as food aid

(ii) Information on the signing of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Malagasy Republic on the supply of food aid
L 53, 25.2.1974

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74/42/ECSC:

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74/44/ECSC:

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74/47/EEC:

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74/81/EEC:

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D	IRL	FB
Tysk In deutscher Sprache In German Langue allemande Lingua tedesca Duits	Irsk In irischer Sprache In Irish Langue irlandaise Lingua irlandese Iers	Belgiske francs Belgische Franken Belgian francs Francs belges Franchi belgi Belgische franken
E	NL	* Tidsskrifter Zeitschriften Periodicals Périodiques Periodici Tijdschriften
Engelsk In englischer Sprache In English Langue anglaise Lingua inglese Engels	Nederlansk In niederländischer Sprache In Dutch Langue néerlandaise Lingua olandese Nederlands	* Tidsskrifter Zeitschriften Periodicals Périodiques Periodici Tijdschriften
F	S	
Fransk In französischer Sprache In French Langue française Lingua francese Frans	Spansk In spanischer Sprache In Spanish Langue espagnole Lingua spagnola Spaans	
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8313

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(1974). 6 s. + 5 s. ann. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)

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<i>Références de textes publiés en matière d'enseignement-jeunesse, de statistique générale-démographie et d'information-presse.</i> <i>Oplysningsblad om dokumentation · Dokumentationsbulletin · Bulletin on Documentation · Bulletin de renseignement documentaire · Bollettino di informazione documentaria · Documentatiebulletin.</i> Tillæg · Sonderbeilage · Supplément · Supplemento. C/9. 18.2.1974. (1974). 23 p. (Mult.)	Gratuit		* <i>Fortegnelse over nyerhvervelser. Centralbiblioteket · Verzeichnis der Neuerwerbungen. Zentralbibliothek · List of Additions. Central Library · Bulletin des acquisitions. Bibliothèque centrale · Bollettino delle acquisizioni. Biblioteca centrale · Lijst van aanwinsten. Centrale bibliotheek.</i> (månedlig · monatlich · monthly · mensuel · mensile · maandelijk) –Mult.
			* <i>Dokumente und Publikationen. Europäische Gemeinschaften. Bonn (zweimal im Monat)</i> Gratis

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De Europæiske Fællesskabers Tidende (*daglig*)
Amtsblatt der Europäischen Gemeinschaften (*täglich*)
Official Journal of the European Communities (*daily*)
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Publikatieblad van de Europese Gemeenschappen (*dagelijks*)

Bulletin der Europäischen Gemeinschaften
(*monatlich*)
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Bollettino delle Comunità europee
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(*mensuel*)
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Schaubilder und Kurzkommentare zur Konjunktur in der
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Graphs and Notes on the economic situation in the Community
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Graphiques et notes rapides sur la conjoncture dans la
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(*bimestrale*)
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Bericht über die Ergebnisse der Konjunkturbefragung bei
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(*vierteljährlich*)
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(*Quarterly*)
Rapport sur les résultats des enquêtes de conjoncture
auprès des chefs d'entreprise de la Communauté
(*trimestriel*)

Rapporto sui risultati delle inchieste congiunturali effettuate presso gli imprenditori della Comunità <i>(trimestrale)</i>	Energiestatistik <i>(vierteljährlich)</i> Energy Statistics <i>(Quarterly)</i>
Verslag over de resultaten van de conjunctuurenquêtes bij het bedrijfsleven in de Gemeenschap <i>(driemaandelijks)</i>	Statistique de l'énergie <i>(trimestriel)</i> Statistiche dell'energia <i>(trimestrale)</i> Energiestatistik <i>(driemaandelijks)</i>
Die Wirtschaftslage der Gemeinschaft <i>(vierteljährlich)</i>	Industriestatistik <i>(vierteljährlich)</i> Statistiques industrielles <i>(trimestriel)</i> Statistiche dell'industria <i>(trimestrale)</i> Industriestatistiek <i>(driemaandelijks)</i>
The economic situation in the Community <i>(Quarterly)</i>	
La situation économique de la Communauté <i>(trimestriel)</i>	
La situazione economica della Comunità <i>(trimestrale)</i>	
De economische toestand van de Gemeenschap <i>(driemaandelijks)</i>	