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Bulletin
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No 1
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7th year

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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. 1
1974
7th year**

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Declaration on the State of the Community

'Europe now faces a stern test—a new situation that all too clearly exposes its weakness and lack of independence and shows up just how badly it needs to be united. And at this time of challenge Europe itself is in a state of crisis—a crisis of confidence, of will and of clarity of purpose.

The perils are such that the Commission has a duty to call upon the Heads of State and Government and, through them, the citizens of our countries to honour by their deeds their decision to unite Europe and to respond to the challenge before us by resolutely acting together.

Unless they do so, though the Community's routines might survive, they would be no more than a sham covering the most dangerous relapse of its history. If Europe's unity is but a fairweather phenomenon we can reach none of our goals either now or by 1980.

Europe, faced with this challenge, must show a common resolve. In the past few weeks setbacks and retreats have been a source of dismay casting grave doubt on the will of our Governments to move forward and on the ability of our institutions to perform their tasks.

The European Regional Development Fund, a touchstone of our solidarity, has still not been set up, despite the undertakings given at Paris and Copenhagen that it would be established by the end of 1973. Nor has the decision to embark on a common energy policy, taken after so much tergiversation, yet been transformed into concrete action.

The transition to a second stage of Economic and Monetary Union has been put on ice, with the withdrawal of the French franc from the Community's monetary agreement: a further relapse from the level of coordination we had reached in 1972.

Again, the Community has so far failed to define its position towards the rest of the world on several major issues such as the negotiations with the countries of the Mediterranean basin.

The Council all too often gets bogged down in details, so that it is difficult or impossible to reach a common decision. Sometimes agreement is obtained only on the narrowest front with Member States holding back or clinging to mental reservations. All this does grave damage to the Community's image.

Of course progress has been made in certain fields; difficulties and divergences of view are inevitable, for every point of view there is a reason, and for every failure there is an explanation. But taken together these setbacks tell only one story.

We are reaching the point where policies are becoming national again to the detriment both of our States and of a world which needs Europe to be there as such.

There can be only one reason for the present situation in Europe: there are doubts, even if subconscious ones, over the role of Europe as a means to overcome our short and our immediate long-term difficulties and to safeguard the future of our peoples.

These doubts must be dispelled. Without abandoning the pursuit at national level of policies suited to the individual characteristics and problems of each country, and without

The Declaration was adopted on 31 January 1974 by the Commission and issued at a press conference on the same day by the President, Mr François-Xavier Ortoli.

deceiving our citizens as to the efforts that will be expected of them, efforts which will still be necessary even when Europe acts together, those in power must today in their own name and on behalf of those they govern give a clear answer to two questions:

(i) Can the economic and monetary policies of our Member States continue to ignore each other and go their different ways, or does the interdependence that has already been established between our economies, and the fact that we face the same problems in our dealing with the outside world, demand a far-reaching harmonization of our aims and our policies?

(ii) At a time when international relations are being reshaped, with crucial consequences for us all, is there any state in Europe that can exert real influence and carry any weight comparable to that of a united Europe?

The time has come to say clearly whether our nations wish to reinforce their solidarity or not, and whether they wish to react jointly or separately to the great internal and external challenges that each one of them faces.

These are questions to which there is as yet no answer. There is nothing inevitable about European unity. Europe will not become united unless we make it so.

And these questions can be answered only by deeds. Only by deeds will we be able to halt the dangerous process that has set in.

*

The permanent deterioration in our economic position means that all the Member States must adopt a new strategy, and formulate new policies. It is in the interest of the Member States of the Community, indeed it is their duty, to ponder these changes together and to adopt a joint approach.

For they are facing the same closely related problems:

(i) How are they to finance the extra burden on their balance of payments caused by the rising prices of energy and raw material supplies? This Problem is equally crucial for every State in Europe, despite the substantial differences in the level of their foreign exchange reserves;

(ii) How do we ensure that the measures taken to remedy external payments difficulties do not seriously harm growth and employment or jeopardize our efforts to achieve greater social justice?

(iii) How, in the long term, do we find the extra energy supplies required for the development of our countries? How are we to diversify our sources of supply in competitive conditions to increase our independence?

The difficulties are similar, the aims identical; our interdependence is such that unless common measures are taken we shall be facing very serious risks.

This interdependence influences and can upset the effects of purely national policies and imposes narrow limits on them. Each of our countries, whether it likes it or not, affects us

all by the measures it takes; each causes or suffers changes such that the effects of its individual acts are uncertain and precarious at home and a potential source of danger to its partners. In the end this may lead to retaliation.

To meet these constraints, policies must be made to converge and in some cases we will have to take joint action.

*

If policies are to converge, we shall have to follow a single economic strategy.

(a) We must pursue mutually consistent and concerted economic and monetary policies, without competitive currency depreciations or trade restrictions. These are the rules of the game we must follow, otherwise the benefits of unilateral action would prove fleeting and the machinery of the Common Market would break down.

This rule does not apply to Europe alone. The policies of all the major economic units have an impact beyond their own frontiers. It will be in our mutual interest to concert our actions with those who are facing the same difficulties as we.

(b) To maintain the highest possible degree of activity and employment, we must lay down general guidelines for a common framework and common disciplines within which national measures can be taken. The extent of the present changes occurring, and the concern each of us feels for the future, imply that we shall really have to make a start on that wider participation which we would like to establish as the rule.

(c) We must equip ourselves with the means to apply these policies continuously. This implies permanent procedures of consultation on economic and monetary matters, particularly before any important measure is taken.

If a Community strategy is to be put into effect, an outward show of consultation is not enough.

We must be able to open discussions, to institute a dialogue, and to take the Community interest into account. The discipline we have accepted in advance must operate to the full.

*

Again, we must *decide on joint action* where this is the precondition for success. This is obviously the case in three fields:

(a) Within the Community, the difficulties into which the Monetary Union is running must not deter us from going ahead wherever this is possible. In this way we can show that our determination is not flagging and can prepare the return to a Community discipline that will apply to all. This is only possible by measures that link us closely: reinforced intra-Community credits, a solution to the pricing problems posed by gold transfers between monetary authorities, the introduction of a European unit of account with a wider role, and first decisions on the pooling of reserves.

(b) Energy must become a field of joint policy. An ordered market is a market governed by one set of rules: supervision of the single market, monitoring and harmonization of prices, concerted saving of energy, and a joint research programme.

(c) Outside the Community, the months ahead will see a substantial restructuring of international economic and monetary relations. Stable and reliable energy supplies on economically reasonable terms will depend on a whole series of international negotiations. Only when Europe acts as an entity will it have the necessary strength to defend the interest of its peoples in this vast confrontation. Only this Europe will be in a position to contribute fully to the effort which must be made if the developing countries are to tackle the serious problems into which the new situation has plunged them.

International monetary problems which primarily affect the very serious question of our balance of payments must be handled as Community problems, and in these negotiations Europe must speak with a single voice. The external problems of energy must be handled as Community problems, whether by concerting our action with that of the consumer countries or through our relations with the producer countries.

The forthcoming Washington Conference on energy problems will be the test of our common determination in this field. On the bilateral plane a united Europe will be the most useful and effective partner for organized cooperation with the energy-producing countries. More generally, if we wish to avoid being divided against ourselves, all cooperation measures must fit into a Community framework.

*

In tackling the wider tasks and fresh responsibilities imposed by the present situation, action to remedy the short-comings that have become apparent in recent months must be given the highest priority. Before all else we must respect the timetable already agreed, for instance, for the decision to strengthen the budgetary powers of the Parliament, for which the end of March is the deadline. The Council should also press ahead with its endeavours to improve its own methods of work.

*

European unity will move forward again only if there is a lasting change in the behaviour of our States. They must adopt a new mentality, that displays greater resolve and lends added weight to European policies in shaping the future of our peoples. And that change of attitude must be convincing both within and beyond our frontiers.

Yet all this is not enough. The degree of unity which Europe needs calls for institutions that can carry through a genuine policy without delay and without interruption. The present institutions are coming up against the limits of what they can do. Improvements are indispensable, yet they will do no more than make it possible to ensure that the Community can work effectively until we achieve the target our nine countries have set themselves—the creation of a European Union.

The Commission calls on all Europeans to play their part in pursuing these common lines of action, and so enable the Community to find itself again by deeds.'

1ST PART

**DOCUMENTS, FACTS
AND STUDIES**

1. The Community and the energy crisis

Energy Crisis

1101. The October 1973 oil crisis harshly emphasized the Community's vulnerability with regard to energy supplies. It obliged the Nine to study the possibility of dealing with a situation which was changing the face of the world energy market.

The Copenhagen Summit asked the Commission to assemble proposals for cooperative solutions to the problems involved. Many proposals were in fact laid before the Council who, albeit after some trouble, adopted the first measures proposed. At the same time the American suggestion to call a Conference in Washington for February raised the issue of the Community's reaction to this move. Lastly, the Council having received a Commission Communication was able in early February to adopt a joint position which should enable the Community to speak 'with a single voice' at the Conference.

Commission Proposals on Action to be Taken

1102. Activating the final Declaration of the Copenhagen Conference,¹ the Commission on 18 January submitted to the Council a Communication backed by six Proposals as part of the 'action to be taken in view of the Community's energy crisis situation.'

The Proposals cover only short-term measures with an application confined to the period during which the oil supply situation remains unsettled. They must be taken together with two other Proposals, officially adopted by the Council on 31 January, which provide for an Energy Committee to be set up and for balance sheets to be drawn up covering all the key features of the Community energy situation.

Aspects of the Problem

1103. In the Communication to the Council the Commission stresses that even if the limitations on output decided by the Arab countries, have not affected all Member States in the same way, the consequences of the crisis do affect or threaten the whole Community (largely owing to the economic interdependence of its Members).

The softening of the Arab attitude which on 1 January 1974 meant that cuts in their deliveries were reduced to 15% instead of 25% as originally planned and that some countries' needs were satisfied to some extent alleviated the problems. Nevertheless this does not obviate a supply situation which at Community level must still be regarded as precarious even if one allows for the traffic adjustments which have worked for the benefit of the hardest hit countries.

An even more troublesome factor is the substantial increase in crude oil prices laid down by the producer countries at the end of December. This latent problem has suddenly after several months taken a very serious turn. Since the comparative improvement in supplies will be felt in the next few weeks, the question of prices should now get priority attention.

From either angle the crisis situation affecting oil supplies threatens to compromise the unity and smooth running of the common market. To parry the threat of breakdown the Commission holds that action to be taken must be based on the solidarity which binds the Member States and their economies.

This could be centred on a sharing out of available oil stocks or on a package of provisions aimed at cutting down energy consumption on a standardized basis throughout the Community in

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, Part One, Chapter 1: 'The Copenhagen Summit Conference', point 1106.

proportion to available resources and ensuring their free circulation. In choosing between the two lines of action, the situation facing us and the matter of prices must be reckoned with.

Allowing for the overall forecastable deficiency and the fact that all Member States have taken more or less broad measures to curb consumption, thus anticipating under the pressure of events the time limits admissible under the Council Directive of 24 July 1973¹ on action to alleviate the problems of oil and oil product supplies, the Commission feels that the second approach outlined above must claim the priority effort.

Supply developments and the deliberations of the Energy Committee will possibly lead the Commission to assemble new Proposals for setting up distribution machinery for available oil products which will allow for each country's energy consumption structure.

The Proposals submitted by the Commission on 11 and 18 January therefore cover the oil product transactions between Member States and with the exterior, product prices and convergent measures to cut down energy consumption thus ensuring the smooth running of the common market.

Intra-Community and external Trade in Oil and Oil Products

1104. *Intra-Community trading in oil products* must still respect the principle of free circulation of goods with certain procedures laid down for settling, where required, any particular problems which could crop up in some Member States. Care must be taken that abnormal exports to non-Member countries do not endanger the Community's supply.

These objectives assume the availability of swift, detailed and standardized information on intra-

Community trade and exports to non-Member countries backing up the quarterly data needed to draw up energy balance sheets without any duplication.

It is also assumed that there will be frequent consultation between Member States and the Commission for cooperation at Community level on possible restrictions on intra-Community trade and exports to non-Member countries, taking into account the situation of countries customarily supplied by Community refineries. The Commission's first two Proposals deal with this subject.

1105. For such consultation to realize its full value detailed information on imports of crude oil and oil products from non-Member countries will also be required.

Regarding crude oil the Commission, on the basis of the Council Regulation of 18 May 1972 on notification of hydrocarbon imports,² already possesses this data.

It has proposed that the Council include oil products in the compulsory notification procedure laid down by the same Regulation. The Commission will make the required arrangements for all this information to be sent in on the same schedules as before. The information procedure for all oil imports will thus stand on a single permanent basis with its application adapted to the current situation.

Monitoring Prices

1106. The situation also demands action on prices. It is simply a case of preventing in the short-term the disparities which could occur between prices owing to the imbalanced supply

¹ OJ L 228 of 16.8.1973.

² OJ L 120 of 25.8.1972.

position from deteriorating the situation even further. Otherwise, this would generate distortion within the common market which through its impact on the running of the economy would worsen the serious consequences of the oil shortage.

The objective to be gained now is therefore to contain prices within reasonable limits by immediate action rather than by long-term energy policy measures. Therefore only prices without tax are considered. The proposed Regulation from the Commission on this issue provides for an information scheme covering the supply costs and the ex-refinery prices for the chief oil products. This will provide a thorough knowledge of supply conditions of crude oil and oil products for the Community.

If the data thus gathered revealed sources of tension for intra-Community trade, the Commission would make new Proposals. This Proposal for the temporary monitoring of prices fits into the line of action taken by the Commission with regard to harmonizing the price systems for oil products which allows for the demands of a stable supply policy and an orderly conduct of the market. The Commission who will shortly present Proposals on this price system as part of a longer term policy again refers to those it submitted for harmonizing the structure and rates of levies on oil products.

Reducing Consumption

1107. As declared in Copenhagen by the Heads of State or Government the unity of the common market and even national interests justify taking steps to make equivalent cuts in energy consumption in all Member States thus equitably sharing the burdens of the present situation.

To this end it has been proposed that the Council recommend Member States to keep up

their combined drives on voluntary cuts in consumption which they have already initiated or could still implement.

But if this action was inadequate to absorb completely the forecast deficiency for the forthcoming months, more stringent measures would have to be brought in. The Commission has also proposed that the Council approve the idea of setting targets for saving energy in the Community which could be adjusted in relation to the supply situation and which would be reached through the combined action of Member States.

Based on the prospects revealed by the exhaustive balance sheets which the Commission has prepared and after relevant discussion, Proposals can eventually go to the Council concerning the size of the cuts to be made and the ways and means of achieving them with due allowance for each country's energy consumption structure.

1108. All these measures would be temporary and would run until 30 June 1974 except for the one on transmittal of data concerning imports of oil products.

The Community's objective would be to get the partner countries to contribute towards a reliable energy supply at reasonable prices.

It is not a problem which could be solved by a series of bilateral arrangements tied up with barter agreements. The level of energy prices is a basic and overall parameter for world economic balance; the development of relations between the developed and underdeveloped countries hinges on it to a large extent. A policy of cooperation with the producer countries would therefore collapse unless it was backed by a solution to this problem.

In return, cooperation should enable the producer countries to advance more swiftly in the way of economic and industrial development and should generate additional scope for the produc-

tive use of their capital, either within the Community or in the developing countries. In actual fact the producer countries are not all in the same position and their economic structures vary. Some of them can find a use for their extra resources in developing their own economies. Others, less populated will try to use at least part of the extra resources in investments outside their economies.

But it is vitally important to avoid rivalries in the name of cooperation both between Member States of the Community and between the Community and the other importing countries.

The Commission stipulates that in the light of fresh developments it will propose that the measures be amended, extended or partially or totally rescinded. Since they are measures intended to cope with a crisis situation the Commission emphasizes that they must obviously be adopted as soon as possible as required by the Heads of State or Government.

Cooperation with the Oil Producing Countries

1109. On the basis of the final Declaration of the Copenhagen Summit, the Commission also submitted to the Council on 23 January 1974 a Communication on 'the Community's relations with the energy producing countries.' The Heads of State or Government had 'confirmed the importance they attached to opening negotiations with the oil producing countries for a global system, embracing extensive cooperation towards the economic and industrial development of those countries, industrial investment and stable supply of member countries at reasonable prices.'

The Commission also asked the Council for authorization to tell the oil producing countries that the Community and its Member States,

acting jointly, were prepared to open negotiations for economic, industrial, technical, technological and commercial agreements, and for authorization to start exploratory talks with countries showing interest. This same approach would entail the expansion of agreements now running or under discussion with the oil-producing countries.

The Commission thinks that this cooperation should aim to create constructive relationships based on reciprocal interests between the Community and energy producing countries by combining the mutual economic assets.

Implications of Cooperation

1110. Such cooperation could entail the transfer of certain Community production activities which would mean changing certain economic structures which again on the political and social front could give rise to problems requiring appropriate solutions. But the instability of today's economic structures cannot be overcome unless the mutuality of interests is strengthened.

In cooperation at Community level the Member States and the energy producing countries would both gain the double advantage of scale for their industrial projects and of greater political security. The risks inherent in each operation would be shared.

In response to the industrial cooperation proposals put forward by the Community the oil producing partners have to bear a dual responsibility. They must cooperate in setting up a system facilitating a trouble-free supply of energy products and a price structure based on sensible criteria. They also have to cooperate in creating machinery to boost the use in their economies of non-invested monetary resources so as not to disrupt the monetary system and in order to share in the economic growth of the developing countries.

For the Community and its Member States this proposed cooperation implies an effort to expand the means of Community action. Obviously this would not mean any change in the policy adopted by the Community and whereby it will not conclude any preferential agreements outside already defined areas.

Moreover, action undertaken by the Member States themselves should be coordinated and integrated into a policy defined at Community level. The disciplines required by this coordination of national policies should be adopted as part of the consultation procedure for the cooperation agreements of Member States with non-member countries, a procedure which was proposed by the Commission and is now under discussion by the qualified Council authorities. This concertation at Community level will avoid rival bidding among Member States.

Since the bulk of the commercial, financial, technological and service resources lie with the Community's economic operators whose place cannot be taken by the institutions, the agreements to be made will have the prime objective of providing the basis for a steady and harmonious development of cooperation between the Community's economic operators and the producer countries.

Means to be Implemented

1111. Within these agreements the following available Community means could be utilized:

(a) suitable commercial policy measures notably those based on the Generalized Preference Scheme, which those countries already enjoy, and which could facilitate permanent access to the common market of products turned out by 'joint ventures' in the producer countries, either by long-term contracts or as a rule through combined operations between the supplier and the customer. Obviously care must be taken

that these measures in no way erode the advantages which the other developing countries are entitled to expect from the Generalized Preference Scheme;

- (b) measures to encourage the trade promotion in the Community of the same products there;
- (c) measures to boost the exports of capital equipment and Community service industries to the producer countries as part of their development programmes;
- (d) inducements for investment such as:
 - (i) the statute of 'joint venture' as prescribed in Articles 45 and 46 of the Euratom Treaty,
 - (ii) the benefit of direct financial support for 'projects of Community interest' bearing on technological development work directly linked with the research, production, storage and transport of hydrocarbons,
 - (iii) expansion of the Business Cooperation Centre to cover the 'marriage' of Community firms with companies in the producer countries;
 - (e) technical cooperation projects connected with, for instance, management and occupational training in the Community;
 - (f) participation by the producer countries in Community research projects or access to the results.

Other Community means some of which have been proposed here should also be activated to encourage investment:

- (a) in the producer countries as part of their own development;
- (b) in the Community, so as to make productive use of the balance of payments surpluses of the producer countries, by for instance participation in the oil sector (prospection, refining, distribution, petrochemicals), in research, development and use of substitute energy resources and in other Community economic sectors.

The Commission considers that the following ideas should be investigated:

- (a) extension of insurance against political risk to cover certain financing not taking the form of direct investment;
- (b) creation of a Community guarantee scheme against political risks which could supersede national schemes, especially when two or more entrepreneurs of different nationalities are involved;
- (c) without prejudice to similar projects which could be contemplated on a broader scale, the EIB could intervene to help in financing investments especially in the developing countries by offering interesting conditions for placing capital accumulated by the producer countries.

Lastly, joint committees should see that the agreements run smoothly, facilitate mutual consultation and information on the development of prices, on balance of payment problems, production, consumption and refining, examine and propose firm commitments of mutual interest and thus form a suitable framework for cooperation based on mutual interests and understanding.

Preparation for the Washington Energy Conference

1112. The American proposal to call a Conference in Washington for February, to be attended by the big oil consuming countries led the Commission to send the Council a Communication on 10 January and a Recommendation on 24 January on the matter. On the basis of these documents the Council defined the Community position during its meetings of 14-15 January and 5 February 1974.

The text of the Communication, entitled 'Cooperation with the United States in the Energy Field' which combines a résumé of the facts with a position taken, is as follows:

'The world energy crisis which has been developing for almost three months as a result of events in the Middle East has given a new sense of urgency to the idea that the security of world energy supplies must be linked to a large measure of cooperation between the energy-producing and the energy-consuming countries. The Commission has pointed out this necessity on several occasions in its memorandum to the Council of 27 April 1973 on the "Guidelines and Priority Action for a Community Energy Policy."

In a speech in London on 12 December, the American Secretary of State laid solemn emphasis on cooperation in the energy field between consuming countries, without precluding participation by producing countries. To this end, Mr Kissinger was proposing in essence the setting-up of an "action group on energy", composed of representatives from Europe, North America and Japan, which would be responsible for drawing up an initial programme of action in all energy sectors.

On 27 December 1973 the American Secretary of State repeated this proposal for cooperation, and at a press conference held on 3 January he announced that President Nixon would forthwith take steps—in the first instance, no doubt, of a diplomatic nature—in this field.

The nine Community countries must therefore, without further delay, prepare to respond to these initiatives. They must do so in the spirit of their declaration on the European identity, that is to say on a Community basis, thus precluding separate national responses which could only weaken the political solidarity which the Community intends to demonstrate as a factor to be reckoned with.

Thus without prejudicing the principles, procedure and very substance of the cooperation between energy-consuming and energy-producing countries which they intend to develop, the Member States of the Community should adopt,

via a Council decision, the principle of a positive Community response to the American proposal. They should furthermore and in consequence thereof do in the same way to consult and cooperate with each other before making any approaches in this field to the US Administration and to associate the Commission with any such approaches. The Commission will make proposals concerning the substance, organization and procedures of this cooperation, particularly as regards the necessary dialogue not only with the producing countries but also with the developing consumer countries.'

1113. The Communiqué issued by the *Council* who examined the Communication at its meeting of 14-15 January declares:

'The Council agreed that the Community should give a positive reply to the invitation from the President of the United States to the Community regarding the participation of the main oil consumer countries at the Conference to be held on 11 February 1974 in Washington. The Community will be represented at this meeting by the President of the Council and the President of the Commission. It accepts this invitation on the understanding that all the Member States will be invited to take part.

The Council will adopt the joint viewpoint to be put forward at this Conference by the representatives of the Community at its meeting on 4 and 5 February 1974.'

1114. The Council having received the Commission Recommendation of 24 January, adopted on 5 February the position to be defended by the Community at the Conference, as expressed in the following Communiqué issued after the meeting.

'The Council finalized the position to be adopted by the Community—and to be put forward by its

President and by the President of the Commission—at the Conference on energy problems which will be held in Washington on 11 and 12 February next.

The joint position includes a definition of the tasks which, in the Community's view, must be accomplished by this Conference and also a list of subjects which should be discussed.

The Council also discussed the replies to be given to the suggestions which the Government of the United States recently forwarded to the Community concerning the organization of the work of the Conference and the agenda.'

2. Proposals on agricultural prices for the 1974-1975 marketing year

Agricultural Prices

1201. On 21 January the Commission submitted Proposals to the Council for setting the prices of certain agricultural products for the 1974/75 marketing year as well as certain proposed measures covered by the Commission Memorandum of 31 October 1973¹ on improving the common agricultural policy, which was sent to the Council on 5 November 1973. The Commission at the same time proposed the common prices applicable to the new Member States, insofar as the Act regarding the Accession terms and the adjustments to the Treaties laid down particular provisions in this respect for milk, beef and veal and flax.

The Commission steered its Proposals along the guidelines already set out in the Memorandum on improving the CAP, taking into consideration the relevant debates in the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee. The Proposals were prepared in the light of information in the 1973 Report on the Agricultural Situation in the Enlarged Community and in the report of 16 November 1973 on the Community protein supply.²

Factors in the Overall Assessment

1202. In presenting the Proposals the Commission reemphasized that the market and prices policy, centred on modern farmholdings, was still the main tool of the agricultural incomes policy. The market and prices policy did not give full value unless it was consolidated by a dynamic socio-structural policy, matched by the application of the Treaty's competition rules and with increasing support from the other policies which form part of economic and monetary union.

But as it had already highlighted in the Memorandum on improving the CAP the Commission felt that the tool of the market and prices policy had to be developed and perfected in the light of

experience gained and of developments in the economic and trade situation. The Commission therefore submitted, together with the 1974/75 marketing year price Proposals, an initial batch of measures as part of the 1973-78 improvement plan.

Price Proposals for 1974-1975

1203. In the Memorandum the Commission had shown that it intended to prepare the price Proposals:

- (a) by basing the development of the general level of prices increasingly on modern farmholdings for which the general policy of agricultural prices must ensure an occupational income comparable with non-agricultural incomes, reckoning with adequate returns on capital invested, with the development of capital goods prices and with productivity;
- (b) by taking into account, for the prices of the various products, the supply and demand picture on each market concerned.

1204. In assessing developments in 1974/75 of the general level of common prices, the basic factors have been evaluated for a four-year period (1970-1973); this study showed that non-agricultural occupational incomes have grown on the average by 12.4% per year and that the prices of capital goods have risen by an average of 6.6% per year.

Considering the structure of costs observed in the modern farms belonging to the accounting information network, the rise in the general level of common prices for farming products, which would allow the modern farms to follow the

¹ Bull. EC 10-1973, points 1101-1105, and Supplement 17/73 - Bull. EC.

² Bull. EC 11-1973, points 2252 and 2253.

trend of wage earnings in the non-farming sectors, would be about 7.2%. The Proposals are geared to attain this objective.

Other factors of assessment, which limit the chances for increased agricultural prices, should at the same time be taken into account.

- Care must be taken that price increases per product allow for the various market situations.
- The appreciable gap between certain price levels for farming products in the new Member States and those applying in the Community meant that over the transition period the level of farm prices in the new Member States would go up considerably. We therefore had to cut the risk of inducing increased output in the new Member States and diminished consumption of certain products such as butter through an excessive increase in the level of common prices which all in all would be detrimental to the whole Community.

The price Proposals had to reckon the need to secure sounder price relationships between farm products to gain more flexibility in the mechanisms of the joint organization of the markets.

1205. The Commission found that in 1972 farming incomes per agricultural labour unit (UTA) had increased in nominal terms by about 20% as against 1971. It also found that by and large occupational incomes of farms geared to staple crops were higher than those geared to livestock and furthermore that incomes in the farms engaged in dairy production were greater than in farms producing beef and veal. On the basis of these guidelines, there were grounds for anticipating more substantial price rises for beef and veal than for dairy produce.

1206. The upheavals regularly experienced on the cereal market have led the Commission to suggest differentiated increases for cereals so as to ensure a sounder price scale in this sector. A

comparatively heavy, albeit differentiated increase in the price of fodder cereals in relation to that anticipated for the price of soft wheat was in line with price relationships which took more account of the nutritional value of the various cereals. Regarding Durum wheat the Commission was planning to encourage produc-

tion.

1207. Because of the Community's protein supply situation, the Commission concluded that it seemed to be in the general interest for the Community to make every effort to avoid becoming too dependent on imports for its protein supply over the next five years. This could be achieved by securing a better relationship between colza and sunflower prices by extending the support scheme now running for colza and sunflower seeds to cover soya seeds and by introducing aid for green fodders and bean seeds.

1208. The Commission contended that the efforts to encourage the production of beef and veal and for switching over from dairy produce to beef and veal should be maintained. It was therefore proposing, as announced in the 1973/74 price Proposals of 21 March 1973,¹ that the guide price for mature cattle be increased by 10%. The Commission was also closely watching the results of recently applied measures for switching over to meat production and would strengthen them if need be.

1209. In the dairy sector, however, the Commission favoured a moderate rise in the target price for milk together with a closer evaluation of the nitrogenous content in relation to the butyric content. A drop of 6.6% (i.e. 11.6 u.a./100 kg) in the intervention price of butter and a 15.7% rise (i.e. 10.35 u.a./100 kg) in the intervention price of skim milk powder would lead to a ratio between fats and nitrogen

¹ Bull. EC 3-1973, points 1101-1126.

of 52/48. This was nearer the target of 50/50 which the Commission hopes to reach.

The increase in the intervention price of powder offsets the fall in the same price for butter and also reckons with the higher target price of milk. This move would encourage the consumption of butter as would the temporary retention of special measures for disposing of butter stocks and the cutting of the butter consumption price (thanks to the continued opportunity for Member States to subsidize butter consumption by 10 u.a./100 kg plus an equivalent subsidy by the Community).

The comparatively small rise proposed for the price of milk, due to the supply and demand on this market, was unlikely to injure producers in the most underfavoured Community regions since there were alternative incomes offered through the Directive on hill-farming and farming in certain underfavoured areas.

1210. The Commission proposed to confirm the provision, decided last year by the Council, whereby an additional 1% increase in common prices would be brought in for cereals, sugar, oilseeds and pigmeat when all Member States' currencies were in the 'tunnel', without this increase being spread over prices expressed in national currency in Germany and Benelux. But from the 1974/75 marketing year this provision should apply to all products, except milk, for which compensatory amounts would be applied at the time.

1211. Allowing for the current world market situation for the major farm products, the Commission felt that its price Proposals would enable the Community to go on contributing to the harmonious development of world trade and to meet its commitments and attain its objectives regarding food aid.

1212. The Commission also held that in compliance with the Council statement of 4 Decem-

ber 1974, the price Proposals presented for the 1974/75 marketing year fit in with the Community's overall anti-inflation policy. In the current general market situation the Proposals will have only a limited impact on consumer prices.

Other Proposals

1213. Following the Memorandum on improving the CAP the Commission submitted an initial batch of Proposals for improving the joint organization of agricultural markets which should be adopted together with the price Proposals.

The Commission found that several overall methods or specific approaches regarding certain products seemed especially suitable for improving the market and prices policy. Apart from setting up sounder price relationships which the 1974/75 price Proposals aim to do, measures should also be brought in to:

- (a) ensure more flexibility in the machinery of the joint organization of the markets, notably by streamlining and stricter checks on action in the sectors of cereals, amyloid products, sugar, olive oil and beef and veal;
- (b) make the dairy producers partly responsible financially for structural surpluses;
- (c) extend the joint organization of the markets to cover soya seeds, dehydrated fodders and bean seeds;
- (d) implement a storage policy on the domestic front for sugar and olive oil pending definition of the Community's international commitments regarding storage of soft wheat and where necessary other products.

1214. Fluidity of the market was imperative if the joint organization of the markets was to run smoothly. Profiting from experience and in order to improve the fluidity of the markets concerned, the Commission proposed to replace

the regionalized intervention prices of barley with a single intervention price, valid throughout the Community and akin to that now running for maize, rye and Durum wheat. It was also proposed to revise the regionalized prices of oil seeds in order to do away with the additional aid for colza seeds processed in Italy.

1215. The situation in the dairy sector was still disturbing. Owing to the risk of considerable new surpluses in this sector, the Commission proposed the ground rules of a system whereby temporary contributions and co-responsibility for production could be introduced in this sector.

1216. In conclusion the Commission thought that the present joint organization of the market

in the beef and veal sector must be better tailored to the demands of the market. It needed to be improved in such a way that import charges were more finely balanced against the real price of the whole range of imported products and with the Community market price levels, whilst ensuring the objectivity of the external protection system compared with the current one.

Proposed Prices and Amounts.

1217. On the basis of the above considerations the Commission has proposed to the Council that the prices and where required the amounts for the products concerned be set as under:

Product	Type of Price or Amount	Amounts Set 1973/74 u.a./tonne	Proposals 1974/75		Period of Application
			u.a./tonne	% Increase	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Durum wheat	Target price	133.93	196.83	15	1. 8.74- 31. 7.75
	Single intervention price (exc. zone)	118.10	167.76	8	
	Minimum price (wholesale) guaranteed to producer	155.33	167.76	8	
Soft wheat	Target price	114.94	117.24	2	1. 8.74- 31. 7.75
	Basic intervention price	105.80	105.80	—	
Barley	Target price	105.29	109.50	4	1. 8.74- 31. 7.75
	Basic intervention price	96.66	—	—	
	Single intervention price (exc. zone)	—	95.68	—	
Rye	Target price	112.30	116.79	4	1. 8.74- 31. 7.75
	Single intervention price (exc. zone)	97.92	97.92	—	
Maize	Target price	102.77	108.94	6	1. 8.74- 30. 9.75
	Single intervention price (exc. zone)	84.08	89.12	6	
Husked rice Paddy rice	Target price	213.25	221.78	4	1. 9.74- 31.8.75
	Intervention price	131.30	131.30	—	

Agricultural Prices

Agricultural Prices

Product	Type of Price or Amount	Amounts Set 1973/74 u.a./tonne	Proposals 1974/75		Period of Application
			u.a./tonne	% Increase	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sugar	Minimum beet price	17.86	18.40	3	1. 7.74- 30. 6.75
	Price for 'half lean' beet	10.50	10.82	3	
	Target price for white sugar	248.00	262.90	6	
	Intervention price for white sugar	235.70	249.80	6	
Olive oil	Production target price	1 371.70	1 454.00	6	1.11.74- 31.10.75
	Market target price	950.00			
	Intervention price	877.50			
Oil seeds	Target prices				
	. Colza and rape seeds	210.60	219.00	3	1. 7.74-
	. Soya seeds		222.00		30. 6.75
	. Sunflower seeds	212.60	225.40	6	1.11.74-
	. Basic intervention prices				31.10.75
	. Colza and rape seeds	204.50	212.70	3	1. 9.74-
	. Sunflower seeds	206.50	218.90	6	31. 8.75
Dehydrated fodders	Standard subsidy				1. 4.74- 31. 3.75
	- dehydrated alfalfa				
	- other		6		
Cotton seeds	Standard subsidy (per hectare)	82.00	83.60	2	1. 8.74- 31. 7.75
Flax and hemp	Standard subsidy (per hectare)				1. 8.74- 31. 7.75
	. flax	150.00 ³	160.00	2	
	. hemp	125.00	135.00	2	
Seeds	Aid (per 100 kg)	8	10	—	1. 7.74- 30. 6.75
	Textile flax				
	. graminaceous	8-30	8-30	—	
	. vegetable	5-20	6-20	—	
Table wines:					
Type RI	Normal price (strength/hectolitre or	1.46	1.55	6	16.12.74- 15.12.75
Type RII	by hectolitre according to type)	1.38	1.47	6	
Type RIII		22.80	24.17	6	

Agricultural Prices

Agricultural Prices

Product	Type of Price or Amount	Amounts Set 1973/74 u.a./tonne	Proposals 1974/75		Period of Application
			u.a./tonne	% Increase	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Type A I		1.37	1.45	6	
Type A II		30.40	32.22	6	16.12.74-
Type A III		34.70	36.78	6	15.12.75
Raw tobacco	Normal price Intervention price	1	1	6	1. 1.74- 31.12.75
Fruit and vegetables	Basic price Purchase price	2	2	Intervention prices: - pears: 3 - other: 6	1974/75
Milk	Target price for milk Intervention prices . butter . skim milk powder . cheese - Grana-Padano 30-60 days - Grana-Padano 6 months - Parmigiano-Reggiano 6 months Direct subsidies for skim milk . powder . liquid	124.20 1 760.00 660.00 ^a 1 575.50 1 835.50 1 979.50 260.40 24.20	129.20 1 644.00 763.50 ^a 1 667.50 1 932.50 2 076.50	+ 4 - 6.6 + 15.7 + 5.8 + 5.3 + 4.9	1. 4.74- 31. 3.75
Beef and veal	Guide price for mature cattle (live weight) Guide price for calves (live weight)	862.00 1 037.50	950.00	+ 10	2. 4.74- 31. 3.75
Pigmeat	Basic price (slaughtered)	860.00	930.00	+ 8	1.11.74- 31.10.75
Silk worms	Subsidy per frame	31	31.60	+ 2	1. 4.74- 31. 3.75

¹ Nineteen varieties of tobacco. Prices apply to the calendar year crop.

² Products in Annex II of the Council Regulation of 18.5.1972: cauliflowers, tomatoes, sweet oranges, mandarines, lemons, dessert grapes, apples (other than cider fruit), pears (other than perry fruit), peaches (excluding nectarines and brugnons).

³ Periods differentiated according to produce: cauliflowers: 1 May 1972 - 30 April 1975, tomatoes: 1 June 1974 - 30 November 1974, peaches: 1 June 1974 - 30 September 1974, lemons: 1 June 1974 - 31 May 1975, pears: 1 July 1974 - 30 April 1975, dessert grapes: 1 August 1974 - 30 October 1974, applies: 1 August 1974 - 31 May 1975, mandarines: 16 November 1974 - 28 February 1975, sweet oranges: 1 December 1974 - 30 April 1975.

⁴ For Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands the purchase price of skim milk powder is 640 u.a./tonne 1973/74 and 743.50 u.a./tonne for 1974/75.

3. The latest monetary developments

Monetary Developments

Floating the French Franc

1301. In the afternoon of 19 January 1974, Mr Ortoli, President of the Commission, was advised by Mr Giscard d'Estaing, France's Minister of Economy and Finance, that the French Government had decided to suspend from 21 January 1974 and for a period of six months the interventions on the exchange markets.

The obligation for the Bank of France to intervene at the limit rates on the exchange market results from provisions in the Basel Agreement on the shrinking of fluctuating margins, made on 24 April between the Central Banks of the Community Member States. The provisions were then taken as the rules of stewardship by the European Cooperation Fund.

On 20 January 1974 the Commission thoroughly discussed the problems in question. The Communiqué published after the meeting recalled that the French Government in announcing its decision had shown its intention of continuing to see that the exchange market functioned properly. The Commission added: "...the Commission considers that the situation thus brought about makes more obvious than ever the need for close coordination of Member States' political economy measures. The Commission will immediately take the appropriate action.

This development follows a number of serious problems accumulating into a disturbing situation for the Community. The Commission will shortly make a Declaration on all the major aspects of Community life in the present circumstances and regarding the future prospects.'

Following the measures taken by the French Government four of the nine Member States are now independently floating their currencies. The United Kingdom and Ireland decided to do so on 23 June 1972 and Italy followed on 13 February 1973.

On 21 January 1974 the exchange markets of Member States still in the Community system did not open; on the Paris exchange the French franc depreciated by about 5% against the dollar and slightly less against the above-mentioned currencies.

1302. In the afternoon of the same day on Belgium's initiative, the Finance Ministers and Central Banks' Governors of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands met in Brussels to examine the consequences of the French measures of 19 January 1974. The Communiqué published at the end of the meeting declared:

'They confirmed their decision to maintain the existing margins between their respective currencies within the framework of the European exchange rate arrangement. They hope to facilitate an early re-entry of the other Member countries of the EEC to what used to be called the "European snake".'

In order to ensure a proper functioning of the arrangement the five member countries have agreed on principles and procedures which will reinforce the coordination of their policies in the relevant areas, in particular the intervention on exchange markets, the exchange systems and their internal monetary policies.

It was noted with satisfaction that Norway and Sweden had expressed their intention to remain associated with the arrangement.'

The Ministers decided that their countries' exchange markets would be re-opened on 22 January: in the days immediately afterwards the width of the 'snake' (meaning the maximum spot variance between the most appreciated and depreciated currency) has shrunk rapidly. It should be remembered that since 19 March 1973 the currencies of Member States sharing in the Community system are floating jointly vis-à-vis the exterior.

Reform of the International Monetary System

1303. The Committee of Twenty¹ held its fifth meeting at Ministerial level in Rome on 17-18 January 1974 with Mr Wardhana, the Indonesian Finance Minister in the Chair. The Commission was represented by Vice-President Haferkamp. The Committee meeting was preceded by a meeting of the deputies on 14-15 January 1974 also in Rome.

Mr Schmidt, the German Finance Minister, told the Committee of the Community's joint position regarding the evaluation and yield of the special drawing rights, strengthening the structure of the IMF and the Committee's working programme.² The position had already been prepared during an informal meeting of the Community finance Ministers in Rome on 16 January 1974 with Mr Schmidt in the Chair.

The Committee of Twenty discussed various issues, in particular the impact of the mounting oil prices on the world economy, the most urgent features of international monetary reform, some problems involving special drawing rights and the future structure of the IMF.³ Regarding its future work programme the Committee agreed that after the deputies' meetings in March and May, it would make every effort to complete its work on the reform of the international monetary system at a meeting scheduled for 12-13 June 1974 in Washington.

Documentary Annex

Meeting of the Committee of Twenty

*Statement by Mr Helmut Schmidt,
President-in-Office of the Council
(17 January)*

1304. 'In order to promote agreement on the issues of reform which are on the agenda of

today's meeting, the EEC countries have agreed on joint proposals on the valuation and yield of the SDR, on the structure of the Fund, and on the future programme of work of this Committee, which, they hope, will be found acceptable by the other members of the Committee. On behalf of the EEC countries, I should like to present our position as follows:

A. Valuation and Yield of the SDR

On the valuation and yield of the SDR, the Committee could recognize that—notwithstanding the differences of view on the shape of the SDR in the future reformed system—there is a need now to settle the valuation issue at least for an interim period in order to make the SDR fully usable again in the period ahead, a period which will probably be characterized by rather large payments disequilibria.

For this interim period, we propose to accept the Managing Director's proposal to use the "standard basket" method of valuation because we feel that this method has the best chance of being generally accepted. We feel, however, that—to take account of various reservations expressed in the Deputies' Group—the proposal should be supplemented in two respects:

First, to ensure that the interim solution does not prejudge the valuation of the SDR in the reformed system, we should adopt this solution only for a fixed period of, let us say, two years. Before the end of that period a new decision would have to be taken in the light both of experience and of the aims for the further development of the monetary system. Such a decision might provide for an extension of the interim solution or for the adoption of a different method of valuation.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1973, point 1311.

² Point 1304.

³ Point 1305.

Second, the effective yield of the SDR should be raised to a level higher than the $1\frac{1}{2}$, to 2 percent provided for in Article 26 of the Fund's Articles of Agreement. With the present yield, the "standard basket SDR" would not be attractive enough to hold, particularly if devaluations outweighed revaluations; countries would try first to get rid of SDR's when in deficit instead of selling reserve currencies, and they would prefer the acquisition of currency balances rather than SDR's when in surplus. In other words, it might be more attractive to hold currency reserves because of their higher yield, than SDR's.

This would mean that the SDR had no chance to become the central reserve asset. The Committee should ask the Executive Directors to examine the most suitable technical method to achieve an appropriately higher yield. In doing this, they should take into account the Managing Director's proposal to raise the amounts of each currency in the basket by regular, small, equiproportional changes as well as any other method that might achieve the same result.

B. The Structure of the Fund

On the structure of the Fund, there seems to be a clear consensus that, in order to strengthen the Fund, it is desirable to create a decision-making body on Ministerial level, but to maintain the role of the Executive Directors without impairment. The EEC countries share this general feeling and propose accordingly:

(1) The reformed monetary system should provide for a new permanent decision-making organ in the Fund on Ministerial level, composed of 20 members, which will have the necessary powers.

(2) Until the Council is established, the present Committee of Twenty will be replaced, at an early date, by a Committee of similar composition, but with functions adopted to the needs of the period ahead. The functions will be deter-

mined, and delegated to the new Committee by the Board of Governors. Members of the Committee may designate alternates to participate in their place in the meetings. Such meetings would normally be held three to four times a year, not necessarily always at the seat of the Fund.

(3) The present Executive Directors will continue to function as in the past. The Committee may note that the present Articles of Agreement of the Fund permit the participation of officials from countries whose affairs are being considered by the Executive Directors.

C. Work Programme

Regarding the Work Programme we should not change the decision taken in Nairobi to complete the work of the Committee at the next meeting.

Some of the questions discussed by the Committee have lost their immediate importance. They can be referred to the Executive Directors. Others in various circumstances have assumed greater importance. These include, *inter alia*, the evaluation of SDR's and the creation of a new ministerial body who would carry out the new responsibilities which the Fund must have in order to uphold a maximum degree of monetary order in these difficult times.

The decisions on these two issues can be taken and implemented independently of the restoration of a parity system with the intervention of different currencies and convertability. Regarding these problems and other features of reform the Executive Directors of the Fund should take or recommend decisions at the right time. Since the uncertainty of the new oil situation is probably going to last for some considerable time, the Executive Committee will have time to carefully scrutinize the complex issues to be resolved.

*

The EEC Countries feel, Mr Chairman, that by taking decisions along the lines of these proposals, the Committee of Twenty would both facilitate the management of the monetary system in the difficult times ahead and give needed confidence to the public at large that the Fund will keep international monetary developments under control.'

Final Communiqué (18 January)

1305. (1) The Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund on Reform of the International Monetary System and Related Issues (the Committee of Twenty) held their fifth meeting in Rome on January 17 and 18, 1974, under the chairmanship of Mr Ali Wardhana, Minister of Finance for Indonesia. Mr Johannes Witteveen, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, took part in the meeting which was also attended by Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the EEC, Mr René Larre, General Manager of the BIS, Mr Emile van Lennep, Secretary-General of the OECD, Mr Olivier Long, Director-General of the GATT, Mr Manuel Perez-Guerrero, Secretary-General of the UNCTAD, and Sir Denis Rickett, Vice-President of the IBRD.

(2) Members of the Committee began by reviewing important recent developments including the large rise in oil prices and the implications for the world economy. They expressed serious concern at the abrupt and significant changes in prospect for the world balance of payments structure. They recognized that the current account surpluses of oil-producing countries would be very greatly increased, and that many other countries—both developed and developing—would have to face large current account deficits. In these difficult circumstances the Committee agreed that in managing their international payments countries must not adopt policies which would merely aggravate the

problems of other countries. Accordingly, they stressed the importance of avoiding competitive depreciation and the escalation of restrictions on trade and payments. They further resolved to pursue policies that would sustain appropriate levels of economic activity and employment while minimizing inflation. They recognized that serious difficulties would be created for many developing countries and that their needs for financial resources will be greatly increased; and they urged all countries with available resources to make every effort to supply these needs on appropriate terms. The Committee agreed that there should be the closest international cooperation and consultation in pursuit of these objectives. They noted that the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other international organizations are concerned to find orderly means by which the changes in current account positions may be financed, and they urged that these organizations should cooperate in finding an early solution to these questions, particularly in relation to the difficult problems facing non-oil-producing developing countries. In particular, while recognizing the uncertainties with regard to future developments in the field of energy, the Committee agreed that the proposal of the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund for a temporary supplementary facility should be urgently explored. It is recognized that such a facility poses operational problems which must be resolved and would, particularly for non-oil-producing developing countries, be only a partial measure in view of the nature and magnitude of the balance of payments problems created.

(3) The Committee expressed its determination to complete its work on the main features of a reformed international monetary system in the coming months. They recognized that, in the light of the recent developments in the world economy noted above, priority should be given to certain important aspects of reform affecting the interests both of developed and developing

countries, with a view to their early implementation. Other aspects of reform could be agreed with the understanding that their operational provisions would be developed and implemented at a later date. The Committee agreed that the Deputies should arrange to study the broad question of the transfer of real resources including all aspects of capital transfers and that there should be a report to the next meeting of the Committee.

(4) The Committee discussed the valuation and yield of the SDR. They agreed that further attention should be given to the question of protecting the SDR's capital value against depreciation. In the present circumstances the Committee agreed that, for an interim period and without prejudice to the method of valuation to be adopted in the reformed system, it would be appropriate to base the valuation of the SDR on a "basket" of currencies. They invited the Executive Board to work urgently on the composition of a basket of currencies, the effective interest rate, and other outstanding questions, with a view to early adoption by the Fund of this method of valuation.

(5) The Committee discussed certain aspects of the future structure of the International Monetary Fund. They agreed that in the reformed system it would be desirable to establish, between the full Board of Governors and the Executive Directors, a permanent and representative Council of Governors with twenty members. They agreed that the Council should meet regularly, three or four times a year as required, and should have the necessary decision-making powers to (1) manage and adapt the monetary system, (2) to oversee the continuing operation of the adjustment process and (3) to deal with sudden disturbances which might threaten the system, while maintaining the role of the Executive Board. As an interim step, pending the establishment of the Council, it was agreed that a Committee of the Board of Governors should

be created with an advisory role in the same areas as the Council and with the same composition and procedures. This Committee would come into being when the Committee of Twenty has completed its work. The Executive Board was invited to prepare for the Board of Governors a draft Resolution to create such a Committee, giving due consideration to the need for adequate consultative machinery and the protection of the interests of all Fund members.

(6) The Committee received reports from the Chairman of the Deputies on the progress of the Technical Groups set up after the Nairobi meeting and urged them to complete their work if possible before the next meeting of the Deputies. They also received a report on the Deputies' preliminary discussion of conditions and rules for floating in the reformed system. They instructed the Deputies, in cooperation with the Executive Board, to continue to work on these questions and to report to the next meeting of the Committee.

(7) The Committee discussed their future programme. They agreed that, following meetings of the Deputies in March and May, the Committee would aim to complete its work on the reform at a meeting to be held in Washington on June 12-13, 1974.'

4. Scientific and technological policy

Adoption of an action programme

Scientific and Technological Policy

1401. On 14 January 1974 a global European scientific policy was born. Concluding its work¹ on the 'Action Programme for Scientific and Technological Policy'² submitted by the Commission in July 1973, the Council passed four Resolutions³ on implementing the policy.

This is an all-important date for the unfolding of a joint policy in the field of science and technology. This development should boost the efficacy of European Research and the importance of its socio-economic 'fall-out.' Complying with the decisions of the Paris Summit, the Council on the basis of Commission Proposals has thus fulfilled the wishes expressed by the Heads of State or Government at their meeting of 19-20 October 1972 to see an 'action programme with a precise work schedule and appropriate resources' adopted by the Community institutions.

The four Resolutions passed by the Council cover the following points: coordination of national policies and the definition of projects of Community interest; participation by the Community in the European Science Foundation; the first Community Action Programme for science and technology; a Community Action Programme for Forecasting, Evaluations and Methodology.

Coordination of National Policies

1402. In declaring that a common scientific and technological policy must be developed, the Paris Summit had already found that this policy 'meant' coordinating national policies within the Community institutions and the joint implementation of projects of Community interest.⁴ With this approach, confirmed by the Copenhagen Summit, the need then arose to vest the Community institutions with the resources and information to enable them to carry out their tasks.

Within the compass of the first Resolution the Council set up a Committee on Scientific and Technical Research (CREST). Made up of Member States' and Commission representatives its main job will be to coordinate all sides of national research policies not subject to military or industrial secrecy and to assist the Commission in preparing its action proposals. The Committee chaired by the Commission and with the office of Secretary entrusted to the Council will send its opinions and recommendations simultaneously to both institutions.

It has been instructed to help the Commission and Council in carrying out the following particular assignments:

- (a) review and compare Member States' national policies in science and technology with special reference to their potential capacity and their plans, programmes, projects, techniques and other measures;
- (b) identify, analyse and compare Member States' objectives in order to set out joint objectives which could be adopted;
- (c) coordinate national policies with the aim of eliminating duplication, avoiding divergent lines of action and cutting project costs, etc.;
- (d) define projects of Community interest;
- (e) select ways and means for implementing those projects;
- (f) confer on cooperation between Member States or with third countries with the aim of coordinating the attitudes of the Nine and seek a joint attitude of Member States on cooperation with the international organizations or within them.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2257.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1973, points 1601-1607, and Supplement 14/73 - Bull. EC.

³ OJ C 7 of 27.1.1974.

The groups and Committees belonging to the Working Party on Scientific and Technical Research Policy (PREST) will come under the aegis of the new Committee since the first meeting was fixed for 18 and 19 February 1974.

As a working basis the Council at the same time approved a programme and timetable annexed to the Resolution and which covers the period 1974-1975.

Promotion of Basic Research

1403. In the second Resolution the Council was pleased to note the intention of the Research Councils and Academies of the European States, including the Nine, to set up a European Science Foundation. The Council felt that such a body would be of value 'in boosting European cooperation and providing answers to questions arising from basic research' and was favourably predisposed towards establishing links between the Foundation and the Communities. The Council will define the nature and form of these relationships after the preparatory work is completed for setting up the Foundation.

Practical Research Projects

1404. In the third Resolution which concerned 'a first Community Action Programme for Science and Technology' the Council welcomed the July 1973 Action Programme and the Commission's plan to submit as soon as possible practical action Proposals from the overall programmes which it had submitted and which are intended to support the Community sectoral policies.

In activating this Resolution and to enable the participating countries to undertake jointly original projects made possible only by their European proportions, the Commission, in the practical action Proposals which it will have to present in 1974, will obviously make the broadest possi-

ble use of Article 235 of the EEC Treaty thereby following the wishes expressed by the Heads of State or Government in October 1972 in Paris.

The way things stand at present it is hard to think of a massive action programme without a prior detailed analysis of conditions in all sectors. This will be one of the jobs for CREST and its assistant specialized Working Parties. Although it is still difficult to prejudge the priorities to be adopted, the Commission has nevertheless already roughed out skeleton programmes¹ in the areas of social, energy, environment and industrial policy and in the policy on aid for developing countries. These proposals will have to be more closely defined with the help of new structures. The Commission will then submit detailed Proposals to the Council which has undertaken to rule on them within nine months of their presentation.

Forecasting, Evaluations and Methodology

1405. In the last Resolution the Council approved an Action Programme on research as a tool of forecasting, evaluation and methodology for the Community. This initial experimental programme has been limited to twelve months and the cost is estimated at a maximum of 500,000 u.a.

The Council has also set the programme and the budget for the preparatory study 'Europe + 30.' Within a year's time a group appointed by the Commission will examine whether the Community should undertake a comprehensive forward study and, if required, derive from it a continuous forecasting instrument. At the same time, the question will be reviewed as to whether the European Community is to set up a 'technological evaluation office' supported by existing organizations.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, points 1601-1607, and Supplement 14/73 - Bull. EC.

Scientific and Technological Policy

1406. Thus with the help of CREST and on the basis of forward studies other subjects and areas will come up for selection and other projects for adoption. In this continuous process, the Commission holds that scientific and technical research being both a factor for progress and for its control, it can help in defining an original model of European society where economic growth and an enhanced quality of life could be successfully combined.

2ND PART

COMMUNITY

ACTIVITIES

IN JANUARY 1974

1. Functioning of the Common Market

Customs Union

Customs Union

Simplification of Customs Formalities

2101. As part of the Commission's recent moves to simplify administrative formalities as far as possible, Mr Gundelach of the Commission invited the representatives of a number of Member States' specialist bodies to Brussels on 17 January.

At the meeting Mr Gundelach reiterated that the free circulation of goods in the Community should be such that there were no longer any controls and formalities other than those required by a Member State for internal trade. Regarding imports from non-member countries, procedures applied at the frontiers of the Customs Union should be as simple as possible, comply with the norms adopted internationally and be tailored to the needs of trade and modern company management methods. He explained that the Commission had already made some headway over simplification in the form of a single standard certificate to supersede the various forms used up to now in trading with the EFTA countries plus some streamlining of the Community transit system.

Mr Gundelach also emphasized the latest proposals made for harmonizing customs procedures and highlighted the Commission's plans to propose shortly further simplification of existing Community systems in order to limit the amount of information required in intra-Community trading and to arrange for the various documents now required for export, transit and import transactions to be integrated into a single system and adapted to the needs of data-processing.

The leader of the delegation from the organizations invited, Lord Thorneycroft, heartily welcomed Mr Gundelach's statements and indicated that the Commission's results and intentions

matched completely with the principles set out by the trade circles concerned and were in line with their thinking. After the discussion Mr Gundelach and Lord Thorneycroft agreed to organize regular informative meetings and to strengthen the contacts between the national bodies and the Commission departments so as to keep up the joint effort made towards simplifying the formalities of international trade.

Meeting of the Committee on Customs Questions

2102. The Committee on Customs Questions, which is made up of the directors general of the Member States' customs and excise administrations, met in Brussels on 29 January with Mr Gundelach in the Chair. The discussions bore mainly on the serious problems arising from the application of Community regulations and which have provoked complaints by Member States' customs departments.

Mr Gundelach stressed the Commission's keen interest in the work being done and action planned for streamlining the regulations, cutting down the possibilities of fraud and simplifying the work both for the customs administrations and for declarants.

Mr Gundelach and the directors-general all agreed to 'sensitize' the Council with regard to the problems involved which tended to jeopardize the application of political decisions at Community level and to make the Council aware of the need for the customs authorities to have adequate time for implementing new regulations. Mr Gundelach undertook to suggest to the Commission that a draft Resolution on this matter be sent to the Council.

It was also agreed to intensify the work of simplification jointly undertaken, especially with regard to the regulations deriving from the common agricultural and commercial policies.

Common Customs Tariff

2103. Regarding the phasing out of tariffs, a new stage was reached on 1 January 1974 in implementing the enlargement of the Community. *Customs duties* between the three new Member States and the original Six have, with a few exceptions, again been cut by 20%. The first cut, also of 20%, was made in 1 April 1973; the last cut of 20% was set by the Act of Accession for 1 July 1977.

Again on 1 January, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark moved into the first phase (40%) of *alignment of their tariffs with the CCT* of the six original Community countries (except in the case of products coming under the Euratom Treaty). The gap must be completely closed by 1 July 1977 after three further alignments of 20% each.

Tariff Economy

Community Tariff Quotas

2104. On 22 January the Council adopted a Regulation¹ on opening, allocating and administering a Community tariff quota for deep-frozen beef and veal. The quota by agreement of 22 000 metric tons, carrying a 20% charge, and raised autonomously to 34 000 metric tons, has been definitively allocated between the Nine Member States and is valid for 1974.²

Generalized Tariff Preferences

2105. On 21 January 1974 the Council adopted a Regulation¹ on opening, allocating and administering a Community tariff quota of 30 Million u.a. at low charges for raw tobacco of the 'Virginia flue-cured' variety, originating from the developing countries. Quantities

charged to this tariff quota may not, however, exceed 22 metric tons.

Harmonization of Customs Laws

2106. The Commission sent the Council a proposed Directive on harmonizing the *procedures for putting goods into free circulation*.³ Taking the most up-to-date national rules of procedure and tailoring them to the specific needs of the Community, the Commission anticipates the use of two kinds of procedures:

(i) A *standard procedure* of traditional design, the use of which should make the often overrigid formalities now required from importers in the Member States appreciably more flexible. A procedure of this kind offers the advantage of uniformity throughout all the Member States and of being practicable by anybody presenting goods and documents to the customs departments in whatever Member State he or she may be. Adoption of this procedure should mean a considerable improvement in the conditions now governing the Customs of products imported into the EEC from third countries.

(ii) *Simplified procedures*, tailored to both the needs of increasing Community economic and trading activity and the new administrative management methods now being developed, in particular in the field of data processing. The gradually increasing use of such simplified procedures, based on cooperation between the importing firms and the customs authorities will yield the best results with regard to simplification of the formalities.

2107. The Commission also submitted to the Council a proposed Regulation on *importing free*

¹ OJ L 20 of 24.1.1974.

² Point 2231.

³ OJ C 14 of 15.2.1974.

of CCT charges, educational scientific or cultural material.¹ The aim is:

- (a) to reconcile with the requirements of the Rome Treaty, the provisions adopted by Member States for applying the Florence Agreement prepared in this respect under the auspices of UNESCO and which took effect on 21 May 1952;
- (b) to standardize the application terms of this Agreement in all Member States allowing for the situation deriving from the existence of the Customs union.

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2108. During the sitting of 14-18 January, the European Parliament passed Resolutions on Commission Proposals to open tariff quotas for certain products of Spanish origin and the raw 'Virginia flue-cured' variety of tobacco from the developing countries.

Internal Common Market

Free Movement of Goods

Removal of Technical Barriers to Trade

Motor Vehicles

2109. On 15 January the Commission sent the Council a new proposed Directive concerning the motor vehicle sector. It has to do with the approximation of Member States' laws on *reflex reflecting devices* mounted on vehicles and their trailers.

The Proposal which fits into the Community type approval procedure covered under the Council Directive of 6 February 1970² only concerns the technical specifications for construction

and testing of such devices. The mounting requirements are covered by another proposed Directive on the mounting of light signals. The Commission's Proposal is based on work done by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

The EEC type approval procedure facilitates the free circulation of reflex reflecting devices within the Community by prohibiting Member States from opposing their marketing, provided they satisfy the construction and testing requirements laid down in the Annexes and bear the EEC type-approval mark. The procedure includes a system of reciprocal notification of any grant, refusal, withdrawal or extension of type approval.

Since certain Member States do not operate a type-approval system it was necessary to insert some provisions in order to ensure that vehicles complying with the requirements set out in the Directive can be used in these states. The Directives applies to motor vehicles with at least four wheels and a maximum design speed exceeding 25 km/hr. The Commission Proposal also lays down application of the procedure for adapting the Directive to technical progress, a procedure which was brought in by the Council Directive of 6 February 1970 on acceptance of motor vehicles and trailers.

Pharmaceuticals

2110. A further step forward was made in the approximation of laws governing *veterinary medicines*. The work of the experts called in by the Commission has enabled 'norms and protocols for analytical, toxicological, pharmacological and medical testing' to be finalized.

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¹ OJ C 14 of 15.2.1974.

² OJ L 42 of 23.2.1970.

2111. The *Economic and Social Committee* meeting in plenary session on 30-31 January issued an Opinion on two proposed Council Directives prepared by the Commission and concerning the approximation of Member States' laws on: natural yeast and yeast residues and preservatives which may be used in foodstuffs for direct human consumption.

Competition Policy

Restrictive Agreements, Concentrations, Dominant Positions: Specific Cases

Adaption of Common Sales Agreements

2112. Since the beginning of the Second World War the Belgian non-ferrous metal industry had entrusted the marketing of its 'natural' sulphuric acid, an unavoidable by-product of the roasting of pyrites, to a Brussels firm, *Asybel S.C.*, which resold the acid on the domestic and foreign markets.

Asybel's articles of association provided for a price equalization system which ensured that, at the end of each financial year, all producers received for each ton of sulphuric acid delivered in the course of the year one and the same price calculated on the basis of *Asybel's* total receipts and deliveries.

The departments of the Commission pointed out to steel-producers holding shares in *Asybel* that this system, which ruled out competition in prices, was subject to the provisions of Article 85 of the EEC Treaty and did not meet its conditions for exemption. As a result of the Commission's action, the producers concerned decided to end their joint sales agreement with *Asybel*.

In the Netherlands the sale of 'natural' sulphuric acid from metallurgical processes is also in the hands of a joint agency, N.V.C.P. of Amsterdam, which has been restricted to selling on the domestic market since 1970 and only sells on behalf of its shareholders products delivered to it, without any equalization of prices.

The departments of the Commission reminded these producers that by restricting small and medium-sized Dutch retailers to buying stocks from N.V.C.P. the agency was depriving retailers of the right to import sulphuric acid from other EEC countries and that this constituted an infringement of Article 85 of the EEC Treaty.

As a result of the Commission's action, the Dutch producers put an end to the restriction in question.

Removal of Restrictions on Competition

2113. Following Commission intervention, *Sperry Rand Ltd.* of Frankfurt, a subsidiary of the Sperry Corporation of New York and manufacturers of information processing and transmission facilities, office machines and equipment, as well as electric shavers and other electrical appliances, has revoked a number of rules which infringed commitments Article 85(1) of the Treaty of Rome. These included the following commitments imposed by *Sperry Rand* as regards their price fixing arrangements and terms for the supply and sale of Remington electric shavers, electric clocks and electrical appliances, of which they had notified the Commission:

- (a) German dealers were strictly prohibited from exporting or importing contract merchandise, or from supplying advertisers in trade journals.
- (b) German wholesalers were not allowed to supply other wholesalers except with the prior,

written consent of Sperry Rand Ltd.; they were also prohibited from supplying consumers direct.

(c) German retailers had to undertake to supply contract merchandise to retail consumers only.

In view of the fact that Sperry Rand had notified the Commission of the price fixing arrangements, as well as of the conditions governing supply and sale, no fine could be imposed.

Authorization of a Joint Purchasing Agreement

2114. Under Article 65, paragraph 2, of the ECSC Treaty the Commission authorized an agreement between thirteen British iron and steel companies with the aim of setting up an agency to be known as *Steelmaking Supplies Ltd.*¹ for the joint purchase of scrap metal. The companies in question are small and medium-sized firms in the private sector. For their raw material metal they are mainly dependent on supplies of scrap. They take up about 20% of the available scrap metal in the British market. Joint buying will enable the interested parties to ensure stability of supply, especially during periods of scrap metal shortage.

Authorization of Joint Sales Agreement

2115. The Commission authorized ten Danish iron and steel distributors to form the company '*Servicelager for Jernbranchen A/S*' for the purpose of buying rolled products for resale to the member firms or for storage and of cutting up coils and sheet.²

The quantities of rolled steel handled annually by Servicelager for Jernbranchen are relatively small compared with the quantities sold in the Community trade. The Agreement meets the conditions for approval required by Article 65, paragraph 2, of the ECSC Treaty.

Concentrations in British Iron and Steel

2116. Under Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty the Commission authorized two concentration operations involving the British iron and steel industry, namely:

(a) the acquisition by *Guest Keen & Nettlefolds Ltd.* (GKN) of the *British Steel Corporation's* (BSC) Brymbo steelworks. Brymbo accounts for about 1.5% of United Kingdom crude steel production capacity. The concentration will enable GKN, engaged exclusively in rolling, to meet part of its future needs in metal through its own resources;

(b) acquisition by the *British Steel Corporation* (BSC) of *GKN Dowlais Ltd.* The latter turns out mainly pig iron ingot moulds for which BSC is already the biggest customer. Dowlais' share of the United Kingdom foundry pig iron output amounts to 0.5%.

These two operations could be approved since they were in line with the authorization criteria of Article 66, paragraph 2 of the ECSC Treaty.

State Aid

Sectoral Aid

Textiles

2117. In 1971 the Commission had sent a Communication to the Member States on limiting national aid for the textile industry. This document contained a number of criteria to

¹ OJ L 52 of 23.2.1974.

² OJ L 30 of 4.2.1974.

guide Member States in interventions which they might make in favour of this sector. Practical experience has highlighted the many variations between national schemes used by Member States to this end, and also emphasized the problem of understanding and comparing the practical applications by these schemes in favour of textile companies. In consolidating and intensifying its 1971 action the Commission advised Member States that it had decided to develop its approach on three levels:

(i) The sectoral guidelines for the textile industry (individual conditions and terms for granting aid, applications as part of occupational agreements per state) which will, if need be, be laid down in the application of aid schemes but not specific to it (general aid, regional aid) will be addressed beforehand to the Commission for review in connection with the Community and sectoral relationships.

(ii) A bilateral or even multilateral consultation procedure will be set up by the Commission to examine all valid complaints from national governments over aid granted to certain textile companies and which might be seriously detrimental to trade and competition (whether the aid in question comes under the application of schemes peculiar to the textile sector or schemes with a more general span).

(iii) The inventory of aid enjoyed by the textile industry will be published each year; statistics for each financial year will show all 'aided' investments and aid for investments under any scheme whatsoever.

2118. During its sitting of 14-18 January 1974, the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on the Commission's Second Report on Competition and on its Communication on the application of the principles for coordinating regional aid schemes in 1972.

Fiscal Policy and Financial Institutions

Financial Institutions

Insurance

Life Insurance

2119. On 21 January the Commission sent the Council a proposed Directive for abolishing in *direct life insurance* the restrictions on the right of establishment.¹ This document consolidates the Proposal submitted on 14 December 1973 on coordinating legal provisions in this same area.²

2120. On 11 January 1974 the Commission sent the Council two recommended Decisions. The first concerns authorization to open *negotiations with Switzerland* on access to the activity of *direct insurance other than life insurance*. These negotiations are explicitly provided for by the Directive of 24 July 1973³ on coordinating regulations and legal and administrative provisions concerning direct insurance other than life. The second Recommendation concerns the *projects running within the OECD*. These have now reached the stage where the negotiations need coordinated handling at Community level.

Banks

2121. Regarding the coordination of banking legislation, the Commission decided to apply a

¹ OJ C 27 of 15.3.1974.

² Bull. EC 12-1973, points 2126-2128.

³ OJ L 228 of 16.8.1973.

2. Economic and Monetary Union

Fiscal Policy

new working method. Instead of preparing a comprehensive Directive to try and solve all the problems raised by creating a banking market in a single text, the Commission is now planning to effect coordination in stages. It has delegated its departments to review, with Member States' qualified authorities, the list of problems involved, the order of priorities to be taken and the timetable to be set up. The Commission departments have wound up their talks with the Member States and will promptly get down to preparing a new working document which, by using the new method, will enable the work started in the field of banking control legislation to be carried forward.

2122. During the plenary session of 30-31 January 1974, the *Economic and Social Committee* issued an Opinion on the 'draft of the sixth Council Directives for harmonizing Member States' laws governing turnover tax, the joint VAT system and a standard basis.'

Economic, Monetary and Financial Policy

Commission Communication on the Community's Situation: Emergency Measures

2201. Because of the Community's present situation¹ the Commission on 23 January 1974 sent the Council the following Communication:

1. The Member States of the Community must immediately deal with the dangers which if not warded off could become particularly serious.
2. Already last summer considerable problems were looming up due to the overall slackening of growth and changes in the trade relations between industrialized countries. Later on the vulnerability of the European countries with regard to sources of energy and other raw materials was seen in its true proportions. Heavy and rapid price increases, even if they can be tempered, will at any event bring about extensive deterioration in trade terms likely to seriously impair the external economic sectors in question and thus eventually growth and employment.
3. But the deterioration of the external situation is possibly not the greatest threat to the Community. The most disturbing thing is that the greater dependance of the European countries, taken separately, regarding transactions across national frontiers has not been matched by the adoption of common policies to shield the whole Community from disruptive elements from outside.
4. It is therefore not exaggerated thinking to believe that the Member States might be led to

¹ Part One, Chapter 3: 'Fresh Developments in the Monetary Field: Floating the Franc; Reform of the International Monetary System'.

¹ Supplement 11/73 - Bull. EC.

take unilateral measures which besides dislocating the Community venture could have immeasurable economic and political repercussions.

5. In these circumstances, the Commission considers that the Council must immediately:

(a) warn Member States of the deteriorating outlook of the present situation and the risks involved;

(b) propose that conservatory measures be promptly adopted and implemented.

The highest priority should go to Community action to prevent the rapid disruption in the development of economic transactions of all kinds and especially of intra-Community trade and trade between Member States and third countries.

The Council should therefore make a statement on monetary and trade policy. While taking stock of the deterioration which will at all events occur in the running payment balances of Member States, this statement would declare their firm intention of refraining from any competitive depreciation of exchange rates and any restrictive commercial action.

6. Given that in a period as disturbed as the present one, Member States give differing priorities to economic goals and since it takes time to remedy this state of affairs, more or less diverging developments in the European currency exchange rates are bound to occur. But they must be prevented from being intensified by pressures which would lead governments to plunge into protective leapfrogging, especially through competitive depreciation.

7. This implies that Member States whatever their exchange system, must effectively consult each other on their exchange policies and on any moves directly bearing on that policy. This idea should take practical shape in continuous discussions on the development of exchange rates, interest rate policies, use of the international

financial market and if necessary the utilization of reserves.

This action should moreover be complemented by the following three plans:

(i) intra-Community credit, developed in line with the Commission's Proposals concerning the increases in the allocations of short-term monetary support, should be implemented forthwith;

(ii) the Council should ask the qualified Community bodies to work out formulas and procedures immediately for the systematic mobilization, as part of European action, of resources available on the international capital markets;

(iii) the Council should ask the Monetary Committee and the Governors Committee of the Central Banks to prepare promptly an opinion on the possible amendment of rules governing the price which could be used for transfers of gold between the monetary authorities both within the Community and internationally.

8. The measures suggested above cover only a limited area where immediate action is imperative. They must be backed up by other measures for which the Commission will submit Proposals when the time comes.'

Report on the Repercussions of the Energy Crisis

2202. Complying with the wish expressed by the Heads of State or Government on 14-15 December 1973 at the Copenhagen Conference¹ the Commission on 1 February 1974 sent the Council a 'report on the present or predictable repercussions of the energy supply situation on production, employment, prices,

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, Part One, Chapter 1: 'The Copenhagen Summit Conference', point 1106 (Annex).

payment balances and the development of monetary reserves'.

The report illustrates the initial thoughts of the Commission on economic and financial problems for the Community arising from the energy market situation, as affected by the planned progressive cuts in oil output, the embargo on exports of oil to the United States and the Netherlands (both decided on 16 October 1973 by the OPAEP) and the steep rise in world prices of crude oil. Although the first impact of the crisis was felt as a shortfall situation, as these fears diminished the financial aspect and the question of prices came to the fore.

The extra revenue of the oil exporting countries stemming from increased prices is expected to reach some 60 000 million dollars in 1974. At this rate in three years the creditor situation of those countries will amount to more than 10% of the Community GNP. Since the exporting countries will be unable, at least in the medium-term, to put more than a limited proportion of their extra revenue into purchases from the industrial countries, the problem of placing their available resources arises, in order to avert the danger of ill-timed shifts of capital onto the international financial markets or the financing of speculative raw material stocks.

Moreover, the heavy energy dependency of the European nations, Japan and the developing countries means that the competitiveness of their economies is severely affected. For the developing countries, especially, the swollen value of their imports of oil products will be substantially greater than the value of inflowing public aid witnessed over recent years and which scarcely offset the deficit of their current balances.

The consumer countries will have to face a deterioration in the external balance which may well rebound onto activity and employment to a greater or lesser degree according to the adjust-

ment capacity of production and internal demand. On top of this they will have to cope with heavy rises in internal prices which could well speed up the inflationary process. Because of the different ranking of objectives and because of the disparate initial positions (notably in the structures relative to the payment balances, exchange reserves and energy supplies) there is a real danger of the industrial countries following incompatible economic policies.

This could result in fresh upheavals regarding payment balances which would disrupt world trade by protectionist leapfrogging and would finish by splintering the markets. In the longer term most of the consumer countries are faced with the need to develop their own energy resources which implies, apart from the adoption of new economic strategies, a possible revision of the type of growth seen up to now.

Regarding the Community, it could be anticipated that the supply situation will normalize after the winter so that for all of 1974 the level of imports will be more closely controlled by the economy measures and the elasticity of demand in relation to prices. The average rise of crude oil prices in 1974 can at the moment be put at nearly 180% compared with the 1973 average. Apart from the new direction to be applied to economic policies, the increased costs of oil should provoke throughout the Community a further rise in the general level of prices of about 2%. By adding to the direct mechanical effects the indirect influences due to a further advance in incomes, the overall increase could run to 3% on a yearly basis.

Allowing for the efforts towards economizing energy and using substitute sources the cut-back in the Community's production growth rate can be estimated at 1.5% for 1974. Under these conditions and assuming that Member States refrain from any restrictive measures to restabilize their payment balances Community economic growth measures in real terms could attain only

2-3% this year. This slackening of growth would entail a loss in employment units corresponding to about 0.7% of the active population. But the impact would vary from country to country and would be rather unevenly spread between the various activity sectors. The most hard hit would be the building trade, the motor industry and other forms of transport, mechanical engineering, textiles and chemicals. Moreover, the oil crisis would alone be responsible for worsening the Community's balance of payments with third countries by 17 500 million dollars, which amounts to about 1.5% of the Community's gross product and about 17% of its exports to the rest of the world. In view of the impact of the crisis on Member States' exchange reserves, they will be obliged to fall back extensively on external loans.

In the medium-term, should a sizable reduction in the price of oil not prove possible, the repercussions would largely depend on the extent and speed of developing other sources to replace oil, on the chances of expanding the exporting countries' import capacity, on the transfers and credits which the latter will be prepared to grant to the developing countries to enable them to keep up and increase their import volume and on the ways of consolidating the debts which the importing countries will be obliged to incur.

If the Community can adopt an overall strategy it will be able to surmount the bulk of these problems which because of their very size, cannot be solved at national level. With this in mind, the Commission has already submitted a number of Proposals to deal with the most urgent issues and coordinate future action.

Monetary Committee

2203. The Monetary Committee held its 187th meeting in Brussels on 21 January 1974 with Mr Emminger in the Chair. It got down

to a discussion on the effects of measures taken by the French Government on 19 January 1974¹ both in the monetary world and on the direction to be given to a possible Community exchange policy.

Budget Policy Committee

2204. The 56th meeting of the Budget Policy Committee was held in Brussels on 11 January 1974 with Mr Firmi in the Chair. It was largely given over to a review of the execution of the 1973 or 1973-1974 budgets and of the application prospects for the 1974 or 1974-1975 budgets. Although execution of the 1973 budgets varies appreciably from the guidelines on the Council Resolution of 14 September 1973, mainly because of accelerated inflation and because the real growth forecasts were surpassed, the application prospects of the 1974 budgets are heavily shrouded by uncertainty; the repercussions of the oil crisis are still too indeterminate for anything other than short-term forecasts to be made. In their budgetary policies Member States are as a whole maintaining a restrictive attitude whilst retaining a freedom to act should the short-term economic situation deteriorate.

Short-term Economic Policy Committee

2205. The short-term Economic Policy Committee met in Brussels on 18 January 1974 with Mr Brouwers in the Chair. The Committee reviewed the short-term economic situation in their respective countries at the end of 1973 and the 1973 results. Members then discussed the repercussions of the energy crisis on the outlook for 1974 in the light of results collated by the expert group on economic budgets.

¹ Part One, Chapter 3 of this number of the Bulletin.

Faced with gloomy prospects regarding growth (little or even none), employment (deterioration), rising prices (acceleration) and payment balances (substantial deficits) the Committee confirmed the need to maintain a restrictive but selective policy in marshaling demand.

Short-term Consumer Survey

2206. During the fourth quarter of 1973, the fifth survey was carried out of 25 000 representative households chosen in five countries of the European Community (Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium). It was too early for the consumers to take into account the impact of the crisis. The results of the next survey, to be carried out at the end of January should provide useful guidance on this aspect.

The judgements and expectations concerning the general economic situation differ appreciably from country to country. In most of the countries, consumers believe that the economic climate has deteriorated during the past year and expect the deterioration to continue during the next twelve months. Only in the Netherlands and, to a lesser extent, in Italy were the judgements more optimistic.

Developments in unemployment and prices may explain this general attitude, since in France many more households expected an increase in unemployment and a rise in prices than previously whilst consumers' views in Italy and the Netherlands suggested the opposite.

As far as *trends in the financial situation itself* are concerned opinions received from Germany and France show a relative deterioration as compared with previous surveys, whilst a development towards more stable conditions seemed discernible in all the other countries except the Netherlands where improvement continues. As regards the *future development of incomes*, in

most of the countries the confidence of consumers does not appear to have been shaken. In Germany and in Italy consumers look forward to an improvement during the next twelve months.

Short-Term Enquiries among Company Heads

2207. The Commission published its third 1973 report on the results of short-term enquiries among the leaders of Community companies. This report analyses the answers for the period July-October.

Although since the end of October the possibility of energy supply problems made itself felt, the short-term surveys on company leaders do not show any reversing trends. Even if in several countries and especially in Germany the short-term peak has passed the answers received allowed the hope that a high level of activity would be maintained. But the latest partial results of the December enquiries could indicate a changing trend in the general business climate.

Throughout the Community industrial activity has advanced at a slightly less forceful pace. The assessments of order books have dimmed a bit; in late October 26% of company heads thought that the overall order book was 'heavier than usual' as against 27% in late July. Production prospects have deteriorated a little of late: at the end of October 20% anticipated that production would rise in the following months as against 26% at the end of July. The outlook on selling prices showed that there was still some tension.

In Germany the orders in hand seem to have diminished slightly. At the end of October 13% of the businessmen thought that orders were heavier than usual as against 16% at the end of July. They were not quite so optimistic about the future: in October 9% expected production to rise, over the next few months as against 15%

in July. The upward trend of sales prices is still very strong.

In *France* answers received showed a continuing heavy global and external demand. In October 83% believed that their total order books were 'usual' or 'heavier than usual' as against 85% in July. Production prospects have remained at a high level. In October 93% of the company leaders expected their production to keep the same level or rise in the coming months as against 94% in July. The outlook on sale prices showed that there was still some tension.

In *Italy* the level of domestic and foreign orders seems to have stabilized over recent months. In October as in July 34% of the company heads thought that their order books were 'heavier than usual'. Opinions on the future development of production were not quite so happy: in October 27% as against 31% in July expected their pace of production to sharpen over the months ahead.

In the *Netherlands* the level of total orders appears to have fallen back a bit during recent months. In October 20% of the people questioned believed that order books were 'heavier than usual' as against 11% in July. Production prospects were still largely positive. In October 95% of the industrialists as against 98% in July thought that future activity would equal or surpass earlier levels.

In *Belgium* the enquiries reveal some levelling out of total orders: in October 25% of the industrialists as against 24% in July thought that their order books were 'heavier than usual'. Production forecasts have fallen slightly: in October 28% expected increased activity in the coming months as against 32% in July. The trend of rising sales prices appears to have steepened.

In *Luxembourg* the answers were again very favourable. Overall order books and foreign

order books are well filled. Production prospects are a little less optimistic and the rising trend of sales prices has steepened again.

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2208. During the sitting of 14-18 January 1974 the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on the continued implementation of Economic and monetary union in which it 'considers that the serious monetary situation, made critical by the increased price of oil, necessitates even more the most strenuous possible convergence of Community economic policies'; it asked the Council 'to reconcile the sectoral and national positions and satisfy the higher interests of Europe in its entirety'. The House also passed a Resolution on the Commission's Proposals for stock exchange admission prospectuses.'

Regional Policy

New Proposals and Action

2209. Neither the deadline of 31 December 1973 nor that of 31 January 1974 saw agreement reached over regional policy. But the most noteworthy feature of the month was a gradual reconciliation of positions.

In both the sessions of 14-15 and 30-31 January the 'working hypotheses' put forward by certain delegations helped to clarify the debate. The Commission was also able to give shape quickly to the hypotheses.

Mr Thomson, responsible for regional policy met Mr Scheel, the Federal German Foreign

¹ Supplement 12/72 - Bull. EC.

Minister and President-in-Office of the Council. During the meeting of 30-31 January, President Ortoli and Mr Thomson conferred successively with each of the Member States' Foreign Ministers.

The following Communiqué was published at the close of this Council meeting:

'The Council continued its work on the establishment of a European Regional Development Fund; it examined in particular the picture which emerged from a fact-finding mission undertaken by the Commission during the meeting with a view to collecting the data on which to base a compromise formula.

As a result of the debate, the Council recorded some progress; it noted that in these circumstances the Commission undertook to submit a fresh proposal in order to enable the Council to reach a final solution.

The Council agreed to continue its discussions on 18 and 19 February.'

Social Policy

Social Action Programme

2210. In compliance with the final Declaration of the Heads of State or Government meeting in Paris in October 1972 which emphasized that strenuous action in the social field was just as important as accomplishing economic and monetary union, the Council at its meeting of 21-22 January¹ passed the Resolution on the Social Action Programme which it had agreed in December 1973.²

To attain the social objectives of European union in successive stages this programme is intended to reach the following major targets:

- (a) full and better employment at Community, national and regional level which is the prerequisite for an effective social policy;
- (b) improvement of living and working conditions to give them equal value in progress;
- (c) greater participation of both sides of industry in the Community's economic and social decisions and of the workers in the life of the company.

In this Resolution the Council officially acknowledged the Commission's programme, expressed its political resolve to take in an initial period from 1974 to 1976 the required action to gain these objectives and set out a list of priorities with a timetable for projects to be undertaken between now and 1976.

Vocational Training and Guidance

2211. A meeting was held on 14 January in Brussels between senior members of the trade union and occupational organizations of *young farmworkers* of the EEC. The meeting was attended by delegates from the relevant organizations in the new Member States. During the proceedings the 1974 young farmworkers exchange programme was approved.

Employment

2212. On 15 and 16 January in Brussels the final meeting took place of the initial Italo-German exchange of *labour placement officers*. In relation to the application of provisions concerning free movement, this exchange was intended to promote the employment of available labour in the Community.³

¹ OJ C 13 of 12.2.1974.

² Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2212.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2209.

Both the German and Italian authorities thought that the net result of this experiment was positive and five German and ten Italian officers were designated for a second exchange from 1 February to 31 July 1974.

A Working Party which includes a Commission representative was assigned to draw up Proposals on the possibility of setting up *direct compensation relationships* between the offices embodied in the programme and on improving the exchange of information.

2213. A report on the impact of the energy crisis on employment was sent by the Commission to the Council. A special meeting of national employment directors to consider the problems was set for February.

Free Movement and Social Security of Migrant Workers

2214. The *Administrative Committee for the Social Security of Migrant Workers* at its meeting of 24-25 January reviewed the latest set of decisions revised in the light of the new Council Regulations of 14 June 1971¹ and 21 March 1972² 'on the application of social security schemes to wage earners and their families who relocate within the Community'. The Committee also investigated a number of problems in applying these Regulations which were brought up by several national delegations. It also reviewed requests from the European University Institute and Eurocontrol concerning the provisions regarding the social security of their personnel. The discussions also bore on the forecast expenditure for the financial years 1975, 1976 and 1977.

2215. On 14 January the Commission sent the Council a Proposal to *amend the Regulations of June 1971* and March 1972 thus adapting

them to changes since they took effect, in the national laws and to fill certain gaps found in applying them.³

2216. The Commission sent the Council a Communication on implementing Article 39 of the Additional Protocol to the Ankara Agreement on the application of social security schemes for *Turkish workers* relocating within the Community and for their families living there.

Living and Working Conditions

2217. On 21 January 1974⁴ the Council adopted a Regulation on the Commission's organization of a survey on the structure and breakdown of *wages and salaries in the wholesale and retail trades, banks and insurance houses*, on the basis of statistics for 1974. These surveys on wage and salary structures are made every six years. The first and second which covered industry were made in 1966 and 1972.

2218. Working conditions in the *gas and electricity sectors* were discussed at an ad hoc meeting of workers' representatives held in Luxembourg on 17-18 January.

Health Protection

2219. The select Committee and the *Mines Safety and Health Commission* met on 10-19 January in Luxembourg. They took a position on extending the authority of the Safety and Health Commission to cover the extracting industries. They also examined informative reports on water barrages, neutralization of

¹ OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

² OJ L 74 of 27.4.1972.

³ OJ C 27 of 15.3.1974.

⁴ OJ L 21 of 25.1.1974.

dusts by hygroscopic salts and the projected 1974 safety campaigns.

They also investigated five collective accidents occurring in 1973 and 1974 and noted the results of trade union 'information days' run in Newcastle in September 1973.

Paul Finet Foundation

2220. On 15 January 1974 the Executive Committee of the Paul Finet Foundation held its 20th meeting in Luxembourg. 421 cases were reviewed and it was decided to grant financial aid to 307 fatherless children, for a total amount of 2 497 860 BFrs. (277 540 FFrs.). Since it came into being the Foundation has disbursed 3 549 grants for a total of 27 895 544 BFrs. (3 099 500 FFrs.). Thanks to aid from the Foundation, 746 of 2 192 scholarship holders have successfully completed their vocational, secondary or university studies.

*

2221. During its sitting of 14-18 January 1974, the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on the tenth report of the Mines Safety and Health Commission and on the fourth report of the Iron and Steel Safety and Health Commission.

Environment and Consumer Protection

Environment

Water Protection

2222. On 21 January 1974 the Commission sent the Council a proposed Directive on the

quality of surface waters used for the supply of drinking water in the Community. The Proposal fits in with the Environment Action Programme adopted by the Council on 19 July 1973¹ on a Commission Proposal and which brings in measures to protect water. No national legislation has as yet laid down adequate specific provisions regarding the required quality of surface water used for drinking water and regarding the purification process for surface water used to supply drinking water.

Private needs for drinking water amount to about 100 litres per head per day; public service requirements are in proportion to the population density and can be put at about 500 additional litres daily per head in cities with more than a million inhabitants. Water supplies are usually taken from underground water and surface water (lakes, water courses and artificial reservoirs). As a rule this supply system entails purification plant largely because river and stream waters are highly polluted by various waste discharges. 'Potabilization' is understood to cover all the physical and chemical purification processes required to make such water clean enough for human consumption and as a beverage.

The use of surface waters as drinking water means that the admissible limits of contamination and harmful effects must be strictly defined so as to ensure that sanitary requirements are respected. The physical, chemical, biological and bacteriological properties of utilizable water are specified in an Annex to the Directive. The quality of utilizable drinking water is measured on the basis of norms worked out in 1970 by World Health Organization (WHO).

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, Chapter 3: 'Definition of a Community Environment Policy'.

Agricultural Policy

2223. At the beginning of the year the tension still colouring the world markets for certain major agricultural products has necessitated the continued application of export restrictions on cereals (except rye), sugar, olive oil and rice.

On the domestic markets the fears of increased quantities of intervention dairy produce now seems unjustified; supplies for intervention from October to December 1973 amounted to only 18 800 tonnes of butter and 18 850 tonnes of skim milk powder. Conversely, distortion now apparent on the beef and veal market has caused some concern and led to an extraordinary meeting of the Council¹ on 14-15 January. Some limited measures were also brought in for this sector at the regular meeting of 21-22 January, pending the decisions on the 1974/75 marketing year prices and decisions linked to adjustments and improvements in the joint organization of the markets. Having received relevant Proposals from the Commission,² the Council decided to bring forward the start of the 1974/1975 marketing year by one month, i.e. to 4 March 1974 in the case of milk and beef and veal.

The Commission's Proposals, which cover besides the 1974/75 prices an initial set of measures provided in the Memorandum on improving the CAP,³ were laid before the European Parliament on 17 January 1974 and submitted to the Council on 21 January 1974. They are by and large regarded as a well balanced package likely to facilitate overall agreement within the Council before the end of February.

The energy crisis which makes for higher prices rather than diminished supplies, is a source of concern in some agricultural quarters including hot-house production, poultry and pig breeding, several processing sectors (notably the dairies,

sugar refineries and preserving plants) and fisheries. The Commission is closely watching developments in all these production areas.

For agriculture, January 1974 also saw the introduction of monetary compensatory amounts in France following her decision to let the franc float.⁴ The Commission can only deplore this new crimp in the single agricultural market but is hoping that, as the French Government emphasized, it is only a six months temporary measure.

Measures related to the Monetary Situation

2224. The main features of January 1974 were the floating of the French franc and the setting of a new representative rate for the Lira. The new rate took effect on 28 January 1974⁵ and with regard to agriculture is equivalent to a fresh 'devaluation' of the Lira of about 5% compared with the representative rate which came in on 1 January 1974.⁶

When the previous representative rate was applied on 1 January, it had been stipulated that adjustment of prices and amounts set in u.a. and expressed in Lire would be delayed until the start of the 1974/1975 marketing year for most agricultural products since the prices and amounts applicable in Italy were frozen at the levels of 31 December 1973 and for sugar at the level of 31 October 1973.

Since the provisions in question were still valid, the setting of the new representative rates has not meant a rise in prices, except in the beef and

¹ Point 2231.

² Part One, Chapter 2 and OJ C 27 of 15.3.1974.

³ Supplement 17/73 - Bull. EC.

⁴ Part One, Chapter 3: 'The Latest Monetary Developments'.

⁵ OJ L 22 of 26.1.1974.

⁶ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2230.

veal sector and in those sectors where the 1974/1975 marketing year has already begun.

Allowing for the impact it already has on output levels and the repercussions it may therefore have on the overall balance of the economy, the beef and veal market situation in Italy has in fact necessitated the immediate application of the new representative rate which resulted on 28 January 1974 in a rise of about 5% of prices running for this sector in Italy.

Had it seemed desirable at the end of 1973 to delay the economic impact of a new representative rate, the factors now available for assessing it indicate that the new rate should be promptly spread over most of the Italian prices for agricultural products. The Commission therefore submitted a second Regulation to the Council with the aim of raising the current applicable Italian prices by about 5% across the board. This Regulation should come into force towards the middle of February. Meanwhile the Commission set the compensatory amounts on the basis of the new data and adjusted the coefficients to the new situation.¹

2225. The floating of the *French franc* was also taken into account with regard to the scheme of monetary compensatory amounts in agriculture, which was laid down by the Regulation of 12 May 1971.²

From now on, France will collect compensatory amounts on exports and grant them on imports in trade with third countries and Member States. Similarly to the other floating currencies, the amounts are determined as a ratio of their development compared with currencies remaining in the Community 'tunnel'.

On the basis of data confirmed between 22 and 24 January 1974, the initial setting was made by adopting a rate of 5.5%. These compensatory amounts were applied from 28 January.¹ But in some cases, they have been applied from 21 January 1974 when the franc began to float.

2226. Movement in *sterling* on the exchange markets led to adjustments in the compensatory amounts and differential amounts applicable in Ireland and the United Kingdom with effect from 14 and 28 January 1974¹ respectively.

2227. On 22 January 1974, the Council officially adopted the Decision on measures to be taken in the agricultural sector following the 1969 revaluation of the *Deutsch mark* in line with the December 1973 political Agreement.⁴

Application of legislative Acts relating to the Common Agricultural Policy in the Enlarged Community

2228. Using the scope provided by the Act of Accession, the Council on 21 January 1974⁵ adopted a Regulation *extending by one year the period in which temporary measures may be taken* in the three new Member States to ease the changeover from the existing system to that required in applying the joint organization of markets.

Under the conditions of Article 63 of the Act of Accession, this transitional period was provided to allow for the problems which could be encountered by the new Member States in switching over to the new system. It was to expire on 31 January 1974, unless the Council at the Commission's suggestion and after consulting the European Parliament decided to extend it until 31 January 1975. Since the problems arising in certain sectors cannot be overcome within the limit originally set, the Council has now decided to defer it.

¹ OJ L 22 of 26.1.1974 and L 24 of 28.1.1974.

² Bull. EC 7-1971, point 39.

³ OJ L 11 of 14.1.1974 and L 24 of 28.1.1974.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 223.

⁵ OJ L 21 of 25.1.1972.

Common Organization of the Markets

Sugar

2229. During January 1974, the Commission adjusted several times the special import levy for white and raw sugar.

Since there is no surplus of sugar for export on the basis of world market prices, the Commission on 30 January 1974¹ suspended indefinitely the regular fixing of export refunds with regard to white and raw sugar, which under the basic Regulation for the joint organization of the market is usually done every fortnight.

On 9 January 1974² the Commission also adopted a technical measure to facilitate the monitoring of exports of sugar produced over and above the maximum quota. This control is applied by the Member States. From now on, the producer will be required, when applying for the export certificate, to furnish proof that the sugar in question was in fact really manufactured in excess of the maximum quota.

On 15 January 1974³ the Commission set at the same level as the previous marketing year,⁴ the maximum amount for the contribution to storage charges, which the sugar manufacturers can demand from the beet and cane producers for the 1973/1974 marketing year, if part of the sugar production is carried over into the following marketing year.

Fruit and Vegetables

2230. On 25 January 1974⁵ the Commission had to set a countervailing tax on imports of certain varieties of sweet orange from Algeria, since the rates to be taken into account were below the Community's reference price. Likewise, as from 1 February 1974⁶ the CCT charge has been applied to imported fresh lemons from

Tunisia because the rates for this produce were lower than the contractual prices set for imports of certain citrus fruits from Tunisia under the Association Agreement between that country and the EEC.

Beef and Veal

2231. Problems encountered by some Member States in the beef and veal sector were examined by the Council during the special meeting of 14-15 January and the regular session of 21-22 January.

To overcome some of the difficulties without delay, the Council decided on 22 January 1974 that the setting of agricultural prices, notably those for beef and veal, for the 1974/1975 marketing year will have to be made in February and that the new marketing year for the beef and veal sector like the dairy produce sector will be brought forward by one month. Thus the new prices can be applied in the first week of March instead of early April 1974. The Council also agreed a Regulation temporarily amending the terms for optional intervention measures in the beef and veal sector. By waiving until 31 July 1974 the regional criteria laid down in the Regulation for the onset of optional intervention measures, the amended Regulation will help to improve the position of this market by preventing the development of artificial trade currents.

The Council also officially acknowledged the Commission's plans to take several measures, under the procedure of the Management Committee and until the start of the next marketing year which are also aimed at relieving the market in this sector.

¹ OJ L 27 of 31.1.1974.

² OJ L 8 of 10.1.1974.

³ OJ L 13 of 16.1.1974.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1973, point 2223.

⁵ OJ L 22 of 26.1.1974.

⁶ OJ L 22 of 26.1.1974.

The measures swiftly adopted by the Commission cover aid for private storage and an extension to the application scope of the intervention measures.

Under the rules in force the Community may grant aid for private storage if market prices drop appreciably and this is done mainly through a tendering procedure. Since the current market situation is coloured by unstable and very varied prices in the Community, the Commission on 31 January 1974¹ defined the application terms of this procedure and opened as from 1 February 1974 three tenders for setting amounts of aid to be granted for the following produce and quantities: hindquarters (5 000 tonnes), forequarters (5 000 tonnes) and boned meat (7 000 tonnes).

The Commission amended the Regulation of 13 July 1973² with regard to the application of intervention measures for certain grades of cattle. The amendment³ which took effect on 28 January 1974 adjusts certain coefficients expressing the relationship between the price of the grade or quality in question and the price of mature cattle noted on the Community representative markets and will also extend the coverage of standing intervention measures to include certain categories of cow. These adjustments meant that the purchase prices set for standing interventions³ had to be changed.³

On 22 January 1974⁴ the Council also adopted a Regulation on opening, allocating and administering a Community tariff quota for deepfrozen beef and veal (CCT sub-heading 02.01 AIIa) for 1974. This quota covers an overall volume of 34 000 tonnes, including 22 000 tonnes contractually (GATT) and 12 000 tonnes autonomously. In terms of boned meat, the total breaks down into the following tonnages: Germany 4 750; Benelux 4 570; France 2 290; Italy 10 390; Denmark 200; Ireland 100; and the United Kingdom 11 700. For the volume allocated to the original six Member States, the

applicable charge has been set at 20%. For the new Member States the charges applicable are computed in line with the relevant provisions laid down in the Act of Accession.

The Commission for its part amended for the second time its Regulation of 31 January 1973⁵ on determining calf and mature cattle prices quoted on the representative markets of the Community. The Rotterdam market⁶ recently annulled the list of representative markets for mature cattle because it had had to terminate its activities. On 9 January 1974⁷ following a technical adjustment, the coefficients for conversion into live weight applied to the meat of mature cattle were slightly modified in Northern Ireland.

Regarding deep-frozen meat the Commission on 18 January⁸ set up an import certificate system for certain varieties of deep-frozen beef and veal in order to distinguish precisely between them. The Commission also designated the agencies authorized to issue these certificates in the Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay. The Regulation comes into force from 1 March 1974.

Fishery Products

2232. On the basis of the prices set by the Council on 11 December 1973⁹ and valid for fishery products over the 1974 marketing year, the Commission on 21 December¹⁰ adopted additional Regulations to take effect on 1 January 1974 which:

¹ OJ L 28 of 1.2.1974.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2232.

³ OJ L 22 of 26.1.1974.

⁴ OJ L 20 of 24.1.1974.

⁵ OJ L 36 of 8.2.1973.

⁶ OJ L 361 of 29.12.1973.

⁷ OJ L 8 of 10.1.1974.

⁸ OJ L 19 of 23.1.1974.

⁹ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2240.

(i) set the withdrawal prices for 1974 for fishery products listed in Annex I (A and C) of the basic Regulation and for certain produce landed in areas very far from the main Community consumer centres. Since the method for computing these prices remains the same as that applied when the previous year's settings were made, the increased withdrawal prices are a true reflection of the rise in guide prices. The recognized producer organizations applying these Community withdrawal prices over 1974 will, if their products are withdrawn, get financial compensation adjusted to the new market situation;

(ii) cover the setting of reference prices valid for 1974 in the fishery sector. The reference prices were fixed at the same level as the corresponding withdrawal prices or at the lowest allowable level. After deep-frozen mackerel were put into the list of products concerned, a reference price was set at the same level as the reference price for the fresh product which it replaces;

(iii) cover the terms for setting entry prices. Having fixed a reference price for deep-frozen mackerel, this product had to be included in the system for setting entry prices. The adaptation coefficients were simultaneously adjusted for the various categories of the products in question;

(iv) lay down the application terms for granting financial compensation and indemnity, as well as for setting withdrawal prices and determining purchase prices for certain fishery products. Some of the provisions were streamlined by making them indefinitely valid as opposed to readopting them annually in the Regulations concerned.

Structural Policy

2233. On 22 January 1974, the Council officially adopted the Directive on hill-farming

and the farming of certain underfavoured areas. During the month the Commission also issued five Opinions on draft application terms for the three Council Directives of 17 April 1972.¹ This involves a *Belgian* draft and a *Dutch* draft concerning the modernization of farms, a Belgian draft on inducement to withdraw from agricultural activity and the reallocation of utilized agricultural area for the purposes of structural improvement and lastly two *German* drafts concerning socio-economic guidance for and the acquisition of occupational skills by persons engaged in agriculture.

Conditions of Competition

2234. Within the provisions of Article 93, paragraph 3 of the EEC Treaty, the Commission took a position on the following *Italian* aid measures:

- (i) the draft law on the granting of interest rebates to farmers of the Marches region;
- (ii) the draft law of the province of Trento on the refinancing of a provincial law of 15 December 1972 granting management credit;
- (iii) the draft law of the province of Bolzano which provides low-interest loans to farmers;
- (iv) the draft law for Lombardy concerning management credit;
- (v) the regional law of 4 October 1973 on granting low-interest loans for the benefit of farming in Campania.

The Commission came to a favourable conclusion on these measures. But the attention of the Italian Government was drawn to the fact that the Commission would scrutinize these meas-

¹ Bull. EC 4-1972, Part One, Chapter I.

ures as part of an overall review of aid granted in the form of management credit and guarantees.

Harmonization of Laws

2235. For the *marketing of fodder plant seeds*, the Commission in January 1974 adopted two Decisions to meet the needs of two Member States who have underproduced. Thus, from 18 January to 31 May 1974 the marketing of certified wheat-bearing seeds subject to less stringent requirements is authorized in *Germany*. Likewise, from 28 January to 30 September, *Italy* is authorized to market domestically, certified seeds of tall fescue and fodder peas belonging to varieties whose seeds are not marketable within her borders.

The Commission also decided to close the procedure invoked under Article 93, paragraph 2 of the EEC Treaty when it had found that the *Belgian Ministerial Decree* of 9 December 1971 respected the terms of its Decision on the termination of aid for the cultivation of alfalfa.

2236. During the sitting of 14-18 January 1974, the *European Parliament* passed several Resolutions on Commission Proposals concerning: additional measures for agriculture following revaluation of the Deutsch mark, extension of the transition period for farming products in the three new Member States, aid for hop growers, Community citrus fruits, the opening of tariff quotas for various produce (figs, grapes, wines) of Spanish origin, imports of fishery products from Tunisia and Morocco, the tariff treatment applicable to agricultural products carried in travellers' personal luggage and preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs for direct human consumption.

Industrial and Technological Policy**Industry***First Annual Report
of the Business Cooperation Centre*

2237. On 15 January 1974 the Commission sent the Council the first annual report of the Business Cooperation Centre, set up in May 1973 to facilitate cooperation between Community companies. The report shows that during its first six months activity this company 'marriage bureau' has gained solid and noteworthy results.

The best results came from its initial assignment, namely, to provide companies with information on the economic, legal, fiscal and administrative features of international cooperation and alignment. At the end of October the Centre had registered 607 requests for information. Although a good half of them did not fall within the Centre's province, the others did bear on questions of cooperation, and the Centre made every effort to supply the most comprehensive answer possible, sometimes by using its network of foreign correspondents. The enquiries concerned mostly company law, contract law, international taxation systems, investment regulations and exchange controls.

The *requests for associates* on the same date numbered 582. During the first two or three months of the Centre's life, striking differences were observed between the member countries with France and Italy lagging behind compared with Germany and the United King-

dom. Through the information drive for the benefit of France and Italy they were able to make up part of the leeway. The sectors mostly involved were the metal building industry, mechanical engineering, the food, textile and clothing trades and the service sectors. The average size of companies was about 250 people. Most of them were small or medium-sized concerns who had already exhausted the existing possibilities in their regional and national markets and who intend to find fresh scope by seeking an associate in other Community countries.

Over half of the requests regarding alignment concerned cooperation in production and marketing; about 40% were contemplating financial links as far as majority shareholdings or mergers.

At the beginning of October the Centre was able to circularize an initial batch of 42 offers of cooperation which were fully investigated (information on the nature of the company seeking cooperation, descriptions of the associate and connections sought). Reckoning with a minimum of six months negotiations between firms for contractual cooperation (mergers may require longer) the first practical results will emerge towards mid-1974.

In performing its third role of advising the qualified Community authorities on *barriers* encountered by the firms and the Centre *in achieving transnational alignment* at Community level, the Centre will have to gain wider experience than it has at the moment. But even now it is in a position to confirm that the Commission's Proposals for creating legal instruments for integration at Community level (the European Cooperation Group, the European joint stock company) and for international fiscal structures (fiscal system for mergers, fiscal system governing parent and subsidiary companies of different nationality) meet the practical needs.

Technology

High Power Motor

2238. At the request of the staff of the Commission, a group of European manufacturers of linear electric motor propulsion equipment has worked out a first outline programme for common research and development of high-powered propulsion systems for use in fast European intercity transport in the 1980's and beyond. The outline programme suggested by the companies which was presented to the staff of the Commission at a meeting would cover an initial period of two years.

In the view of the staff of the Commission, the linear motor is a promising method of propulsion for guided intercity transport at speeds over 300 k.p.h. Since the cost of its development may be substantial, and a fast intercity network of this kind will have to be planned and established on a European basis, a pooling of the research and development efforts at Community level seems a logical means of saving public money, ensuring more effective industrial development and promoting a rational transport system.

The 'club' of collaborating companies would be open to all European companies whose resources and experience in this field enables them to make a substantial contribution.

The staff of the Commission will now explore the views of Governments and potential users, with the aim of defining formal proposals by the Commission within the framework of industrial and transport policy.

Science, Research and Development Education, Scientific and Technical Information

Action Programme for Scientific and Technological Policy

2239. On 14 January 1974 the Council acted on the Commission's July 1973 Proposals concerning the Action Programme to implement a common policy for scientific research and technological development.¹ The Council also formally passed four Resolutions² concerning: (i) coordination of national policies and definition of projects of Community interest in science and technology; (ii) participation by the Community in the European Science Foundation; (iii) an initial Community action programme for science and technology; (iv) a Community action programme for forecasts, evaluations and methodology.

Science, Research and Development

Energy Research

2240. An ad hoc Group of senior Commission officials meeting for the first time on 9-12 January 1974 reviewed the ramifications of energy research in various sectors in order to ascertain the volume of financial resources which should be allocated for it.

The members of the ERDC Energy sub-Committee chaired by Mr Della Porta resumed their discussions on the matters rated as priorities during the sub-Committee's meeting on 10-11 December 1973.³

European Research and Development Committee

2241. The European Research and Development Committee held its fourth meeting on 10 January 1974 in Brussels with Mr Casimir in the Chair. The proceedings bore on the following: the results of ad hoc and sub-Committee meetings covering medical research, data processing, materials, technological forecasting and evaluations, and energy research; problems which the Community may have to deal with regarding raw materials; ERDC working methods.

2242. Regarding the *work of the Committees and sub-Committees*, those attending the ad hoc meeting on data processing, materials and medical research chaired by Mr Casimir approved the Commission's relevant Proposals embodied in the Action Programme. The Group's recommendations focus mainly on extending the medical research programme to cover rheumatic diseases, circulation disorders and cancer and on setting up close collaboration within the Community on software engineering.

Mr Della Porta, Chairman of the Energy sub-Committee submitted to the ERDC the draft of a priority programme which he drew up in December³ and is to be scrutinized in detail on 7-8 and 27 February 1974.

The sub-Group on 'long-term forecasting and technological evaluations' chaired by Lord Kennet recommended that a committee and project team be formed who would concentrate on preparing long-term programmes for forecasting

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, points 1601-1607, and Supplement 14/73 - Bull. EC.

² OJ C 7 of 27.1.1974 and Part One, Chapter 4 of this number of the Bulletin: 'Scientific and Technological Policy: Adoption of an Action Programme'.

³ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2259.

and technological evaluation. This Group will discuss in February the proposed work programme, organization and staff matters, assignments, working methods for the project team and other related questions.

2243. The ERDC also started a debate on *raw materials* against the background of the current energy crisis. The discussions will focus on materials recovery and the use of products to replace raw materials now scarce.

2244. Lastly, with regard to the ERDC *working methods* there was agreement that the Committee could be a suitable forum for advising the Commission on the guidelines of a European scientific policy and for helping it in setting Community objectives for research.

The next two meetings of the ERDC were set for 14 May and 26 September 1974.

Sub-group 'forecasting, assessment and methodology'

2245. A sub-group delegated to clarify the definition of the project 'Europe +30' and to examine whether a European technical evaluation office should be set up, in line with the Council's fourth Resolution of 14 January,¹ was formed within the ERDC. The first meeting was held on 9 January 1974 in Brussels attended by top-level experts from the Member States and various non-Member countries.

The sub-Group and the experts considered that the Commission should make an in-depth study of the chances of accomplishing the project 'Europe +30' especially with regard to developing a constantly perfectable tool for forecasting. Such a study would also be of value in ascertaining whether the Community should set up its own technological evaluation office. The preliminary talks helped to define the span and

final shape of the two projects before the work itself is assigned to specialized institutes.

Meeting of Senior Scientific and Technical Research Officials

2246. The Committee of Senior Scientific and Technical Research Officials (COST) met on 24 January 1974 with Mr Silver (United Kingdom) in the Chair. The Committee reviewed the status of the following three projects:

Forward Studies on Telecommunications (Project 20)—The senior officials delegated the enlarged Telecommunications Committee to report as soon as possible on the progress of work in hand and hoped that this would crystallize into firm action proposals with a pilot project.

Electronic Devices to facilitate the Traffic on major Road Networks (Project 30)—The Committee asked the technical sub-Group to review the execution of this project as two separate stages; for the initial preparatory stage the Committee asked for details on costs and allocation of the work with the aim of forming a concerted project.

Development and Standardization of Meteorological Equipment (Project 72)—The Committee agreed to wait for the initial results of three contracts² signed at the end of 1973 before deciding on projects to be implemented.

Regarding the re-initiation of projects where the preliminary studies are temporarily in abeyance or have been dropped the action proposals from some countries did not gain the assent of the others; but it is not ruled out that one or another of them could come up for discussion later.

¹ Part One, Chapter 4, point 1405.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2245.

Lastly, the question of *industrial ownership* under the COST agreements was discussed on the basis of a report drawn up by a select group; the Committee decided that any discussions here would focus on practical instances of future application.

Joint Research Centre

2247. As part of the work started on revising the JRC the Four-Year Programme for 1973-1976¹ a project was prepared which reckons with the first years practical experience and with research priority changes especially with regard to energy. The project is shortly to be reviewed by the Scientific and Technical Committee (CST) and the General Consultative Committee (CCG).

2248. The ad hoc Working Party for the *Blow Down project* started work on 15 January 1974. This project which is covered by a contract between the JRC and the German Ministry of Science and Technology includes work on light-water reactor safety. Various scientific and technical problems were discussed in order to define the features of the 'experimental loop' to be completed in this field.

Multiannual Research and Education Programme

Consultative Committees for Programme Management

2249. Four Consultative Committees for Programme Management (CCMGP) some of whom are authorized to handle both direct and indirect projects, met for the first time in January.

The Advisory Committee for the *standards and reference materials* of direct projects and for the

materials and reference methods (Community Reference Bureau—BCR) of indirect projects met in Brussels on 23 January 1974. After electing Mr Denègre, the General Secretary of the French Metrological Office as Chairman, the Committee reviewed the work in hand and agreed to carry on with all the projects.

No major revision of programmes is contemplated for 1974 but the Committee wanted to see the working pace of indirect projects speeded up. It will also help the Commission departments in transmitting data on this programme and will provide any information required to guide the Commission in carrying out its work.

The CCMGP on '*environmental research*' carried out either by the JRC or under contract met in Brussels on 28-29 January 1974. Mr Marckwordt (Germany) was elected Chairman. The Committee then reviewed the report from the Commission departments on the direct project carried out at Ispra and made some suggestions for the rest of the programme.

After reviewing research proposals received on 25 January 1974 as part of the indirect project which followed on the Communication published in July 1973 in the EEC Official Journal² the Committee agreed to implement forthwith a series of contracts to do with epidemiology. It will decide on the other research subjects at the next meeting set for 28 February and 1 March 1974.

The Advisory Committee for running the *hydrogen production* programme also met for the first time in Ispra on 17 January 1974. After electing its Chairman, Mr Berges (France), the Committee took note of the developments in the Ispra projects and the latest results obtained: studies on new chemical cycles, kinetic studies and the

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2261.

² OJ C 61 of 28.7.1973 and Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2225.

evaluation of thermal balance sheets. The Committee discussed these various points and decided to meet again on 21-22 May 1974 in Ispra.

Lastly, the Committee on *Processing and Storage of Waste* met for the first time on 24 January 1974 in Ispra. Mr D.W. Clelland was elected Chairman. The Committee reviewed undertakings in this field at Ispra and other European centres. Changes and new lines of activity were proposed. The next meeting was set for 30 May in Ispra.

Education

2250. Talks were held on 24-25 January between Mr Dahrendorf accompanied by senior Commission officials and members of the *Hague Club* (the group of European foundation and fund directors) on developing the education and science policy.

After this initial informative discussion it was agreed that similar meetings from time to time would serve to investigate questions of mutual interest. It might also be worth while to run periodic study meetings on subjects of common interest, such as the Europe +30 project or the cultural programme, and to examine thoroughly the scope for perfecting techniques for assessing scientific policy projects.

Scientific and Technical Information and Information Management

2251. An initial meeting of the Working Party on *biomedical information* formed within the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation (CIDST) was held in Luxembourg on 28 January 1974. Dr M.J.

Hartgerink, Director of the Nederlands Instituut voor Preventieve Geneeskunde, was elected Chairman of the Working Party. The discussions mainly bore on the data banks and on the question of utilizing medical records. The relevant situation in the various Community countries will be reviewed so that the basis of a Community project can be laid down during the Group's next meeting.

2252. A meeting of the heads of Community *nuclear documentation centres* was held in Luxembourg on 25 January 1974. The Commission outlined several changes it proposed to make in the automated nuclear data system (ENDS) run by its departments. It was also suggested that regarding 'input' the ENDS system should be based on the INIS system of the International Nuclear Energy Agency. For 'output' i.e. utilization of data (for the most part documentary research) several proposals were made basically aimed at closer integration between the service provided by the Commission and those of the national centres. A decentralization project in the ENDS system which calls for tele data-processing will be studied.

2253. The Committee on *Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation* (CIDST) held its ninth meeting on 30-31 January 1974 in Luxembourg. The key issue on the agenda was the draft budget for the financial year 1975 and the forecasts for 1976/77 with reference to the creation of a European information and documentation network.

The size and structure of budgets for coming financial years do in fact set the Community policy in the field of information and scientific and technical documentation. The discussions on the 1975 budget will continue within CIDST so as to reach a joint position on the part of the national delegations with regard to the Commission's budget proposals.

Energy Policy

Preparation and Implementation of a Community Energy Policy

2254. The problems generated by the oil crisis took a fresh turn during January 1974 thus provoking many countermoves and resulting in the adoption of decisions until then still pending.

Energy Committee and Energy Balance Sheets

2255. Thus at the meeting of 30 January the Council officially adopted a Regulation and a Decision which it had agreed in principle on 18 December 1973¹ but which could not be adopted owing to reservations by certain Member States.

The reservations having been withdrawn the Council therefore adopted the Regulation on information for the *exhaustive energy balance sheets* of the Community.² It also took a decision on setting up an *Energy Committee* made up of Member States' representatives and chaired by a Member of the Commission. This Committee will have to ensure the coordinated application by Member States of measures taken by the Community, facilitate information and consultation between Member States and the Commission on meeting the Community's energy needs and on forecastable developments and, thirdly, will have to help the Commission in preparing the Proposals it intends to put forward.

Drawing up the First Balance Sheet

2256. In line with the timetable³ it had set for executing the directives from the Summit Conference, the Commission using the voluntarily sub-

mitted data from Member States drew up and sent to the Council on 30 January an energy balance sheet embracing all the key features of the Community energy position during the last quarter of 1973 and the first three months of 1974.

Report on the Repercussions of the Energy Crisis

2257. On the basis of this energy balance sheet the Commission compiled an initial report on the current or forecastable repercussions of the energy supply situation on production, employment, prices, the balances of payments and the development of monetary reserves.⁴ The report was sent to the Council on 1 February.

Action to be taken to deal with the Energy Crisis: Commission Proposals

2258. On 11 and 18 January the Commission sent the Council a Communication on 'action to be taken in view of the current energy crisis in the Community' backed up by a set of proposed Council Decisions or Recommendations 'for solving together the problems set by the developments in the current energy crisis' and to ensure that 'all Member States on a unified and equitable basis take steps to cut down energy consumption' on the terms of the final Declaration of the Copenhagen Summit.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, points 2264-2266.

² OJ L 320 of 5.2.1973.

³ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2264.

⁴ Point 2202.

⁵ Part One, Chapter 1: 'The Community and the Energy Crisis'.

Relations with Energy Producing Countries

2259. In response to another concern of the Summit Conference, the Commission on 23 January sent the Council a Communication on 'the Community's relations with the energy producing countries'. This document asks the Council for authorization to tell the oil producing countries that the Community and Member States are prepared to open negotiations for economic, industrial, technical, technological and commercial agreements and to start exploratory talks with the countries showing interest. This same approach would mean enlarging agreements already running or under discussion with the oil producing countries.

The Washington Energy Conference

2260. Regarding the Washington Energy Conference set for 11-12 February, to which the American President has invited the Community, the Council at its meeting of 15 January 1974 agreed that the Community would attend. It will be represented by the President-in-Office of the Council and the President of the Commission. The Commission then sent the Council a Recommendation on 24 January 1974 on the Community position to be taken at the Conference. The Recommendation recalls the principles of international cooperation on energy, the organization of this cooperation and the inferences of the energy situation for the world economic situation in general and the monetary position in particular. The Council on 5 February 1974¹ reached agreement on the joint position to be adopted.

Coal

Statement by Mr Simonet on Coal Policy

* 2261. During the meeting on 28 January of the ECSC Consultative Committee, Mr Henri

Simonet, Vice-President of the Commission, put forward his views on 'the coal situation in the Community' stressing that the policy followed up to now would very shortly have to be revised. In view of the host of restrictions, interventions, protection and control measures imposed on the coal industry, it seemed impossible to get back to a market position determined largely by competition unless temporary and concomitant measures were taken by the Community and Member States.

Mr Simonet defined the 'main lines for drawing up a Community coal policy' as follows:

'(i) From now on and probably up to the end of the eighties, coal will have to cover an increasing proportion of the world's demand for energy, and above all a proportion which will be greater than had been expected even very recently. The Community's coal industry will probably be able to count on more stable outlets. The production programmes of the various member countries should therefore be re-examined to see whether they are in keeping with the new supply situation.

In addition, due thought should be given to the best way of offsetting losses of output resulting from colliery closures by, for instance, expanding or merging existing collieries, or by sinking new pits wherever the conditions are particularly promising. In that way most of the mining areas should be able to maintain their present output capacity.

(ii) This reorientation of the coal industry will require investments which, both above and under ground, will be completely different from those of the past. A return to profitability is the main prerequisite to ensure that the capital is made available. Consequently, nothing should

¹ Part One, Chapter 1, of this number of the Bulletin.

be done to counter market-oriented price setting. Where necessary, investment aids should also be considered.

(iii) There is reason to hope that a general reshaping of coal policy will give miners a greater sense of job security and better working conditions. It is important, therefore, to continue improving the technical aspects of coal mining so as to give more appeal and more importance to the miner's work, especially for the rising generation.

(iv) Where it is considered necessary, for reasons of security of supply, to keep open collieries which operate below the breakeven point, care must also be taken to provide job security by guaranteeing a minimum market in the medium-term which is unaffected by short-term economic fluctuations.

(v) Coal import policy must be dovetailed into the Community's general commercial policy and protected against short-term measures which impede the development of long-term trading relations. Existing restrictions should be progressively removed to ensure more diversified supplies, as part of the general plan to secure our energy supply.

(vi) The emphasis on coal research must remain on mining techniques and economics in order to improve the unfavourable cost situation of the Community collieries in comparison with that of other coal-producing countries. In addition a careful study must be made, bearing in mind local circumstances, to see which methods of coal gasification and liquefaction are the most promising and how the resources can be found to try them out on an industrial scale. It must not be forgotten that progress in this respect will be made not only because consumers opt for more sophisticated (liquid or gaseous) forms of energy but because of the demands of environmental protection.'

Mr Simonet felt that these points 'should be the focus of all discussions relative to the Community coal policy'.

Electricity

2262. On 11 January 1974, the Commission sent the Council a proposed Directive obliging Member States to maintain a minimum level of fuel stocks in the thermal electric power stations.

Emphasizing that any interruption of electricity supplies would wreak havoc in the vital activities of a modern society and stressing the need to strengthen the supply security of the electric power stations, the Commission considers that minimum buffer stocks must be formed and maintained at power stations enabling them at all times to meet predictable demands over a 50 day period.

The electric power stations fuelled by derived gas, and industrial and other residues would not be involved in these storage plans. Moreover, for power stations fuelled by natural gas and lignite, the deposits feeding the stations could be regarded as their stocks, provided the delivery of quantities of these fuels enables them to guarantee a 50 day electricity supply. The amount of fuel to be stored by each power station would be reckoned by the electricity producers with due consideration to the transport and inter-linking possibilities. The electricity producers could also form groups to allocate the stocks between power stations.

Member States should set up a checking system for power stations of 100 MW or more and every six months should send an inventory of existing power station stocks to the Commission.

Should the Community power stations run into supply problems, the Commission will organize consultations between Member States either at their request or on its own initiative. The

Commission proposed that the stocks be formed by 1 January 1976 at the latest.

Transport Policy

The Energy Crisis and Transport

2263. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, chaired a meeting on 11 January in Brussels with the representatives of the three Community surface transport media in order to assess the impact of the oil crisis. The meeting took stock of the situation and found that transport up to now had been affected less by the shortage than by the increased prices of fuel.

Harmonization

2264. On 17 January 1974 a meeting was held in Luxembourg with Member States' experts concerning application of the Council Regulations of 26 June 1969¹ on *public service obligations* and the *standardization of railway company accounts*. The aim of the meeting was to consolidate information held by the Commission on the application of these Regulations in the various Member States and to harmonize their application further.

On the basis of data gathered the Commission will compile a fresh report to be sent to the Council in the first half of 1974 concerning application of the Regulations.

Advisory Committee on Transport

2265. During the meeting of 10-11 January 1974 in Luxembourg the Advisory Committee

on Transport heard a statement from the Director General of Transport and then passed to a second reading of a draft Opinion on the problems arising from transport by *lighter-carrying ships* and finally adopted its definitive Opinion on these problems. The Committee recorded the status of work done within two sub-groups on implementing a *structural policy* for road and inland waterway carriage. The Committee agreed to review in the autumn a forthcoming report on conditions in river shipping.

The Committee then organized its work on reviewing questions on which the Commission wishes to have its opinion by the end of the year. These cover: the role of railways in the Community transport system, the contribution by railways to the development of the land and Community regional development, running information on conditions and trends on the transport market and the coordination of transport infrastructure investments. Lastly, the Committee reviewed an *extension of the tariff regulations* now governing international road freight haulage.

3. External Relations

Commercial Policy

Multilateral Negotiations

2301. The unofficial talks begun between those countries most directly affected with regard to the problems encountered during the initial meeting of the *Trade Negotiations Committee*¹ formed by the GATT Ministerial Conference in Tokyo² in September 1973 were resumed in January.

On the basis of a Commission Proposal prepared with the Member States, the Community will propose a work programme within the compass of GATT. It will cover a list of specified tasks assigned to the various groups set up on the basis of the paragraph 3 of the Tokyo Declaration.²

Regarding its position on the question of content (the need for a clear distinction from now on between industrial and agricultural products) the Community intends to make a statement at the meeting of the Negotiations Committee scheduled for February.

Commercial Policy

Preparation and Implementation of the Common Commercial Policy

Joint Import Systems

2302. On 21 and 30 January 1974 the Council adopted two Regulations extending the product coverage of the lists annexed to the basic Regulations of 19 December 1969³ and 25 May 1970⁴ on establishing a joint system applicable to the imports of State-trading countries and non-Member countries respectively.

For the State-trading countries⁵ this concerns a certain number of agricultural or industrial products on which quantity limits have already been discontinued by all Member States with regard to some of the countries in question. Regarding the non-Member countries (in practice those who are members of GATT) the products added to the list have been decontrolled by all Member States of the Community;⁶ there are only about 12 CCT headings or sub-headings involved.

In both cases there is no risk of the extension provoking a situation justifying the application of protection measures.

Individual Measures of Commercial Policy

Steel

2303. During January⁷ the Commission took the Decision to derogate from Recommendation 1-64 of the High Authority. They were required to enable the Agreement made between Member States in the last week of December to come into force. The Agreement suspends the import charges on iron and steel products with respect to the developing countries and allows the United Kingdom an exceptional duty-free supply of 50 000 tonnes of coils from third countries.

¹ Bull. EC 10-1973, point 2334.

² Bull. EC 9-1973, Part One, Chapter 1, point 1106.

³ OJ L 19 of 26.1.1970.

⁴ OJ L 124 of 8.6.1970.

⁵ OJ L 27 of 31.1.1974.

⁶ OJ L 29 of 2.2.1974.

⁷ OJ L 59 of 1.3.1974.

Development and Cooperation

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2304. In line with the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development during its Santiago meeting in 1972, UNCTAD resumed in January 1974 the *intensive inter-governmental discussions on commodities* which began in the autumn of 1973. Run by UNCTAD together with the FAO (The United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture) the talks had begun in October-November 1973 in Geneva¹ with tungsten. The session of 14-19 January 1974 in Rome dealt with rice and citrus fruits.

A feature of the new talks was the close coordination between the Commission and the Member States. Moreover, the Commission was called upon for the first time to represent the Community and the Member States as such within the Working Party assigned to draw up the final report of the Conference, which represent a milestone in relations between the Community and the UNO.

Food Aid

2305. The contracts concerning *emergency food aid granted* by the Community to the six Sahel countries to parry the hardship caused by two successive years of disastrous drought, were on 25 January 1974 signed by Mr. Claude Cheysson of the Commission and representatives of the six States (Upper Volta, Mali, Mauretania, Niger, Senegal and Chad). An identical contract was signed on 30 January with Ethiopia who is benefitting for the first time from Community aid. The sum total of aid to all seven countries amounts to 35.6 million u.a. to allow the prompt financing of transport and storage for the food and medical aid plus measures enabling the stricken population to resume their production activities within the year.

Regarding the food aid programme proper decided by the Council on 28 December 1973² (130 000 tonnes of cereals, 14 000 tonnes of skim milk powder and 6 000 tonnes of butteroil) it will run to a sum total of 48.5 million u.a.³ The allocation of tonnage per country is as under:

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- ¹ Bull. EC 11-1973, point 2331.
 - ² Bull. EC 12-1973, points 2308 and 2312.
 - ³ Point 2320.

Country	Cereals (per country)	Cereals (Sahel reserve)	Skim milk powder	Butteroil
Chad	10 000	—	800	150
Mali	20 000	—	2 900	300
Mauretania	10 000	—	2 000	1 000
Niger	20 000	—	3 200	1 450
Senegal	15 000	—	—	—
Upper Volta	15 000	—	2 600	1 800
Ethiopia	20 000	—	2 500	1 300
Total	110 000	20 000	14 000	6 000

2306. During the sitting of 14-18 January 1974, the European Parliament passed a Resolution on a Commission Proposal concerning the supply of skim milk powder as food aid.

International Organizations

Council of Europe

2307. The Commission attended the third part of the 25th regular meeting of the *Consultative Assembly* of the Council of Europe held on 21-25 January 1974 in Strasbourg.

During the meeting the Assembly heard a report from Mr Van Lennep, General Secretary of the OECD, which dealt mainly with the abrupt developments on the oil market and their repercussions on the world economy.

Both during the debate on the report and in the discussions on political cooperation between the States of western Europe, members of the Assembly stressed the need, even more pressing in the present situation, to strengthen and intensify political cooperation between the European countries. Regarding science and technology, the Assembly adopted a report recommending that a European Space Agency be set up by 1 April 1974 and a report recommending the formation of European Science Foundation.

The next meeting of the Assembly will be in May 1974.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

2308. The GATT Council met on 28 January to adopt the report of Mr Long, the Director General and Chairman of the Textiles Negotia-

tion Group, on the new *arrangement concerning the international textile trade* (the 'all-fibres agreement'). The new Agreement¹ to run for 4 years to some extent follows on the long-term Agreement on cotton textiles, but its application span has been enlarged to cover other products (wool, artificial and synthetic fibres, etc.). The other provisions of the earlier Agreement have also been improved.

2309. The American authorities sent the Commission and Member States a Memorandum asking for talks to be opened, in line with the provisions of Article XXIII, on the issue of the rules of origin.² The United States sent similar requests to the EFTA countries and it has been suggested that the talks be run at the same time. This approach has no doubt been made because at the meeting of 19 December 1973 the GATT Council, at the insistence of the Community, was unable to accept the American request to set up a special Working Party assigned to review and analyse the role and repercussions of the rules of origin in the free-trade areas.

International Labour Organization

2310. The second *European Regional Conference* of the ILO took place in Geneva on 14-23 January. The Commission was represented by Vice-President, Dr Hillery, in view of the important issues on the agenda and which closely concerned unemployment and income security in Europe.

After outlining the salient features of the Social Action Programme prepared by the Commission, Dr Hillery spoke of the impact of the energy

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2319.

² Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2328.

crisis on employment. He stressed the need for an assessment of the long-term effects on employment resulting from the increased costs of energy. But he pointed out that regardless of how serious the energy situation might be, we must not allow ourselves to be so absorbed that we neglect the broader and longer-term issues on which social progress hinges: 'We must not at any price allow ourselves to be distracted from our social objectives.' In conclusion Dr Hillery emphasized the fact the current economic problems made progressive social measures like those the Commission had put into its Social Action Programme even more timely.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

2311. The Commission was represented as an observer at the 17th meeting of the ECAFE *Trade Committee* held on 7-14 January 1974 in Bangkok. The Committee got down to a broad discussion on the development of trade in the region. By and large 1973 saw an appreciable progression in exports from this area. But the non-oil producing developing countries expressed anxiety over the serious repercussions threatening their economies from the energy crisis.

The member countries of ASEAN (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore) expressed their satisfaction at the closer and closer relationships between their countries and the Community and their appreciation of the seminars on generalized preferences recently run by the Commission in the ASEAN capitals. During this meeting of the Trade Committee, Community delegates commented on the substantial improvements to the Community's 1974 Generalized Preferences Scheme which cover in many cases products exported mostly by the developing countries in Asia.

Countries of the European Free-Trade Area

Joint EEC-Finland Committee

2312. The Joint Committee formed under the EEC-Finland Agreement held its first meeting on 29 January 1974 in Brussels chaired by Ambassador Penti Talvitie, Head of Finland's Mission to the European Community.

For the smooth running of the Agreement which took effect from 1 January 1974, the Joint Committee took decisions establishing its internal working rules, setting up a customs Committee and fixing the methods for administrative cooperation on customs matters. The Committee also took executive decisions concerning the rules of origin.

The Finnish delegation made a statement concerning exports of certain agricultural products.

Mediterranean Countries

Negotiations with the Mediterranean Countries

2313. With regard to relations with the Mediterranean countries under the global approach, the Council at its meeting of 14-15 January reaffirmed its resolve to adopt final negotiating Directives as swiftly as possible for the conclusion of global Agreements with Spain, Israel and the Maghreb countries and for extending the current Agreement with Malta to cover cooperation and agriculture.

With this in mind the Council assigned the Committee of Permanent Representatives to submit early in February as detailed a report as

possible and to try between now and February to settle the questions of temporary systems to be applied to these countries pending conclusion of the anticipated Agreements.¹

Turkey

2314. The new interim EEC-Turkey Agreement¹ signed in Ankara on 30 June 1973² which took effect on 1 January 1974³ will be valid until the Additional Protocol comes into force² and up to 31 December 1974 at the latest. From then on it will be tacitly renewed year by year until the Protocol takes effect.

By virtue of this interim Agreement and pending ratification of the Additional Protocol owing to the enlargement, the provisions now running between the Community and Turkey under the Association have been made applicable to the enlarged Community insofar as they cover trade.

2315. Regarding *industrial products* Turkey from 1 January 1974 will enjoy:

(a) total exemption from customs duties on these products imported by the new Member States which means that when imported by the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland the Turkish industrial products will benefit from a scheme more favourable than that of the Six. Exceptions to the scheme involve certain oil products, certain cotton yarns and textiles as well as Turkish machine-made carpets. The above items are already listed in Annex 2 of the Additional Protocol;

(b) total exemption from quantity restrictions in the three new Member States, the only exceptions being those laid down in the Act of Accession for Ireland and a quota upheld by the United Kingdom for certain textiles (clothing, sheets and pillowcases, etc.) in 1974. It should be noted that the only three tariff quotas already set for industrial products by the Additional

Protocol were raised by 70% for oil products and by about 35% for cotton yarns and cloths. Furthermore, the interim Agreement carries a joint declaration stipulating that by the end of 1974 the Association Council will review the effects of quantity restrictions imposed by the United Kingdom for certain textiles on the development of Turkey's exports in general.

Regarding the three new Member States, Turkey on the other hand will operate only limited and progressive tariff cuts according to the schedule set in the Additional Protocol and the Act of Accession. As a result the new Member States will not enjoy the same terms as the Six until the end of the transition period laid down by the Act. The annual cuts vary between 1 and 2% according to product.

2316. For *agricultural products* an appreciable improvement was allowed to Turkey insofar as the dates for the regular reviews of the preferential scheme granted her by the EEC have been brought forward one year. On this score, new preferences⁴ have already been granted to Turkey since 1 January 1974. They cover, inter alia, an increase in the hazelnut quota from 18 700 to 21 700 tonnes, the improvement of certain existing preferences or the granting of preferences for some twenty Turkish products with an average annual export value of 5 million dollars.

Furthermore, in due observance of the timetable laid down in the Act of Accession, on the markets of the new Member States Turkey has been granted all the preferences enjoyed by her products on the markets of the Six. This

¹ OJ L 277 of 3.10.1973.

² Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2304.

³ OJ L 348 of 18.12.1973.

⁴ OJ L 345 of 15.2.1973.

includes tobacco for which exemption from possible duties and quotas will progressively apply on the markets of the new Member States between now and 1977. Lastly, additional agricultural preferences have been autonomously allowed by the Community for the period of 1 January - 31 December 1974.¹

Morocco

2317. The *Protocol* setting certain provisions relating to the Agreement creating an Association between the EEC and Morocco, by virtue of the accession of the new Member States and which was signed on 2 March 1973² in Brussels, took effect on 1 January 1974.³ The exchange of the instruments notifying completion of the required procedures had been made on 28 December 1973 in Brussels.

Portugal

2318. By an exchange of letters on 30 January 1974 the *trade schemes* between Portugal and the Community were extended. The extension will run until 31 January 1975 for sardine preserves and until 30 June 1974 for tomato preparations and preserves.

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2319. During its sitting of 14-18 January 1974, the *European Parliament* approved a Commission Proposal to extend the January 1972 Regulations on Community imports of certain fishery products originating from Tunisia or Morocco.

African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries

Aid for the African countries ravaged by drought: Sahel and Ethiopia

2320. Following Decisions taken by the Council in December 1973⁴ for the benefit of the population in the Sahel countries and Ethiopia stricken by drought, the contracts covering Community financial aid were signed in Brussels on 25 and 30 January 1974.⁵

A total figure of 35 million u.a. has been written into the Commission's 1974 Budget to which may be added 600 000 u.a. carried over from the previous Budget. The sum of 35.6 million u.a. will go to the immediate financing of transport and storage for food and medical aid and action to enable the stricken population to resume their normal production activities as far as possible this year.

This token of solidarity with the African countries who have suffered exceptional hardships is itself exceptional in several respects: this is aid in addition to funds from the EDF and thus the first financing by the Community of Nine and in the case of Ethiopia, the first Community financing for a non-Associated African State.

The steady draining of credit from the 3rd EDF did not allow as large an amount as in 1973 to be allocated to the Sahel countries associated with the Community. Furthermore, the statutes of the Fund ruled out any aid to non-associated countries like Ethiopia. The deteriorating situation in 1973 and the special responsibility of Europe towards the world's most impoverished

¹ OJ L 359 of 28.12.1973.

² OJ L 239 of 27.8.1973.

³ OJ L 12 of 15.1.1974.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1973, points 2308 and 2312.

⁵ Point 2305.

countries especially in Africa led the European Parliament when reading the Commission's 1974 draft Budget to propose to the Council that special credit of 35 million u.a. be opened to grant emergency aid to the African drought victims plus 5 million u.a. for contingent transport expenses. The Proposal was accepted by the Council.¹

Highly flexible and rapid procedures were adopted for this action to go through in time. The utilization plans were prepared in December 1973 by the African Governments themselves and definitively adopted by the Commission departments in agreement with the African Government Representatives in Brussels early in January. The responsibility for carrying them out has been entrusted to the African authorities acting in liaison with EDF delegated inspectors on the spot so that the whole operation can be effectively tailored to the daily needs in the stricken areas.

With the *food aid* decided by the Council on 28 December 1973 (130 000 tonnes of cereals, 14 000 tonnes of skim milk powder and 6 000 tonnes of butteroil) representing a total value of 48 480 000 u.a. the Community contribution now amounts to 84 080 000 u.a., making it one of the largest in all the outside aid going to the Sahel and Ethiopia. To this should be added the considerable proportions of aid which some Member States have sent directly. Europe has therefore been able to play the part which her privileged relationships with Africa demand and despite the difficulties she is facing herself.

Yaoundé Convention

EEC-AASM Association Parliamentary Conference

2321. The tenth annual meeting of the Association Parliamentary Conference was held

in Rome on 30 January and 1 February 1974. The Chairman was Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer, President of the European Parliament and Mr Philippe Yace was elected as the first Vice-Chairman. During the opening ceremony speeches were made by President Berkhouwer and Mr Yace, Mr Pertini, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Mr Mohammed Warsama Ali, President-in-Office of the Association Council and Mr Pedini, Italy's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs who represented the Italian Government.

Besides the report by Mr Fall Babaha (Mauritania) on the administrative accounts for the financial year 1972 and on the estimates for 1974, the proceedings of the Conference, centred on the ninth annual activity report of the Association Council, bore mainly on the negotiations underway between the Community and fourty-four African, Caribbean and Pacific Ocean countries for the renewal and expansion of the Association.

The Conference passed a major Resolution dealing with problems of the present Association and issues being discussed in the negotiations now running; the Resolution stressed the decisive international significance of a balanced, stable and permanent cooperation agreement between the Nine, the Associated States and the 'Associables' wishing to take part.

During the Conference a number of members, speaking about the oil crisis, pointed out that the increased rates for raw materials, industrial products and foodstuffs, especially cereals, were also alarming; the current situation would yield a more searching assessment of the Association's possibilities and potential. Some speakers including Mr Yacé, Mr Berkhouwer in his open-

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2308.

Associated States

ing address and later on Mr Cheysson did in fact appeal to public opinion on this issue.

By and large the speakers supported the Association, which they regarded as a means of warding off any national self-centredness. The Parliamentary Conference was felt by all to be a useful 'sound-box' when the Yaoundé Convention was being renewed.

The Conference had been prepared at a meeting of the *Joint Committee* on 28-30 January 1974 chaired by Mr Achenbach and Mr Kassongo. Against this background the speech by Mr Cheysson, without dealing with the issues in detail, lent immediacy to the debate.

European Development Fund

Training Courses and Colloquia

2322. As part of the multiannual training programme laid down for each Associated State for the remainder of the Yaoundé Convention running from 1972 to 31 January 1975, 953 new *scholarships and training course places* were awarded for the academic year 1973-1974 to subjects of the Associated States.

200 scholarship winners have been posted to Europe and the remainder will be given places in the various African countries. The proportion of scholarships for studies in Africa is still growing thus confirming the trend towards less scholarships granted for Europe in line with provisions of Protocol 6 of the Yaoundé Convention whereby training is to be completed as far as possible in the AASM.

Currently 2 700 subjects of the AASM hold a Community scholarship of which about 62% were granted for training at universities or other institutes in the AASM.

Non-Member Countries

Meetings and Visits

2323. On 16 and 17 January a delegation from *Madagascar* led by Mr Rakotovahiny, the Minister of Agriculture, was received by the EDF in order to review the agricultural projects still to be financed by the 3rd EDF. On 18 January Mr J. Tevi, *Togoland*'s Minister for Industry and Trade, had talks with the EDF on investment projects submitted by his country. On 24 January, Mr Abdallahi Ould Daddah, the *Mauretanian* Minister of Public Works and Equipment reviewed with the EDF the projects still to be financed from the 3rd Fund.

Non-Member Countries

Asian and Latin-American Developing Countries

Iran

2324. *Exploratory talks* began in Brussels on 16 January 1974 to examine the possible basis of a new agreement between the Community and Iran to supersede the 1963 Trade Agreement which expired on 31 December 1973.

The Iranian authorities had in fact advised the Commission that they were not planning to renew the old agreement but that they were contemplating the negotiation of a new one.¹ The Commission had suggested exploratory talks in order to get some idea of the type of agreement desired by Iran.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2316.

4. Institutions and Organs of the Communities

Diplomatic Relations of the Community

Mexico

2325. A delegation from Mexico made up of officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry had talks of a technical nature in January with various Commission departments. The talks followed on the discussions in Brussels in May 1973.¹

Diplomatic Relations of the Community

2326. On 15 January 1974 the President-in-Office of the Council and the President of the Commission received the new Ambassador from *Rwanda*, Mr Ignace Karuhije, who took up his post on 28 November 1973 as his country's Representative to the European Economic Community.

On 15 January 1974, the President-in-Office of the Council and the President of the Commission also received Mr Qamarul Islam, the special and plenipotentiary Ambassador who presented his credentials as Head of the *Pakistan* Mission to the European Community.² He succeeds Mr Mohammad Masood, assigned to another post.

European Parliament

January Sitting

2401. The European Parliament met from 14 to 18 January 1974 in Strasbourg.¹

The main features of the sitting were:

- (i) Competition policy and Regulations controlling concentrations.
- (ii) The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.
- (iii) Improving EEC-USA relations.
- (iv) The Results of the Copenhagen Summit Conference.
- (v) Agricultural matters and the development of economic and monetary union.

The House also dealt with the following issues:

- (i) The European Foundation for the Improvement of the Environment and Living and Working Conditions.
- (ii) Regional Policy.
- (iii) Credit aid for State-trading countries.
- (iv) Energy policy.
- (v) Community guarantee scheme for private investment in non-Member countries.
- (vi) Supplies of skim milk powder as food aid.
- (vii) Admission of securities.

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

The nationality and Political Group of members taking part in the debates are indicated in brackets after their names, as follows: C-D (Christian Democrat), S (Socialist), L (Liberals and Allied Group), C (European Conservatives), EPD (European Progressive Democrats), COM (Communist and Allied Group (SF, Ind. Sin.)).

¹ Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2329.

² OJ C 7 of 29.1.1974.

(viii) Development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

(ix) Tenth report of the Mines Safety and Health Commission.

(x) Fourt report of the General Committee for Safety and Health in the Iron and Steel Industry.

(xi) External economic issues and the first financial report for 1971 on the EAGGF.¹

The House paid tribute to its former colleague, Mr Joseph *Illerhaus*, who died on 22 December 1973. Mr Illerhaus had been a Member of the European Parliament from 1958 to 1970.

Parliament ratified the appointments of the following Members of the Danish Folketing to the European Assembly: Mr Paul *Dalsager*, Mr Knud *Nielsen*, Mr Karl Johan *Mortensen*, Mr Jørgen Brøndlund *Nielsen*, Mr Ivar *Nørgaard*, Mr Kristen Helveg *Petersen*, Mr Knud *Thomsen*, Mr Erhard *Jakobsen*, Mr Kai *Nyborg* and Mr Jens *Maigaard*.

Statement by the President

(14 January)

2402. In a brief statement the President of the House, Mr *Berkhouwer*, pointed out the urgency of turning the principles decided by the Paris and Copenhagen Summit Conferences into hard facts. He read out a letter which he had sent to the Council President which, in view of the critical stage now reached in the move towards European unification and in view of the increasingly tense energy supply situation, urged the Council to take decisions, with due consideration of Parliament's Resolutions, to speed up the unification process. These decisions should be worthy of Europe. In conclusion, President Berkhouwer described 1974 as a crucial year for Parliament's budgetary powers and for the whole of European unification. 1974 must also see

the leeway made up, in particular the delays in agricultural, monetary and energy policy.

President Berkhouwer also read out a letter of 16 November 1973 from Mr *Ortoli*, President of the Commission, in which he confirmed that the House would be advised of Commission decisions and before they were made public.

Competition Policy and Regulations controlling Concentrations (15 January)

2403. The Chairman of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, Mr *Lange* (S, Germany) submitted on behalf of the rapporteur, Mr *Artzinger* (C-D, Germany) two reports on the Commission's second report on competition policy and on the Commission's Communication concerning implementation of coordination principles for regional aid in 1972 and on the Commission's Proposal for a Regulation on the control of concentrations between undertakings. Mr Lange said that the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee had for a considerable time been discussing with the Commission the whole of the competition policy and the allied question of the need for the control of concentrations. This represented an example of how Parliament and the Commission could work together on technical matters and influence the formulation of proposals to the Council. The Committee could confirm to the Commission that the latter with regard to competition policy had fully reflected the proposals and wishes of Parliament and the Committee also attached great importance to the idea that the Commission should receive wider powers with respect to

¹ The full text of the Parliamentary Resolutions passed during the November sitting is reproduced in OJ C 11 of 7.2.1974 and the verbatim text of the debates is printed in OJ Annex 170.

concentrations of undertakings. The Committee advocated that a European Office for Competition Policy be set up which would report to the Commission. The rapporteur conceded that under certain circumstances and in certain economic branches unbridled competition was not possible; the raw materials industry and the energy supply sector were cases in point. The Committee also felt that competing undertakings regardless of whether they were private or public should under all circumstances get equal treatment. The Community regulations for fair competition should be expanded through international agreements in order to contain the multinational companies and to ensure equivalent legal provisions. We must be able to develop a buyer's market in the Community and frame the competition policy so that the purchaser was afforded adequate choice from the market supply and the seller did not profit from a limited supply.

Lord O'Hagan (Non-affiliated, Independent, Great Britain) draftsman of the Opinion of the Social Affairs and Employment Committee, pleaded for a stronger position for the consumer and supported paras 12-14 of the Resolution motion. Regarding the Consumers Advisory Committee, he wanted to know from the Commission whether this expert Committee would work closely with Parliament.

Lord O'Hagan said he was somewhat disappointed to find that the repercussions of competition policy on employment had not been adequately dealt with in the Commission's second report. This was particularly relevant where merger control was concerned, insofar as it affected the multinationals which had a considerable effect on the Community employment situation. Mr Nolan (EPD, Ireland), commenting on the Opinion of the Budgets Committee, said that as long as the Council could not agree on the plans for the Regional Fund, we should investigate whether in the meantime financial

resources could not be made available for one year.

Mr Bermani (S, Italy) for the Legal Committee, supported the Resolution motion and the Commission's views.

Mr Mitterdorfer (C-D, Italy) draftsman of the Opinion of the Regional Policy and Transport Committee, dealt primarily with the coordination of regional aid provisions. His Committee felt that there was some degree of overlapping of the two areas, namely, regional policy on the one hand and regional policy or the Regional Fund that is to be created on the other and that there should be coordination in this respect. The Committee therefore fully supported para. 9 of the Resolution motion. It also felt that the division of the Community into two area categories, i.e. central and peripheral should be replaced by a system which allowed aid to be adapted to the degree of economic and social backwardness of the regions.

Mr Borschette of the Commission said that the Community competition policy was a reality which all undertakings would have to respect. The effectiveness of competition rules had been considerably strengthened by the decision of the Court of Justice in the Haecht case in February 1973. Even after the conclusion of agreements and understandings firms would have to amend or even terminate them if the Commission had objections. Regarding understandings the Commission was loath to dress up certain regulations in a rigid form since the economy was dynamic and we must be ready to adapt rules to this reality.

The Commission would keep a watchful eye on competition distortions in the Community and make every effort to gain price reductions for the benefit of the consumer. It was also desirable to amplify the exchange of information between the Community and Member States. The Commission was particularly concerned to protect the consumer from improper competition. Regard-

ing the multinational companies, anti-trust regulations should be drawn up by international agreement.

Mr *Burgbacher* (C-D, Germany) for his Group described the competition law as both a necessary and highly dangerous law. The competition law could ensure competition; but it had its limits wherever there was a risk or intention to transform the free and social market economy into a planned economy. It was important to create an international competition law; until it existed, we in Europe could not create a competition law as if we were alone in the world. Competition law must not be the master of the economy but its servant and so contribute to the development of the European economy. It was also crucial to put public and private undertakings on absolutely the same footing under competition law.

Mr *Harmegnies* (Belgium) for the Socialists asked for more stringent control of competition, which should underwrite the Community's social and economic objectives. He supported the creation of a European Cartel Office and European Competition Office.

Sir Derek *Walker-Smith* (Great Britain) for the Conservatives stressed that competition restrictions must not impair the market. Concentrations were often the only way of raising production capacity which again increased the well-being of the population. Sir Derek put forward his Group's basic objections to the Commission's concentration control Proposal. Mr *Cousté* (EPD, France) for his Group severely criticized the Commission Proposal and reproached the Commission with allying itself with the big US undertakings and consolidating their expansion in the Community and on the world market. The concentrations necessary for the Community should not be impeded. The Community should take its cue from the flexible attitude of the USA; there was no thought there of restricting companies with preventive con-

trols. The Community was going through a phase where undertakings must be given the chance to gain optimal size and economic strength through concentrations.

This applied especially to the role of solidarity which the European undertakings could play in the progress of the developing nations, especially the Arab countries. Mr *Leonardi* (Italy) for the Communists reminded the House of the monopoly of the oil companies who had profited from the present crisis at the expense of the consumer. Competition conditions must be applied in such a way that they served the common good.

Mr *Normanton* (C, Great Britain) warned against domination by European and non-European undertakings. Competition capacity should therefore be in no way diminished. Mr *Patijn* (S, Netherlands) tackled the effects of concentrations on the job situation for workers. Mr *Bordu* (COM, France) recommended that the terms for movements of capital be coordinated in order to limit American investments in Europe, control the multinational subsidiaries and comply with the real interests of the workers by means of genuine cooperation. Mr *Brewis* (C, Great Britain) stressed the advantages of private enterprise and advocated further improvements to the machinery at the Commission's disposal. Mr *Armengaud* (L, France) asked the Commission for information on the optimal form for concentrations so as not to undermine the market and disrupt the employment situation. We had to monitor the market but mergers were also sometimes necessary. Mr *d'Angelosante* (COM, Italy) did not deny the positive side of the Commission's proposed Regulation, but spoke of the uncertainty of the envisaged monitoring machinery. Mr *Broeksz* (S, Netherlands) regretted that the economic and legal objections put forward in the debate had not already been mentioned when the Berkhouwer report was presented.

Mr *Borschette* of the Commission, at the end of the debate confirmed that the Commission would endeavour to provide the most extensively open market possible within the Community. At a time of mounting inflation every artificial division of the market should be urgently and actively resisted. Although certain price-rises were not tantamount to flagrant abuse, they must at least be regarded as improper exploitation of a far-reaching sphere of action. Mr *Borschette* spoke out emphatically against understandings to limit investments; but this did not rule out more detailed information for the Commission on the market development of a particular sector.

In applying Article 154 of the Accession Treaty which covered the coordination of regional aid schemes in the Community, the Commission had committed itself to establish effective criteria by the end of 1974. For certain regions aid would be discontinued while the others would get aid scaled between 20 and 40% according to the intensity of the problems.

On a motion by the Chairman of the Conservatives, Mr *Kirk*, the House referred the report on concentrations among undertakings back to the competent Committee.

In the Resolution on competition policy, Parliament recognized that in its second report the Commission had met a number of wishes expressed by the House. Parliament supported the Commission's efforts to acquire powers in respect of industrial concentrations comparable with its powers on restrictive agreements. The House requested the Commission to consider the possibility of harmonizing national provisions on unfair competition and considered it desirable to establish a European Office for Competition Policy which would receive policy guidance from the Commission but which would otherwise act independently in carrying out investigations and taking decisions.

The House was also awaiting the early replacement of existing regional aid regulations by a regulation under which the scale of aid would be scaled to the economic and social backwardness of a given region. It found that the chapter on public undertakings contained no guidelines and reiterated its request to the Commission to draw up Directives and decisions designed to remove distortion of competition between public and private undertakings.

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (16 January)

2404. Sir Tufton *Beamish* (C, Great Britain) spoke to the Oral Question with debate on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which he had put to the Council on behalf of the European Conservatives. He put forward the view that at the CSCE and the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction Conference (MBFR) in Vienna, Europe should speak with one voice. Sir Tufton reminded the House of the superiority of the Warsaw Pact forces and urged that Europe was entitled to organize her own defence. The trade agreements with the USSR should not allow her to raise her defence efforts, strengthen her sway of the Eastern European countries and oppress liberty even further. It was noteworthy that in 1973 the Western nations alone had granted more aid to the developing countries than the Eastern bloc had done over twenty years. Sir Tufton described Germany's Ostpolitik as a somewhat dangerous precedent for the Community. In conclusion, he said that the Davignon procedure was outdated and he asked that a political secretariat be set up in the existing Community institutions.

Mr *Blumenfeld* (C-D, Germany) spoke to the Oral Question with debate on the Community's representation at the CSCE and with regard to the USA which he and four other members had

put to the Council. He wanted to know whether the formula applied in Geneva would meet the political requirements of the Paris Summit whereby the Community was to be represented abroad by the Council and Commission. The aim was for the Community to be represented as far as possible on all the Geneva Conference Committees. He mentioned in particular Committees Nos 2 and 3 who were dealing with trade and economic questions together with the free movement of persons, information and ideas; here it was clearly a case of Community authorities.

The Chairman-in-Office of the Council, Mr Scheel, the German Foreign Minister who answered both Questions, said that real representation at the CSCE for the Community in all spheres of its responsibility was guaranteed. The representative of the Commission would be speaking on behalf of the Community for all issues which concerned it. Mr Scheel said that we would not allow ourselves to be put under pressure with regard to time or eventual success. When we entered the third stage of the Conference, we should be able to talk about whether the Conference had been a success, whether it must proceed further and what was to happen after it was over. Member States and the Community itself should do everything to make the Conference a success for it would be really absurd to have agreed on the Conference and then not to proceed with the necessary energy to reach the goals. The President of the Commission, Mr Ortoli, also pointed out that although the CSCE was a Conference of States the Community had made sure that the Community standpoint on Community questions was expressed in Community form. Regarding the Community's competence, this embraced primarily economic problems; the Community was represented on the Economic and Monetary Committee and on all its sub-groups.

For the Socialist Group, Mr Radoux (S, Belgium) pointed out that the Council and Commission were not competent to deal with the MBFR Conference. As for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, work on this had not got very far, but one could not expect the backlog of years to be made up in a flash. He was particularly glad that the issues of defence and détente were to be treated together; at all events it was vital for both Conferences not to wind up as failures.

For the Liberals and Allied Group, Lord Gladwyn (Great Britain) said that Parliament should be brought more closely into those issues which Sir Tufton Beamish had referred to in his comments. Mr Bordu (France) for the Communists and Allied Group deplored the distrust of the European Conservatives regarding the USSR and the Eastern countries and hoped for a further détente between the capitalist and Socialist States. Mr Corderier (S, Germany) endorsed Sir Tufton Beamish's remarks; Germany's Ostpolitik could become a dangerous precedent for the Community. On the other side, he spoke of considerable progress in East-West relations and described the Berlin Agreement as a positive factor. Sir John Peel (C, Great Britain) pointed out that the Nine should never neglect the question of security in both Conferences. Mr Jahn (C-D, Germany) stressed that the Community's objectives, especially economic and monetary union, should neither be held up, blocked or even impeded by the CSCE. The peoples of the European Community would of course respect the sovereignty of all States, but the peoples of the Community were firmly resolved to gradually cede their sovereign rights to the Community. When the inviolability and immutability of frontiers came up in the CSCE programme, this did not preclude our wishing to break down frontiers in the Community including those of the new Members. Agreeing with Mr Corderier, Mr Jahn stressed that the inviolability and immutability of frontiers did not

mean that they could not be changed through the right of self-determination. Sir Douglas *Dodds-Parker* (C, Great Britain) said that his Group wanted to see improved relations with the Soviet Union but we still had to be vigilant. He highlighted the close link between the economic situation and defence, and recalled the developments of the 1920's and 1930's. Mr *Bersani* (C-D, Italy) described the issues of both Conferences as all-important for European unification. Parliament should therefore assign the Political Committee to compile a detailed report on the Helsinki, Vienna and Geneva Conferences.

Mr *Scheel*, the President of the Council, stressed that agreement with the Warsaw pact countries and enhanced cooperation in Europe were only conceivable on the basis of faster progress towards integration in our Community. Sir *Tufton Beamish* had said that he wished we had a Political Secretariat which did not yet exist. But we had the decision of the Paris Summit Conference that by 1980 a political union must come into being, and the decision of the Heads of Government in Copenhagen that the preparatory work for it should be speeded up. Europe could advance on either a federative or confederative basis; it could move as it wanted, but move it must and move forwards! One thing was certain: the European union to be created by 1980 would be a Europe with a common government. The world could only live in peace if the variously structured countries could associate in friendship and develop the forms for such association. This was the whole background to the present détente and the new European policy.

Improvement of EEC-USA Relations (16 January)

2405. Mr *Jahn* (C-D, Germany) spoke to the Oral Question with debate on the chances for improving relations between the Community and

the United States which with seven other colleagues he had put to the Council and Commission.

The text drafted by the Foreign Ministers on 10-11 September 1973 on relations between the Community and the USA was anything but the outline of a long-term programme of cooperation with the USA, said Mr *Jahn* (C-D, Germany). The declaration on European identity was of the vaguest; only a single paragraph of this declaration was devoted to relations with the United States. The Political Committee and other Committees had expressed astonishment over what came out of the Radoux report. A European identity could not be conjured up by constantly reiterating it as a new concept. It could only be created by making unmistakable political statements which were then converted into facts. In conclusion, Mr *Jahn* pointed out that already a working model of the required dialogue between members of the European Parliament and the American Congress was available in the Parliamentary sphere.

Mr *Fellermann* (Germany) for the Socialist Group asked whether it was appropriate at this time to hold a debate on Community relations with the USA. The dialogue between the United States and the Community would have to remain a permanent dialogue in the spirit of our traditional friendship but also a dialogue on the basis of equality between two partners and a dialogue, if equality was rightly understood, in which two partners, if they had to, spoke out frankly and clearly to each other.

It would now depend whether in overcoming the energy crisis Europe and the United States would become aware, through genuine cooperation, of their worldwide responsibilities. For the Communist and Allied Group, Mr *Sandri* (Italy) asked who was responsible for the deterioration of relations between Europe and the USA. He asked for an independent attitude on the part of Europe towards the United States.

Sir Christopher *Soames*, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for external relations, said that we all clearly understood that we all wanted a new form of cooperation with the USA, i.e. an equally based partnership. If we desired such a partnership, Europe must herself create the prerequisites for it. Member States should stop subordinating the European interest to national considerations. If the Commission submitted proposals these were discussed only from the national standpoint; under these circumstances Europe should not be surprised if she was not treated as a fully-fledged partner. Sir Christopher recalled the great, perhaps exaggerated, expectations which in 1973 had built up over EEC-USA relations. Moreover, it was always difficult for old friends to redefine relationships. At the end of the year this process was overshadowed by the specific problems of the energy crisis which were developing into a test case. It now depended on the answers to the key issue of energy supply. This crisis was a challenge to everyone. The USA was ready to take on heavier burdens in solving the energy crisis and the Commission warmly welcomed the Council's decision to consider President Nixon's invitation.

The President-in-Office of the Council, Mr *Scheel*, did not share the Questioner's pessimism. Relations with the USA were part of the problems engaging the Council from the point of view of a constructive dialogue. For the trade negotiations within GATT the Community had already on 1 July 1973 worked out a global concept. The Council could assure the House that it would enter into negotiations as soon as the other main partners were in a position to do so. Regarding the dialogue with the USA, the necessary means for continuing and improving it had been discussed for many weeks now both within the Council and in the contact talks with the American authorities which the Commission was attending. These negotiations had up to now made satisfactory headway.

Results of the Copenhagen Summit Conference (16 January)

2406. The rapporteur, Mr *Radoux* (S, Belgium) submitted a report on the outcome of the Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government in Copenhagen on 14-15 December 1973 and on measures taken as a result. Mr Radoux described 1974 as a decisive year for the progress of European unification. With respect to the future summit conferences, the Political Committee held that from now on it behoved the State holding Presidency of the Council to call summit conferences to the extent that it considered them desirable. Mr Radoux was highly critical of the Council's working methods: the Council must finally act as a Community institution and make this known abroad.

Mr *Ortoni*, President of the Commission, said of the Council and governments leaders' decision to meet regularly that it was important that such a dialogue was being opened at a point in time when the Community had to perfect itself and complete the transition into European Union. Furthermore, it was significant that at last we could start preparing a Community energy policy. Mr *Ortoni* said 1974 was a decisive year for Europe and Europe should not only react but act.

The Spokesman for the Christian Democrats, Mr *Bertrand* (Belgium) deplored the meagre results in regional, economic and monetary policy; the leeway in the European unification process could not be made up by holding regular summit conferences. He welcomed the Council's acceptance of President Nixon's invitation to the Energy Conference but complained that the Council had not yet taken the time to think about improving its working methods. For the Socialists' Mr *Vals* (France) put forward objection against the regular holding of summit conferences for they could never amount to a

'super Council'. His Group would support the Resolution on the Radoux report. Lord Gladwyn for the Liberals and Allied Group, and Mr Lenihan for the EPD Group opposed regular summit conferences because the European issues should be discussed and solved within the Council. Mr Ansart (France) for the Communists and Allied Group said the Resolution motion was unsatisfactory. Sir Tufton Beamish (Great Britain) for the Conservatives asked for summit conferences to be thoroughly prepared and, where possible, for a certain consensus to be reached beforehand. He thought that the Community efforts towards a satisfactory solution of the Middle East problem was a positive factor but regretted the lack of a Community energy concept. Mr Nørgaard (S, Denmark) and Mr Maigaard (COM) strongly opposed joint measures for foreign and defence policy. But they were unable to get the relevant wording deleted from the Resolution motion. Mr Petersen (L, Denmark) and Mr Dalsager (S, Denmark) spoke for the concept of European identity. The Chairman of the Political Committee, Mr Giraudo (C-D, Italy) and Mr Scelba (C-D, Italy) also opposed too frequent summit conferences. A European government was indispensable for achieving a European policy.

In the Resolution the House expressed its satisfaction with the decision by the Heads of State or Government to expedite the achievement of European union. Parliament took note of the principles of European identity solemnly affirmed by the Heads of State or Government but insisted that they should be rapidly made tangible by more efficient and compelling procedures for common action, particularly in the fields of foreign policy and defence.

It was appreciated that a common energy policy with a precise timetable had finally been envisaged but the House expected that all Member States would resolutely undertake to coordinate their actions in complete solidarity within a

Community framework. The House was deeply concerned by the prospect of worsening economic and social conditions especially in the field of employment and called for Community action to overcome the problems. The House also reaffirmed that conferences of Heads of State or Government of the Member States could not take the place of Community institutions nor displace their responsibilities.

Question Time (16 January)

Questions to the Council

Collective Underwriting of a Settlement of the Arab-Israel Conflict

2407a. Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (C, Great Britain) asked the Council what proposals had been agreed between members of the EEC to offer to underwrite collectively any settlement which might be reached in the Arab-Israel conflict. The President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Scheel, the German Foreign Minister, replied that this question did not fall within the Council's province and that 'it should be referred to the Foreign Affairs Ministers when they meet to discuss foreign policy within the framework of European political cooperation'. He reminded the House that at its session of 6 November 1973 the Council had confirmed that Member States were resolved to contribute individually and jointly towards an equitable solution of the Middle East problem. To a further question from Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker and Sir Tufton Beamish, Mr Scheel said that in the Middle East we must look for the way to a lasting peace. But this could only be found on the basis of the Resolution of the United Nations Security Council. The political opinion of the countries making up the Community was on the

whole that this Resolution, No 242, still formed the basis for the achievement of peace in the Middle East even now.

Further Action on Positions adopted by the European Parliament on the Situation in Chile. — Measures in connection with the European Parliament's Resolution on the military Coup d'Etat in Chile

2407b. To two Questions from Mr Ansart (COM, France) and Mr Vals (S, France) on Council measures in view of developments in Chile, the President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Scheel, said that the problems involved in these Questions did not fall within the Council's competence and it could therefore not take a position. To a supplementary question Mr Scheel said that what States could do now was to take an interest in the problems that had arisen and accept refugees. It was less desirable to mount large-scale spectacular protests which produced nothing than to take discreet action to help people who were in danger. This was the attitude in all Member States.

Mr Fellermaier (S, Germany) wanted to know whether the nature of the special relations between the EEC, and the signatories to the Andean Treaty was being coloured by events in Chile and whether to this extent the subject did fall within the Council's terms of reference.

Mr Scheel agreed that relations with certain regions of the world were influenced by political developments in those regions. But for the situations mentioned in the Questions, the Council was not qualified to answer.

Arab-European Conference

2407c. To the Question from Mr Cousté (EPD, France) whether an Arab-European Conference had been planned and what could be expected from it, the President-in-Office of the Council replied that nothing had been heard by the Council of a conference of this

sort. Mr Cousté then recalled the initiative taken by the French Government which the Council must certainly be aware of.

Mr Scheel pointed out that the French Foreign Minister, Mr Jobert, had expressed the wish at the Copenhagen Conference. This had not come under Council discussion because no move had been made to put it before the Council. Mr Burgbacher (C-D, Germany) asked the Council President whether the Council 'does not have the right or the politically possibility of intervening when bilateral talks between Member States and a community of states outside the EEC of very considerable interest to the EEC are about to begin in order to prevent final bilateral agreements and to raise them to a supernational level?' Mr Scheel said this was the case if such agreements did not tally with common policy or did not fall within the framework of common policy; but a case of this kind had not as yet arisen. To a supplementary question from Mr Normanton (C, Great Britain) Mr Scheel replied that the relationship of industrial States with the raw material producing States would have to be remodeled. Commenting on President Nixon's offer to hold an Energy Conference, Mr Scheel said that it was not a question of trying to organize a consumer cartel or a consumer oligopoly, but that a step was to be taken along the sensible road towards cooperation between producer and consumer countries. Replying to Mr Scott-Hopkins (C, Great Britain) Mr Scheel said the Community was preparing for this Conference; it would be represented there as a Community and by the Presidents of the Council and Commission. A common energy policy could not be worked out by 11 February; but by then European ideas could be aligned to such an extent that common positions could be adopted on certain areas. At any event he hoped that the European identity would become apparent at the Washington Conference. This identity was Europe's ability to take joint action.

Questions to the Commission

Qualifications for the Veterinary Profession

2407d. Replying to a Question from Mr John Hill (C, Great Britain) on the need to operate a system of numerous clauses in training veterinary surgeons, Mr Dahrendorf of the Commission said that at the moment the Community did not have any legal basis enabling it to settle the numerous clauses problem. The proposed Directives on the veterinary profession based on Article 57 of the EEC Treaty had as their objective the freedom of movement of practitioners within the Community. There was therefore no connection with the question of restricting the number of students admitted to university veterinary faculties nor could it be the object of those Directives to limit access to the profession. To a further question from Mr John Hill, Mr Dahrendorf said that there would probably be a Council meeting in the first half of 1974 and the agenda would include the question of reciprocal recognition of diplomas and freedom of movement for all professions concerned.

Ratification Procedures for the Convention establishing a European University Institute

2407e. To the Question from Mr Broeksz (S, Netherlands) Mr Dahrendorf replied that so far only Italy had signed the agreement to found a European University Institute in Florence. Probably all the other Member States would sign it by the summer of this year. He was still assuming that the Institute would open on 1 October 1974. He also pointed out that the Commission had played only a very limited and modest part in the preparations for the Institute. Concerning the relationship between the University Institute of Florence and the College of Europe in Bruges, Mr Dahrendorf said that the projects did not impinge on one another. On the contrary, there were plans for coopera-

tion between the academic boards of both bodies with parallel or convergent teaching and research projects on the basis of a rational division of labour.

Action taken by the Commission on Opinions and Proposals put forward by the European Parliament (16 January)

2408. Mr Thomson of the Commission first made a statement on action taken by the Commission on Opinions and Proposals put forward by Parliament.

He then told the House about the status of the Council debate¹ on regional policy. The key problem was adequate endowment of the Regional Fund. The deliberations within the Council had once again shown that failing reasonable resources no satisfactory distribution scheme could materialize. The Council had stopped the clock until 30 January. But it was highly unsatisfactory that for want of agreement on regions, firm headway on energy and the transition to a second stage of economic and monetary union was still blocked.

He stressed that the three countries with major regional problems declined to limit the Fund only to themselves. Their position was therefore consistent with the Commission's advocated policy that a regional policy should be a living and growing creation. Mr Thomson welcomed the readiness of all Member States to reach a satisfactory solution. The various models presented in one way or another all tallied with the Commission's ideas on endowment and allocation and all of them aimed, albeit in different ways, to ensure an appropriate degree of priority for the three Member States who, with Greenland, had the severest regional problems.

After Mr Thomson's statement, Mr Bertrand (C-D, Belgium), Mr James Hill (C, Great

¹ 272nd Session, point 24.

Britain), Chairman of the Regional Policy and Transport Committee, Mr *Brewis* (C, Great Britain) and Mr *Delmotte* (S, Belgium) all spoke. They criticized the Council's work, asked for the Fund to be endowed with the necessary resources and demanded detailed information on the backward Community regions.

Further Development of the Economic and Monetary Union
(17 January)

2409. Sir Brandon *Rhys-Williams* (C, Great Britain) tabled a Resolution motion by the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee on the further development of economic and monetary union.

He dealt with oil crisis relationships and called on the Council to show more Community spirit in the necessary decisions than had been evident in the conclusion of short-term monetary agreements. For the Socialists, Mr *Lange* (Germany) advised that during the December sitting the House had urged the Council to take the necessary decisions for transition into the next stage of economic and monetary union. Both the Economic Committee and the Socialist Group did not think much of the gimmick of 'stopping the clock' in the Community. It had to be insisted that the Council fulfill its duty as a Community institution and did what the Summit Conference in Copenhagen had defined as urgent and necessary tasks. Instead the Council was behaving like an inter-governmental conference where the delegates always tried to reach agreement on the lowest common denominator. The Community was at a crossroads and many Council members were acting as if they were no longer interested in European integration but were simply trying to protect their national interests within international agreements. For the Christian Democrats, Mr *Schwörer* (Germany) particularly regretted that agreement had so far not been reached on the European

Regional Fund as the keel of a European regional policy. Mr *Schwörer* also dealt with energy policy, especially the cost aspects. Mr *Dalsager* (S, Denmark) said he supported the Resolution motion but was astonished that it made no reference to the currency disparities within the Community, for the floating currencies were acting as a drag on economic cooperation. Mr *Lardinois*, Member of the Commission, spoke briefly. He would pass on Members' views and especially their criticisms to the Commission.

In the Resolution the House deplored the failure of the Council to give full effect to the Resolutions of Parliament regarding economic and monetary union and the establishment of a Regional Development Fund and asked the Council to implement them forthwith. The House considered that the grave monetary situation, made critical by the rise in oil prices, made even more necessary the closest convergence of Community economic policies. The House called on the Council to reconcile sectoral and national positions and to respond to the overriding interest of Europe as a whole.

Energy Policy
(17 January)

2410. Acting for the Questioner, Mr *Blumenfeld* (C-D, Germany), Mr *Jahn* (C-D, Germany) spoke to the Oral Question without debate on energy policy which had been put to the Commission. In the Question, Mr *Blumenfeld* had complained that Member States' Governments were negotiating individually with the oil-exporting countries on petroleum deliveries and the share of the national oil companies of these exporting countries in refineries and in the distribution of oil products in the relevant Member States. Mr *Jahn* stressed that bilateral agreements impeded the efforts towards a com-

mon energy policy and generated price distortions. This selfish bilateral form of insurance also led the Arab oil producing countries to try and play one Member State against another. Mr *Simonet*, Vice-President of the Commission, announced that the Commission would propose a code of proper conduct for Member States when concluding cooperation agreements with the oil producing countries. This would be done in a few days time and the Commission would press the Council to examine it by the end of January. Mr *Simonet* also pointed to the tendency of both the oil producers and the consumer countries to deprive the oil companies of their long-standing distribution monopoly. This had been reflected in the Agreement between France and Saudi-Arabia. Mr *Simonet* took the view that such agreements presented the inherent risk of a decline in international trade. In view of this situation it was now imperative to take action to put such agreements into a multilateral framework and harmonize them.

Development of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes

(17 January)

2411. Mr *Armengaud* (L, France) spoke to the Oral Question with debate on the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, which he had put to the Commission on behalf of the Liberals and Allied Group. He urged the Commission to do its utmost to speed up the preparation of a Community concept in this sphere so that the Community in 1980 would not be facing a dearth situation. Europe had to stop being dependent on the goodwill of the United States or the Arab countries. Moreover, every technological setback was a serious risk to the Community's employment situation and could provoke dangerous upheavals.

In the debate the spokesmen of the EPD Group and the European Conservatives, Mr *Bousch* and Lord *Bessborough*, agreed that in the short-term reasonable progress could only be made through the simultaneous development of the gas diffusion and gas centrifuge processes. For the Socialists, Mr *Nørgaard* asked for a thorough investigation of the pros and cons of the individual processes. He also took the view that setting up an alternative programme for energy supply would present very serious problems.

Mr *Simonet*, Vice-President of the Commission, responsible for energy problems, said that the decision in the short-term to continue the enrichment of fissionable material with both the gas diffusion and gas centrifuge processes was the only economically and politically realistic solution. Close mutual agreement would have to be reached between the protagonists of both processes, the consumers and the Commission. Apart from national interest, fundamental problems were involved here. Both the techniques now in practice and the envisaged imports from the USA and the USSR should offer the guarantee that the price does not rise too high for the European consumer.

To prevent wider price fluctuations, the formation of stocks of fissionable material which could be accumulated when prices fall or reduced when prices rose, would be a worthwhile exercise.

Agricultural Questions

(17 and 18 January)

Commission Communication on Agricultural Prices

2412. Mr *Lardinois*, Member of the Commission responsible for agriculture announced that the Commissions Proposal on farm prices for the marketing year 1974/1975 would mean an average rise of 7%. The increase had been kept

down to 4% in the cereal sector, but was correspondingly greater for animal products.

The new Proposals had been worked out on the basis of objective criteria (such as the trend of non-agricultural incomes, the development of production costs) with due consideration of the development of the farming market situation. They would give modern farms the chance to keep up with the trend of comparable incomes outside agriculture. The Commission did not reckon that additional expenditure would arise from the increase in farm prices.

Mr Scott-Nopkins (C, Great Britain) wanted to know whether the 4% increase for cereals would not aggravate the problems for beef and milk production which stemmed partly from the question of fodders. Mr Héger (C-D, Belgium) enquired as to how much the butter price would drop. Mr De Koning (C-D, Netherlands) and Mr Martens (C-D, Belgium) asked for information on the relationship between the Proposals and the development of the world market and on the production costs in the dairy economy.

Mr Fellermaier (S, Germany) asked whether the 1974 budget estimates would in every case be covered by the average increase or would the Member States have to put up more funds at the end of the year. Mr McDonald (C-D, Ireland) expressed his concern for the Irish farms and Mr Cipolla (COM, Italy) asked about deficiency prices and the basic regulations for wine, fruit and vegetables. Mr Frehsee (S, Germany) welcomed the fact that the Proposals maintained a balance between the valid claims of the farmers faced with rising production costs, the interests of foodstuffs consumers affected by the present inflationary trend and the requirements dictated by the need to guide and direct production.

Mr Baas (L, Netherlands) and Mr John Hill (C, Great Britain) asked for further details on milk powder. Mr Brewis (C, Great Britain) enquired whether the price adjustments had been discus-

sed with COPA and Mr Gibbons (EPD, Ireland) reminded the House of the problems on the beef market owing to the huge increase in Community imports. Mr Liogier (EPD, France) and Mr Lemoine (COM, France) also spoke of the critical beef market situation and asked for details on the setting of purchase prices of wine for distilling.

In conclusion, Mr Lardinois said that the 4% increase in cereal prices was a balanced one; the Commission was investigating the trend of rising costs over several years and not on a year-to-year basis. He described the Commission's Proposals as definitely anti-inflationary. The current Proposals entailed no supplementary budget as long as the Council did not diverge to any extent from the Commission's Proposals.

After the debate the Commission statement was referred to the Committee on Agriculture for review.

*First Financial Report
for 1971 on the EAGGF
(17 January)*

2413. Mr Pêtre (C-D, Belgium) spoke to the Oral Question with debate on the first financial report for 1971 on the EAGGF, a question which he had put to the Commission for the Budgets Committee. Mr Pêtre dealt with the following issues: auditing of accounts for the transition period, allocation of credits granted by the Guidance Section, financial control and anti-fraud flying squads. Regarding the auditing of transitional accounts, the Committee thought that the accounts for 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970 of the Guarantee Section could be closed. Regarding the Guidance Section, Mr Pêtre pointed out that owing to inadequate resources for 1971, 260 out of 808 worthwhile projects submitted had had to be rejected; in other words, one out of three. The situation

got even worse in 1972 when the Guidance Section had to reject one project out of two. As for the antifraud flying squads, Mr Pêtre wanted more information from the Commission and from the Fraud Committee which met on 29 November last.

Mr *Lardinois* of the Commission said that Mr Pêté's idea of closing the accounts for 1967-1970 was tempting but involved certain difficulties. The monetary developments in the Community required the closest scrutiny.

EAGGF Payments

2414. Mr *Cipolla* (COM, Italy) spoke to the Oral Question with debate on the payments made by the EAGGF which he had put to the Commission for his Group. He asked for precise details on the figures for the allocation of EAGGF funds per unit of active farming population for all Community countries. There was a pronounced unevenness between the Member States. Mr Cipolla wanted to know whether the imbalance had grown or diminished over recent years. He urged the Commission to pay more attention to the variances which could be found in the allocation of Community resources.

Commissioner *Lardinois* emphatically rebutted the contention of President Pompidou in September 1973 that the Dutch farmers had been given heavy preference over French farmers for EAGGF payments. In 1970 and 1972 which were normal years, total resources of 2 733 thousand million u.a. had come out of the EAGGF with 658 million for Germany, 170 million for Belgium, 886 million for France, 624 million for Italy, 6 million for Luxembourg and 389 million for the Netherlands. Because of their farming structures the Dutch were in a special position; but this was no reason for special treatment. 'You could not judge the

significance of oil imports on the basis of the individual forecourt attendant.'

Aid for Hop Producers for 1972 Harvest

2415. Mr *Früh* (C-D, Germany) the rapporteur on the Commission's proposed Regulation for setting aid to hop growers for the 1972 harvest, pointed out that with the enlargement of the Community the number of hopgrowing areas had increased. The Committee on Agriculture therefore thought that the Commission Proposal to provide aid for only five varieties was no longer justified in today's circumstances.

The aid should be extended to cover all eleven varieties grown in the Community.

In the Resolution the House approved in principle the Commission's Proposal but asked the Commission to incorporate into the Proposal the extension proposed by the House to cover all varieties on offer within the Community.

Imports of Agricultural Products in Travelers' Personal Luggage

2416. In the Resolution on the Commission's proposed Regulation concerning the tariff treatment for agricultural products imported in travellers' personal luggage (*Hunault Report*) the House felt that implementation of the Proposal would have a favourable psychological impact on the peoples of the Community. It therefore requested the Commission to apply an identical exemption in respect of the compensatory amounts and other taxes imposed in intra-Community trade on agricultural products in general, to certain processed agricultural products contained in travellers' personal luggage, as was envisaged by the Directive on tax exemption for passenger traffic.

Agricultural Measures following Revaluation of the Deutsch Mark

2417. The rapporteur on the Commission's proposed Decision on consolidating agricultural measures in connection with the revaluation of the DM, Mr Héger (C-D, Belgium) protested that the House had only been consulted after the Council had made its decision and the German farmers were already from 1 January benefitting from the ruling not officially approved.

In its Resolution the House raised no objections to the income adjustments in favour of German farmers for 1974. But it urged the Commission to submit in the near future a Proposal for harmonizing the existent divergent provisions and any other measures which might unfortunately prove necessary in this field in future.

Production and Marketing of Citrus Fruits in the Community

2418. The House approved the Commission's proposed Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 2511/69 on special measures to improve production and marketing of Community citrus fruits. But the Commission was asked to submit a report on application of this Regulation before the 1978 marketing year and if necessary submit proposals for reform of the system.

Transitional Measures for Agricultural Products in the new Member States

2419. Parliament approved without debate the Commission's proposed Regulation on extending the time limits for transitional measures relating to agricultural products in the new Member States.

Supplies of Skim Milk Powder as Food Aid

2420. Parliament approved the Commission's proposed Regulation on the supply of skim milk powder as food aid and assigned its responsible Committees to follow up and report at a given time on the problems involved in the overall Community policy with respect to food aid.

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (15 January)

2421. Mr Jahn (C-D, Germany) spoke to the Oral Question with debate on the establishment of a European Foundation for the Improvement of the Environment and Living and Working Conditions. He had put this Question to the Commission with several Group colleagues; namely, Mr Früh, Mr Memmel, Mr Springorum and Mrs Walz.

The speaker recalled the Resolution on the Girardin report concerning the Commission's socio-political action programme and the Resolutions of April and July 1972 and July 1973 when the European Parliament had urged the setting up of a European environmental institute, since the tasks involved in protecting the environment, especially coordination of research, would have to be swiftly tackled. The present Commission Proposal planned for a Foundation to undertake studies of the long term aspects of ecological problems, the future of cities and urban renewal and the preservation of the historic life of old Europe.

It was desirable that the Foundation to be formed should get the name due to it, namely 'European Foundation for the Improvement of the Environment and Living and Working Conditions.' This must be embodied in the title of the Regulation. Mr Jahn also proposed that the Commission should consider amending its

Proposal to conform with Parliament's unanimously approved criteria. Mr *Borschette* of the Commission countered that the creation of a European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions had been proposed by the Commission both in the action programme on the environment and in its social programme. The action programme on the environment was approved by the Council in July 1973. In the proposed social action programme the Commission had asked the Council to take a decision on it by 1 April 1974. Moreover, Vice-President *Scarascia Mugnozza* would be reporting to the responsible House Committee on 21 January. The Commission Proposals included a practical work programme for the foundation.

Mr *Petersen* (L, Germany) said that economic growth was not an end in itself and human development must be guaranteed through protection of the environment. Mr *Bertrand* (C-D, Germany), Mr *Baas* (L, Netherlands) and Mr *Della Briotta* (S, Italy) endorsed Mr *Jahn*'s remarks.

concern for the policies of the State-trading countries which, except for Jugoslavia, had hitherto refused to recognize the Community as the sole authority competent to conclude trading agreements.

However important cooperation agreements with non-Member countries, especially State-trading nations might be, they should not serve as a means of bypassing the common commercial policy. In reply Vice-President Sir Christopher *Soames* of the Commission said that with its Proposals for bringing in a prior consultation procedure before the conclusion of agreements, the Commission was endeavoring thereby to further the interests of the Community rather than work against them. The Commission was also hoping that a debate would be held on this subject during the Council sitting of February. Regarding possible credit facilities under cooperation agreements Sir Christopher reminded the House that as from 1 January last we had a comprehensive consultation procedure which applied to all types of credit by Member States to third countries and which obligatorily applied to credits under cooperation agreements.

Credit Aid for State-trading Countries (17 January)

2422. Mr *Blumenfeld* (C-D, Germany) speaking to the Oral Question which with several colleagues he had put to the Commission concerning credit aid for State-trading countries, wanted to know whether the commitment to consult still applied to such credits which were agreed within cooperation agreements. He stressed that such credit which according to some Member States did not come under the common commercial policy should not lead to the consultation commitment being abandoned. This would be tantamount to bypassing Community decisions 'by juggling with terminology.' This attitude betrayed an excessive

For the Socialists, Mr *Nørgaard* (Denmark) advocated a common commercial policy. Mr *Jahn* (C-D, Germany) regretted that differences of opinion and varying national trade procedures were still prevalent with regard to a Community commercial policy. He asked for cooperation agreements which were harmonized and for cooperative and coordinated action by Member States. Mr *Fellermaier* (S, Germany) attacked the Christian Democrats for bringing German internal politics into the House (an allusion to Mr *Blumenfeld*'s remarks about Mr *Wischniewski*'s visit to Warsaw). Furthermore, all the Community countries were in the dock since all nine of them were still striving to make use, via the route of cooperation agreements, of any loopholes in Article 113 of the

EEC Treaty. Mr *Schulz* (C-D, Germany) criticized the Agreement between France and Saudi-Arabia and regretted that in this connection the Commission had no executive authority to call to order the Member States who were out of line.

Admission of Securities

(17 January)

2423. Mr *Armengaud* (L, France) submitted a report on:

- (i) the Commission's proposed Directive concerning the content, supervision, and distribution of the prospectus to be published when securities issued by companies or firms within the meaning of paragraph 2 of Article 58 of the Treaty are officially quoted on the Stock Exchange for the first time;
- (ii) the proposed Recommendation concerning the content of the prospectus to be published on securities issued by States or their regional or local authorities are officially quoted on the Stock Exchange for the first time.

Mr *Armengaud* said the Commission's Proposals were an initial step towards aligning the rules for Stock Exchange admissions. For the Conservatives, Sir Brandon *Rhys Williams* (Great Britain) advocated access to investment be made easier for investors; in this respect he felt that information for private investors was better organized in Great Britain. Mr *Simonet*, Vice-President of the Commission, welcomed the cooperation with Parliament in this field. The Commission was also preparing a Directive on sales prospectuses.

In its Resolution Parliament welcomed the submission of this proposed Directive which was designed to ensure that in all Member States the fullest and most objective information was made available on the economic and financial position of the issuing company, and the nature of the

securities issued, before they were officially quoted on a Member State stock exchange. But the House insisted that, within a time limit to be notified to Parliament the Commission draw up a Directive concerning prospectuses to be published for securities issued by public investment companies and 'open' investment trusts which are not covered by this Directive. The House approved the proposed Council Recommendation making the initial quotation on a stock exchange of securities issued by States or their regional or local authorities conditional on the publication of a prospectus providing satisfactory information for investors in these securities. The Commission was invited to establish and comply with a timetable to be notified to Parliament for action required to coordinate the other provisions governing initial quotation on a stock exchange.

Tenth Report of the Mines Safety and Health Commission and Fourth Report of the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission

(17 January)

2424. The rapporteur, Mr *Jahn* (C-D, Germany) regretted that the reports had lost much of their immediacy. He could see no good reason why an activity report covering a certain year could not be examined by the following year at least instead of two years after the start of the period reported. Both Commission's (Mines and Steel Industry) should examine the possibility of closer collaboration and where expedient, coordination of their activities in certain sectors. He urged the Commission to think about combining the two bodies or at least merging the Secretariats. Mr *Jahn* was very disturbed by the fact that by far the greatest number of fatal accidents were occurring in the independent auxiliary and subsidiary works of the iron and steel industry.

For the Commission Mr *Lardinois* stressed the importance of industrial and job safety and protection for the workers. The Commission had always paid great attention to this and would carry on doing so. Weaknesses still existing would be eliminated.

In its Resolution Parliament noted with satisfaction that both the Commission of the EEC and the two Safety and Health Commissions had complied with some of the requests made in its Resolutions on the previous annual reports of the two industrial Commissions. The House was disappointed that the Commission had still not made the long overdue increase in the secretarial staff of the Mines Safety and Health Commission and that it had not yet increased the secretarial staff of the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission, even though it considered this essential. The House was also concerned both about the increasing frequency of serious accidents in mining and about the unfavourable trend in iron and steel accident rates.

Miscellaneous

Preservatives in Foodstuffs (18 January)

2425. The House approved the Commission's proposed Directive for a tenth amendment to the Council Directive for harmonizing Member States laws on preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs. There was no debate but approval was given on condition that the use of thiabendazole did not involve any risk to human health. The Commission was asked to thoroughly examine the question of whether this preservative constituted any danger to public health.

'Flue-cured Virginia' Tobacco from the developing Countries (17 January)

2426. Parliament approved without debate the Commission's proposed Regulation for opening, allocating and administering a Community tariff quota for unprocessed tobacco of the 'Virginia flue-cured variety' originating from developing countries.

Fishery Products from Tunisia and Morocco (18 January)

2427. The House approved without debate the Commission's two proposed Regulations to prolong the Council Regulations of 31 January 1972 on imports of certain fishery products of Moroccan and Tunisian origin.

Community Tariff Quotas for Certain Products of Spanish Origin

2428. Parliament approved the Commission's proposed Regulations on opening, allocating and administering Community tariff quotas for the following products originating from Spain:

- (1) dried figs in ready-packed containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less falling under subheading No ex 08.03 B of the CCT,
- (2) dried grapes in ready-packed containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less falling under subheading No ex 08.04 B of the CCT,
- (3) sherry wines falling under subheading No ex 22.05 of the CCT,
- (4) Malaga wines falling under subheading No ex 22.05 of the CCT,
- (5) Jumillo, Priorato, Rioja and Valdepeñas wines falling under subheading No ex 22.05 of the CCT.

Council

2429. According to the principle of half-yearly rotation, the Federal Republic of Germany took over from Denmark for six months from 1 January 1974, the Presidency of the Council and its dependent bodies, the conferences of Member States' Government Representatives meeting within the Council, political cooperation and possibly a Conference of Heads of State or Government.

During January the Council held four sessions devoted to general matters and agriculture.¹ The meeting of 7 January during which the Council was to resume its 271st session and its deliberations on regional policy² was cancelled.

272nd Session—General Matters (Brussels, 14-15 January 1974)

2430. President: Mr Scheel, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic.

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President, Mr Simonet, Sir Christopher Soames, Mr Hafkamp, Dr Hillery, Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-Presidents, Mr Cheysson, Mr Spinelli, Mr Borschette, Mr Dahrendorf, Mr Thomson, Mr Lardinois and Mr Gundelach, 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 (Germany); Mr Apel, Parliamentary Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Schlecht, Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, Mr Schüler, Secretary of State for Finance (Germany); Mr Jobert, Foreign Minister, Mr Guichard, Minister of Equipment and Land Development, Mr de Lipkowski, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

(France); Mr FitzGerald, Foreign Minister, Mr Keating, Minister for Industry and Trade (Ireland); Mr Moro, Foreign Minister, Mr Donat Cattin, Minister of special Investments for the Mezzogiorno, Mr Pedini, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Italy); Mr Thorn, Foreign Minister (Luxembourg); Mr van der Stoel, Foreign Minister, Mr Brinkhorst, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Mr Davies, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (United Kingdom).

The Council resumed its regional policy proceedings concerning the creation of a European Regional Development Fund by studying several models for its initial phase. Unable to reach agreement the Council agreed to carry on the discussions at the meeting of 30 January.

Regarding energy policy, the Council agreed that the Community will have to give a positive reply to the invitation from President Nixon to take part in the Conference of major oil consuming countries. The Community will be represented by the Presidents of the Council and Commission.

Winding up its proceedings concerning the action programme for scientific and technological policy proposed by the Commission the Council passed four Resolutions concerning:

- (i) the coordination of national policies and definition of projects of Community interest in the field of science and technology;
- (ii) the Community's participation in the European Science Foundation;
- (iii) an initial programme of Community projects in the field of science and technology;

¹ For the various issues reviewed during the Council sessions see the relevant chapters of this number of the Bulletin.

² Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2442.

(iv) an action programme for research as an instrument for forecasting, evaluation and methodology for the EEC.

The Council got down to an initial discussion on the preparatory work to be done in taking action on paragraph 16 of the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government from the Paris Summit and on the Declaration of the Chairman of the Copenhagen Conference on the European Union.

Regarding relations with the Mediterranean countries, as part of the global approach the Council reaffirmed its resolve to adopt as promptly as possible final Directives for negotiations to conclude global agreements with Spain, Israel and the Maghreb countries as well as extending the current Agreement with Malta to cover cooperation and agriculture.

The Council also considered problems involved in defining future relations between the Färöe Isles and the Community.

On 28 December 1973 the Council through the written procedure had adopted the Decisions on a programme of additional aid for the Sahel countries and Ethiopia in order to avert disasters which could reoccur in those countries. The aid programme covers 130 000 tonnes of cereals, 14 000 tonnes of skim milk powder and 6 000 tonnes of butteroil and provides for the free distribution of this aid and for the carriage charges to the distribution points to be borne by the Community.

273rd Session—Agriculture (Brussels, 14-15 January 1974)

2431. President: Mr *Ertl*, German Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr *Lardinois*, Member.

Member States' Governments were represented by: Mr *Lavens*, Minister of Agriculture (Bel-

gium); 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 (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).

The Council had a broad discussion on the beef and veal market situation. It agreed to resume its proceedings at the session of 21-22 January.

274th Session—Agriculture (Brussels, 21-22 January 1974)

2432. 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 (United Kingdom).

The Council officially acknowledged the Commission's Proposals for setting the prices of certain agricultural products and for certain measures covered in the Memorandum on

improving the CAP. Mr Lardinois of the Commission made an introductory statement on the basic features of the Proposals. The President of the Council also reported on his meeting with representatives from the Committee of Agricultural Occupational Organizations concerning the Commission Proposal in question.

The Council discussed the problem of aligning the representative rate, used for the Lira within the CAP with the rates used on the market in order to bring up the farm prices expressed in Lira. The debate yielded a broad measure of assent between the delegations. The Council agreed a Regulation to amend the Regulation on the conversion rate to be applied for the Lira in the farming sector.

In the beef and veal sector, the Council resumed its review of the market situation. At the close of its proceedings, it agreed the Regulation temporarily amending the timing of intervention measures in this sector. The Council also officially noted the Commission's intention to take a number of measures which will also help to alleviate the market in this sector. A Regulation was also formally adopted for opening, allocating and administering a Community tariff quota for deep-frozen beef and veal.

The Council also passed the Resolution on the Social Action Programme.

275th Session—General Matters (Brussels, 30 January 1974)

2433. President: Mr Scheel, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic.

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President, Sir Christopher Soames, Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Dr Hillery, Mr Simonet, Vice-Presidents; Mr Spinelli, Mr Borschette, Mr Dabrendorf,

Mr Thomson, Mr Lardinois, Mr Gundelach, Mr Cheysson, Members.

Member States' Governments were represented by: Mr Van Elslande, Foreign Minister (Belgium); Mr Christensen, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Denmark); Mr Scheel, Foreign Minister, Mr Apel, Parliamentary Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Schlecht, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Schüler, Secretary of State for Finance (Germany); Mr Guichard, Minister of Equipment and Land Development, Mr de Lipkowski, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (France); Mr FitzGerald, Foreign Minister (Ireland); Mr Donat Cattin, Minister of Special Investments for the Mezzogiorno (Italy); Mr Thorn, Foreign Minister (Luxembourg); Mr van der Stoel, Foreign Minister, Mr Brinkhorst, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Netherlands); Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Mr Davies, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (United Kingdom).

The meeting was largely devoted to regional policy. The Council resumed its work on the creation of a European Regional Development Fund. The Council reviewed the situation which had emerged after an exploratory project undertaken by the Commission during the meeting with the aim of assembling the components of a possible compromise Proposal. At the close of the debate it was noted that some headway had been made. It was acknowledged that the Commission undertook to submit a fresh Proposal to enable the Council to reach a final solution. The Council agreed to resume its discussion on 18-19 February 1974.

Regarding energy the Council formally adopted the Decision to set up an Energy Committee and the Regulation concerning information for drawing up exhaustive Community energy balance sheets.

Commission

Commission Activities

2434. During January 1974 five basic issues dominated the Commission's thinking and concern.

The French monetary measures and the resulting disruption of farm prices for the 1974/75 marketing year have come on top of the regional policy and energy crisis problems still awaiting solutions at the end of 1973. The climate created in many quarters by the inadequate or even non-existent Community spirit obliged the Commission to send up an alarm signal by publishing a 'declaration on the state of the Community'.

Regional Policy

2435. Since the decisions anticipated by 31 December 1973 have not been taken despite the positive position adopted at the Copenhagen Summit, the Commission at its first January meeting reaffirmed its attitude towards the European Regional Development Fund, since the possibilities of the Fund are still a subject of controversy between several Member States.

In an endeavour to soften certain attitudes one of the Members of the Commission, Mr Thomson, responsible for regional policy, had a meeting with Mr Walter Scheel, Germany's Foreign Minister, and the Chairman-in-Office of the Council. After several meetings of the Commission in the margin of the Council session of 30-31 January, Mr Ortoli and Mr Thomson acting with the same intentions were able to make appreciable progress.

Energy Crisis

2436. In the light of the guidelines set out and the timetable approved by the Copenhagen Summit, the Commission at its first 1974 meeting reviewed the forecastable short, medium and long-term effects of the massive increase in energy and other raw material prices on the structures of the Community economy.

Rigorously observing the timetable adopted by the Summit Conference and despite the missing decisions which the Council was to take in December 1973 the Commission without waiting any longer adopted six Proposals, in two sets, in support of the Communication to the Council on *measures to be taken to weather the Community energy crisis*. The Proposals cover the following matters: intra-Community trade in crude oil and oil products, exports to third countries, harmonization of voluntary measures to cut consumption, combined action to cut consumption and notification of imports and the monitoring of oil product prices.

Two other issues were also carefully considered by the Commission. The first one, namely the *meeting of the big energy consuming countries* called for 11 February in Washington led the Commission to send the Council a Communication on cooperation with the United States on energy and which stressed the need for a real Community answer. The second was a Recommendation on the position to be adopted by the Community at the Conference. Another key feature of the problem stressed by the Commission and by the Summit Conference was the dialogue needed with the oil producing countries and with the consumer developing countries. The Commission therefore sent the Council a Communication on the Community's *relations with the energy producing countries* which asked for economic, industrial and technical cooperation agreements to be made with them.

French Monetary Action and its Consequences

2437. Following the French monetary decisions and particularly the floating of the franc announced on 19 January the Commission took a hard look at monetary cooperation between Member States. Then at an urgently called special meeting a Communication was sent to the Council on the emergency measures which it felt the latter should take.

Agricultural Prices

2438. After the first two January meetings the Commission adopted its Proposals on the common level of farm prices for the 1974/75 marketing year, providing for an average rise balanced out at about 7% but shaded according to product. Cattle breeding was the most favoured with a 10% increase in the guide price of beef and veal. The Proposals came under heavy argument but at the Council meeting of 21-22 January a compromise Proposal from the Commission concerning the most contested issue, namely beef and veal, enabled agreement to be reached.

Declaration on the State of the Community

2439. On 20 January the Commission took a hard look at what has come to be called the 'crisis' or 'deterioration' of the Community situation in the light of problems encountered over recent weeks (regional policy, French monetary measures, etc.) just as the effects of the oil crisis were coming into clearer focus. The last days of January were devoted to preparing a Declaration on the state of the Community which was approved and issued on 31 January¹ by President Ortoli at a press conference.

The Declaration stresses the seriousness of the situation now besetting the Community with the

inherent danger of Member States' policies becoming renationalized. The Commission outlined the key areas of Community policy where an unequivocal commitment on the part of Member States is imperative either to ensure convergence of national policies or decide on joint lines of action. The Commission emphasizes in the Declaration the need for institutional progress and the replacement of present structures by accomplishing the European Union.

During a meeting at the end of January the Commission took stock of work undertaken in this field and agreed to cooperate closely with the European Parliament in drawing up the report required by the Summit so as to finalize a joint report which should be ready for May.

Departmental Organization

2440. Mr Ronald *Grierson*, Director-General of Industrial and Technological Affairs, has informed the Commission that in accordance with his original intentions he now wishes to plan his return to private life during 1974. He indicated that for personal reasons he would like this to take place not later than June 1974 but he left the choice of the actual date of departure to be determined to suit the needs of the Commission. The Commission has noted with regret Mr Grierson's intention to retire from its service. It now has made the following arrangements:

- (i) Mr Grierson's resignation from his Commission post will take effect from 16 May 1974;
- (ii) for the period 28 January 1974-15 May 1974 Mr Grierson has been appointed Director-General 'hors classe adviser' to the Commission and will devote himself entirely to a number of major tasks assigned to him by the Commission;

¹ Introductory Chapter of this issue of the Bulletin.

(iii) from 28 January 1974 the responsibilities of running the Directorate-General of Industrial and Technological Affairs will be taken over by Mr Josephus Loeff, Deputy Director-General.

2441. Since the publication of the Commission Yearbook¹ several appointments have been made.

The Commission has appointed Mr Pierre Guieu Senior Adviser to the Directorate B (Fiscal Matters) in the Directorate-General XV: Financial Institution and Fiscal Matters. Among other responsibilities he will still be Head of this Division.

Mr Patrick Everard has been appointed Head of the Division of Accounting and Treasury in the Directorate-General of Budgets. He was previously Assistant to the Director-General.

The Commission has appointed Mr Luciano Baroncelli, Head of the Division of Employment: National Policy and Analysis within the Directorate-General of Social Affairs and Mr John Morlay, Head of Special services and analysis of aid.

Court of Justice

New Cases

Case 1/74—Commission Official v the Commission

2442. On 4 January 1974 a Commission official, on unpaid personal leave, lodged an appeal with the Court of Justice against the Commission for the annulment of a Commission decision refusing to let him relinquish his post permanently (*volontariat*).

Case 2/74—Mr Jean Reyners v Belgium

2443. The Belgian Council of State having to rule on a petition for annulment of Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Royal Decree of 24 August 1970 concerning the stipulation of nationality laid down in Article 428 of the Code Judiciaire concerning the title and practice of lawyer (*avocat*) asked the Court on 9 January 1974 for a preliminary ruling. This bears on interpretation of the wording 'activities which in that State are connected even occasionally with the exercise of official authority', and on the direct applicability of Article 52 of the Treaty concerning the right of establishment notwithstanding the lack of Directives mentioned in Articles 54, paragraph 2, and 57, paragraph 1.

Case 3/74—Einfuhr- und Vorratsstelle für Getreide und Futtermittel, Frankfurt/Main, v Firma Wilhelm Pfützenreuter, Düsseldorf, Benrath

2444. On 11 January 1974 the Bundesverwaltungsgericht filed a request with the Court for a preliminary ruling on interpretation of the concept of 'importation' in the sense of Article 7, paragraph 2, of the Commission Regulation of 28 July 1964² 'concerning import and export certificates for cereals, products processed from cereals, rice, brokens and products processed from rice', as well as on the application of provisions concerning cases of 'force majeure' covered by the Regulation.

Cases 4, 5 and 6/74—Commission Officials v the Commission

2445. These three appeals by officials concern respectively (1) annulment of a Commission decision relieving the plaintiff of his post and

¹ Special Supplement January 1974 - Bull. EC.

² OJ 126 of 5.8.1964.

reassigning him to other duties, (2) payment of reinstallation allowance and (3) consideration of a person as a dependent child.

Case 7/74—Mrs R.C. Brouerius van Nidek, Widow E.R. von Geldern, Hoeilaart, v the Inspecteur der Registratie en Successie, Rijswijk

2446. On 31 January 1974 the Court received a request for a preliminary ruling from the Gerechtshof of the Hague concerning interpretation of Article 13, paragraph 2, of the 'Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities' with regard to a pension allocated by the Community to the widow of one of its officials.

Judgments

Case 134/73—Firma Holtz & Willemse GmbH, Krefeld-Üerdingen, v the Council and the Commission

2447. A German firm had made an appeal against non-action by the Council and Commission claiming that the Council had failed to adopt a Regulation bringing in additional aid for rape and colza seeds processed in oil factories remote from the harvest location and that the Commission had failed to submit the relevant Proposal to the Council.

By decree of 15 January, the Court rejected the appeal as unfounded.

Case 148/73—Commission Officials v the Commission

2448. By Decree of 31 January 1974, the Court quashed the Commission decisions refusing to reimburse the plaintiffs with removal expenses and to pay a daily allowance.

Case 154/73—Firma Kurt A. Becher, Bremen, v Hauptzollamt, Emden

2449. By order of the Hamburg Finanzgericht, a request for a preliminary ruling was filed with the Court on 25 July 1973 concerning the validity of the Council Regulation of 12 May 1971¹ covering 'certain short-term economic measures to be taken in the agricultural sector following the temporary widening of the fluctuation margins of Member States' currencies' with special reference to the computation of the compensatory amount in a specific case.

By Decree on 15 January 1974 the Court ruled the Regulation to be valid and the compensatory amount to be correct.

Case 158/73—Firma E. Kampffmeyer, Hamburg, v Einfuhr- und Vorratsstelle für Getreide und Futtermittel, Frankfurt/Main

2450. On 7 August 1973 the Frankfurt Verwaltungsgericht had filed a request with the Court for a preliminary ruling on interpretation of Article 2, paragraph 1, first sentence and Article 15, paragraph 4, of the Regulation of 10 July 1970² 'on joint application terms for the import, export and prefixation certificates scheme for agricultural products subject to a single price system', with respect to a lost import certificate.

By Decree of 30 January 1974 the Court ruled that the above mentioned provisions were not to be understood in this sense that a lost import certificate automatically extinguished the obligation to import, an obligation created by the issue of said certificate. The loss was a case of force majeure when it occurred despite all the precautions which the certificate holder was expected to take.

¹ OJ L 106 of 12.5.1971.

² OJ L 158 of 20.7.1970.

Case 159/73—Firma Hannoversche Zucker AG, Rethen-Weetzen, Rethen/Leine, v Hauptzollamt, Hanover

2451. During a legal action over the payment of a subscription on sugar production, the Hamburg Finanzgericht had asked the Court on 16 August 1973 to give a preliminary ruling on certain problems arising from application of Article 27, paragraph 1, of the Council Regulation of 18 December 1967¹ on the joint organization of the sugar markets, and from Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Commission Regulation of 25 January 1969² laying down certain terms required for applying the quota system in the sugar sector. The Hamburg Court wanted to know whether in applying these Articles the surplus quantities had to be reckoned with which a stock inventory had revealed after the rules on production subscriptions had taken effect, but which (quantities) had arisen before 1 July 1968 and whether, in the event of an affirmative answer, the surplus quantities arising before said date must, if necessary, be deemed subject to the production subscription under the 1968/69 sugar marketing year or whether they were so subject under the marketing year during which the inventory of stocks was taken.

By decree of 30 January 1974 the Court ruled that the surplus quantities found after the closure of the marketing year in which they were produced must be taken into account in respect of the production contribution, for the marketing year in which they were registered, even if they had been produced before the joint organization of the market had been put into effect in the sugar sector.

Case 166/73—Firma Rheinmühlen Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf-Holthausen, v Einfuhr- und Vorratsstelle für Getreide und Futtermittel, Frankfurt/Main.

2452. On 4 September 1973 the Bundesfinanzhof had applied to the Court for a preliminary ruling on whether Article 177, paragraph 2, of the EEC Treaty authorized legal authorities who did not give final rulings an unlimited right to apply to the Court of Justice or whether it should be taken that this Article did not impinge on the regulations of internal law which binding said legal authorities to the legal assessment made in law by the higher authority, constituted a block to a law of such scope.

By Decree of 16 January 1974 the Court ruled that the existence in internal law of a regulation binding the legal authorities to an assessment made in law by a higher authority could not *ipso facto* rob them of the option under Article 177 of applying to the Court of Justice of the EEC.

Economic and Social Committee

2453. The Economic and Social Committee held its 117th meeting in Brussels on 30-31 January 1974 chaired first by the Chairman Mr *Lappas* followed by Mr *Maspone*, Vice-Chairman. During the meeting three Opinions were adopted. The Committee also debated recent developments in the Community's energy supply situation.

Statement by the Chairman

2454. Mr *Lappas*, the Chairman, speaking of the Community's position held that we were

¹ OJ L 308 of 18.12.1967.

² OJ L 20 of 27.1.1969.

now facing an unprecedented crisis. He mentioned the increasing shortages of raw materials, especially energy, the changes imminent in international trade, and inflation and balance of payments problems now threatening growth and employment, which were body blows to the European integration process putting its future in doubt. In this very grave phase of the Community's life, Mr Lappas appealed for strenuous action by the Nine to try and solve the problems together through genuine solidarity demanding mutual sacrifices since all the Community policies were interlocked with one another.

Declaration adopted by the Community

2455. After the Chairman's statement, the Economic and Social Committee adopted a declaration in which the members of the Committee warned the national and Community authorities against the grievous consequences which would inevitably occur if the decisions taken at the Summit Conferences, especially Paris, were to be forsaken. The Committee members decided to intervene among the different authorities so that the objectives set for them by the Heads of State or Government might be swiftly reached.

The Committee stressed that the current problems showed that it was imperative to strengthen and balance more democratically the powers of the European Community. It also declared that it was prepared to assume all its responsibilities in this respect.

Opinions issued by the Committee

Opinion on 'the draft of the sixth Council Directive for harmonizing Member States' laws governing turnover taxes—joint system for VAT—uniform basis'

2456. This Opinion prepared from a report by Mr Peyromaure-Debord-Broca (France,

Employers Group) was adopted by a majority with three votes against and one abstention. The Opinion approved the draft Directive but made some comments and suggestions on certain individual features of the proposed Directive.

Opinion on the 'proposed Council Directive on the approximation of Member States' laws concerning natural yeasts and yeast residues'

2457. In this Opinion prepared from the report by Mr Bourel (France, Employers Group) and unanimously adopted, the Committee proposed that the Directive be drawn up with a layout different from that proposed by the Commission. It also came out against the possible banning of new production processes based on the culture of yeasts in substrata containing saturated hydrocarbons.

Opinion on the 'proposed Council Directive on the tenth amendment of the Council Directive concerning the approximation of Member States' laws governing preservative agents authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption'

2458. This Opinion prepared from the report by Miss Roberts (United Kingdom, General Interests Group) was also adopted unanimously. Subject to a few adjustments, the Committee approved the Commission's Proposal.

ECSC Consultative Committee

2459. The ECSC Consultative Committee held its 161st session on 28 January 1974 in Brussels, with Sir David Davies, Chairman in the

Chair. Mr Henri Simonet, Vice-President of the Commission, and a delegation from the Economic and Social Committee led by its Chairman, Mr Alfons Lappas, also attended.

The agenda included a statement by Mr Simonet on the coal situation in the Community in which he defined the main pointers for working out a Community coal policy.¹

The Committee also issued a favourable Opinion on two draft Council Decisions concerning the setting up of a General Committee on Industrial Safety and concerning expansion of the assignments of the Mines and Safety and Health Commission to cover all the extracting industries. A unanimously favourable Opinion was given on the consultation under Article 55, paragraph 2 of the ECSC Treaty on the timeliness of financial aid deriving from ECSC levies to social research and research on mining safety to be carried out in British research institutions in support of research now underway in the institutes of the original Six.

The bonds will have a maximum term of 15 years and will bear interest at 8% a year payable annually. They are being offered to the public at par. The subscription currency chosen is the US dollar. The subscription price, which is US \$ 1 131 13 was determined on 14 January 1974, the date on which the final terms of the loan were decided, on the basis of the exchange rates of the various currencies constituting the Eurco.

The loan will be redeemable in 15 annual instalments by the repurchase of bonds on the market when they do not exceed par. Unpurchased bonds will be redeemable at par at term. In addition, from 1979, the European Investment Bank will be able to redeem all bonds in circulation before term.

The bonds will be quoted on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange at a percentage of their nominal value. Each day, the Luxembourg Stock Exchange will calculate and publish the value of the Eurco in each component currency and in US dollars. The first Eurco loan, issued at 99 $\frac{1}{2}$ % and bearing interest at 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ %, is currently listed at above par.

European Investment Bank

Loans Issued

2460. The EIB signed a contract in Luxembourg on 15 January 1974 for the issue of its second bond loan in Eurco, the first one having been issued in September 1973. This new operation will be for 60 million Eurcos.

The Eurco (European Composite Unit) consists of the sum of fixed amounts of each currency of the Member Countries of the European Economic Community.²

Loans Granted

Belgium

2461. The EIB has granted a loan equivalent to 730 million Belgian francs (15 million u.a.) to the Société Belgo-Française d'Énergie Nucléaire Mosane (SEMO) S.A., of Brussels. The loan will run for 20 years at 8.75% interest a year and will be used to finance the nuclear power station under construction at Tihange, in the province of Liège.

¹ Point 2261.

² For details, Bull. EC 9-1973, point 2477.

This is the EIB's third loan to the Tihange power station, which is rated at 900 MW. The two previous loans were granted in 1970 (16 million u.a.) and 1972 14.39 million u.a.).

Including this new loan, the Bank has now granted fifteen loans since 1967 totalling 279 million u.a. for the construction of ten nuclear power stations. In 1973, as in 1972, the EIB contributed to the financing of four nuclear power stations for totals of 135 and 101 million u.a. respectively.

The Netherlands

2462. The EIB has granted a loan for the equivalent of Fl 50 million (14.9 million u.a.) at 8.75% a year, to NV Nederlandse Gasunie of Groningen, the company responsible for the sale and transportation of natural gas in the Netherlands.

This loan will contribute to the financing of a pipeline for the transportation of natural gas from the extreme north of the Netherlands to the German and Belgian frontiers in the province of Limburg in the south of the country. Gas piped across the Netherlands will be sent to Belgium, Germany, France, Italy and Switzerland.

Turkey

2463. The EIB has just concluded a new loan operation with the Republic of Turkey for a sum of 20 million u.a. (about US \$ 24 million) to contribute to financing forestry development in the Antalya region of southern Turkey and the construction of a board and kraft paper factory.

The project was prepared with the aid of the FAO, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank who is also loaning 40 million dollars.

The European Bank's loan is granted to the Turkish State for a period of 30 years including an 8-year grace period at 4.5% a year.

The granting of this loan brings the total finance provided by the EIB in Turkey under the second EEC-Turkey Financial Protocol, which came into effect on 1 January 1973, to 76.4 million u.a. Loans of this type are granted by the EIB on mandate from the Member States of the Community from resources which they put at the Bank's disposal.¹

Financing Community Activities

Preliminary Draft of an Amended and Supplementary Budget (No 1/1974)

2464. During the first quarter of 1973 the Commission laid down the new guidelines for internal financial control and the preparation and execution of the Budget. This resolve supported by both the Commission and the European Parliament, entails the need to strengthen certain departments with the additional manpower absolutely necessary in order to carry out all the new tasks.

Under these circumstances the Commission was obliged to draw up the preliminary draft of an amended and supplementary budget (No 1/1974) which covers the demands to create 45 new jobs. The credit required by this man-

¹ At present the mandate is given by the six founder Members of the EEC, as the provisions concerning the participation of new Member States in financial aid to Turkey have not yet come into effect.

power reinforcement has been put at 687 805 u.a. and the general Budget for the financial year 1974 would thereby be increased from 5 079 465 923 u.a. to total receipts and expenditure of 5 080 153 728 u.a.

This preliminary draft also carries an adjustment to the budget nomenclature for food aid expenditure. It has been adjusted in relation to the proposed Regulation on Community financing of expenses occurred by supplying farm products as food aid.¹ Under the Regulation Chapter 90 will from now on bear all the financial charges connected with food aid, except for the sum of export refunds which will still be charged up to the credit of heading (6).

Lastly, the preliminary draft includes a corrective list of 1974 receipts and expenditure with respect to research and investment activities (Annex I of the Budget) so that 108 establishment staff jobs may be created in the JRS section of the manning table without entailing an increase in budgeted credit but which will facilitate application of the new Italian legislation on the status of people permanently employed during service hours on the site of the Ispra establishment.

Audit of Own Resources

2465. On 21 January 1974² the Council adopted the Regulation on determining the authority and obligations of staff mandated by the Commission by virtue of Article 14 paragraph 5 of the Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) 2/71.³

This Regulation determines the identity of staff responsible for carrying out audits and enquiries connected with recording and handing over to the Commission of Community own resources, the performance conditions with reference to professional secrecy and the purpose of their jobs.

The prompt application of this Regulation by the Commission will facilitate more effective Com-

munity audits linked with the inspections made by Member States and as part of a real programme of auditing checks to be organized with the national administrations.

The individual and on-the-spot checks will facilitate, if required, and in the presence of national officials, inspections of those accountable in the various Member States.

Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Own Resources

2466. The tenth meeting of the Advisory Committee on Own Resources was held on 28 January 1974.

The agenda included a discussion on applying the above mentioned Regulation and the inspection of a working document on the content and transmittal terms for reports which Member States are to send in to the Commission in compliance with Articles 5 and 13, paragraph 3 of Council Regulation 2/71.

At the same meeting the definitive paper on the 1974-1976 multiannual forecasts of Community receipts and expenditure was handed to the Member States' delegations.

ECSC Loan

2467. On 23 January 1974 the Commission signed a contract for a bond issue of 50 million US dollars (i.e. the equivalent value of 42.2 million u.a.). This issue, underwritten by an international syndicate of banks, matures over 15 years, carries annual interest of 7.75% and was offered to the public at the issue price of 100%.

¹ Sent to the Council in December 1973.

² OJ L 20 of 24.1.1974.

³ OJ L 3 of 5.1.1971.

5. Questions on European Institutional Policy

Financing Community Activities

This loan brings the total amount of loan operations made by the ECSC since it started activities to an equivalent value of 1 660 million u.a. (rated on the parities of the balance sheet at 31 December 1973).

Declaration of Principle between Europe and the United States

2501. From the meeting in Brussels on 9 December 1973, in the margin of the NATO Council, between the American Secretary of State, Dr Kissinger and the Foreign Ministers of the Nine, some guidelines emerged enabling work to go ahead on preparing the draft of the Declaration of Principle, within the framework of political cooperation.

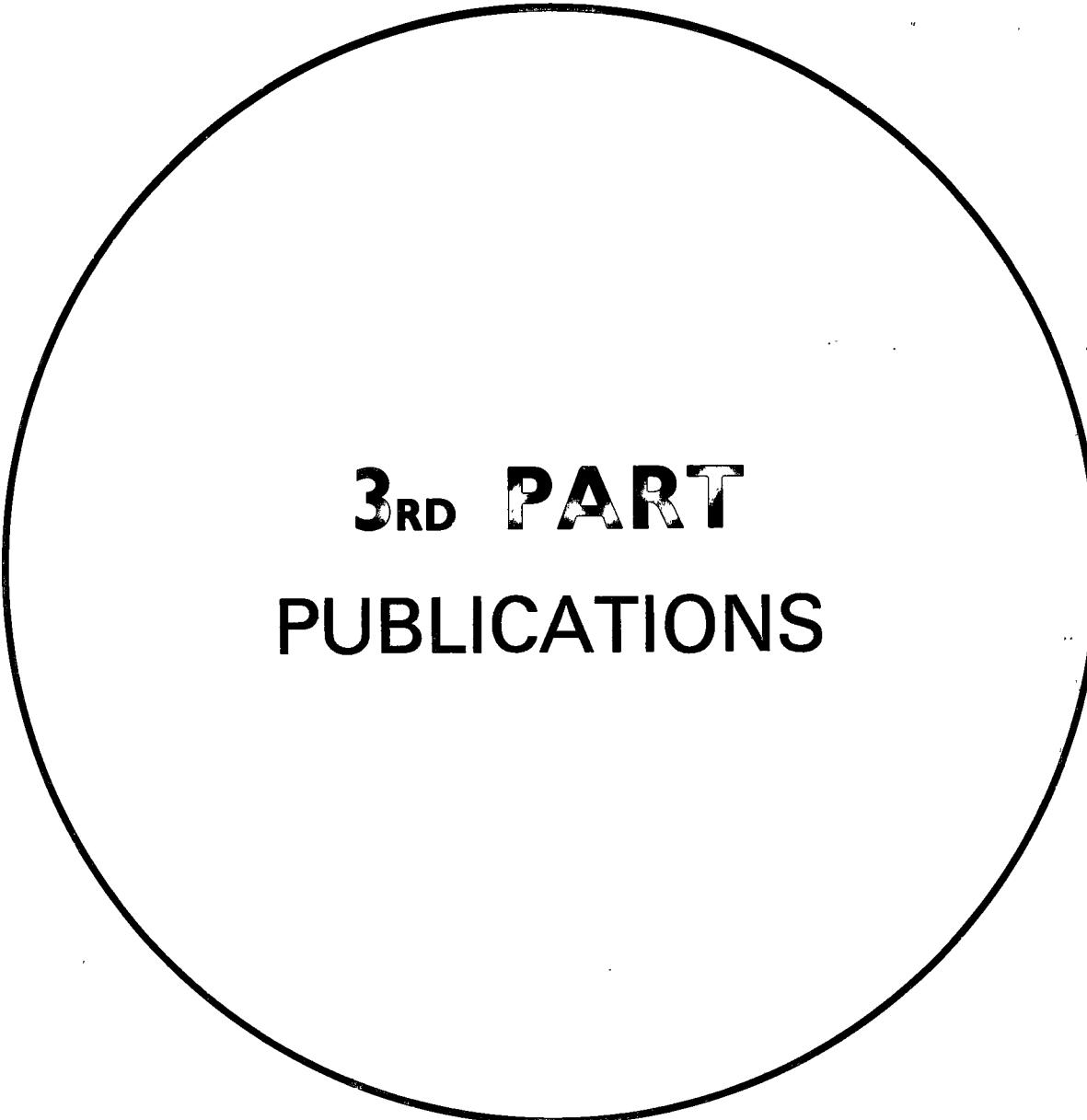
The work concerns the finalization of the text of the Nine which will then be discussed with United States' representatives. The Commission is taking part in the proceedings especially with regard to the economic content of the *draft Declaration*.

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

2502. When the proceedings of the second stage of the CSCE were resumed on 15 January in Geneva, the Nine went ahead with the coordination of their respective positions.

The Commission took part in this work with regard to issues falling within the 'cooperation' folio of the Conference. Commission delegates again attended the CSCE proceedings when they resumed in Geneva, on the principles and terms laid down by the Nine.¹

¹ Bull. EC 9-1973, point 1203, and Bull. EC 11-1973, point 2504.



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 January 1974.

European Parliament

1973-1974 Session

Report of proceedings from 10-14 December 1973
Annex 169, December 1973

Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Monday, 10 December 1973
C2, 9.1.1974

Opinion on the Social Action Programme submitted by the Commission of the European Communities to the Council

Oral Question 152/73 with debate by Mr Della Briotta in the name of the Socialist Group to the Commission of the European Communities: Rights of seasonal workers from the Community employed in Switzerland

Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Tuesday, 11 December 1973
C2, 9.1.1974

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 974/71 on the price level of agricultural products in Italy as a result of monetary developments

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on mutual assistance between competent authorities of the Member States and between the latter and the Commission for ensuring the correct application of Community customs and agriculture regulations

Resolution on the amendment to Rule 21(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament relating to the minimum number of members required to introduce a motion of censure

Oral Question 117/73 with debate by Mr Hougaard in the name of the Liberal and Allies Group to the Commission of the European Communities: Publicity given to certain suspected infringements of Articles 85 and 86 prior to the Commission handing down its decision

Opinion on the estimates of expenditure and revenue of the Budget of the European Communities for the financial years 1974, 1975 and 1976

Resolution on the ECSC Auditor's reports for the financial years 1971 and 1972

Opinion on the aide-mémoire from the Commission of the European Communities on the fixing of the ECSC lines and operating budget for 1974

Resolution on aid to the Sahel countries affected by drought

Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Wednesday, 12 December 1973
C2, 9.1.1974

Question Time

Questions put to the Council of the European Communities:

- (i) 154/73 by Lord O'Hagan: Public sessions of the Council when acting as a legislature
- (ii) 158/73 by Mr Jahn: Contacts with Comecom

Questions put to the Commission of the European Communities:

- (i) 153/73 by Mr W. Müller: Second Ministerial Conference of States represented on the International Commission for the Protection of the Waters of the Rhine

(ii) 159/73 by Mr D'Angelosante: Aid to Member States of the Andean Group

(iii) 161/73 by Mr Broeksz: Setting up of a Consumers' Consultative Committee

(iv) 162/73 by Mr Laban: Tasks of the Consumers' Consultative Committee

(v) 163/73 by Lord Reay: Abolition of passports within the Community

(vi) 164/73 by Mrs Carettoni Romagnoli: Recent events in Greece

(vii) 166/73 by Mr Vals: Recent events in Greece

(viii) 167/73 by Mr Fellermaier: Council of the EEC/Greece Association

Oral Question 99/73 with debate by Mr Ansart, Mr Bordu, Mrs Carettoni Romagnoli, Mr Cipolla, Mrs Iotti, Mr Lemoine and Mr Marras to the Council of the European Communities: Social Conference

Oral Question 139/73 with debate by Mr Terrenoire in the name of the European Progressive Democratic

Group to the Commission of the European Communities: Implementation of the decisions taken by the Heads of State or Government on 19 and 20 October 1972

Oral Question 140/73 with debate by Mr Terrenoire in the name of the European Progressive Democratic Group to the Council of the European Communities: Implementation of the decisions taken by the Heads of State or Government on 19 and 20 October 1972

Resolution in view of the Conference of Heads of State or Government on 14 and 15 December 1973 in Copenhagen

Oral Question 141/73 with debate by Mr Gibbons in the name of the Group of Progressive European Democrats to the Commission of the European Communities: Common Agricultural Policy

Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Thursday, 13 December 1973

C2, 9.1.1974

Resolution on the immediate measures needed to alleviate the energy supply crisis in the European Community

Opinion on the five proposals concerning work on economic and monetary union

Opinion on the proposals for:

(i) a Regulation on the list of priority agricultural regions and areas referred to in the Regulation on finance from the Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund for projects falling within development programmes in priority agricultural regions

(ii) a Regulation on the list of regions and areas referred to in the Regulation establishing a European Regional Development Fund

Oral Question 134/73 with debate by Mr Van der Hek, Mr Broeksz, Mr Laban, Mr Patijn and Mr Wieldraaijer to the Commission of the European Communities: Extension of the system of generalized preferences to East European countries

Opinion on the proposals concerning regulations for the application, for the year 1974, in favour of developing countries, of generalized tariff preferences

Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Friday, 14 December 1973

C2, 9.1.1974

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 1411/71 as regards the fat content of whole milk

Opinion on the proposal for a Decision concerning the participation of the European Economic Community in the negotiations for the conclusion of a Convention for the prevention of sea-pollution from land-based sources

Opinion on the proposal for a Directive amending for the fifth time the Council Directive of 27 June 1967 concerning the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances

Opinion on the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cold-water meters

Opinion on the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to continuous totalizing weighing machines

Opinion on the proposals for:

- (i) a Directive on the approximation of Member States' legislation on common measures with regard to pressure vessels and methods of controlling them
- (ii) a Directive on the approximation of Member States' legislation on seamless steel gas cylinders

Opinion on the proposal for a Decision extending the system of minimum prices

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for frozen beef falling within subheading 02.01 A II a) 2 of the Common Customs Tariff (1974)

Opinion on the proposal for a Directive modifying the Directive of 9 April 1968 concerning the marketing of vegetative propagation material of the vine

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on the granting of special aid for certain tobaccos used for wrapping cigars

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on customs treatment to be applied to certain fishery products originating in Norway

Opinion on the proposals for:

I. a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for port wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Portugal

II. a Regulation 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

III. a Regulation 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

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation increasing the Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation 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, in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less

Opinion on:

I. a Regulation on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters amending Article 5 of Annex I to the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco

II. a Regulation on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters amending Article 5 of Annex I to the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and the Tunisian Republic

Opinion on the proposals for:

I. a Regulation on imports of olive oil from Morocco
II. a Regulation on imports of olive oil from Tunisia

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation temporarily and partially suspending the autonomous duties in the Common Customs Tariff on bitter or Seville oranges of subheading ex 08.02 A II a) and b) and saffron, neither crushed nor ground, of subheading 09.10 C I

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation concerning the rate of import charges collected on (small non-commercial consignments) agricultural products and products coming under Regulation (EEC) 1059/69

Opinion for a Regulation on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters

amending Article 7 of Annex VI to the Additional Protocol to the Agreement establishing an Association between the EEC and Turkey

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on imports of olive oil from Turkey

Opinion on a proposal for a Regulation on the total or partial suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey

Opinion on the proposal on the extension of the period of application of Regulation (EEC) 1253/73 on imports of the wine product exported under the label of 'Cyprus Sherry', originating in and coming from Cyprus and the introduction of subsidies for similar wine products produced in the Community as originally constituted and exported to Ireland and the United Kingdom

Opinion on the proposal for a Directive relating to the approximation of legislations of the Member States concerning bread

Written questions with replies

Written Question 676/72 by Mr Jahn to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Difficulties facing the cross-frontier supply of groceries to retailers within the Community

C 8, 31.1.1974

Council and Commission

Regulations

Regulation (EEC) 1/74 of the Council of 17 December 1973 amending Regulation (EEC) 950/68 on the Common customs Tariff

L 1, 1.1.1974

Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) 2/74 of the Council of 28 December 1973 adjusting the remuneration and pensions of officials and other servants of the European Economic Communities and the weightings applied thereto

L 2, 3.1.1974

Regulation (EEC) 57/74 of the Commission of 9 January amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) 320/73 as regards the list of representative markets for adult bovine animals

L 8, 10.1.1974

Regulation (EEC) 58/74 of the Commission of 9 January 1974 supplementing Regulation (EEC) 1076/70 laying down detailed rules for applying export levies on sugar
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¹ This section concerns information on the execution of projects financed by the European Development Fund.

In the light of the technical difficulties in translation, during the present internal organization of the Community, and the transitional measures of the Act of Accession which, on the one hand, exempt the new Member States from the financial contribution to EDF and, on the other hand, do not confer on their nationals the right to participate in the execution of EDF projects, these texts are only being published in the German, French, Italian and Dutch editions. Nevertheless, for the information of our readers we include the texts of the French edition.

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2. Auflage, vierte Ergänzung, 1.9.1973.

Répertoire des organismes communs créés dans le cadre des Communautés européennes par les associations industrielles, artisanales, commerciales et de services des six pays; associations de professions libérales; organisations syndicales de salariés et groupements de consommateurs.

2e édition, quatrième mise à jour, 1.9.1973.

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2a edizione, quarto aggiornamento, 1.9.1973.

Lijst van gemeenschappelijke organen, opgericht in het kader van de Europese Gemeenschappen door de Verenigingen op het gebied van industrie; ambacht, handel en diensten van de zes landen; Verenigingen van vrije beroepen; Werknemersvakorganisaties en Consumentenverenigingen.

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