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SITING OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTES AND BODIES

A. Institutes under consideration

a) Institutes proposed but not yet established

1) European Export Bank

'On 9 May 1977, the European Parliament delivered its opinion on the proposal for the establishment of a European Export Bank¹, which the Commission had forwarded to the Council on 17 February 1976.

Under point 8 of this Opinion, the European Parliament "calls, in the light of the objections that have been raised, for a re-examination of the problems that are still unresolved and for the Commission's proposal for a Regulation to be revised accordingly and published in the form of a detailed draft statutes as soon as possible, but not later than December 1977."

It is thus for the Commission to take any further steps which it considers necessary.²

2. European Foundation

The establishment of the Foundation was proposed by Mr Tindemans in his Report on European Union (Doc. 481/75)³, in the following terms -

'I propose that the European Council should decide to create a European Foundation, to be financed partly by subsidies from the Community or the States but whose activities will to a large extent be financed from private funds. Its object will be to promote, either directly or by assisting existing bodies, anything which could help towards greater understanding among our peoples by placing the emphasis on human contact: youth activities

¹ OJ No. C 133, 6.6.1977, p. 13

² Answer, given on 22.9.1978, to Written Question 245/78 by Mr Cousté, OJ C 245 of 16.10.78

³ See Chapter IV, section B, conclusion

university exchanges, scientific debates and symposia, meetings between the socio-professional categories, cultural and information activities. This Foundation will also have a role to play in presenting abroad the image of a United Europe.'

The European Council, meeting in April 1978 in Copenhagen, made the following statement on the Foundation -

'In pursuance of the decision of principle taken at the meeting of the European Council on 5 and 6 December 1977 the Heads of State and of Government laid down the scope and objectives of the Foundation and agreed on the framework for its structure and financing. The European Council decided that formal discussions on setting up the Foundation should be conducted as soon as possible. The seat of the Foundation will be Paris.'

Owing to a dispute between some Member States, who wish the Foundation to be established under Article 235 EEC, and others, who wish it to be independent of, though partially financed by, the Community, the Foundation has not yet been set up. The French Government have offered it premises in central Paris.

3) Institute of Economic Analysis and Research

In 1975, the Commission proposed the establishment of this Institute, and in a Resolution adopted on 11 March 1976 Parliament accepted the proposal.² No indication was then given by the Commission on the siting of the Institute, despite Mrs Ewing's proposal that it be sited in Edinburgh. Paragraph 10 of the Resolution reads -

'10. Recommends that the seat of the Institute should be a city where adequate data-processing facilities are readily available, where contacts with Community capitals and with other institutions with comparable interests can readily be arranged, and where adequate social and educational facilities are available to assist recruitment of staff.'

¹ Agence Europe, 9.4.1978

² - Parliament adopted a Resolution on the Foundation in March 1978 (see Annex 1)

OX C 79 of 5.4.1976

4. European Policy Research Institute

See Annex 2 for comprehensive answer by the Commission to Written Question No. 506/78 on the subject of this Institute.

5. European Centre for Documentation on the Environment

See Annex 3 for answer by the Council to Written Question No. 529/78 on this Centre.

B. Institutes established

1. Forecasting and Assessment in Science and Technology Unit (FAST)

A long-term forecasting body, Europe Plus Thirty, was proposed by the Working Group 'Europe + 30' established by the Commission in 1974 under the chairmanship of Lord Kennet. This proposal was not adopted by the Commission, but a more limited proposal for a Community action programme on Forecasting and Assessment in the field of Science and Technology (FAST) was proposed by the Commission in 1977.¹ This included the proposal that a Unit for FAST be established. The Council in July 1978 took a decision on this proposal

2. European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Dublin

In December 1974 the Council agreed in principle to the creation of this Foundation, the decision being formally taken in May 1975.²

The tasks of the Foundation will be to develop and to pursue ideas on the medium and long-term improvement of living and working conditions in the light of practical experience and to identify factors leading to change. The Foundation will take the pertinent Community policies into account when carrying out its tasks; it will advise the Community institutions on foreseeable objectives and guidelines, inter alia, by transmitting scientific information and technical data to them.

It will deal more specifically with the following issues, endeavouring to establish the order of priorities to be observed:

¹ Communication from Commission to Council, COM(77) 218 final, 22.6.1977

² OJ L 139 of 30.5.1975

- man at work,
- organisation of work and particularly job design,
- problems peculiar to certain categories of workers,
- long-term aspects of improvement of the environment,
- spatial distribution of human activities and their distribution in time.

The structures of the Foundation will be largely similar to those of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

3. European University Institute, Florence

The Institute was established near Florence in 1976, with the objects of furthering studies, mainly at post-graduate level, into aspects of European integration. The Institute has facilities of law, politics and social sciences, and enables studies to be pursued by post-graduate students, supervised by teaching staff from all Member States on projects relating to the development of the Community. It was in fact established by the Governments of the nine Member States and is not directly controlled by the Commission.

European foundation to foster public support for European objectives and policies (vote)

Parliament adopted the resolution contained in the Johnston interim report (Doc. 575/77):

RESOLUTION

on the creation of a European Foundation with a view to fostering public support for European objectives and policies

The European Parliament,

- considering that the report by Mr Tindemans on European Union ⁽¹⁾ proposes that the European Council should create a European Foundation whose object would be 'to promote ... anything which could help towards greater understanding among our peoples' and which would also have a role to play 'in presenting abroad the image of a United Europe'.
 - believing that such a Foundation, by developing greater understanding of the European Community and the rich diversity of the European heritage, would help 'to lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe', which is one of the objectives written into the preamble to the EEC Treaty,
 - having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council of the Community ⁽²⁾ containing suggestions as to the scope, objectives, structure and financing of this Foundation,
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution (Doc. 4/77),
 - having regard to the report of its Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 575/77),
1. Welcomes the decision of principle taken by the European Council of 5 and 6 December 1977 with regard to the creation of a European Foundation;
 2. Calls upon the Commission to submit suitable proposals as soon as possible on the basis of Article 235 of the EEC Treaty;
 3. Will deliver its opinion, during the consultation procedure laid down by the Treaty, on the scope, objectives, structure, financing and parliamentary supervision of the Foundation;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council and to the Council and Commission of the European Community.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. 481/75, Chapter IV, Conclusion.

⁽²⁾ COM(78) 51 fin.

Fixing of prices for certain agricultural products
(continuation of debate)

The next item was the continuation of the debate on the Hughes report (Doc. 579/77).

Mr Baas spoke on a question of procedure.

Resuming the debate, Mr Früh spoke on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group (Group of the European People's Party).

IN THE CHAIR: MR YEATS
Vice-President

The following spoke: Mr Baas on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group, Mr Herbert on

WRITTEN QUESTION No 506/78
by Mr Dankert
to the Commission of the European Communities
(25 July 1978)

Subject: Setting up of a European policy research institute

According to 'The Economist' of 1 July a meeting was recently held in Paris in preparation for the setting up of a European Policy Research Institute.

1. To what extent is the Commission involved in the preparations for the setting up of this institute?
2. What other European institutions, organizations etc. are involved?
3. What are the Commission's views as regards the aim and functions of the institute, the staff needed and the resulting minimum budget requirements?

Answer

(20 November 1978)

1. It is true that Commission officials have taken part in informal discussions on the establishment of an institute for economic research (European Policy Research Institute).

2. Representatives of Community Member States and of non-member European countries have also taken part in these informal discussions.

3. The Commission's views as regards the aim and functions of the institute, the staff needed and the budget requirements were set out in the document transmitted to the Council by the Commission on 10 October 1975, on the establishment of a European Institute for Economic Research and Analysis.

4. Current discussions, which are intended primarily to avoid duplication of any similar projects and, secondly, to find an arrangement which will make European research as effective as possible, have not yet reached a point at which a date can be set for the actual establishment of the institute mentioned by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 529/78
by Mr Damseaux
to the Council of the European Communities
(9 August 1978)

Subject: Creation of a European centre for documentation on the environment

On 12 May 1978, in answer to Written Question No 1031/77 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission drew the attention of the European Parliament to the communication by Mr d'Ornano, French Minister of Cultural Affairs and the Environment, to the Council on 12 December 1977 on the ideas expressed by Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, President of the French Republic, at the 'European seminar on the quality of life'.

It appears that the Council agreed to discuss the ideas put forward by Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing at a Council meeting devoted to the environment.

1. Has the Council included this item in the agenda for a forthcoming meeting?
2. Is it intending to ask the Commission to prepare an official document?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 137, 12. 6. 1978, p. 5.

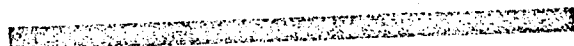
Answer

(16 November 1978)

The suggestions for the further development of the Community's environment policy which Mr d'Ornano, the French Minister for the Environment and the quality of life, put forward at the Council meetings on 12 December 1977 and 30 May 1978, and which included the creation of a European centre for documentation on the environment, were favourably received by the other Member States. A Council meeting on the environment will take place on 18 and 19 December 1978; the Council proposes at that meeting to hold for the first time discussions of a more political nature during which the Ministers will be able to deal with general questions. However, as

the agenda for such a meeting has not yet been finalized, the question of whether the creation of a European centre for documentation on the environment will be included as a subject for discussion by the Council remains completely open.

Without prejudice to any procedural decisions which the Council may have to take in order to examine the various topics, it will not fail to involve the Commission fully in the necessary preliminary studies. The Commission will assess whether to submit specific, official proposals to the Council in the light of the progress made with this work.



Member States to the coal industry in 1978. The Commission cannot take a decision formally authorizing these aids until the Council has expressed its position.

The Commission created the basis for a Community system of intervention measures by the Member States on behalf of the coal industry on 25 February 1976.¹ The Member States are required to inform the Commission of the measures they plan; after examining these aids, the Commission may authorize them if they are compatible with the smooth operation of the coal market.

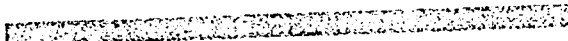
As regards the 1978 national aid measures of which it has been informed, the Commission has come to the conclusion that the general situation on the Community coal market this year suggest that the financial outturn of coal undertakings will deteriorate except in Britain. The rise in mining costs, the effects of changes in the exchange rates, etc., will lead to higher operating losses than last year; as a result, the Community coal industry will require more aids in 1978 than in 1977.

The Commission's examination of the aids planned by the Member States for 1978 led it to the conclusion that they are compatible with the smooth operation of the common market and may therefore be authorized.

The Commission stressed that the aids awarded by the Member States do not only help solve national energy supply problems and employment problems, but must also ensure stable coal production in order to further the security of the Community's energy supply.

Intra-Community trade in coal for power stations

2.1.117. The Communication presented by the Commission to the Council on 23 February 1978² concerning the implementation of a Community aid system for intra-Community trade in coal for power stations was the subject of opinions given by Parliament³ on 6 July and by the Economic and Social Committee⁴ at its plenary session on 12 and 13 July.



Industrial loans

2.1.118. The Commission announced in a press release that two loans of UKL 18 million and UKL 36 million have been granted to the National Coal Board under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty.

These loans will go towards the acquisition of underground equipment and powered supports. They will be paid in instalments as the Coal Board buys the equipment in question and the conditions for each instalment will depend on the market situation at the time.

Nuclear energy

Aid to uranium prospecting programmes

2.1.119. The Commission has allocated the 5 million EUA available in the Community budget for granting aids to uranium prospecting programmes on the territory of the Member States between 1978 and 1980.

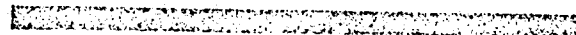
Nine projects (selected from the eighteen applications received by the Commission) will receive this aid, compared with thirteen in 1977 (totalling 5 million u.a.) and seven in 1976 (one million u.a.). This aid is granted on the basis of Article 70 of the Euratom Treaty and a Commission Regulation of 23 July 1976.⁵

Research and development, science and education

Forecasting and assessment science and technology (FAST): Council Decision

2.1.120. On 25 July the Council adopted, in compliance with the Commission proposal

¹ OJ L 63 of 11.3.1976.
² Bull. EC 2-1978, points 1.5.6 and 2.1.73.
³ Point 2.3.14 and OJ C 182 of 31.7.1978.
⁴ Point 2.3.74.
⁵ OJ L 221 of 14.8.1976.



sent on 30 June 1977¹ the FAST (Forecasting and Assessment in the Field of Science and Technology) indirect-action research programme. This five-year programme is intended to help in defining the Community's long-term objectives and priorities in R & D, and in developing a consistent policy in science and technology.

The total appropriation for the programme is 4.4 million EUA; the programme will be implemented by a team of ten working in collaboration with the different specialized research groups in the Community. The Commission will be assisted by an Advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM).

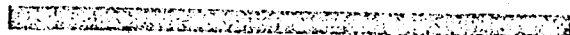
Activities will be centred on the following three priority areas: long-term supplies of resources (e.g. energy, agricultural products and raw materials); long-term technical and structural changes (e.g. the effect of new technologies on employment and the environment, and structural changes in industry); long-term social changes (e.g. the future role of telecommunications, health care and demographic changes).

Each of these three major areas will involve the following tasks:

- (i) analysis of existing research activities in the field of forecasting and assessment within the Community and elsewhere;
- (ii) highlighting the prospects, problems and potential differences which might effect the long-term development of the Community and proposal of Community action aimed at solving these problems or settling these differences; special attention will also be given to the improvement of forecasting methods;
- (iii) establishment, in conjunction with the Member States, of an *ad hoc* system of collaboration between the existing specialized research groups in the Community, and creation of a number of Community forecasting networks which will be as flexible and informal as possible, being structured in the light of the particular problem under investigation.

Research and development in the field of energy

2.1.121. On 10 August² the Commission sent to the Council a proposal concerning a second four-year (1979-83) indirect-action



research programme to follow on from the current four-year programme³ on 1 July 1979. Like the latter, the new programme is subdivided to cover five strategic sectors: energy saving, production and use of hydrogen, solar energy, geothermal energy, systems analysis and strategy studies in the field of energy.

This proposal—drawn up in particular with the assistance of the Advisory Committees on Programme Management⁴ responsible for the different sectors—takes account of results obtained in the implementation of the present four-year programme (July 1975-June 1979) and of research work in other parts of the world. Generally speaking, emphasis was placed on the development of prototypes and pilot projects, with the particular objects of guaranteeing the technical and economic viability of the demonstration and new applications projects which will shortly be the subject of a Commission proposal for financial support in accordance with the two regulations approved by the Council on 30 May 1978;⁵ these regulations concern demonstration projects in the field of energy conservation and applications of solar and geothermal energy. The appropriate ACPMs are instrumental in ensuring close cooperation between the activities in the direct-action programme implemented by the Joint Research Centre⁶ and those in the indirect-action programme where these relate to the same sectors, (as is the case with hydrogen and solar energy). The Commission proposes a maximum expenditure commitment of 125 million EUA for this programme and an increase in staff from the present 27 to 37. The allocation would break down as follows:

- (i) energy conservation (25 million EUA) for use in the homes and service industry sectors, in industry, transport and the conversion and storage of energy;
- (ii) production and use of hydrogen (15 million EUA): thermochemical and electrolytic production, transport, storage and use of hydrogen;

¹ Bull. EC 6-1977, points 1.3.1 and 1.3.4; OJ C 187 of 5.8.1977.

² OJ C 228 of 26.9.1978.

³ OJ L 231 of 2.9.1975 and L 10 of 13.1.1977.

⁴ Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.1.105 and 4-1978, point 2.1.105.

⁵ Bull. EC 5-1978, points 2.1.101 and 2.1.102; OJ L 158 of 16.6.1978.

⁶ OJ L 200 of 8.8.1977.