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UNITED NATIONS

# **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

(7 May 1959 — 7 May 1960)

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTIETH SESSION**  
**SUPPLEMENT No. 3**

**NEW YORK**

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## NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.



## ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

### Annual report to the Economic and Social Council covering the period from 7 May 1959 to 7 May 1960

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The present annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), which covers the period 7 May 1959 to 7 May 1960 inclusive, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the 27th meeting of its fifteenth session on 7 May 1960. It is presented for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council at its thirtieth session in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Commission's terms of reference, which states: "The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year..."<sup>1</sup> In connexion

with the resolutions adopted at the fifteenth session of the Commission, a number of delegates made statements explaining their votes. Statements were also made by delegations with respect to several draft resolutions tabled but subsequently not put to a vote. The substance of the above-mentioned declarations is contained in the summary record of the proceedings of the twenty-fifth meeting of the session (E/ECE/SR.15/25). This record forms an integral part of the present report.

<sup>1</sup> The previous activities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies have been reported to the Economic and Social Council in the following documents: Report on the first and second sessions, 2-14 May 1947 and 5-16 July 1947 respectively (*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (E/451)); Interim report covering the period 15 July - 31 December 1947 (*ibid.*, *Sixth Session, Supplement No. 10* (E/603 and Add.1)); Report on the third session covering the period 15 July 1947 - 8 May 1948 (*ibid.*, *Seventh Session, Supplement No. 10* (E/791 and Add.1 and 2)); Interim report covering the period 8 May - 11 November 1948 (*ibid.*, *Eighth Session, Supple-*

*ment No. 2* (E/1074)); and in annual reports to the Economic and Social Council at its ninth, eleventh, thirteenth, fourteenth, sixteenth, eighteenth, twentieth, twenty-second, twenty-fourth, twenty-sixth and twenty-eighth sessions (*ibid.*, *Ninth Session, Supplement No. 12* (E/1328); *ibid.*, *Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 10* (E/1674); *ibid.*, *Thirteenth Session, Supplement No. 6* (E/2002); *ibid.*, *Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 5* (E/2187); *ibid.*, *Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 9* (E/2382); *ibid.*, *Eighteenth Session, Supplement Supplement No. 3* (E/2556); *ibid.*, *Twentieth Session, Supplement Supplement No. 3* (E/2706); *ibid.*, *Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (E/2868); *ibid.*, *Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (E/2989); *ibid.*, *Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3* (E/3092); *ibid.*, *Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (E/3227)).

#### PART I

### WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FOURTEENTH SESSION

#### A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

2. The following is a summary account of the activities of the Commission's subsidiary bodies during the period under review. The subsidiary bodies in their work took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fourteenth session, in particular resolution 4 (XIV) (Contacts and strengthening of scientific and technical collaboration), resolution 7 (XIV) (Automation), resolution 8 (XIV) (Technical and econo-

mic documentation), resolution 9 (XIV) (Productivity of labour), resolution 12 (XIV) (Inter-regional co-operation), resolution 13 (XIV) (Distribution of documentation) and resolution 15 (XIV) (Programme of work for 1959/60). The programmes of work of the subsidiary bodies for the coming year were considered and adopted in the light of Economic and Social Council resolutions 664 (XXIV) and annex; 693 (XXVI) and annex; 694 (XXVI) and 742 (XXVIII).

Committee on Agricultural Problems: eleventh session,  
30 November - 4 December 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. L. Maire (Switzerland)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. S. Gal (Romania)

Present officers

*Chairman:* Mr. A. Tulupnikov (USSR)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. A. L. Wallon (France)

Working Party on Standardization of Perishable  
Foodstuffs: tenth session, 25-28 January 1960;  
Group of Experts: 29 September - 1 October 1959  
(Prague); 24 November 1959 (Geneva).

*Chairman:* Mr. P. Grandjean (Switzerland)

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Mrs. M. Klimova (Czechoslovakia)

Mr. A. Lotte (France)

*ad hoc* Working Party on Standardization of Conditions  
of Sale for Cereals: seventh session, 21-25 September  
1959

*Chairman:* Mr. B. G. Du Rietz (Sweden)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. K. Zwiercan (Poland)

*ad hoc* Working Party on Standardization of Conditions  
of Sale for Potatoes: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. G. Milazzo (Italy)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. B. Pokorny (Czechoslovakia)

Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture (seventh  
session), 25-28 May 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. M. Rauscher (France)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. D. Machacek (Czechoslovakia)

FAO/ECE Study Group on Demand for Agricultural  
Products: second session, 31 August - 4 September  
1959

*Chairman:* Professor de Wolff (Netherlands)

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Mr. G. Rottier (France)

Mr. G. Tamas (Hungary)

#### ACTIVITIES

3. For the Committee's eleventh session, delegations were requested to present their statements according to an agreed plan, comprising (a) a report on the size of the main harvests in 1959 and the state of livestock production, and (b) an analysis of the chief problems confronting governments in the last twelve months, and any consequent recent changes in their agricultural policy.

<sup>2</sup> See paragraphs 262 to 267 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report of the Committee on Agricultural Problems.

4. At its eleventh session the Committee considered the short-term market outlook for cereals, meat and livestock, dairy products, eggs and poultry, and fruit, in the light of trade statistics and forecasts submitted by countries and of additional information assembled by the secretariat.

5. Under its programme of continuing studies of medium-term trends in production, consumption and trade, the Committee made a thorough examination of methods of analysis recently developed in various countries making it possible to assess short-term prospects for increased consumption of the main agricultural products. A group of experts reviewed the forecasts already made at the national level and helped the secretariat in preparing estimates of probable demand by about 1965 for various groups of foodstuffs.

6. A simple method of analysing trends in agricultural production, suggested by the secretariat, was applied by it to twelve countries and by other international secretariats to nine other European countries. National experts lent the secretariat their assistance in giving final shape to these country studies.

7. The Committee asked the secretariat, with the help of the competent government departments, to submit to it in 1960 a comprehensive study assessing the possible effects of expected changes in consumption and production on trade and on farm incomes, with due regard to the various countries' agricultural policies.

#### *Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs*

8. The Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs held its tenth session at Geneva, from 25 to 28 January 1960.

9. The working party examined comparative studies of national standards and ECE standards for apples, pears, peaches and table grapes. It was decided that similar studies should be prepared for potatoes and onions. The working party considered it desirable that in the near future and in co-operation with the secretariats of the other European intergovernmental organizations concerned with the subject (OECE, European Economic Community) the recommendations already made for certain fruits shall be made mandatory, and agreement was reached on the way in which this might be done. Standards for apples, pears and tomatoes were therefore submitted to governments with a view to their formal adoption.

10. At the invitation of the Czechoslovak Government the group of experts on quality control of fruit and vegetables held a second session at Prague in September 1959 and made certain suggestions for practical recommendations to be laid before the competent national bodies.

11. The Group of Experts on Standardization of Potatoes held its second session at Geneva in November 1959 and made recommendations on the standardization of seed potatoes for the Working Party on Stan-

standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs, which adopted them at its tenth session.

12. The Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs continued its efforts to finalize the recommendations already framed for various products, the preparation of recommendations for other products and the establishment of nomenclatures, etc.

#### *Examination of Problems arising from the Mechanization of Agriculture*

13. At its seventh session held in May 1959 the Working Party on the Mechanization of Agriculture approved the publication of three reports dealing respectively with the mechanization of the application of chemical fertilizers in the form of gas or liquid, with the cleaning and sorting of grain after threshing and with transport on the farm. Provisional reports on eight other subjects were studied and are now being put into final form. A number of other problems were selected for immediate consideration. The working party discussed what should be done to intensify future contacts between research institutes and study centres in each country specializing in problems relating to the mechanization of agriculture. Several of its members made a study tour in Czechoslovakia in September 1959, at the invitation of that country's Minister of Agriculture.

#### *The Drafting of Standard Conditions of Sale for Certain Agricultural Products*

14. At its seventh session the *ad hoc* Working Party on Standardization of General Conditions of Sale for Cereals examined a draft contract for the sale of cereals consigned by rail in complete wagonloads, which had been submitted by the Swiss delegation, together with comments made thereon by the secretariat. The working party agreed on first reading two texts relating respectively to reciprocal and non-reciprocal contracts for cereals carried by rail. The two texts in question have been communicated to governments and interested circles for their comments. The secretariat will prepare for consideration by the working party at its next session a new draft which will take into account the comments received. In addition, the working party hopes to examine at its next session the question of the way in which contracts for the sale of cereals transported by road and by inland waterway should be drawn up. The secretariat has asked governments to send it their observations on this matter.

15. At its seventh session the *ad hoc* working party also took note of two draft sets of regulations for standardizing the methods of sampling cereals (respectively at ports of loading and unloading) drawn up by the European Union for the Grain, Oilseed and Fodder Trades. At the request of the working party, the secretariat has prepared a document reproducing the draft regulations in question, which has been submitted to governments and interested bodies asking them to send observations thereon. These observations, when received,

will be communicated to the Working Party in order to enable it to decide on its future course of action.

16. With regard to methods of analysis, the working party has asked the International Association for Cereal Chemistry to prepare and communicate to the secretariat an explanatory note on the revised method for determining the moisture content of cereals which has been devised within the framework of that association. This explanatory note has been communicated to the governments and organizations concerned asking them for their observations.

17. At its second session, the *ad hoc* Working Party on the Standardization of General Conditions of Sale for Potatoes drew up, on second reading, a draft set of General Conditions of Sale for Potatoes, which has been communicated to governments and to interested circles for their observations. In the light of these observations the secretariat will draw up a new draft set of general conditions of sale for potatoes for consideration by the working party at its next session.

#### *Action to be taken to Improve Comparability of Available Agricultural Statistics*

18. The Committee decided that certain problems of methodology and definitions relating to current agricultural statistics should be gone into very thoroughly at an all-European meeting in order to improve the comparability of the most recent statistics published by the various countries. The FAO Division of Statistics agreed to take the action suggested by the Committee, and meetings of experts will be organized, beginning in spring 1960, with a view to reaching specific recommendations for submission to governments.

#### *Exchange of Technical Information*

19. With the help of specialized technical organizations and in collaboration with the competent national research services the Committee exchanged information on the following problems:

(a) Modern methods of marketing and storing agricultural products and foodstuffs;

(i) A bibliography of recent publications prepared by FAO is being revised with the help of national experts;

(ii) Lists of publications which can be exchanged directly between the specialized services of the various countries are drawn up by each of them;

(iii) A programme of visits to undertakings engaged in the storage, preparation and sale of perishable foodstuffs (in particular fruit and vegetables) has been drawn up and is gradually being carried out;

(b) Methods of controlling weeds and plant diseases;

(c) Use of urban waste in agriculture;

(d) Use of peat as litter.

20. At its eleventh session the Committee decided on the steps to be taken by the experts of the countries concerned and by the secretariat to promote an exchange of experience and information on the following subjects:

- (a) The rational organization of agricultural enterprises and farms;
- (b) The most economical methods of organizing the raising of animals for meat production on specialized farms;
- (c) Ways and means of lowering production costs of vegetables and potatoes;
- (d) Economic effectiveness of new types of mineral fertilizers;
- (e) The latest methods of preventing and counteracting tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle;
- (f) Establishment of bilateral links between the national institutions concerned with specialized problems of agricultural production.

*Development of Contacts between Countries of Eastern and Western Europe*

*Collective Visits*

21. In November 1959 participants in the Committee's work visited centres for the preparation, sale and marketing of fruit and vegetables in France and Italy. In September 1959 the members of the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture visited factories, research centres and farms in Czechoslovakia; they were thus able to familiarize themselves with the most recent Czechoslovak achievements in the field with which they are concerned. In September 1959 the members of the Group of Experts on Methods of Quality Control of Fruit and Vegetables were able once again to visit some representative Czechoslovak undertakings.

*Films*

22. A number of technical films were shown during the sessions of the Committee on Agricultural Problems, the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture and the Study Group on Demand for Agricultural Products.

23. A catalogue of films, filmstrips and slides of general agricultural interest or of special interest from the point of view of the mechanization of agricultural operations is in preparation. Three sections have already been distributed. This catalogue will include only such films as are intended for free reciprocal exchange.

*Bibliographical and other Material*

24. The secretariat, in collaboration with the participating countries, is preparing supplements to the bibliographies on the marketing of food and agricultural products and on the recent studies on demand for

foodstuffs prepared by FAO. Lists of publications dealing with the mechanization of agriculture and the marketing of agricultural products in Europe have also been distributed.

25. Information made available at the Conference of International Organizations concerned with Agricultural Problems convened under FAO auspices at Paris in February 1960 will be distributed to participating countries, as it was last year.

**COAL COMMITTEE<sup>3</sup>**

Coal committee: forty-seventh session, 22-23 September 1959; forty-eighth session, 14 December 1959; forty-ninth session, 29-30 March 1960

*Chairman:* Mr. R. Duflou (Belgium)

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Mr. A. Schummer (Luxembourg)

Mr. A. Bem (Poland)

Coal Trade Sub-Committee: forty-second session, 29 June 1959; forty-third session, 21 and 23 September 1959; forty-fourth session, 14 December 1959; forty-fifth session, 28 March 1960

*Chairman:*

Mr. J. Picard (France) (forty-second, forty-third and forty-fourth sessions)

Mr. N. Martin (United Kingdom) (forty-fifth session)

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Mr. N. Martin (United Kingdom) (forty-second, forty-third and forty-fourth sessions)

Mr. N. Hansen (Denmark)

Mr. L. Husek (Czechoslovakia)

Utilization Working Party: twenty-fifth session, 24-25 September 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. B. Roga (Poland)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. M. Simonovitch (Belgium)

Classification Working Party: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. C. Charmelot (France)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. J. Novak (Czechoslovakia)

Working Party on Coal Statistics: seventh session, 23-25 March 1960

*Chairman:* Mr. R. George (United Kingdom)

<sup>3</sup> See paragraphs 268 to 272 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report of the Coal Committee.

*ad hoc* Meeting of Experts on the Concentration of Workings and Mechanization of Mining Operations (first session), 15-17 December 1959

Chairman: Mr. E. Kimmins (United Kingdom)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Uskoff (USSR)

## ACTIVITIES

### *Long-term Problems facing Governments in the Development of the Coal Industry and Trade in Europe*

26. The Committee devoted a major part of its activity to discussing the coal situation within the context both of current problems and of longer-term prospects. A report on the coal situation and prospects in Europe in 1958/59 was examined, and was given general release. The need for a regular annual review by the Committee of the European coal market and coal production plans, as well as of major policy questions, was recognized, and it was decided that the next review should place particular emphasis on the structural changes that are now taking place in the fuel market. In the course of these discussions the radical and very swift changes that are taking place in the European energy economy were stressed, and emphasis was placed on the increasing role of oil and natural gas. In connexion with the future prospects of the coal industry in Europe, the Committee is pursuing its study of the productivity of investments in coal mining and of a comparison of the costs of production in the various producing countries. The Working Party on Coal Statistics met in March 1960 to consider firstly the proposals made by the Committee for extending this work to cover a statistical grouping of collieries according to costs of production and associated manpower and output, and secondly the contribution made to the coal industry as a whole of the various kinds of activity, such as coal mining proper, coke ovens and patent fuel plants.

### *Production Problems*

27. An *ad hoc* meeting of experts on the Concentration of Workings and Mechanization of Mining Operations made recommendations to the Committee on the preparation of a number of reports by rapporteurs and on the desirability of discussing these reports, as well as the problem of mining seams at great depth, at a future meeting of experts to be held in the first part of 1961. The Committee has stressed the value of *ad hoc* meetings of this kind, which supplement the previously adopted procedure for arranging reciprocal visits of specialists and exchange of documentation.

### *Exchanges of Information and Experience*

28. The Committee takes steps to promote the exchange of scientific, technical and economic information and experience on questions coming within its terms of reference. The Committee examines a regular annual report relating to specific problems on which countries feel that they could benefit from the experience obtained

in other countries — forthcoming exhibitions of coal mining machinery and equipment; national mining institutes dealing with research in coal problems; new basic research work of general interest initiated in national research institutes; forthcoming coal production and preparation conferences, as well as scientific meetings dealing with coal problems; exchanges of visits that have taken place over the past year and those scheduled to take place. Collective visits are arranged for the Committee and the Utilization Working Party to mines and plants in the territory of a participating country. In 1959, members of the Committee made such a visit to Poland. The Committee has been invited to visit the United Kingdom in the autumn of 1960 in order to study its coal industry.

### *Trade Problems*

29. The Coal Trade Sub-Committee has continued to meet each quarter to review the situation for the next quarter on the basis of information received from participating countries concerning production, demand and stock plans and import requirements and quantities available for export. The Sub-Committee continues to make a preliminary review of the import requirements six months ahead at each of its quarterly meetings, and at its June and December meetings examines coal market reviews prepared by the secretariat. The Coal Trade Sub-Committee was thus enabled to keep governments informed of the swift changes that are taking place in the market.

### *Solid Fuel Utilization*

30. The Utilization Working Party is giving particular attention to the utilization of low-grade solid fuels, the output of which is increasing in nearly all producing countries as a result of a higher degree of mechanization, and has decided to arrange for the general distribution of an agreed report on this subject, as well as to consider a number of specific problems at its next session. The working party is also considering the problem of the utilization of ash, especially fly ash, and low- and medium-temperature carbonization of coal. A report on this subject is to be given general release. The reactivity of cokes and semi-cokes is being examined, and a programme of work in this field drawn up.

### *Classification of Solid Fuels*

31. No meeting of the Working Party took place in 1959, but efforts are being continued by the secretariat in collaboration with rapporteurs to find an acceptable formula for an international classification system for coke for metallurgical purposes.

### *Coal Statistics*

32. The *Quarterly Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe* and the *Monthly Summary of Coal Statistics* have been regularly issued. Continuous efforts are being made by the secretariat to expand coverage of coal statistics and to improve the comparability of the data.

Conference of European Statisticians (seventh session),  
8-12 June 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. L. Closon (France)

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Professor B. Barberi (Italy)

Mr. P. J. Bjerve (Norway)

Dr. F. Fajfr (Czechoslovakia)

Officers of the Conference for the period 1959-1961

*Chairman:* Dr. F. Fajfr (Czechoslovakia)

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Professor B. Barberi (Italy)

Mr. P. J. Bjerve (Norway)

Mr. A. Novak (Yugoslavia)

Group of Rapporteurs on Locality Statistics and the  
Urban/rural Classification (first session), 8-13 May  
1959

*Chairman:* Mr. B. Benjamin (United Kingdom)

Group of Rapporteurs on Comparisons between Systems  
of National Accounts in Use in Europe (first session),  
19-22 May 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. B. N. Davies (secretariat)

Working Group on Statistics of Private Consumption  
Expenditure (first session), 16-20 November 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. R. E. Beales (United Kingdom)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. S. Stanev (Bulgaria)

Working Group on Industrial Statistics (first session),  
18-22 January 1960

*Chairman:* Mr. G. Luther (Finland)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. N. Grachev (USSR)

Working Group on Financial Assets and Liabilities  
(first session), 29 February - 4 March 1960

*Chairman:* Mr. P. J. Bjerve (Norway)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. J. Denizet (France)

#### ACTIVITIES

##### *Locality Statistics and the Urban/Rural Classification*

33. On the recommendation of the Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing, a group of rapporteurs met in Prague in May 1959 and prepared recommendations for the standardization of census data on these topics.

<sup>4</sup> See paragraphs 273 to 275 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report of the Conference of European Statisticians.

34. As suggested by the Statistical Commission at its tenth session, the Conference set up a group of rapporteurs on this subject. At its first session in May 1959 the group clarified the broad conceptual differences between the systems of national accounts of the participating countries and recorded in its report the practices of the various countries where they were at variance. The group proposed that more detailed work be undertaken on important individual sections of the national accounts and that, as a longer-term objective, the possibility of drawing up an accounting structure embracing the chief elements of the two main systems of national accounts in use in Europe should be studied. The Conference approved this general programme of work and agreed that the next stage of the group's work should be to study in more detail the problems and possibilities of comparing the sectors of the accounts dealing with production and with personal consumption. If time permitted, the group should also give preliminary consideration to the possibilities of drawing up an accounting structure embracing the main elements of the different systems in use in Europe. The second session of the group will be held in June 1960.

##### *Censuses of Agriculture*

35. The Conference adopted a European programme for the forthcoming censuses of agriculture which had been drawn up by the Working Group on Agricultural Censuses and Surveys as a regional variant of the World Programme prepared by FAO. The programme included recommendations concerning the application of sampling methods in relation to each of the subjects covered.

##### *Censuses of Population and Housing*

36. The Conference approved a European programme for the forthcoming censuses of population as a regional variant of the "Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses" drawn up by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, and a European programme for the forthcoming censuses of housing which had been prepared by converting into a precise statistical programme the "General Principles for a Housing Census" adopted by the Statistical Commission. The Conference also agreed that the report of the group of rapporteurs on Locality Statistics and the Urban/Rural Classification (see paragraph 33, above) should be issued as an annex to the European Programme for National Population Censuses, for the guidance of countries which wished to adopt more precise and detailed recommendations on these subjects.

37. Several national papers on plans for the next censuses were circulated.

##### *Statistics of Financial Assets and Liabilities*

38. The Conference endorsed the proposal of an expert group that a statement on integrated income and financial accounts should be drawn up on the basis of



its conclusions, and agreed that a full working group should be convened to study further, on the basis of this statement, the problems of developing statistics of financial assets and liabilities.

39. This working group considered the uses of financial accounts, the sectors to be distinguished in such accounts, the classification of financial assets and liabilities and financial transactions and the accounting structure. The working group agreed on a statistical programme in the field of financial accounts. The group considered that further work on financial accounts at the international level should be postponed until countries had gained more experience in this field.

#### *Private Consumption Expenditure*

40. At its first session, in November 1959, the Working Group on Statistics of Private Consumption Expenditure discussed the uses of these statistics and the theoretical statistical requirements for these uses, the definition of private consumption expenditure and the items to be included in a basic European list of expenditure categories by types of goods and services. The group proposed that a further meeting be held to consider the various types of classifications which might be derived for particular purposes from the basic list of goods and services, the subdivision of the data by groups of the population, priorities, methods of collection and the relationship between annual and short-term statistics.

#### *Industrial Statistics*

41. The Conference set up a Working Group on Industrial Statistics which met in January 1960. The group reviewed the existing world standards in basic industrial statistics, the proposals for revising them and the proposals for the 1963 world programme of basic industrial inquiries, and made a number of agreed comments on these proposals. The group also agreed that a European programme for the 1963 inquiries should be prepared as a regional variant of the world programme and gave a number of indications of the ways in which the European programme might go beyond the world programme. The group recommended that a draft European programme be prepared in the light of these indications for consideration at a second session.

#### *Statistical Activities of ECE Committees*

42. The Conference approved a proposal of the Executive Secretary for the establishment of a working group to examine, more intensively than the Conference itself had been able to, all aspects of the statistical work carried out under the auspices of the ECE Committees, including the statistical bulletins and the programmes of work. The first session of the working group will be held in July 1960.

#### *Statistics of Employment and Unemployment*

43. Reviewing the extent of national implementation of international recommendations relating to statistics of the labour force, employment and unemployment

on the basis of a joint report by the ILO and the secretariat, the Conference noted that while there was room for further improvements in the international recommendations in some respects, the main problem was the absence of certain series in a number of countries and the lack of comparability between the statistics which were available. The lack of comparability was mainly due to differences in the sources from which the data were obtained, which were in turn partly due to differences in administrative organization.

#### *Continuous Family Budget Inquiries*

44. A report summarizing the data which had been collected on national continuous family budget inquiries was submitted to the Conference, which agreed to consider at its eighth session the question of further work on this subject.

#### *Household Consumption Surveys*

45. The Conference agreed to co-operate with FAO in arranging a meeting on household consumption surveys, with special reference to improving the usefulness of such surveys as a source of data for the analysis of demand for agricultural products and for studies of the level and pattern of food consumption.

#### *Seasonal and Similar Adjustments to Economic Time-series*

46. A preliminary summary and analysis by the secretariat of the data which had been collected on national practices in this field was submitted to the Conference, which invited France, in co-operation with the Statistical Office of the European Communities, to make a more thorough analysis of the material collected and to present a report to the eighth session of the Conference.

#### *Index Numbers of Agricultural Production*

47. The Conference was informed that FAO and the Organization for European Economic Co-operation had succeeded in reconciling in virtually all respects the methods used in compiling their index numbers of agricultural production. The Conference agreed that international recommendations concerning the methods of compiling national indices of agricultural production were also needed, so that national offices could take steps to make their indices more internationally comparable, and that these recommendations should be consistent with the principles of national accounting underlying index numbers of industrial production. The Conference therefore invited FAO to convene a group of experts to prepare a report on this question for consideration at its next session.

#### *Data-processing Equipment*

48. The Conference renewed its invitation to national statistical offices to submit reports on their plans for introducing, and their experience in using, electronic computers.

49. The Conference discussed a paper on this subject prepared by a rapporteur, and decided to invite national statistical offices and other appropriate bodies to prepare papers describing the methods of education and supplementary training of official statisticians in their countries. The Conference also invited UNESCO, in collaboration with the International Statistical Institute, to prepare, on the basis of these national documents, a paper for consideration at a meeting to be held later.

*List of Statistical Terms in Different Languages*

50. At the invitation of the Conference, the International Statistical Institute agreed to undertake the task of completing this project. A basic list of about 2,500 terms in the English language only will first be prepared and circulated for comments. The terms retained in the final list will then be translated into other languages.

*Reports by other International Bodies*

51. The Conference discussed reports by the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the secretariat of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation and the Conference of Heads of National Statistical Offices of the Northern Countries on their statistical activities in different fields. The Conference expressed the hope that it would also be possible in future to have reports on other statistical work in Europe, such as the statistical work done under the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

*Regional Statistical Seminars*

52. A regional seminar on agricultural censuses, which was attended by participants from thirteen countries, was held in Warsaw in June 1959 under the joint auspices of FAO and the Conference. The Conference requested the secretariat to undertake the necessary consultations with a view to organizing a third regional seminar in 1960/61. A decision has not yet been taken regarding the subject or the arrangements for this seminar.

**COMMITTEE ON ELECTRIC POWER <sup>5</sup>**

Committee on Electric Power: eighteenth session,  
27-29 January 1960.

*Chairman:* Mr. R. Hochreutiner (Switzerland)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. R. Dryzek (Poland)

Working Party on Statistics: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. R. Gautheron (France)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. Z. Pavicek (Czechoslovakia)

<sup>5</sup> See paragraphs 276 to 284 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report of the Committee on Electric Power.

Working Party for the Study of Rural Electrification:  
seventh session, 28-30 September 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. N. Sazonov (USSR)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. C. A. Cameron-Brown (United Kingdom)

Group of Experts for the Study of Hydro-electric Resources in Europe: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. D. Tonini (Italy)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. M. Vercon (Yugoslavia)

Group of Experts for the Study of Legal Questions:  
twelfth session, 1-2 October 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. C. Crescent (France)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. G. Padoan (Italy)

Drafting Committee for Inquiry into the Economic Aspects of the Influence of Mechanization on the Construction of Hydropower Stations: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. T. Nilsson (Sweden).

**ACTIVITIES**

*Economic Analysis of the Electric Power Situation*

53. The secretariat drew up for the Committee's consideration the annual report on the electric power situation in Europe, which covered the situation in 1958/59 and its future prospects (ST/ECE/EP/2). It also prepared the final version of a report on developments in the situation of Europe's electric power supply industry during the post-war period (E/ECE/367).

54. The Committee concluded its study of the financing of new electric power projects. It reviewed progress on two studies dealing respectively with methods of covering peak loads and with rationalization of electric power consumption and decided to pursue the first of these questions through a special *ad hoc* group of experts. A general report by the secretariat on rationalization of consumption was completed (ST/ECE/EP/3) and the Committee instructed the secretariat to draw up, with the help of rapporteurs, a plan for possible further studies on special aspects of the subject.

55. The *Quarterly Bulletin of Electric Energy Statistics for Europe* was published regularly and the *Annual Bulletin* for 1958 was issued. The Working Party on Electric Power Statistics did not meet during the period under review.

56. At its eighteenth session the Committee also dealt with a number of proposals for studying various specific questions concerned with development and use of electric power plants and transmission lines. Further to a USSR proposal that a study should be made of methods and economic criteria employed in different countries to evaluate and compare different types of plants and transmission systems and their possible role in electric power supply, the Committee arranged for the secrete-

secretariat to prepare for its further consideration, with the help of rapporteurs, a preliminary study of spheres in which such comparisons might usefully be made. It also decided that the question of ways of assessing economic efficiency due to automatization of electric power plants should be added to the work programme. A large number of proposals were considered relating to thermal power plants, including those arising from a Romanian proposal to set up a working party on the subject. The secretariat was instructed to carry out, with the help of specialists, a detailed scrutiny of the various proposals received, with a view to identifying those relevant economic problems not dealt with elsewhere which might justify further treatment if the Committee so determined.

### *Legal Questions*

57. The Group of Experts for the Study of Legal Questions, having decided to make a comparative analysis of the rights and obligations of electric power production, transmission and supply undertakings vis-à-vis local authorities and private persons, drew up a list of specific items on which it will require information and comments from different countries in order to pursue further a preliminary analysis initiated with the help of rapporteurs. The group of experts also examined the separate components of the question of guarantees in contracts providing for the exchange and sale of electric power, as a step towards a more detailed review which will be undertaken on the basis of information to be collected. The group of experts referred to the Committee a proposal from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in category A, that international electric power supply contracts should include a clause prohibiting export of energy to a country in which electricity production was interrupted or restricted because of a strike officially declared by a trade union. The Committee decided to seek the views of participating countries on the proposal.

### *Rural Electrification*

58. The Working Party for the Study of Rural Electrification considered a series of four reports which it approved for circulation in final form. These reports (listed in EP/127) dealt with problems of transmission and distribution and with utilization of electric power in rural areas.

59. It also considered in detail a further series of reports (listed also in EP/127) which are to be prepared in final form for the working party's 1960 session. Arrangements were also made for consideration at the same time of three further reports in provisional form.

60. The working party considered a report on the state of rural electrification in Europe in 1958.

### *Hydro-electric Resources in Europe*

61. The first issue of a *Half-year Bulletin on Conditions of Hydraulicity in Europe* was circulated. Specifications were also issued in final form for determining gross

river hydro-electric potential (E/ECE/EP/204) and for preparing and mapping indices of stream-flow irregularity (E/ECE/EP/205). Basic information on the distribution of gross surface hydro-electric potential was completed for a large area of Europe, and the Committee on Electric Power requested that the various sheets of the final version of the European map to be drawn up by the secretariat should be issued gradually as the information for particular areas becomes available. The Group of Experts for the Study of Hydro-electric Resources in Europe did not meet during the period under review.

### *Exchange of Information*

62. Further to a decision reached in 1956 by the meeting of specialists to consider the prospects of reducing building costs for hydro-power stations and the effect of mechanization in that connexion, volume II of a bibliographical index of works published on hydro-electric plant construction was issued (E/ECE/295). The Committee was kept informed of the state of progress in analysing information collected from countries participating in the comparative study of costs of embankment and surface excavation.

63. The Committee considered a revised list of existing monographs on European hydro-power stations and two model monographs for hydro-power stations in the USSR submitted by the delegation of that country. It arranged for analogous monographs supplied by countries participating in the Committee's work to be distributed to other countries through the secretariat.

64. Provision was made for dissemination of information in respect of that part of national electric power networks that can be used for international inter-connexion. The Committee requested the secretariat to prepare appropriate documentation on the subject on the basis of information to be supplied by participating countries.

65. A review was also made, on the basis of a document prepared by the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electric Power (UNIPEDE), of the question of emission of sulphur and ash in smoke from thermal power stations. The Committee decided that the document should be generally distributed.

66. The Committee also asked the secretariat to make a preliminary inquiry to ascertain to what extent safety requirements relating to high-voltage overhead lines were dealt with by other international organizations.

### *Relations with other International Organizations*

67. Close relations have been maintained with other international organizations with the object both of avoiding duplication and of ensuring that their attention may be drawn to any pertinent questions which, though not fully within the Committee's terms of reference, may have been submitted to it. The IAEA and a number of specialized agencies of the United Nations followed the work of the Committee.

68. A number of countries supplied the secretariat with lists of their installations which might be visited and those which they would like to visit in other countries, and these lists were circulated. The Committee arranged to be kept informed of the results of any such contacts established. The secretariat, having continued on request to place its services at the disposal of governments to facilitate visits or exchanges of information, informed the Committee of individual cases in which it had been able to gather information asked for by particular countries on specific subjects, or to put a country's experts in touch with the appropriate authorities in another country in order that a visit might be arranged to obtain information on a particular question.

#### *Group Visits*

69. In response to invitations from the governments concerned, twenty experts of the Working Party for the Study of Rural Electrification, representing fifteen countries, made a study tour, immediately preceding the seventh session, in the United Kingdom and Ireland, and twelve experts from the working party, representing seven countries, visited France. These visits represented the first stage of a two-year series covered by the invitations, which envisage a further visit to the same countries by additional experts from the working party.

#### **WORKING PARTY ON GAS PROBLEMS<sup>a</sup>**

Working Party on Gas Problems: sixth session, 20-22 January 1960

*Chairman:* Mr. P. Le Guellec (France)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. G. Koranyi (Hungary)

#### **ACTIVITIES**

##### *Analysis of the Gas Situation in Europe*

70. The working party has discussed the gas situation in Europe and its future prospects on the basis of a report prepared by the secretariat covering the period 1955-1957. This report is to be extended to cover 1958 and 1959.

71. The working party found that some subjects arising out of the survey would necessitate a more profound consideration — namely, economy in the transport of natural gas, the determination of the most desirable uses of gas from the point of view of both consumer and producer, and also the economy of the use of propane, butane and refinery gas as supplementary sources for production of gas.

<sup>a</sup> See paragraphs 285 to 292 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report of the Working Party on Gas Problems.

72. The working party has finalized for general release a document on underground storage of gas. Work is continuing on the economy of storing relatively small quantities of gas underground, and also the possibilities of storing underground petroleum gases in liquid form.

73. Gas tariff policies are regarded as a means of harmonizing supply and demand, and the working party considered at its fifth and sixth sessions a document on this subject which is to be given general release. The subject is considered so important that a further inquiry as to the tariffs in use will be made.

#### *Natural Gas Markets in Europe*

74. The working party has continued to consider markets for natural gas imported in liquid form from overseas. It is considered that great possibilities exist for such imports so that this work will be continued and enlarged to cover markets for such gas as well as for gas produced within Europe.

#### *Methods of Forecasting Gas Demand*

75. Seminars on this subject will continue to be arranged. One such seminar was held in the Federal Republic of Germany from 30 March to 1 April 1960.

#### *Legal Problems*

76. Following a preliminary study of the legal provisions governing international gas pipelines, the working party instructed the secretariat to prepare a document containing information on the legal conventions dealing with the problems of international transport of gas and in other fields, and to make a preliminary study of measures designed to ensure the international transmission of gas.

77. The working party has studied, with the help of rapporteurs, the legal aspects of underground storage of gas, and intends to continue this study.

#### *Statistics*

78. The annual bulletin of gas statistics for Europe relating to 1958 is to be published and will have an all-European coverage.

#### *Development of Contacts between Countries of Eastern and Western Europe*

79. The working party continued its efforts to promote such contacts. Exchange visits of specialists took place, enabling the experts to become familiar with technical developments in the gas industries of other countries.

80. The established contact with, in particular, the International Gas Union and also with the Comité d'études économiques de l'industrie du gaz (COMETEC) has proved very fruitful and will continue. The Inter-

national Gas Union has agreed to undertake a number of studies of a technical nature which will be available to the working party.

#### HOUSING COMMITTEE<sup>7</sup>

Housing Committee: eighteenth session, 19-23 June 1959;  
nineteenth session, 10 and 11 December 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. G. Bonnome (France)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. V. Cervenka (Czechoslovakia)

Working Party on Housing and Building Statistics: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. C. Anonsen (Norway)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. P. Macovei (Romania)

*Ad hoc* meeting on Standardization and Modular Coordination: 17 and 18 June 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. V. Cervenka (Czechoslovakia)

*General Rapporteur,* Mr. G. Blachère (France)

*Ad hoc* meeting on Preferred Dimensions of Large Components, 8 and 9 December 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. V. Cervenka (Czechoslovakia)

*General Rapporteur:* Mr. G. Blachère (France)

#### ACTIVITIES

##### *Economic Aspects of Housing Policy*

81. The Committee debated European housing progress and policies, based on the provisional version of the secretariat's survey of those questions, and reviewed especially the level and rate of house-building, its relation to housing requirements, and prospects for the future; the movement of building prices and costs; problems of labour and materials; and recent changes in housing policy affecting in particular financing, rents, town and country planning, administrative and organizational changes, and the scope and direction of housing programmes and policies. Certain long-term problems relating to the clearance of dwellings unfit for human habitation were also discussed. The provisional report was subsequently revised and completed by the secretariat and published (*European Housing Trends and Policies in 1958*, E/ECE/365).

82. The Committee decided to undertake a new inquiry into the European housing situation drawing extensively on data obtained from the housing censuses that have already taken place or will take place in many European countries in the next year or two. It was agreed that the report should examine housing require-

ments and take into account the extent of the housing shortages in different countries, the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the existing housing stock, the normal additional requirements, and the structure and trend of housing demand.

83. Arising from the report on financing of housing in Europe, published in 1958, and in addition to keeping up to date questions of housing finance in the annual housing review, the Committee agreed that rapporteurs should carry out a pilot inquiry on the private financing of housing.

##### *Town and Country Planning*

84. A comprehensive inquiry into urban renewal policies and programmes has been started by rapporteurs in a limited number of countries which have had special experience in conservation, rehabilitation and redevelopment. Rapporteurs have also started a pilot field inquiry on the planning and cost of different types of layout for new residential areas, having regard to qualitative standards and with a view to systematically assessing possibilities of making economies.

85. The Committee discussed problems of rural housing on the basis of a first provisional report on the subject prepared by the secretariat with the help of rapporteurs. Stress was laid in particular on administrative, financial and technical measures which were being taken in various countries to improve the rural housing situation.

##### *Technical Aspects of Housing Policy with Particular Reference to reducing the Cost of House Construction*

86. The Committee debated the effect of government measures designed to promote the technological development of the building industry and reduce housing costs or increase productivity on the basis of a second provisional report prepared by the secretariat with the help of rapporteurs. Stress was laid in particular on the economics of technological developments illustrated by experience in different countries. The provisional report was subsequently revised and completed by the secretariat and published (*Government Policies and the Cost of Building*, E/ECE/364).

87. Pursuant to a recommendation from the report on the cost of building, the Committee agreed to undertake a pilot field inquiry on actual housing costs in selected European countries which would serve as a basis for a study of the methodology of this question. Another recommendation contained in the above-mentioned report, which the Committee accepted, was to start an inquiry with the help of a number of international organizations into the possibilities of reviewing building regulations with a significant effect on cost in the light of technical progress.

88. The Committee examined a comprehensive report prepared by rapporteurs on the utilization of space in current types of dwellings. The final version of this

<sup>7</sup> See paragraph 293 to 298 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report of the Housing Committee.

report, including plans of typical dwellings in selected categories in different countries, was subsequently published (*Utilization of Space in Dwellings*, E/ECE/350).

89. An *ad hoc* meeting on standardization and modular co-ordination was held to consider the practical application of standardization, from the point of view both of reducing building costs and of developing trade in building materials and components. This was followed by an *ad hoc* meeting on preferred dimensions of large building components. At this meeting ten European countries agreed to select the dimensions of large building components from within a series of values which were arrived at for this purpose as a means of reducing building costs.

#### *Housing Problems of Countries in the Course of Rapid Industrialization*

90. The preparation of housing surveys and programmes, as an important factor in the formulation of housing policies, was selected as the subject for the first seminar, which is expected to be held in 1961. The programme is being worked out by the secretariat and experts from the interested countries.

#### *Housing and Building Statistics*

91. In 1959 the *Quarterly Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe* was in its seventh year of publication. Further improvements were made in the Bulletin, in particular with regard to coverage and uniformity in presentation. The second issue of the *Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe* was published. The Committee agreed to undertake, through its statistical working party, a European programme for current housing and building statistics.

#### *Development of Contacts and Technical Co-operation*

92. The Committee confirmed that the informal working arrangements regarding participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Committee had proved effective in practice and should continue along present lines. There has been a growing collaboration with certain organizations during 1959. The Committee, in collaboration with the CIB, has been exploring the feasibility of working out a full documentation service concerning housing and building on a largely self-supporting basis.

93. The Committee agreed on a long-term programme of group visits of participants in the Committee to different countries. A comprehensive visit took place in 1959 to the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR.

#### *Programme of Work*

94. The Committee considered a report on a long-range programme of concerted international action in the field of housing and related community facilities as recommended in Council resolution 731 B (XXVIII). In establishing its work programme it took into account

the long-range programme for the first time, the Committee's future work programme covers the next two or three years.

#### INDUSTRY AND MATERIALS COMMITTEE<sup>8</sup>

*ad hoc* Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering: fourteenth session, 15-19 February 1960

*Chairman:* Mr. G. Trojan (Czechoslovakia)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. R. Papillon (France)

*ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. R. Schwob (France)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. V. Kuznetsov (USSR)

Special meeting of Experts on the Economic Aspects of Automation 28-30 September 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. A. Leauté (France)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. B. Sotskov (USSR)

#### ACTIVITIES

95. During the period under review the Committee itself has not met. No meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery was convened. The *ad hoc* Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering and the Special Meeting of Experts on the Economic Aspects of Automation met.

#### *Contract Practices in Engineering*

96. The working party examined what clauses it would be possible to include in general conditions of sale for the export of durable consumer goods and certain other forms of engineering stock articles, and in the light of the work accomplished by the working party, the secretariat is preparing a draft set of general conditions for the export of durable consumer goods and certain other forms of engineering stock articles which will be considered by the working party at its next session, which is scheduled to take place from 24 to 28 October 1960. In addition, the working party decided to invite interested governments to make known to the secretariat their views on secretariat notes IM/WP.5/47 and IM/WP.5/48, which deal with certain forms of pure erection operations, with a view to the possible drawing up of general conditions of sale for the erection of plant and machinery abroad.

#### *Automation*

97. Pursuant to resolution 7 (XIV) a Special Meeting of Experts on the Economic Aspects of Automation was held in September 1959 (see also E/ECE/IM/60).

<sup>8</sup> See paragraphs 299 to 303 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report on the Industry and Materials Committee.

## INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE<sup>9</sup>

Inland Transport Committee: nineteenth session, 14-18 December 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. G. Santoni (Italy)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. S. Batkowski (Poland)

Sub-Committee on Road Transport: eighteenth session, 9-12 November 1959

*Chairman:*

Mr. B. Tapernoux (Switzerland) (eighteenth session)

Mr. A. Buzzi-Quattrini (Austria) (nineteenth session)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. J. Koszyk (Poland)

Sub-Committee on Rail Transport: thirteenth session, 5 and 6 October 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. M. Voronitchev (USSR)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. P. Nicolas (Belgium)

Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport: third session, 16-19 November 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. S. Hlava (Czechoslovakia)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. E. Dalga (France)

Working Party on River Law: seventh session, 19-28 October 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. V. Vanderperren (Belgium)

*Vice-Chairman:* Pr. J. Fišer (Czechoslovakia)

Working Party on Transport of Dangerous Goods: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. A. W. Clarke (United Kingdom)

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Mr. A. Buzzi-Quattrini (Austria)

Mr. S. Wojciechowski (Poland)

Working Party on the International Road Transport Régime: eighteenth session, 7-11 September 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. C. Tosti (Italy)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. M. Urban (Poland)

Working Party on International Passenger Transport Services by Road: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. J. Cor (France)

Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles: eighth session, 12-16 October 1959; ninth session, 21-25 March 1960

*Chairman:* Mr. G. Pucci (Italy)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. N. Ostrovsky (USSR)

Working Party on the Prevention of Road Traffic Accidents: eleventh session, 30 November - 4 December 1959

*Chairman:* Mrs. R. Liger (France)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. J. Wojciechowski (Poland)

Group of Customs Experts: fifteenth session, 25-29 May 1959; sixteenth session, 11-15 January 1960

*Chairman:* Mr. A. van Aken (Belgium)

Group of Experts on Track Costs: second session, 25-27 August 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. H. Hondermarcq (Belgium)

Working on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs: fourteenth session, 7-9 October 1959; fifteenth session, 6-8 January 1960

*Chairman:* Mr. P. Nicolas (Belgium) (fourteenth and fifteenth sessions)

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Mr. D. Civša (Yugoslavia) (fourteenth session)

Mr. H. Omeljaniuk (Poland) (fifteenth session)

Working Party on Statistical Information: fifteenth session, 14-18 September 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. H. Kuiler (Netherlands)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. L. Frey (Switzerland)

Working Party on Transport Costs: ninth session, 2-5 November 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. A. Brunet (France).

Group of Experts on the Unification of Policing Regulations and Signalling Systems on Inland Waterways: ninth session, 9-13 June 1959; tenth session, 23-27 November 1959; eleventh session, 7-11 March 1960

*Chairman:* Mr. J. Verhey (Netherlands)

*ad hoc* Working Party on the Contract for International Furniture Removals, 22-26 February 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. N. Fenelli (Italy)

## ACTIVITIES

### Road Transport

#### (a) Regulation of international road transport

98. The Working Party on the International Road Transport Régime continued preparing annexes to be added to the 1954 General Agreement on Economic Regulations for International Road Transport and the Set of Rules attached to the Agreement. After examining the prospects for the entry into force of this general agreement and what would then be its scope of applica-

<sup>9</sup> See paragraphs 304 to 314 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report of the Inland Transport Committee.

tion, the Committee decided to convene a special session of the Sub-Committee on Road Transport to consider whether the agreement and the annexes to be incorporated in it could be applied over a sufficiently large geographical area and, if not, whether the provisions of the General Agreement and certain annexes could be put into effect *de facto*.

99. During this special session, held in February 1960, the Sub-Committee on Road Transport considered that there was little likelihood of the entry into force of the General Agreement and prepared a draft resolution recommending that national laws and regulations be amended so as to insert therein those provisions of the General Agreement and its recently prepared annexes in which most countries broadly acquiesced.

100. With regard to the issue of licences for international road transport, the Sub-Committee adopted two resolutions, one recommending that the formalities for the issue of licences for the transport of perishable foodstuffs should be as flexible as possible and the other defining the minimum of stability desirable in operating regular international passenger transport lines.

#### (b) Road traffic

101. The Working Party on the Prevention of Road Traffic Accidents and the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles have begun codifying the decisions previously adopted. In this connexion the ECE countries will jointly submit proposals for the amendment of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic and the 1949 Protocol on Road Signs and Signals.

102. These two working parties are continuing to study the improvement of road safety through the unification of road signs and signals and traffic regulations and the co-ordination of provisions relating to the construction, equipment and fittings of motor vehicles; the improvement of the presentation and distribution of road traffic statistics and traffic accident statistics; the simplification of the trade in motor vehicle parts by reciprocal recognition of approval markings.

103. On the proposal of these two working parties, the Sub-Committee adopted in 1959 five resolutions relating to these subjects.

#### (c) International motor vehicle traffic

104. The Sub-Committee on Road Transport and its working parties are continuing their efforts to simplify the documents required in international traffic.

105. With regard to the recognition of international driving licences conforming to the model of the 1926 Convention, the Committee asked the secretariat to bring the substance of the attached note directly to the attention of those countries members of the Commission which are Parties to the 1926 Convention or the 1943 Convention and not to the 1949 Convention, and of those countries which are members of the Commission and Parties to the 1949 Convention, and decided to recommend the Commission to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the note (which is also annexed to the Committee's report on its nineteenth session, E/ECE/TRANS/514, annex 2):

Further extension of the time-limit provided for in article 24, paragraph 6, of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic, and steps to be taken to cover the period following the expiry of the extended time-limit

#### *Note for the Economic Commission for Europe*

1. Article 24, paragraph 6, of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic provides that for a period of five years beginning with the entry into force of the Convention, the Contracting Parties shall recognize the documents issued for the driving of motor vehicles under the provisions of the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic signed at Paris on 24 April 1926, or of the Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic opened for signature at Washington on 15 December 1943. As the five-year period was due to expire on 26 March 1957, the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe, in its resolution No. 185 adopted on 16 December 1955, and later Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 603 (XXI), adopted on 26 April, 1956, recommended the Contracting Parties to the 1949 Convention to extend the period referred to in article 24, paragraph 6, up to 26 March 1960. It should be added that, apart from this paragraph and these recommendations, those Parties to the 1949 Convention which were parties to the 1926 and 1943 Conventions and have not denounced those Conventions remain bound to continue indefinitely recognizing licences issued under the 1926 and 1943 Conventions by countries which are Parties only to those Conventions, since article 30 of the 1949 Convention abrogates the previous instruments only in relations between the Contracting Parties to the new Convention.

2. The Economic and Social Council resolution referred to above also recommended countries Members of the United Nations to become Parties to the 1949 Convention; but only 38 Members of the United Nations are [in December 1959] parties to the Convention. There is however a marked tendency, especially in Europe, simply to recognize national driving licences, whatever their form, subject in some cases to the proviso that they be accompanied by a certificate conforming to the model annexed to resolution No. 86 of the Sub-Committee on Road Transport (TRANS/197, annex 4) and reproduced in Economic and Social Council resolution 645 E (XXIII).

3. In these circumstances, the Inland Transport Committee considers:

That a further extension of the transitional period referred to in article 24, paragraph 6, of the 1949 Convention is necessary for countries where Economic and Social Council resolution 645 E (XXIII) is not fully applied; and

That it would be desirable for the Economic and Social Council to adopt a resolution to that effect, on the understanding that the further extension should be for two years only and would not be subsequently renewed, and that the Economic and Social Council would at the same time recommend:

That countries parties to the 1949 Convention should recognize, as from a date not later than 26 March 1962, international driving permits conforming to the model in annex 10 to the said Convention issued by countries not parties to the Convention, and inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations, by 1 January 1961, of their intentions in the matter;

That countries parties to the 1926 Convention or to the 1943 Convention and not yet parties to the 1949 Convention should recognize, as from a date not later than 26 March 1962, international driving permits conforming to the model in annex 10 to the 1949 Convention, and inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations, by 1 January 1961, of their intentions in the matter.



## *Inland Water Transport*

106. The Committee completed a draft convention on the contract for the carriage of goods by inland waterway and decided that this convention should be open for signature as from 1 June 1960, provided that, by that date, not less than five countries had informed the secretariat that they were prepared to sign it.

107. It also completed a draft convention for the unification of certain rules concerning collisions in inland navigation and decided that it should be open for signature as from 15 March 1960.

108. The Committee decided to convene a new group of experts to study the problems of creating a unified network of European inland waterways of international concern and laid down the group's terms of reference.

109. The work relating to the unification of signalling systems for inland waterways themselves was continued and completed. The studies on the unification of signalling systems on craft are being continued. The study of the unification of policing regulations has been begun.

110. A preliminary draft convention on the registration of inland water craft has been drawn up.

111. A synoptic report on the mechanization of harbour installations is in preparation.

112. The Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport adopted a resolution on measures to be taken to prevent the pollution of water by petroleum waste products discharged from inland water craft.

## *Rail Transport*

113. The Sub-Committee on Rail Transport is following the measures which have been taken or are contemplated under the auspices of the Central Office for International Transport by Rail (OCTI) for the rational routing of international goods transport.

114. The Committee is concerned with the harmonization of the Berne Conventions (CIM and CIV) with the Agreements on the International Carriage of Passengers and Goods (SMGS and SMPS) to which the railway administrations of certain eastern European and certain Asian countries are parties. Initial contacts were established to this end between OCTI and the Organization for Co-operation between Railway Administrations, but the Sub-Committee on Rail Transport was obliged to note in 1959 that little had so far been accomplished and it approved a programme for seeking a solution.

115. The Group of Experts to study Certain Technical Railway Questions examined in particular the mechanization of track operations and automation of gravity marshalling operations and went on to a preliminary examination of the other items on its work programme.

## *Transport of Dangerous Goods*

116. The Working Party on Transport of Dangerous Goods continued its study of the amendments to be made to annexes A and B of the European Agreement

concerning the International Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) both in order to take account of comments submitted after the Agreement was signed and to harmonize the annexes with the amendments adopted to the Regulations concerning the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID).

117. The Committee adopted a resolution recommending the governments to bring their internal regulations governing the transport of dangerous goods by rail into line with the RID within a given time limit and similarly to bring into line with the ADR, when it has come into force, their national regulations governing the transport of dangerous goods by road.

118. With the assistance of experts, the secretariat has prepared a preliminary draft agreement relating to the international transport of dangerous goods by inland waterway; this first draft will be examined by the Working Party on Transport of Dangerous Goods, in 1960.

## *Studies of Transport Economics and Transport Co-ordination*

119. A working party prepared a report on the proportion of track costs occasioned by the various types of motor vehicles. The governments and the international organizations transmitted their comments on a general report by the secretariat on transport co-ordination. These reports and the discussions on co-ordination will be resumed at the Committee's next session.

120. The Working Party on Transport Costs went on with various studies and discussions. The Committee discussed the direction to be given to this working party's activities.

## *Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs*

121. The Working Party on Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs prepared a preliminary draft agreement defining the precautions to be taken in transporting certain highly perishable foodstuffs by rail and by road.

122. The Committee adopted a resolution on the standardization of cardboard packaging, the annexes to which will be completed in 1960, and decided to convert the Protocol on the Standardization of Wooden Packaging for Fruit and Vegetables into a similar resolution.

## *Customs Questions*

123. The Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets was opened for signature on 15 January 1959. It was signed by seven countries and came into force on 7 January 1960. The Group of Customs Experts came to an agreement on certain points with regard to the way in which it was to be applied. A draft convention on customs treatment of pallets was discussed, and the convention will probably be opened for signature in 1960. A new international customs declaration form for goods transport by rail

came into force. This form is contained in the 1952 Rail Convention.

124. The Group of Customs Experts continued its efforts for the simplification of the system for temporary importation of motor vehicles in international traffic and was able to record satisfactory results in this connexion. It is tackling the question of unifying the systems to be applied in certain special cases by countries which have made certain simplifications and standardizing the definition of "normal residence" of a vehicle owner, which each country uses as a criterion for granting or refusing the temporary importation regime. A resolution was adopted on the customs facilities to be provided for road trailers entering a country by rail during a road-rail transport operation.

#### *Statistics*

125. Considerable progress was made in drawing up a commodity classification for transport by road and by inland waterway, and the Working Party of Experts on Statistical Information decided to undertake similar work for transport by rail and to study a condensed classification common to the various means of transport.

126. The working party decided to simplify and reduce in volume the information to be published following the five-year censuses of traffic on the main international traffic arteries and the studies undertaken on the basis of those results. It also made certain simplifications and changes in the annual statistical questionnaire sent to all the governments.

#### *Contract for International Furniture Removals*

127. An *ad hoc* working party held a preliminary discussion of a draft convention on the contract for international furniture removals. Provision for such a convention was expressly made in the Protocol of signature to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concluded in 1956. The working party prepared a text, but raised the question whether it might not be preferable to turn it into standard contract clauses since they could be applied more rapidly over a broader geographical area than could a convention.

#### *Development of Contacts*

128. The Committee noted that the exchanges of missions of transport technicians under bilateral agreements had increased in 1959. It expressed the hope that such exchanges would continue to increase and that exchanges of trainees would also be arranged. It requested governments to provide the secretariat with information and to express their wishes regarding exchanges of delegations of specialists, scientific experts and trainees which had been organized in 1959 or were planned for 1960 or 1961 in the sphere of transport, and it asked the secretariat to circulate the information received and the wishes expressed.

## COMMITTEE ON MANPOWER <sup>10</sup>

129. The Committee remained inoperative between the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Commission in view of the arrangement whereby the Committee's programme of work has been taken over by the International Labour Organisation. ILO informs the Commission at each of its plenary sessions about manpower problems in Europe and about its activities in this field. A report on this subject was prepared by ILO for the information of the Commission at its fifteenth session (E/ECE/371).

### STEEL COMMITTEE <sup>11</sup>

Steel Committee: twenty-second session, 2-5 June 1959; twenty-third session, 11-13 January 1960.

*Chairman:* Mr. W. Waring (United Kingdom)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. F. Houdek (Czechoslovakia)

*ad hoc* Working Party on General Conditions of Sale for Steel Products and Iron, Chromium and Manganese Ores: second session, 10 and 11 November 1959; third session, 8 and 10 February 1960.

*Chairman:* Mr. Andrejevic (Yugoslavia)

Working Party on Steel Statistics (eighth session, 1 and 2 October 1959.

*Chairman:* Mr. E. Ruist (Sweden)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. F. Barcal (Czechoslovakia)

### ACTIVITIES

#### *Short-term Trends and Problems in the European Steel Industry*

130. The Committee held its annual debate on the steel market in the preceding year, based on a provisional review prepared by the secretariat. The survey of the steel market for 1958 was presented on an all-European basis and within an outline previously adopted by the Committee. There was a discussion of the broad trends in the European and work markets, including trends in demand and supply, the movement of prices and changes of price policy, the growth of capacity, various supply factors and future prospects. Subsequently, the report was revised by the secretariat and published (*The European Steel Market in 1958*, E/ECE/363).

131. The Committee also had a full exchange of views on the main trends and developments in the steel market in the current year, based on a discussion note prepared by the secretariat for this purpose.

<sup>10</sup> See paragraphs 315 to 319 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report on this matter.

<sup>11</sup> See paragraphs 320 to 326 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report of the Steel Committee.

## *Long-term Trends and Problems in the European Steel Industry*

132. The Committee discussed long-term trends and problems in the European steel industry on the basis of two successive versions of a comprehensive report prepared by the secretariat. The Committee reviewed past trends of steel consumption, production and trade in finished steel, and production and consumption of steel-making raw materials. Consideration was given to the likely evolution of steel consumption and steel production, as well as the future availability of steel-making raw materials in relation to Europe's requirements. Finally, the Committee discussed Europe's long-term prospects for trade in steel. A consultation was held of steel technologists to consider the past and future economic consequences of technological trends which were described in a chapter of this report. The report was subsequently revised by the secretariat for publication (*Long-term Trends and Problems of the European Steel Industry*, E/ECE/369).

### *Statistics*

133. In 1959 the *Quarterly Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe* was in its tenth year of publication. The coverage, content and comparability of the data of the *Bulletin* were improved.

134. The Working Party on Steel Statistics examined and approved a detailed long-term plan for the development and collection of statistics on actual consumption of steel and on merchants' and consumers' stocks. It defined the products of the steel industry for this purpose and agreed, for the purpose of collecting statistics in this field, on the stage at which a product should be regarded as having left stock to enter the consumption process. The Committee decided to assess the possibility of arriving at an agreed system of classification which could be used as a basis for work which might be undertaken in the field of alloy steels.

### *Standardization of General Conditions of Sale*

135. Pursuant to the decision of the Committee at its twenty-first session to reconvene the *ad hoc* Working Party for General Conditions of Sale for Steel Products and Iron, Chromium and Manganese Ores, the working party met in November 1959 (second session) and in February 1960 (third session) to consider the feasibility of drawing up, at least on some points generally dealt with in standard conditions of sale, uniform clauses for the sale of steel products. Members of the working party are at present engaged on the examination of a draft set of standard clauses prepared by the secretariat. At its next session in September 1960 the working party will continue the examination of the draft set of general conditions.

### *Technical Co-operation and All-European Contacts*

136. There has been a growing volume of bilateral exchanges of visits and a growing attendance at international exhibitions and congresses in the field of steel

and allied questions. The Committee agreed that it would continue to include in the agenda of each session an item on technical co-operation and contacts so as to give delegates an opportunity of informing the Committee of such developments and drawing attention to any difficulty which might arise.

### *Programme of Work*

137. The Committee agreed to include in its current work programme the following two inquiries: the use and consumption of steel in the building and civil engineering industry; and the relative contribution to total crude-steel output of the different steel-making processes, in the light of their respective economic and technical advantages, paying particular attention to the growing use of oxygen in the different forms of steel-making. The Committee decided to consider at its next session the following proposals: detailed suggestions by the USSR delegation for work on problems of automation of rolling and finishing of steel and questions of productivity in the steel industry; and a note to be prepared by the delegation of the United States on competitive factors affecting trade in steel products. Finally, it decided to include in its long-term work programme the following subjects: the effects of location on the economics of iron and steel-making; the economic aspects of iron ore preparation; and long-term trends in the substitution of steel by other materials.

### **TIMBER COMMITTEE<sup>12</sup>**

Timber Committee: seventeenth session, 12-16 October 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. F. M. du Vignaux (France)

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Mr. J. O. Söderhjelm (Finland)

Mr. J. Knothe (Poland)

Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers: third session, 1-6 June 1959 (Oslo) (study tour in Norway 8-13 June 1959)

*Chairman:* Mr. E. G. Richards (United Kingdom)

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Mr. I. Sudnitsin (USSR)

Mr. J. Venet (France)

Study Group on Methods and Organization of Forest Work: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. J. Jindra (Czechoslovakia)

Study Group on Manual and Mechanized Forest Operations: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. I. Samset (Norway)

<sup>12</sup> See paragraphs 327 to 337 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report of the Timber Committee.

Study Group on Forest Machinery Development: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. X. B. de Mégille (France)

Study Group on Vocational Training and Prevention of Accidents in Forest Work: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. H. Frølund (Denmark)

Study Group on a Multilingual Glossary of Forest Work Science: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. U. Sundberg (Sweden)

Joint FAO/ECE *ad hoc* Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics: third session, 7-11 December 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. J. Keller (Switzerland)

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Mr. F. C. Hummel (United Kingdom)

Mr. B. Perepechin (USSR)

Consultation of Experts on Wood Utilization: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. J. Campredon (France)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. A. Smirnov (USSR)

Consultation of Hardwood Experts (first session), 8-10 September 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. M. Hans (Switzerland)

*ad hoc* Working Party on the Standardization of General Conditions of Sale for Timber: fourth session, 7-11 March 1960

*Chairman:* Mr. H. Blétry (France)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. N. Dumitrescu (Romania)

## ACTIVITIES

### *Market Review*

138. At its seventeenth session, the Timber Committee reviewed the course of the European market in sawn softwood, pitprops, pulpwood and hardwood during 1959 and appraised the prospects for 1960. The discussion was opened by a statement by the secretariat on the current economic and financial trends in the region. The results of the review are set out in the Timber Committee's report on its seventeenth session (E/ECE/TIM/63, paragraphs 9-22, and 26-39).

### *Timber Bulletin for Europe*

139. The Committee noted that most member countries had effected commendable improvements in the completeness and promptness with which quarterly statistics were being reported, and that the timber price statistics in the second quarterly issue of the *Timber Bulletin* were more complete than in previous issues.

It also noted that the country market reports do not yet cover all countries in Europe, because of lack of information from some of these countries.

### *Consultation of Hardwood Experts*

140. The Committee approved the report of the experts and adopted the worksheets, drawn up at the consultation, of data relating to European imports and exports of hardwoods. A list of assortments, on which to form a series of hardwood price statistics, was adopted.

### *Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers (in collaboration with ILO)*

141. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work of the Joint Committee, which encompasses work organization (including productivity of labour), manual and mechanized forest operations, machinery development, training and safety of forest workers and terminology. It noted that the Joint Committee at its third session had achieved a concentration of its activities. In the organization of training courses, tours, field trips, etc., and in the exchange of documentation that results from such activities, attention was given to Commission resolution 8 (XIV) — technical and economic documentation. Tribute was paid to the important contribution by ILO to the activities of the Joint Committee.

### *Joint FAO/ECE ad hoc Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics*

142. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the work so far accomplished. The Working Party at its third session, held after the seventeenth session of the Timber Committee, discussed statistical problems in the following fields: forest fires, pulpwood, forestry investment and end-use of forest products.

### *Consultation of Experts on Wood Utilization*

143. The Committee approved the report of the Consultation of Experts on Wood Utilization and noted with approval that the experts' recommendations relating to the exploitation of small-sized roundwood had been incorporated in the programme of the Joint Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers (in collaboration with ILO). It requested the secretariat to undertake a survey of successful techniques for processing small-sized wood and subsequently to convene a special meeting to lay down and define the specific problems requiring attention in this field. The Committee stressed the need for concentrating this work on the problems of major importance.

### *European Timber Trends and Prospects*

144. The Committee unanimously endorsed the proposal that a new appraisal of European timber prospects up to the year 1975 be jointly undertaken by ECE and

FAO and issued under the secretariats' responsibility, the study to be initiated in 1961. It noted from TIM/Working Paper 15 Rev.1 that the budget for the study was \$68,500 of additional funds for the period 1961 to 1963, the cost to be shared equally by the UN and FAO. This sum was later adjusted to \$68,000. The secretariat was urged to pay particular attention to current technical trends in forest products manufacture and use, and to the role of trees outside the forest and of plantations of fast-growing species in meeting timber needs.

### *The Utilization of Wood and its Products*

145. The Committee endorsed the action of the secretariat in commissioning, as a pilot scheme, a country study on trends in packaging in the United Kingdom. This new approach was taken after a questionnaire, designed to provide data for the sector study on packaging, had met with an inadequate response from member countries.

146. The Sector Study on Trends in the Utilization of Wood for Railway Sleepers was presented to the Committee in draft form. The Committee recommended that the study, based on information supplied by railway administrations in twenty countries, be completed and published in 1960.

### *Proposal of the USSR for a Draft All-European Agreement on Scientific, Technical and Economic Collaboration in the Timber Industry*

147. The Committee noted the request of the USSR delegation that more detailed consideration of this proposal be postponed to its next session.

### *International Board Consultation*

148. The Committee expressed the hope that it would prove possible to organize a second consultation in 1962 on a more limited scale than that of 1957, and requested the Executive Secretary to keep the matter under review with the Director-General of FAO. The Committee requested the secretariat to explore, at an early date, the possibilities of obtaining financial support from industry for the organization of the consultation.

### *Programme of Future Study Tours*

149. The Committee decided that the general subjects of its study tours are to be the timber trade and the wood-processing industries; that the tours, designed for experts in the field to be studied, are to be of about ten days' duration each; and that the cost is to be borne by the participants. The Committee recommended that priority be given to the chemical utilization of beech and other hardwoods. The delegate of the USA drew attention to the study tours being organized in his country in connexion with the Fifth World Forest Congress to take place in Seattle, in August 1960.

### *ad hoc Working Party on the Standardization of General Conditions of Sale for Timber*

150. At its fourth session the working party examined what clauses it would be useful to insert in general conditions of sale for the exportation and importation of hardwood logs and sawn hardwood from the temperate zone. The secretariat is at present preparing, with a view to publication, a draft set of general conditions for these forms of timber which will take into account the exchange of views by the working party at its fourth session. The possibility of drawing up general conditions of sale for pulpwood and pitprops and for tropical timber has also been envisaged by the working party.

### **COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE<sup>13</sup>**

Committee on the Development of Trade: eighth session, 26 October to 4 November 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. V. Ionesco (Romania)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. J. Etienne (Belgium)

Consultation on East-West Trade: seventh session, 30 October to 3 November 1959

Special Meeting to review Operations under Multilateral Compensation Procedures: 27, 29 and 30 October 1959

*Chairman:* Baron C. H. von Platen (Sweden)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. Z. Krolak (Poland)

Special Meeting on the Organization and Techniques of Foreign Trade (including payments): 29 June to 3 July 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. P. Savini (Italy)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. R. Bystricky (Czechoslovakia)

*ad hoc* Working Party on Arbitration: sixth session, 11-22 May 1959; seventh session, 23-27 November 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. G. de Sydow (Sweden)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. V. Sedlacek (Czechoslovakia)

Working Party on International Fairs: No meeting held

*Chairman:* Mr. A. Staehelin (Switzerland)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. A. Adamowicz (Poland)

*ad hoc* Working Party on Insurance Problems: first session, 10-13 August 1959

*Chairman:* Mr. R. Sterner (Sweden)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. I. Ejov (USSR)

<sup>13</sup> See paragraphs 338 to 348 for the consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session of the report of the Committee on the Development of Trade.

*Development of intra-European and especially East-West Trade*

151. The customary general discussion on this question took place at the Committee's eighth session. As background documentation the secretariat had prepared a note on the work of the other ECE committees related to problems of importance for intra-European trade, as well as a survey of recent developments in European trade dealing in particular with western Europe's trade with overseas primary producing countries; trade among western European countries and east-west trade in Europe (published in Vol. 11, Nos. 1 and 2, of the *Economic Bulletin for Europe*). Representatives spoke of the development of their trade relations with other countries during the past year; referred to the specific difficulties and problems they had encountered; and appraised prospects for intra-European trade, in particular in the most immediate future. A number of delegations emphasized that the current relaxation of international tension will contribute to the development of economic relations.

152. Some delegations drew the attention of the Committee to resolutions 1 (XIV) and 2 (XIV) concerning the creation of an all-European regional trade organization and the convening of a conference of Ministers on questions of the development of intra-European trade respectively. They suggested that the Committee should declare itself in favour of the creation of an all-European trade organization, as well as of the convening of a conference of Ministers of foreign trade. They also suggested that the Committee draw up a list of questions for inclusion in the agenda of a conference of Ministers. Several other delegations pointed out that since, in the case of both resolutions, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to report to its fifteenth session on the further views received from governments thereon, the Committee was not in a position to undertake any action as long as the matter was under consideration by the Commission.

*Consequences for intra-European Trade of Efforts to achieve a Greater Degree of Economic Integration on a Sub-regional Basis in Europe*

153. The secretariat drew the attention of the Committee to the analysis of this subject contained in the *Economic Bulletin for Europe*, Vol. 11, Nos. 1 and 2, and stated that any views which delegates might wish to express in this respect would be useful to the secretariat in its further work. The Chairman of the Committee stated that this subject remained on the Committee's work programme, and that any suggestions governments might have in this respect could be transmitted to the secretariat in writing.

*Special Meeting on the Organization and Techniques of Foreign Trade*

154. The Committee examined this item on the basis of the Report on the Special Meeting on the Organization and Techniques of Foreign Trade (including pay-

ments) prepared by the secretariat at the request of the Committee (TRADE/84); a note by the Executive Secretary on questions which might be explored in the light of the results of the Special Meeting (TRADE/95); an analysis by the secretariat of some current east-west trade problems based on information presented at the Special Meeting (TRADE/Working Paper No. 8); and a note by the secretariat on the improvement of payments arrangements (TRADE/94). In the course of the discussion there was a general consensus as to the value and usefulness of the Special Meeting. A discussion took place on the possibility of following up the Special Meeting, but agreement was not reached on the measures to be taken.

*Long-term Agreements: Report by the Secretariat on the Study being prepared under Commission Resolution 3 (XIV)*

155. The Committee examined the interim report regarding long-term agreements prepared by the secretariat in accordance with resolution 3 (XIV); in view of the fact that a considerable number of replies by governments had been received by the secretariat shortly before the session of this Committee, this report contained only a summary of the information and views transmitted thus far by governments (TRADE/85 and Addenda).

156. In introducing the discussion, the secretariat stated that the work on the study was continuing and that contact would be maintained with governments both in order to clear up certain points already made, and to obtain further information on which to base the analysis required by the terms of resolution 3 (XIV).

157. In the course of an exchange of views on this subject, the relative advantages and disadvantages of long-term agreements were considered. A number of delegates whose governments had concluded long-term agreements gave information on the positive influence of such agreements on the development of their countries' foreign trade.

158. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman stated that the views exchanged would be useful to the secretariat in its further work on the study, which, upon completion, would be considered by the Committee as requested by resolution 3 (XIV).

*Problems of Trade in Machinery and Equipment*

159. The Committee examined the report by the secretariat on problems of trade in machinery and equipment (TRADE/86) prepared in accordance with the Committee's decision at its seventh session. In introducing the discussion the secretariat gave a progress report on its work implementing Commission resolution 14 (XIV) concerning a study of the production and export of capital goods in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering, and pointed out that attention would be paid in the study to the analysis of problems of international trade in these goods.

160. After a discussion, the Committee took note of the statement by the secretariat that it expects to present a more comprehensive progress report to the ninth session of the Committee on the implementation of resolution 14 (XIV); invited governments which had not yet replied to the Executive Secretary's letter of 25 November 1958 to do so by 31 January 1960, and the secretariat to prepare on the basis of this material a comprehensive report for the Committee's consideration at its next session; and took note of the secretariat's intention to bring the specific problems referred to in paragraph 3 of document TRADE/86 to the attention of the rapporteurs working on the implementation of resolution 14 (XIV).

#### *Trade in Consumers' Goods*

161. After discussion of the secretariat's report on this subject (TRADE/87) in which some delegations stated that their governments were not in a position to supply information about commercial arrangements by private enterprises in their countries, the Committee decided to accept the proposal of the secretariat that the Committee should from time to time consider on the basis of the information available the achievements attained in organizing co-operation, on a commercial basis, directly between industries producing consumers' goods; and, as regards such exchanges on a non-commercial basis, to inquire of governments what specific problems they face in this connexion in order that the Committee might consider possibilities for the solution of these problems.

#### *Arbitration*

162. The Committee considered the report of the *ad hoc* Working Party on Arbitration on its sixth session containing in annex I a draft European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration as prepared by the Working Group after first reading (TRADE/80), and the draft Arbitration Rules for use in international trade drawn up by the secretariat as requested by the *ad hoc* Working Party at its sixth session (TRADE/WP.1/34). At its seventh session, the *ad hoc* Working Party on Arbitration drew up a draft Convention and Arbitration Rules on second reading (TRADE/96).

#### *Insurance Problems*

163. The Committee examined the report of the *ad hoc* Working Party on Insurance Problems on its first session (TRADE/88).

164. After a discussion the Committee took note of the report of the *ad hoc* Working Party, and of the relevant resolution adopted by the Council of the International Union of Marine Insurance; noted with satisfaction the fact that the International Union of Marine Insurance is prepared to continue to give its assistance to ECE in its work on insurance problems; and considered that the work started by the *ad hoc* Working Party on

Insurance Problems was useful, and expressed the hope that at its next session the Committee would be informed of further progress accomplished.

#### *Protection of Patents and Technical Inventions*

165. The Committee took note of the contents of a paper prepared by the secretariat on the protection of patents and technical inventions dealing with problems which may arise between the countries of Europe in this field (TRADE/89), and of the comments which were made during the discussion by a number of delegates. The Committee also asked the secretariat to invite governments to transmit their further views on that document.

#### *Simplification and Standardization of Export Documents*

166. The Committee had before it a note by the secretariat on this subject containing the comments transmitted by governments on the proposal of the Swedish Government that the Committee should examine the possibilities of utilizing at international level the results achieved by the General Export Association of Sweden and other bodies in their efforts to simplify and standardize export documents (TRADE/90).

167. After a discussion introduced by an oral statement by the delegation of Sweden, the Committee decided to entrust the secretariat, in consultation with experts from interested governments, with the task of drawing up a list of export documents required for international trading operations which should be standardized at the international level, and to prepare concrete proposals as to their standardization as well as their simplification.

#### *Trade Fairs and Technical Shows*

168. Having taken note of the contents of the secretariat paper on this subject (TRADE/91), the Committee decided to invite governments that had not taken a position on the recommendations concerning administrative facilities to be granted to international trade fairs and technical shows, to do so by communicating in writing with the secretariat; to request the secretariat to present for the Committee's consideration at its next session a comprehensive document analysing all observations which had been received on the above recommendations; and to ask the secretariat to follow the work of the Brussels Customs Co-operation Council on trade fairs and technical shows.

#### *Standardization of General Conditions of Sale*

169. The Committee took note of the contents of document TRADE/83, in which the secretariat submitted for its information a summary of the work done during the past year on the standardization of general conditions of sale for selected commodities under the auspices of the Agricultural Problems, Coal, Industry and Materials, Steel and Timber Committees.



170. The Committee adopted the following recommendations concerning multilateralization of payments:<sup>14</sup>

(a) That governments should consider the possibilities for further multilateralization of payments outlined in document TRADE/94, with a view towards examining these at its ninth session, taking into account the experience under the multilateral compensation procedures;

(b) That governments which have not granted full transferability should bear in mind the possibility of independently extending or further expanding facilities for transferability of balances, or a portion of balances, held by their trading partners;

(c) That the secretariat should prepare and distribute to governments information on the payments relationships applied between ECE countries, so as to make possible an assessment of the degree of multilateralism prevailing in such payments relationships;

(d) That the Committee should in any decisions it may take regarding trade bear in mind the need for related action as regards payments.

171. The Committee also decided, after reviewing the report of the Second Annual Meeting to review the multilateral compensation procedures, to recommend continuance of the procedures for a period of one year on a quarterly basis without changes.

#### *Trade with Countries of Other Regions*

172. The Committee considered a note by the secretariat on work done by other regional economic commissions in the development of trade (TRADE/92).

173. In the course of the discussion some delegates spoke of their countries' trade with countries of other regions, referred to the assistance they were giving to under-developed countries, and pointed out various ways in which in their view inter-regional co-operation in the field of trade could be strengthened.

174. In the light of this discussion and of Commission resolution 12 (XIV) on inter-regional co-operation the Committee requested the secretariat to prepare for its ninth session a detailed report on the work of the other regional economic commissions in the field of trade so as to assist the Committee in identifying specific problems which it might take up in order to implement resolution 12 (XIV).

#### *Seventh Consultation of Experts on Intra-European, and especially East-West, Trade*

175. The seventh Consultation of Experts on intra-European, and especially East-West, Trade was held as a separate part of the eighth session of the Committee from 30 October to 3 November along the lines of previous consultations of this kind. A total of some

eighty-seven first-round bilateral talks were scheduled. Experts participating in the consultation had an opportunity to follow up these initial contacts by further conversation arranged on their own initiatives.

176. At the final plenary meeting of the consultation the Executive Secretary concluded that the bilateral talks had again provided an opportunity for useful discussions of trading problems of mutual interest. They had been used to supplement contacts and negotiations in other places, to consider ways of overcoming difficulties which have arisen in trading relations, and to explore new trading opportunities. In several instances settlements of outstanding problems had been agreed upon. As in past years, contacts had in some cases been established between experts from countries which do not have diplomatic relations or whose normal trade relations had been interrupted. Between some countries arrangements had been made for negotiations to take place subsequently on points discussed in the bilateral talks. In certain of the bilateral conversations the discussions related not only to trade during the year ahead or in the past, but also to long-term trading possibilities. The bilateral talks had been conducted in a practical, businesslike manner, and a constructive spirit had been shown by all participants. The Executive Secretary believed that the consultation had been helpful to the participants and that it would appear advisable to convene an eighth consultation in conjunction with the next session of the Committee.

#### **B. Other activities**

##### **ENERGY PROBLEMS IN EUROPE**

177. In resolution 11 (XIV) the Commission recognized the potential usefulness of periodic special meetings on energy problems to analyse the over-all energy situation in Europe and requested the Executive Secretary, *inter alia*, to give within available resources proper attention to energy problems in Europe so that any further meeting of experts may be adequately prepared.

178. Work has proceeded, within available resources, on the suggestions formulated by the first special meeting of government experts on energy problems held in March 1958 (E/ECE/310) as follows:

(a) Determination of a common unit and of conversion factors to express the various forms of energy in that unit for the purpose of drawing up energy balances

179. The Executive Secretary transmitted to the participating countries the text of an inquiry on this matter. A number of replies have already been received, and their analysis has begun. The secretariat is also in touch with the international governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with the same question in order to avoid any duplication of effort.

(b) Study of methods enabling a comparison of the cost of production of electric energy generated by nuclear

<sup>14</sup> The delegate of Turkey reserved his government's position.



power stations and that generated by conventional thermal power stations

180. The secretariat maintains close contact on this matter with the secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to avoid duplication of effort and to arrange for fruitful co-operation. Since it appeared that it would be premature to undertake the study suggested by the special meeting in view of the paucity of information on the actual costs of generation of electric power by nuclear power stations, the two secretariats eventually agreed to carry out, as a first step, two parallel studies; one to be prepared by the secretariat of the IAEA on methods used for the determination of cost of electric energy produced by nuclear power stations, and the other to be undertaken by the secretariat of the ECE on methods used for the determination of cost of electric energy produced by conventional thermal power stations. In this connexion an inquiry will shortly be transmitted by the Executive Secretary to the participating governments. Throughout the work on the latter subject close contact will be maintained with the secretariat of the IAEA. The results of the two parallel studies will in due course be compared.

- (c) Comparison of costs of the various means of transport which could be envisaged for the same or for interchangeable forms of energy in Europe; and comparison of costs of storing the various forms of energy in Europe

181. The work on these studies is progressing.

- (d) Comparison of methods used for the determination of forecasting future energy needs

182. The Executive Secretary plans to transmit a questionnaire on this subject to the participating governments. The analysis of the replies will be undertaken on their receipt.

- (e) Role of various forms of energy in the future energy situation in Europe

183. The Executive Secretary has arranged for a review of the general energy situation in Europe to be prepared, which will take fully into account the periodic surveys of the European situation in electric power, coal and gas, which are now being regularly prepared by the secretariat for consideration by the subsidiary bodies in question. The review, which will be based on an analysis of the energy situation in the individual ECE countries, will consider the problem of substitution of the various sources of energy against the background of the general energy situation in Europe, and examine the possible role of the various forms of energy in the present and future energy situation in Europe.

#### WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROBLEMS IN EUROPE

184. Pursuant to resolution 10 (XIV), the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with the secretariats of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and

Agriculture Organization (FAO) took the necessary initial steps for the organization of a joint seminar of experts at the beginning of 1961 to discuss the economic, administrative and technical as well as health aspects of water pollution in Europe. A meeting of experts, convened jointly by WHO, FAO and the ECE, is to be held in Copenhagen, the seat of WHO's Regional Office for Europe, on 31 May and 1 June 1960.

185. The Executive Secretary also asked participating governments for the data necessary for undertaking a survey of organizations active in this field, as well as of existing sources of documentation on this subject, as specified in resolution 10 (XIV). In response to this letter the Executive Secretary has received detailed and valuable information from a number of governments. He will in due course collate the material furnished and circulate a summary thereof.

#### STUDY OF PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF CAPITAL GOODS IN THE FIELDS OF MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

186. In resolution 14 (XIV) the Commission requested the Executive Secretary "to prepare a study on the nature and scope of production and export of capital goods in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering, using available statistics as well as bibliographical material and other information to be supplied, if necessary by governments, and the experience gained by the secretariat of the Commission in earlier studies of a similar kind".

187. Subsequently, the Executive Secretary requested a number of governments to nominate rapporteurs with whom the Executive Secretary proposed to consult, jointly or individually, to throughout the inquiry. All other participating governments were informed of this arrangement at the time.

188. In November 1959 the Executive Secretary held a consultation with the rapporteurs to consider the broad objectives and scope of the study, its statistical basis and time-table. This consultation enabled the secretariat to establish a tentative break-down of the sectors of the mechanical and electrical engineering industries covered by the resolution into appropriate sub-groups for the collection of production and trade statistics, having regard to statistics already published by different countries, the possibilities of obtaining further information, and the requirements of international comparability.

189. When work on the compilation from published sources of the statistics required as a basis for the study is completed, it is intended to request governments to supplement the published data as necessary. It is hoped to complete the study in time for consideration by the Commission at its sixteenth session.

190. Throughout this work the secretariat is keeping in close touch with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at UN Headquarters in connexion with their work on industrialization, to which it is hoped the ECE study may make a contribution.

191. The following is a brief resumé of activities relevant in the context of resolution 7 (XI) concerning the economic development of southern Europe, in which the Commission requested "the Executive Secretary and all subsidiary organs of the Commission to give every assistance, at the request of the countries in question, in seeking appropriate solutions to the problems of southern Europe's economic development within the framework of European co-operation and economic expansion".

192. The Committee on Agricultural Problems studied the market situation relating to commodities of concern to countries of southern Europe. Experts from Italy, Spain and Yugoslavia took part in the work on the marketing and distribution of perishable foodstuffs which are of special interest to those countries. Uniform conditions of sale of citrus fruit, a project undertaken at the request of countries of southern Europe, were drafted in 1958 and finally adopted in 1959. The Committee's Working Party on the Mechanization of Agriculture is examining modern techniques of irrigation.

193. The Conference of European Statisticians acted as joint sponsor with FAO of a United Nations Technical Assistance Operations (UNTAO) regional seminar on agricultural censuses and surveys which was held in Poland in June 1959 to assist the countries of the region eligible for technical assistance i.e., for the most part countries of southern Europe, to improve their statistical services.

194. The programme of work of the Housing Committee contains a project (07.1.2) on "Housing problems in countries in the course of rapid industrialization", and hence of direct concern especially to countries of southern Europe.

195. The Inland Transport Committee continued its work on the development of an international road network in south-east Europe. The fourth session of the working group on the study of this question (see W/TRANS/263) was held in Belgrade in June 1959 at the invitation of the Government of Yugoslavia. The meeting, attended by representatives of Austria, Greece, Italy, Turkey and Yugoslavia, and of the International Road Federation, as well as by observers from Bulgaria, studied the conditions of the various international roads or stretches of road in the region and plans for their improvement. After the meeting the experts visited road construction and maintenance works in Austria and Italy. This tour was arranged under the joint sponsorship of ECE and UNTAO.

196. In the field of research the secretariat co-operated with the FAO on the latter's Mediterranean Development project, particularly on the analysis of the relevant economic developments in countries of southern Europe. The *Economic Survey of Europe in 1959* contains two chapters devoted to economic growth since the war in the countries of southern Europe. This study is in part a continuation of that made in the *Survey* in 1953 (E/ECE/174) and examines the progress achieved during the post-war years in developing and diversifying these economies.

197. Co-operation between the ECE and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) has continued in practically all fields within the Commission's purview. Arrangements for continuing co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have been developed.

198. The Executive Secretary brought resolution 12 (XIV) on inter-regional co-operation to the attention of the subsidiary bodies, and in particular to the Committee on the Development of Trade, to which it is principally addressed.

199. A number of governments from the other regions participated in a consultative capacity, in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference, in the work of some of the ECE subsidiary bodies. Thus, representatives of Canada attended the seventeenth session of the Timber Committee and the eighth session of the Committee on the Development of Trade; representatives of India attended the eighth session of the Committee on the Development of Trade; representatives of Israel attended the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Housing Committee, the eighth session of the Committee on the Development of Trade and the first session of the Working Party on Insurance Problems; and representatives of Japan attended the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the Steel Committee and the first session of the Working Party on Insurance Problems. The Commission in resolution 12 (XIV) had specifically welcomed the interest shown by a number of countries of other regions in the Commission's work.

200. Consultations took place by correspondence and by personal contacts, in particular among the executive secretaries of the four regional economic commissions on the occasion of their periodic meetings with the Under-Secretary in charge of Economic and Social Affairs. A number of ECE staff members have been seconded for temporary service to the secretariats of all the regional economic commissions.

### *Energy*

201. As in the past, ECE Committee on Electric Power and the ECAFE Sub-Committee on Electric Power kept each other apprised of their activities, especially in respect of the analysis of potential hydro-electric resources and rural electrification.

### *Housing*

202. Consultations continued with the ECAFE secretariat and the UNTAO on preparations for and organization of a study tour of ECAFE experts to Europe in the field of housing and building materials which is to take place in 1960.

203. The secretariat contributed to the United Nations Long-range Programme of Concerted International Action in the field of housing in accordance with Council resolution 731 B (XXVIII) on this subject, in particular as regards projects of particular interest to other regions.

204. At the request of the secretariat of ECAFE the secretariat supplied information and documents related to the various studies undertaken by ECAFE, in particular as regards the studies on road safety and the establishment of an international highway network in Asia.

#### *Research*

205. Regular contacts continued to be maintained between the research staff of the secretariat and that of the other regional economic commissions on their respective research work programmes, in particular as regards the common aspects of some of their work. Thus close co-operation is taking place between the ECA and ECE secretariats in the latter's study of the effects of the European Economic Community on the economy of the African region. The possibility of including economists and statisticians from Africa in the UNTAO/ECE in-service training programme in accordance with ECA's resolution 16 (II) is being considered.

#### *Statistics*

206. The secretariat maintained close contact with the secretariats of the other regional economic commissions, especially in connexion with the activities of the regional Conference of Statisticians (African, Asian and European). More particularly, the secretariat contributed to the work of the ECAFE secretariat by supplying detailed material and comments on statistics of capital formation in preparation for a meeting of a working group of the Conference of Asian Statisticians on this matter.

#### *Steel*

207. The secretariat continued to keep in close touch with the secretariats of ECAFE and ECLA and to draw the attention of the ECE Steel Committee to work of interest to it being done by these two commissions. At its twenty-third session, in January 1960, the Steel Committee noted that the secretariat would seek, as appropriate, comments from the secretariats of other regional economic commissions on the final text of the study of long-term trends and prospects in the European steel industry and bring these comments to the attention of the Committee. A member of the secretariat of ECLA participated in the Committee's discussion on this subject.

#### *Timber*

208. The FAO/ECE Timber Division is contributing to the Far East timber trends study which is being carried out by the secretariats of ECAFE and FAO. During the period under review the final statistics and drafts of some sections of the study were revised by the secretariat. Contact has been maintained with the secretariat of ECA concerning the latter's work on the collection of forest and forest product statistics.

209. The ECE Committee on the Development of Trade regularly reviews at its annual sessions trade with countries of other regions on the basis, in particular, of reports by the secretariat on current trade trends and on the work done by other regional economic commissions with respect to trade. At its eighth session, the Committee took special note of resolution 12 (XIV) on inter-regional co-operation and, after a discussion of ways in which this co-operation could be strengthened in the field of trade, requested the secretariat to prepare for its next session a detailed report on the relevant work of the other regional economic commissions so as to assist the Committee in identifying specific problems which it might take up in order to implement this resolution. The Trade Committees of ECLA and ECAFE have been kept regularly informed through the secretariat of the work of the ECE Committee on the Development of Trade, and the chief of the Trade Section of the ECAFE secretariat attended the eighth session of the ECE Committee. In addition, countries of the ECLA region have participated in ECE's multilateral compensation procedures in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

#### *Co-operation with UNTAO*

210. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and its Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, through its Technical Assistance Office in Geneva, continued to consult with the secretariat on relevant projects of an economic character included in UNTAO's programme of work and pertaining to the ECE region. Appropriate arrangements were made by the Technical Assistance Office in Geneva for UNTAO experts and fellows whose tasks relate to projects included in the work programme of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to be briefed as appropriate by the secretariat before taking up their duties in the countries of the region.

211. Assistance was given by the secretariat to the BTAO and the secretariat of ECAFE in preparing for and organizing a study tour to Europe of Asian experts in the field of housing and building which is scheduled to take place in the second half of 1960.

212. The secretariat aided the Technical Assistance Office in Geneva in the preparations for and organization of a seminar on social aspects of housing which took place in Helsinki in August 1959 under the auspices of the Finnish Government and the Technical Assistance Office in Geneva.

213. A study tour of road construction and maintenance experts from south-east European countries to Italy and Austria was organized under the sponsorship of UNTAO and ECE in connexion with the Inland Transport Committee's work on road problems in that part of Europe.

214. Inland water transport experts from the ECAFE region, who participated in a study tour in the USSR and Hungary organized by UNTAO and ECAFE, were briefed on the work of the ECE in this field on the occasion of their stay in Geneva in October 1959 for purposes of preparing their report on the study tour.

215. A regional seminar on agricultural censuses and surveys was organized within the framework of the expanded technical assistance programme of FAO in Warsaw in June 1959 in co-operation with the Polish Government and the Conference of European Statisticians.

216. The UNTAO/ECE in-service training programme, which offers training facilities with the ECE secretariat to suitably qualified young economists and statisticians from a number of European countries, has been continued as part of UNTAO's Programme for 1960. Fellowships were granted by BTAO to economists and statisticians from Bulgaria, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain (for the 1959/1960 period) and from Austria, Greece, Hungary, Turkey and Yugoslavia (for the 1960/1961 period).

217. As stated in paragraph 205 above, consideration is being given to the possibility of including economists and statisticians from Africa in this Programme in connexion with resolution 16 (II) adopted at the second session of ECA in Tangier in which that commission requested its Executive Secretary to arrange, in co-operation and in agreement with the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions, in-service training for African economists and statisticians.

#### *Other Activities pertaining to Technical Assistance*

218. A number of projects on the Commission's work programme involve the international exchange of experience and information the results of which are often of value also to the countries of other regions and therefore partake of the character of technical assistance in the broad sense of the term.

#### WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT

219. The secretariat of the Commission maintained close and regular liaison with Headquarters and co-operated with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as well as with other units of the United Nations Secretariat, on a number of specific projects. In addition to the activities summarized under sections B and C of part I of this report, the secretariat has taken action, as necessary, to implement the decisions of the Commission's fourteenth session. It has serviced the Commission, and its committees and their subsidiary bodies, as well as other special meetings held under ECE auspices. The publication of periodic surveys and reviews, including the annual *Economic Survey of Europe*, the quarterly *Economic Bulletin for Europe*, and a series of specialized statistical bulletins, covering the fields of coal, electric power, gas, housing and building, steel, timber and transport, was continued. The issue of monthly *Statistical Indicators of Short-term Economic Changes in ECE*

*Countries* was begun during the period under review. In its work, the secretariat was aided by the services rendered by government experts, who carried out a number of investigations. This assistance enabled the secretariat to assume responsibility for a greater workload than would otherwise have been possible. A description of the work being carried out by the secretariat on behalf and on the authority of the Commission is contained in the Commission's Programme of Work and Priorities for 1960/1961 (see part V of this report).

#### C. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

220. The Commission and its secretariat have continued and further developed their co-operation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the IAEA and a number of intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations.

##### *Specialized Agencies*

##### *(i) International Labour Organisation*

221. Co-operation with ILO on manpower questions was maintained. A report on manpower problems in Europe was prepared by the International Labour Office for transmittal to the fifteenth session of the Commission (E/ECE/371). The secretariat consulted the ILO throughout its work on the implementation of resolution 9 (XIV) —Productivity of labour.

222. In the field of timber, systematic collaboration has continued between ILO and the Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers, especially in connexion with the organization under joint sponsorship of the international training course on mechanical forest operations held in Sweden from September to October 1959. Fifty instructors from twelve European countries received further training fellowships during 1959 under the ILO fellowship scheme.

223. ILO participated in the consultation of experts on the preparation of the study on the production and export of capital goods in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering and made a contribution on the question of the social consequences of automation at the special meeting of experts on the Economic Aspects of Automation.

224. The representative of ILO made statements at meetings of the Coal Trade Sub-Committee concerning the social implications of the present coal crisis in a number of countries and submitted a paper on this subject. The two secretariats have followed the respective activities of their organizations in agriculture, housing and steel. On matters of inland transport, co-operation with ILO continued on problems raised by the implementation of annex A — dealing with the labour conditions of drivers of road vehicles — to the set of rules attached to the General Agreement on Economic Regulations for International Road Transport. In the field of statistics, ILO co-operated with the Conference

of European Statisticians in conducting a review of the extent of implementation of international recommendations on statistics of employment and unemployment, and in the collection of data on current family budget inquiries. ILO has followed the work of the Conference on basic industrial inquiries, with special reference to the data on employment to be compiled in such inquiries, and on private consumption expenditure.

(ii) *Food and Agriculture Organization*

225. Systematic and close co-operation with FAO is being maintained in the fields of agriculture and timber through the Joint FAO/ECE Agriculture and Timber Divisions, servicing ECE's Committee on Agricultural Problems and the Timber Committee, along the lines described in earlier Annual Reports of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council (see, for example, E/3227, paragraph 209).

226. The secretariat has worked together with FAO, as one of the competent international agencies with which the Executive Secretary is to co-operate in matters relating to water pollution control problems, on implementing resolution 10 (XIV) on water pollution control problems in Europe.

227. In the field of research the secretariat has consulted with FAO with regard to the preparation of two chapters dealing with the development problems of countries of southern Europe and Ireland in ECE's annual Economic Survey of Europe in 1959. Assistance was also given to FAO in its Mediterranean Development Project. In transport, FAO was consulted with respect to the sanitary, phyto-sanitary and veterinary control measures in inland navigation. In the field of statistics, the Conference of European Statisticians adopted a European programme for agricultural censuses and surveys which had been prepared in collaboration with FAO. A regional seminar on agricultural censuses was held under the joint auspices of FAO and the Conference. At the invitation of the Conference, a small group of experts is being convened by FAO to prepare a report on the compilation of national index numbers of value added or net output in agriculture. The Conference is also collaborating with FAO in a meeting on household consumption surveys, with special reference to the statistics needed from such surveys for the analysis of demand for agricultural products and for studies of the level and pattern of food consumption. FAO is convening, at the request of the Committee on Agricultural Problems and in response to a wish expressed by the Conference of European Statisticians, an expert meeting on definitions of terms in agricultural statistics.

(iii) *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*

228. The secretariat has followed UNESCO's work on the promotion of international understanding and peaceful co-operation and will contribute to UNESCO's projects on certain economic and legal questions under this programme. A representative of UNESCO attended the eighth session of the Committee on the Development of Trade. A consultant from UNESCO participated in

the proceedings of the *ad hoc* Working Party of Experts on Arbitration. In the field of statistics, UNESCO, together with the International Statistical Institute, is collaborating with the Conference of European Statisticians in the study of the methods of training of official statisticians.

(iv) *World Health Organization*

229. Pursuant to resolution 10 (XIV), close co-operation with WHO, more particularly with its Regional Office for Europe, on water pollution control problems was continued. In the field of housing, WHO has made a contribution to the Housing Committee's work on rural housing problems and the modernization of building by-laws. The secretariat consulted WHO regarding the sanitary, phyto-sanitary and veterinary control measures in inland navigation. In statistics, the secretariat of WHO has followed the work of the Conference of European Statisticians on private consumption expenditure, with special reference to the data on the health expenditure of households.

(v) *International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and International Monetary Fund*

230. Contact on research questions was maintained. The Fund has continued its participation in the work of the Conference of European Statisticians on the statistics of financial assets and liabilities by preparing, together with the Statistical Office of the United Nations, a consolidated statement on integrated income and financial accounts for consideration at the meeting of the Conference's working group on this subject.

(vi) *World Meteorological Organization*

231. The WMO attended the session of the Committee on Electric Power, continued to follow the work of the group of experts of the Committee on the study of Europe's hydro-electric resources and co-operated with the secretariat in carrying out an inquiry concerning precipitation data of various countries.

*International Atomic Energy Agency*

232. In its work on energy questions the secretariat has maintained close contact with the staff of the agency. Contact was maintained with the agency regarding ECE's work on water pollution control problems in Europe which is being carried out in collaboration, *inter alia*, with IAEA. The secretariat has also been in touch with the Agency's staff on problems relating to the international transport by road or inland waterways of dangerous goods and in particular of radioactive substances.

*Intergovernmental Organizations*

233. Informal relations were maintained by the secretariat with the secretariats of the Organization for European Economic Co-operations, including the European Productivity Agency, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, and the Council of Europe; the

staffs of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community, and of the Commission and the Council of the European Economic Community; the secretariats of the Danube Commission (Budapest), the staff of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (Paris), and the Organization for the Co-operation of Railway Administrations (Warsaw). These relations have been continued along the lines described in the Commission's Annual Report to the twenty-eighth session of the Economic and Social Council (E/3227, paragraph 218). The Commission and its subsidiary bodies have continued their co-operative relations with such other intergovernmental organizations as the Central Commission on the Navigation of the Rhine, the Central Office for International Railway Transport,

the Customs Co-operation Council, the International Institute of Refrigeration and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law.

234. Co-operation between the ECE and ICITO/GATT secretariats on matters of trade and commercial policy was continued.

#### *Non-governmental Organizations*

235. Many of these organizations of all categories have continued to contribute to the work of the Commission's subsidiary bodies in various fields, frequently through work contributed on questions on which such organizations possess special expertise. Their co-operation has, as heretofore, been of considerable value.

## PART II

### FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

#### A. Attendance and organization of work

236. The fifteenth session of the Commission was held from 20 April to 7 May 1960. It was attended by representatives from the following countries: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Yugoslavia. Argentina, Australia, Canada, Ghana, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, the United Arab Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela were represented under the provisions of paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference. The following international agencies sent representatives: the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Meteorological Organization. The Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization and Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade followed the Commission's proceedings. The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented. Representatives from the following non-governmental organizations attended the session: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Organization of Employers, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Veterans Federation, International Bar Association, International Union for Inland Navigation, International Union of Official Travel Organizations, Pax Romana, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, International Catholic Youth Federation and International Federation of Free Journalists. A full list of representatives is attached as annex I to this report.

237. Before the adoption of the agenda, the delegation

of Poland declared that it supported the statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic on the question of the co-operation of the German Democratic Republic in the Commission.\* Since the solution of problems of intra-European economic co-operation requires the presence of all European states in the Commission including that of the German Democratic Republic in view of its importance in Europe's economy, the constant growth of its commercial exchanges and its location at the junction between eastern and western European countries, the absence of this country cannot but have an adverse effect on the work of the Commission. The delegations of the USSR, Romania, Albania and Bulgaria, as well as Yugoslavia, declared that they supported the above-mentioned statement of the Government of the German Democratic Republic and adduced additional reasons in favour of its participation, with full rights, in the work of ECE, the delegation of the USSR pointing out in particular that the German Democratic Republic, which maintained diplomatic relations with many countries, had every legitimate right to participate in international organizations, including ECE.<sup>15</sup>

238. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany re-affirmed its declarations concerning the legal status of the Eastern Zone of Germany made at the Commission's preceding sessions and declared that its Government continued to be opposed for the same reasons to any modification of the existing arrangements. The Eastern Zone of Germany could, in fact, if it so desired, take part satisfactorily in ECE's technical work. Its demand for a change in status within the Commission stemmed from political considerations. The delega-

\* *Editorial note.* — Document ECE(XV) MISC/1, circulated to delegates of the session at the written request of the Czechoslovak delegation and containing a "statement by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic on the question of the co-operation of the German Democratic Republic in the ECE".

<sup>15</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/2, in particular pages 2-7.

tions of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France stated that they supported the declaration of the Federal Republic of Germany and adduced additional reasons why existing arrangements with regard to the participation of the Eastern Zone of Germany in the work of the Commission should be continued, the delegation of the United States of America pointing out in particular that there had been no change in the status of the Eastern Zone of Germany or in its relations with the United Nations since the Commission's last session.<sup>16</sup>

239. Following the discussion on this question, it was agreed to have the substance of the statements made included in the summary record — E/ECE/SR.15/2 — which as far as the report's paragraphs 237 and 238 are concerned, should be considered as an integral part thereof.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

240. The Commission re-elected by acclamation, at its second meeting, Mr. Tommaso Notarangeli (Italy) Chairman, and Mr. Gheorghe Radulesco (Romania) Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

#### B. Agenda

241. At its second meeting the Commission adopted the following agenda (E/ECE/368 and Add.1):

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Work of the Commission as a whole
4. Work of the committees and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission — reports of the committees and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission on their activities since the closing date of the fourteenth session and an additional note thereto by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/370)
  - Agricultural problems (E/ECE/AGRI/44)
  - Coal (E/ECE/COAL/143; E/ECE/COAL/147; E/ECE/COAL/150)
  - Conference of European Statisticians (Conf.Eur. Stats./112)
  - Electric power (E/ECE/EP/210, Corr.1 and Add.1)
  - Gas problems (E/ECE/GAS/22 and Add.1)
  - Housing (E/ECE/HOU/83; E/ECE/HOU/90)
  - Industry and materials (E/ECE/369)
  - Inland transport (E/ECE/TRANS/514)
  - Manpower (E/ECE/371)
  - Steel (E/ECE/STEEL/128; E/ECE/STEEL/132 and Add.1)
  - Timber (E/ECE/TIM/63)
  - Development of trade (E/ECE/TRADE/40)

5. Resolutions of the Commission adopted at its fourteenth session requiring the Executive Secretary

to report to the Commission — reports by the Executive Secretary on:

- (a) Creation of an all-European regional trade organization (resolution 1 (XIV)) (E/ECE/372, Corr.1 and Add.1-6)
  - (b) Conference of Ministers on questions of the development of intra-European trade (resolution 2 (XIV)) (E/ECE/373, Corr.1 and Add. 1-7)
  - (c) Automation (resolution 7 (XIV)) (E/ECE/374 and Add.1)
  - (d) Technical and economic documentation (resolution 8 (XIV)) (E/ECE/375)
  - (e) Productivity of labour (resolution 9 (XIV)) (E/ECE/376 and Add.1)
  - (f) Energy problems in Europe (resolution 11 (XIV)) (E/ECE/377)
  - (g) Distribution of documentation (resolution 13 (XIV)) (E/ECE/378)
6. Other resolutions of the Commission adopted at its fourteenth session requesting the Executive Secretary to take specific action — Progress reports by the Executive Secretary on
    - (a) Water pollution control problems in Europe (resolution 10 (XIV)) (E/ECE/379)
    - (b) Study of production and export of capital goods in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering (resolution 14 (XIV)) (E/ECE/380)
  7. Other activities of the Commission and its secretariat — Note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/381)
  8. Resolutions of concern to the Commission adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions, and by the General Assembly at its fourteenth regular session — Note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/382 and Corr.1)
  9. Review of the economic situation in Europe (E/ECE/383 and Corr.1 and 2)
  10. Programme of work and priorities for 1960/1961 (E/ECE/384 and Add.1)
  11. Annual report of the Commission to the thirtieth session of the Economic and Social Council
  12. Any other business

#### C. Account of proceedings

242. The Commission heard opening statements by the Chairman, Mr. Tommaso Notarangeli (Italy),<sup>17</sup> and the Executive Secretary.<sup>18</sup> At the first meeting of the session the Executive Secretary conveyed to the Commission a message from the Secretary-General,<sup>19</sup> and,

<sup>17</sup> See annex IV A.

<sup>18</sup> See annex IV C.

<sup>19</sup> See annex IV B.

<sup>16</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/2, in particular pages 2, 3, 4 and 8.



at the second meeting, a message from Mr. N. S. Khrushchev, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.<sup>20</sup>

#### WORK OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE <sup>21</sup>

##### (Item 3 of the agenda)

243. The Executive Secretary, introducing the discussion, recalled that at its fourteenth session the Commission had agreed that two areas of its work deserved increasing attention — work aimed at facilitating trade and stimulating economic activity; and the promotion of contacts and the exchange of economic and production experience. During the past year the Commission's work on trade had been broadened and as a step toward the intensification of the secretariat's work on trade, the Executive Secretary had set up a Commission Affairs and Trade Development Division. The reports of the committees showed a trend towards concentration on problems lending themselves to fruitful exchanges of experience within the Commission and on the economic aspects of technology. There had been a noticeable development in the examination of different aspects of industry. Some committees had tried to foresee their principal tasks over a longer-term period. A number of the suggestions contained in the Executive Secretary's contribution to the Secretary-General's programme appraisal for 1959-1964 were reflected in action taken by the governments and the secretariat during the past year. An increasing number of projects under way in ECE took into account the relations of the region with other parts of the world.

244. The discussion under this item brought out a broad consensus of opinion as to the continuing value to governments of the Commission's activities. It was generally felt that ECE, through its subsidiary bodies and its secretariat, improved and strengthened economic relations among participating countries, facilitated economic development, furnished useful periodic analyses of the evolution of the market covering key sectors of Europe's economy, organized the exchange of important economic and production experience, fostered contacts between experts in different fields and was instrumental in the preparation of fundamental studies of longer-term economic and industrial trends in the region as a whole. A number of delegations expressed their support for an intensification of the work of ECE in order to cope with the new problems of international economic co-operation in Europe which were emerging as a result of the structural changes in economic patterns under the impact of changes in technology and in economic potential. Some of these delegations considered that the Commission should take advantage of opportunities for co-operation resulting from a more propitious political situation. Several delegations stated that they welcomed a normal growth of the Commission, provided that new projects were practicable, did not duplicate work of other organizations, were appropriate to ECE's terms of reference and did not impose too heavy a

burden on participating countries in assigning experts to the work involved; the view was also expressed that the Commission's subsidiary bodies should not be unduly concerned with too many purely technical projects, which might well be tackled more suitably elsewhere.

245. As to the question of the Commission's future tasks, the Executive Secretary, speaking at the opening of the session, had proposed that co-operation between governments in the ECE should be further developed, supplementing the work already under way, along the following lines: (1) an understanding should be reached to convene periodic intergovernmental meetings, which would be held *in camera* and at an appropriately high level, to consider major economic questions of a general policy character facing ECE countries and particularly the international aspects of measures which are being or might be taken to promote economic growth; (2) work should be started in an effort to draft a set of multilateral trade principles and procedures which might be applied in relations between countries with different economic systems; (3) the mechanism of the Commission should be used more intensively to strengthen and support the United Nations' world-wide activities on assistance to under-developed countries.<sup>22</sup>

246. Several delegations indicated their support for the above-mentioned points made by the Executive Secretary. It was stated that the Executive Secretary had drawn attention to the fact that no regular dialogue within the framework of the Commission was as yet taking place between participating countries with different economic systems, and that no joint efforts were being undertaken to deal with the great challenge of economic development. A further opinion which was expressed on the matter was that the Executive Secretary had posed significant questions of economic policy worthy of serious consideration along with other proposals which might be made. Specific support was expressed by several delegations of countries of western Europe for a serious study of the proposal to hold periodic meetings *in camera* for the consideration of major issues of economic policy, provided that such meetings were thoroughly prepared, and for the idea of drafting a set of multilateral trade principles and procedures.

247. In connexion with the consideration of this item of the agenda, the representative of the USSR drew attention to the memorandum transmitted by his Government to the Commission on "Measures for the Further Development of the Economy of All European States and the Strengthening of Co-operation between European Countries and Other Countries of the World" (E/ECE/385), containing the following proposals: (1) study within the framework of ECE of the possibility of the joint planning and construction of industrial projects by European countries; (2) study within the framework of ECE of the economic aspects of disarmament; (3) the convening of a conference of ministers of foreign trade of European countries; and (4) further

<sup>20</sup> See E/ECE/390.

<sup>21</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/2-4 and 12-14.

<sup>22</sup> See E/ECE/386. The Executive Secretary had communicated these points prior to the session in a letter addressed to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of participating governments.



expansion within the framework of ECE of collaboration in the exchange of scientific and technical experience. Stating that these proposals were made against the background of the salient political events which had intervened since the Commission's fourteenth session, and had led to a relaxation of international tension, the representative of the USSR outlined in detail each of these proposals. He also put forward a fifth proposal for the setting up of a permanent body of the Commission on oil. The Soviet delegation thereupon tabled draft resolutions covering the above-mentioned five proposals. The representative of the USSR also declared that his government was ready to take part in the elaboration of the principles of the new economic organization, which was being currently discussed, with the participation of countries of western Europe, the United States of America and Canada, since this would contribute to the setting up of a body which would effectively facilitate the development of international economic co-operation on a broad basis.

248. The statement by the representative of the USSR gave rise to an extensive discussion. Some delegations believed that certain of the proposals, such as that dealing with the study within the framework of ECE of the economic aspects of disarmament, were premature particularly in the light of the inconclusive discussions on this subject at the twenty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Council. This last proposal, in view of its global character, should more properly be left for consideration to the United Nations as a whole. Other delegations supported the proposals, especially the proposal concerning disarmament, stating that they were timely, within ECE's scope, would have beneficial effects on the work of the Commission and would be an important contribution to the economic co-operation among all countries.

249. As to the statement made by the representative of the Soviet Union, according to which that country is ready to take part in the elaboration of the principles of a new economic organization, the representative of France, supported by other delegates, stated that the Conference of 6 May has to establish the organization that would follow up the existing OEEC. Only the members and associated members of OEEC would be present as, if other states wished to participate, it would be necessary to invite to the conference all the states of the world. This would duplicate the activities of the United Nations which is the only competent body to consider economic questions on a world level. Moreover, it is most likely that the new organization will envisage as its purpose the development of world trade on a multilateral and non-discriminatory basis. Finally, it is to be expected that the new organization will be open to any non-signatory government ready to assume the obligations devolving upon its members.

250. The delegation of the USSR<sup>23</sup> stated that, in declaring its readiness to participate in the elaboration of the principles of the new organization, the Soviet Government aimed at contributing to the development of fruitful economic co-operation between countries

irrespective of their social and economic systems. However, the position of a number of western countries on this subject revealed the purpose and character of this organization as a closed body which was not aiming at the development of broad and mutually beneficial economic co-operation. Moreover, it followed from the declarations of the representatives of a number of western countries that the co-operation between east and west could take place only on western conditions. Such a position is not in accord with the spirit of the times. Proceeding from the vital needs of states in peaceful co-existence and fruitful co-operation, the Soviet delegation, despite the position taken by the delegations of a number of western countries, expects that the western countries will find a new approach of a constructive nature to this initiative of the Soviet Union.

251. This discussion was continued under other items of the agenda,<sup>24</sup> in the course of which some western delegates emphasized the difficulties in their dealings with state trading countries, since the exclusive government direction of commercial operations of those countries made it difficult to assure reciprocity in economic treatment. They stated their belief that these countries did not appear to be persuaded of the advantages of multilateral systems of trade and payments. Some eastern delegations observed that the socialist countries did not only not oppose but favoured the development of trade with capitalist countries. These socialist countries did not intend to isolate their growing economies from the outside world, were desirous of establishing and maintaining exchanges of goods and services on a broad and mutually beneficial basis with all countries, and favoured a sensible combination of bilateral trade with multilateral methods.

252. In the course of the discussion under this item a number of delegations stated that they had addressed themselves seriously to the task of finding practical measures which would be of benefit to international economic co-operation in the region within the framework of ECE. Accordingly they tabled a series of draft resolutions.

253. A number of draft resolutions, tabled under this item and referred to below, were not put to the vote. In this connexion statements were made by representatives who sponsored or co-sponsored these draft resolutions explaining the reasons why they did not insist that these draft resolutions be voted upon. Statements were also made by a number of other representatives who explained their positions on these draft resolutions. The following statements were made:<sup>25</sup> by the representatives of the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia on the draft resolution on the study within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe on the economic aspects of disarmament, submitted by the delegation of the USSR; by the representatives of the USSR, Romania and Poland on the draft resolution on the convening of a conference of ministers of foreign trade of countries participating in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe, submitted by the delegation of the USSR;

<sup>24</sup> See, in particular, E/ECE/SR.15/ 14, 15, 16, and 18-23.

<sup>25</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/25.

<sup>23</sup> Speaking under item 9 of the agenda.

by the representatives of the USSR, Ukrainian SSR and Romania on the draft resolution on the setting up of a permanent organ of the Commission for oil, submitted by the delegation of the USSR; by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Greece on the draft resolution on flag discrimination, submitted by the delegations of the United Kingdom, Greece, Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany; by the representative of the United Kingdom on the draft resolution on patents, submitted by the delegations of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands; by the representatives of the United Kingdom and France on the draft resolution on copyright, submitted by the delegations of France, Denmark, Spain and the United Kingdom; by the representatives of the United Kingdom and France on the draft resolution on improvement of trade and payments arrangements, submitted by the delegations of the United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, France and Norway; by the representative of Romania on the draft resolution on the study of certain aspects of the chemical industry, submitted by his delegation; by the representatives of the United States of America, France, United Kingdom, Belgium and Italy on the draft resolution on the question of the economic aspects of disarmament, submitted by these delegations.

254. A draft resolution, submitted by the delegations of the USSR, France, Czechoslovakia and Sweden, on further expansion within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe of collaboration in exchanging scientific and technical experience, was adopted unanimously. (For the text, see part III, page 54, resolution 1 (XV).)

255. A draft resolution, submitted by the delegations of Austria, Poland, Sweden and the USSR, on assistance in the joint planning and carrying out of industrial projects by European countries was adopted by 25 votes for, none against, and 3 abstentions. (For the text, see part III, page 54, resolution 2 (XV).)

256. A draft resolution, submitted by the delegations of the United States of America, France, Denmark, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom, Sweden and the Federal Republic of Germany, on a meeting of high-level senior government advisers was adopted unanimously. (For the text, see part III, page 54, resolution 3 (XV).) After this draft resolution was adopted the representative of the USSR and the Executive Secretary made statements thereon.<sup>26</sup>

257. The representative of Yugoslavia made a statement presenting his delegation's draft resolution on assistance to the less developed countries.<sup>26</sup> This draft resolution was adopted unanimously. (For the text, see part III, page 55, resolution 4 (XV).)

258. A draft resolution, submitted by the delegations of Romania and Sweden, on the study of certain aspects of the chemical industry was adopted by 26 votes for, none against, with 2 abstentions. (For the text, see part III, page 55, resolution 5 (XV).)

259. Hereunder is the summary of the declarations by delegations on the draft resolutions submitted under

this item — both on those draft resolutions which were voted upon and on those not put to the vote — as communicated to the Executive Secretary by the delegations wishing that their relevant statements be included in the present report, together with the summary of a statement by the Executive Secretary:

#### (a) Resolution 3 (XV)

##### A meeting of high-level senior government advisers

USSR. "We have voted in favour of this resolution. I have only a brief statement to make. It concerns the title. Reference is made in the title to meetings of high-level senior government advisers, but in the actual text of the resolution, the word "high-level" does not occur. In voting as we have done, we understand that these words in the title of the resolution adopted fully apply to its text."

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. The Executive Secretary stated that he interpreted the resolution as meaning that he should convene a meeting of high-level senior government advisers when he had reached the conclusion that there was a broad consensus of opinion as to what subjects should be included in the agenda. He added that he would, of course, approach governments on the matter before reaching that conclusion.

#### (b) Draft resolutions not put to the vote

##### (i) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE STUDY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE OF THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DISARMAMENT

USSR. "In submitting a proposal to study, within the framework of ECE, the economic aspects of disarmament, the Soviet delegation considered and still considers that the preparation of such a study might contribute to a speedy and successful solution of disarmament problems.

"The Soviet delegation also considers that the study provided for in our draft resolution is necessary in order to solve the problem of converting the economy to peaceful ends and using the resources released by disarmament.

"The economic aspects of disarmament must also be studied in good time in order to understand the prospects and opportunities for collaboration between States which will be opened up when disarmament has been implemented.

"I would remind you that our Commission was established to promote the recovery and development of the post-war European economy. The Commission has dealt essentially with the economic problems connected with the conversion of the economy of the countries of Europe to peaceful ends. In this sphere, the Commission has acquired the necessary experience and has done work which has received recognition. The Soviet delegation is convinced that the economic aspects of disarmament must be studied in ECE now, and that the Commission is in a position to do this.

<sup>26</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/25.

"We consider that a study of the economic aspects of disarmament cannot be postponed until an agreement on disarmament is reached. A decision on this question by the Commission would do much to strengthen the spirit of co-operation in ECE.

"The exchange of views on the Soviet draft resolution concerning the economic aspects of disarmament has shown that delegations at this session are not unanimous in recognizing the need for studying the economic aspects of disarmament at this stage. At the same time, the discussion has shown clearly enough that the problem is considered important by a number of delegations, which have also expressed the view that work on this extremely serious contemporary problem of our time could be carried out in the Commission.

"Taking into account the fact that most delegations have emphasized the importance of this question, and in view of the fact that our western partners are not prepared to support the Soviet draft resolution, the Soviet delegation will not press it to a vote. At the same time, the Soviet delegation considers that the Soviet proposal and an account of the discussion on this matter should be included in the Commission's report to the Economic and Social Council.

"I would ask you to arrange for the contents of this statement to be included in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council."

POLAND. The representative of Poland underlined the importance of the resolution and expressed the hope that the ECOSOC would, at its next session, take favourable action on it.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. The Czechoslovak representative stated that he supported the idea of the USSR draft resolution that the ECE should study the economic aspects of disarmament and opposed the views that such a study is premature. He stressed the particular significance of such a study from the point of view of the preparation for reconversion to peaceful economy, expansion of foreign trade, raising of living standards and increasing assistance to under-developed countries.

(ii) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN TRADE OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

USSR. "The Soviet delegation has submitted a draft resolution on the convening of a conference of ministers of foreign trade of countries participating in the work of the Commission.

"When this draft was discussed, a number of delegations of the western countries spoke against the convening of such a conference. What arguments were adduced against the convening of a conference of ministers ?

"The gist of the arguments was that such a conference would be premature; and it was also asserted that not enough subjects had been prepared or were ripe for consideration at such a conference.

"We cannot agree with these arguments. A conference of ministers concerned with their countries' foreign

trade would help towards settling commercial and economic disputes with a view to the further development of mutually advantageous co-operation between west and east, especially in present conditions, when a relaxation of international tension has been observed. Much that is new is taking place in the world — the heads of governments are meeting to deal with the problems dividing east and west, meetings of foreign ministers are being organized to deal with controversial international questions. Those who object to a meeting of ministers of foreign trade fail completely to take into account the spirit of the times and the need for the member countries of the Commission to develop co-operation.

"Some of those who spoke said that no questions had as yet been marked down as suitable for examination by the ministers of foreign trade. The Soviet delegation is of the opinion, on the contrary, that there are many questions of foreign trade which are ripe for discussion and which it would be advantageous to deal with at this conference. The Soviet delegation is convinced that a conference of ministers of foreign trade would contribute to the further development of economic co-operation, in which, I assume, all countries must be interested. I can only express regret that no such conference has yet been held, and I hope the Commission will help to ensure that a conference of ministers of foreign trade is convened in the future.

"In view of the fact, however, that there is no complete agreement on this question among the members of the Commission, the Soviet delegation considers that the draft resolution need not be put to the vote.

"I would ask you to arrange for the contents of this statement to be included in the record of the session and in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council."

ROMANIA. "During the present session many delegations have asked that the ECE should intensify its activity and tackle the major problems of the European economy and European trade.

"We are convinced that the major problems of the European economy and, in particular, of trade should be dealt with more thoroughly and directly and at a higher level.

"The idea of the summit meeting is finding ever-increasing favour throughout the world. The year 1959, and the part of this year which has passed, have proved the value of contacts at a high level. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations and our Executive Secretary both consider that it would be useful to hold certain meetings at the ministerial level, we believe it would have been desirable to take positive action on those suggestions.

"Our delegation still considers that under existing conditions, the only way to secure better collaboration and mutual understanding in trade is to convene a meeting at the ministerial level, since that form of meeting is, we are convinced, of practical value for all member countries."

POLAND. The representative of Poland stressed that such a conference could lead to the elaboration of ways and means towards the solution of the important economic problems with which the ECE region is now faced and thus foster economic co-operation among all countries.

(iii) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE SETTING UP OF A PERMANENT ORGAN OF THE COMMISSION FOR OIL

USSR. "The Soviet delegation is compelled to note with regret that the question of the study within the framework of ECE of the problem of oil has not met with the response it deserves on the part of a number of western countries. The growing importance of the problem of oil in Europe's fuel balance-sheet is obvious. The delegations which have spoken here have drawn attention to the importance of this problem, which affects production and supply of oil, and have adduced very convincing facts and figures. The importance of this problem has also been noted by the Economic and Social Council.

"In view, however, of the fact that there is not a sufficient measure of agreement among the members of the Commission on the question we have raised, the Soviet delegation will not press this draft to the vote but expresses the hope that the countries participating in ECE will return to the discussion of this question in the near future.

"I would ask you to arrange for the contents of this statement to be included in the record of the session and in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council."

UKRAINIAN SSR. "The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR still considers that discussion of the problem of Europe's oil supplies is a matter of urgent interest to our Commission. Such discussion could best be organized by the establishment of a permanent organ within our Commission where these questions would be regularly examined with due regard to the mutual interests of all participants. Our delegation accordingly supports the proposal of the Soviet Union delegation for the setting up of a permanent organ for oil within the Economic Commission for Europe, as set forth in the draft resolution contained in ECE (XV)/Conf.Room Doc.8. In view of the negative attitude of the representatives of the western countries to this proposal, however, our delegation expresses the hope that the representatives of the west will change their position on this question at a later stage in the light of the trend towards expanded consumption and utilization of oil in Europe. This may not be admitted during the current session, as you will all understand, but we are not giving up hope."

ROMANIA. "The Romanian delegation considers that the setting-up of a permanent subsidiary organ for oil, within the framework of the ECE, is calculated to be of advantage to all European countries.

"World production of crude oil in 1959 was three and a half times as much as on the eve of the Second World War. More than half of world crude oil supplies

are produced by member countries of the ECE. World refinery capacity tripled between 1941 and 1959. In Europe, refinery production capacity exceeds 200 million tons.

"As regards the consumption of finished oil products, Europe occupies one of the most important positions. In the fuel balance of Europe, oil is playing an increasingly important part.

"Romania occupies the second place in Europe as regards oil production. It has created its own oil equipment industry and become an exporter. It is therefore quite natural that we should take an interest in any step likely to promote international co-operation in this field.

"In view of the ever-increasing part played by the oil industry in the European economy, the inclusion of oil problems among the matters to be considered by the ECE might have strengthened intra-European economic co-operation and opened up new prospects for trade.

"Although this draft resolution did not obtain the support of the majority on this occasion, we nevertheless hope that it will serve as a basis for future deliberations."

(iv) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON FLAG DISCRIMINATION

UNITED KINGDOM. The United Kingdom delegate stressed the importance attached by his government to the abolition of the practice, adopted by some countries, of selling c.i.f. and buying f.o.b., thus concentrating the control of shipping arrangements in their own hands, restricting trade, increasing transport costs, and preventing free competition amongst ships of all flags for the carrying of commercial cargoes. He reluctantly withdrew the draft resolution sponsored by his delegation and others because it had proved impossible to formulate a resolution to which all could subscribe.

GREECE. "The Greek delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom in connexion with the draft resolution on flag discrimination (Conf. Room Doc. No. 9).

"This I do in my government's capacity of co-sponsor of the draft resolution, in which we have special interest, being a traditionally maritime country.

"I wish to make it clear that my government retains its views on the question of flag discrimination.

"My delegation has agreed to have it withdrawn only because of the lack of general agreement on this matter and reserves for itself the right to submit it again, in its present or revised form, to the sixteenth session, in the confidence that it will draw wider support after the member governments of the ECE will have had more time to study it and weigh its significance."

(v) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON PATENTS

UNITED KINGDOM. The United Kingdom delegate explained that the effectiveness of the draft resolu-

tion on patents sponsored by his own and other delegations depended on the willingness of those governments which are *not* members of the Industrial Property Convention to vote for it and subsequently to implement it. As this condition apparently could not be fulfilled, at all events during the present session, the draft resolution was reluctantly being withdrawn.

(vi) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON COPYRIGHT

UNITED KINGDOM. The United Kingdom delegate recalled that the draft resolution on copyright tabled by his own and other delegations involved both questions of confidence and questions of recognizing the justice of the claims of authors, musicians and artists to be recompensed for their work. As, however, it seemed that the draft resolution did not at present command unanimous support, it was being withdrawn.

FRANCE. "The French delegation associates itself with the United Kingdom delegation."

(vii) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON IMPROVEMENT OF TRADE AND PAYMENTS ARRANGEMENTS

UNITED KINGDOM. The United Kingdom delegate stated that intabling the draft resolution on the improvement of trade and payments arrangements (Conf. Room Doc. No. 13), his delegation, together with the delegations of Sweden, Denmark, France and Norway, hoped that the Commission would agree that all member Governments should move towards more multilateral practices in the fields of trade and payments.

Although these delegations still believed that probably the most important way in which trade between east and west might be increased was by the movement away from the bilateral balancing of trade and away from the financing of trade in inconvertible currencies, they had concluded with disappointment that they must withdraw their draft resolution since it had not attracted unanimous support in the Commission.

FRANCE. The French delegation, which attached great importance to this resolution, agreed to its withdrawal in a spirit of conciliation.

(viii) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE STUDY OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

ROMANIA. "Great changes have taken place in Europe in the field of chemistry, and the part played by the chemical industry in the European economy is continually increasing.

"The organs responsible for the economy and for trade in Europe have an interest in knowing the trend of endeavours in this field, the economic conditions and repercussions of this development, and the extent to which international trade can be increased.

"In these circumstances we consider that the ECE has a part to play in following the main lines of development in this important sector. Although we should like to see the whole field of chemistry taken up by the ECE, we took account, in our proposal, of the existing situa-

tion and, more especially, of certain reserved attitudes regarding the technical and industrial aspects of the problem. At the same time we found that there are sufficient economic and trade aspects of interest to all countries, which can be usefully studied at the inter-governmental level within the framework of the ECE.

"We therefore confined ourselves to steps to be taken solely with a view to the adoption of a uniform mode of expression to facilitate international comparisons and commercial transactions, and to the preparation of a study on development trends in the chemical industry in Europe. It has become apparent that our draft requires more thorough study, in particular, by the competent bodies in each country.

"We are therefore submitting, jointly with Sweden, draft No. 28, recommending that the proposal put forward by our delegation be transmitted to member countries, that our Executive Secretary collect the views of governments, and that he report on this subject to our next session. We therefore request you to put document No. 28 to the vote, and not document No. 18."

(ix) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE QUESTION OF THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DISARMAMENT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The United States delegate stated that the resolution on the question of the study of the economic aspects of disarmament had been introduced in response to Conference Room Document No. 4. Since the latter resolution had now been withdrawn, the United States and the other sponsors of Conference Room Document No. 27, had agreed to withdraw their resolution. They continued to believe, however, that meaningful and productive studies of the economic and social aspects of disarmament could not be undertaken until there was actual progress toward an agreement under effective international control. In the interim, they hoped that international co-operation furthering the economic development of the less developed countries would not be delayed while waiting for such agreement. The United States Government, acting on this conviction, has been in the forefront in providing large-scale assistance to the under-developed countries. They also hoped that when internationally controlled disarmament is achieved, the member states of the ECE will devote a part of the resources thus released not only to raise the standards of living in their own countries but also to assist the less developed countries.

The United States delegate requested that the contents of his statement be included in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council.

FRANCE: "The French delegation considers, like the United States delegation, that the study of the economic effects of disarmament could only be usefully undertaken in the light of precise data concerning the rate of disarmament and procedure adopted for it. It is convinced that development of action to assist the under-developed countries must not be subordinated to the success of efforts to achieve disarmament. It agrees to the withdrawal of the resolution in question, seeing that the Soviet delegation has withdrawn its resolution."

UNITED KINGDOM. The United Kingdom delegation supported the views expressed by the United States and French delegates.

BELGIUM. "The Belgian delegation, a co-sponsor of the resolution (Conference Room Document 27), fully endorses the statements made by the delegations of France and the United States."

#### WORK OF THE COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

##### (Item 4 of the agenda)

260. The consideration of this item of the agenda was based on the reports of the Commission's subsidiary bodies on their sessions held during the period under review. These reports were introduced and brought up to date by the officers of the subsidiary bodies or by the secretariat. The additional note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/370) was also examined under this item.

261. Prior to the discussion of the activities of each of the committees and other sub-organs of the Commission in turn, the representative of the USSR made some general remarks relating to the activities of all these bodies. Although much had been done by them in promoting exchanges of technical and scientific information and experience, the many structural changes in the economy of participating countries, which were taking place under the impact of technical progress, created many new problems which the Commission should study, setting up new organs wherever necessary, as for instance in the fields of oil, chemistry and water economy. Study tours by specialists arranged under the auspices of ECE's subsidiary bodies required a greater degree of forward planning and more systematic preparation. New forms of dissemination of scientific and technical information, such as seminars, should be developed. A special group within the secretariat should be set up to co-ordinate work in this field.<sup>27</sup>

#### *Committee on Agricultural Problems*<sup>28</sup>

262. The delegations who spoke on the report of this Committee expressed their satisfaction with the Committee's activities and those performed by its subsidiary bodies. The importance of the annual examination of the short-term market situation and prospects for the major groups of agricultural products was emphasized, and the usefulness of the secretariat's commodity papers stressed. The study on fruits received special commendation since it provided for the first time an over-all analysis of the European fruit market as a whole. A number of delegations welcomed the fact that the Committee had undertaken the study of new groups of products at its last session, in particular fruit juices and vegetables; one delegation expressed the wish that the list of products dealt with by the Committee be further extended to include hemp and tobacco. Several delegations stated that they would like to see this sector of the Committee's

work supplemented by a more detailed examination of the effects of national policy measures on the level of intra-European trade in the different commodities. The existence of the Committee was welcomed as a valuable forum in which discussion of the important problem of market outlets could be developed.

263. It was felt that one of the most significant aspects of the Committee's activities during the past year had been the analysis on an all-European basis of the medium-term prospects for production and consumption of agricultural products by 1965. The value of the results achieved by the study group on demand was singled out for special mention and delegations stated their support for the work to be undertaken on problems of the methodology of agricultural production projections. A number of delegations stated that the conclusions of the whole of this work on projections were likely to provide governments with the necessary perspective in the framing of their agricultural policies, particularly with reference to trade outlets. It was felt that these conclusions should be re-examined and re-interpreted year by year in the light of actual developments.

264. The publication of regular statistical data by the Committee met with wide approval, and it was noted that it would continue to form a regular part of its activities.

265. The importance of the Committee's work to be undertaken under the auspices of FAO on the improvement of agricultural statistics and their international comparability was underlined in the statements of a number of delegations. Recent years had seen a marked increase in the statistical material provided by countries but problems of comparability remained formidable, so that work in this field could make a significant contribution to a better appreciation of agricultural problems.

266. The results achieved by the working parties on the mechanization of agriculture, the standardization of perishable foodstuffs, and on standard conditions of sale, were widely appreciated. A number of delegations reiterated their view, expressed at previous sessions, that the work on mechanization be stressed still further, with greater concentration on more narrowly specialized questions. These delegations expressed the hope that the countries which up to the present had played but a small part in the activities of the working party would be prepared to make a larger contribution in the future. Other delegations emphasized the need to concentrate on the economic aspects of specific agricultural questions. It was felt that the general desire of governments to raise the level of intra-European trade in agricultural products was being duly borne in mind by the working parties on standardization and on conditions of sale, whose work on the preparation of quality norms (including this year a number of new products) and of standard sales contracts was welcomed. A number of delegations also expressed their appreciation of the collaboration of other international agencies in the work on standardization. Several delegations regretted that the *ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery of the Industry and Materials Committee had not been reconvened; they stated that it could undertake useful work and that

<sup>27</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/3.

<sup>28</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/6 and 7.



the Committee on Agricultural Problems could assist it in drawing up a suitable programme. A number of other delegations saw no need to reconvene the *ad hoc* Working Party because they believed that the likelihood of its doing any useful work was slight. They further pointed out that the Working Party on Mechanization, which the *ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery had asked for advice and possible guidance on some of its activities, concluded that it was not in a position to make any recommendations on this issue.<sup>29</sup>

267. The organization of study visits and the exchange of films, bibliographies and other documentation was generally believed to be of considerable benefit, and delegations stated that efforts to further these aspects of the Committee's work should be continued. The concrete proposals for an exchange of information on the economic aspects of a number of specific technical matters<sup>30</sup> which had been put forward at the Committee's last session were welcomed by a number of delegations as a further example of the contribution which the Committee could make towards the promotion of exchanges of information at the international level.

#### *Coal Committee*<sup>31</sup>

268. General appreciation of the work of the Coal Committee and its subsidiary bodies was expressed by all delegations which took part in the discussion of the Committee's report. Representatives of both coal producing and importing countries emphasized the role of the Committee as a forum for discussion and clarification of Europe's coal problems and congratulated the Committee on the practical results achieved in the past year over a wide range of activities.

269. Delegations drew attention to the far reaching structural changes taking place in the energy balances of countries in both eastern and western Europe and their repercussions on the coal industries. While coal production and consumption is declining relatively in both eastern and western Europe, the representatives of eastern European countries and of the USSR pointed out that absolute increases were nevertheless continuing in their countries. In their statements the representatives of countries most affected by the decline in demand for coal drew attention to measures being taken, such as stockpiling and selective closure of high-cost pits designed to improve the situation of the industry and to keep social and economic dislocations and unemployment to a minimum. It was generally agreed that continuous efforts were required to make coal competitive with other forms of energy by lowering costs, improving productivity and promoting the upgrading of coal; the orientation of the Committee's activities in this direction was noted with satisfaction, particularly as regards its long-term studies. The suggestion was made that a survey of the situation in the field of energy should be made on the lines of the survey prepared for the special energy meeting held in March 1958. It was also stated

that it would be useful if there were set up within the secretariat a small group — not requiring any additional staff — to concentrate on studies of energy resources.

270. A number of representatives laid particular stress on the work of the Coal Trade Sub-committee, which enabled governments to keep abreast of the current and foreseeable European market situation and which assisted the industries in drawing up their long-term production plans. All speeches emphasized the value of the annual reviews of the coal situation which together with the regular quarterly statistical bulletin and monthly statistical statements provide essential documentation. In the economic field satisfaction was also expressed with the studies undertaken by the Working Party on Coal Statistics on investments and costs of production in the various coal producing countries which were contributing to a better understanding of the competitive position of these industries. Some delegations drew attention to the need for studying the role and costs of coal within a wider framework comprising other forms of energy; others expressed doubt as to the advisability of undertaking comparative studies on other forms of energy within the framework of the Coal Committee.

271. The expansion of exchanges of economic, technical and scientific information which had taken place during the period under review was widely commended. The value of the *ad hoc* meetings of experts on accelerated shaft sinking and on concentration and mechanization of coal production was emphasized, and it was noted with satisfaction that a further meeting on the latter subject as well as one on methods of mining coal at great depths was scheduled to take place in 1961. Several delegations proposed that sector seminars be organized under the Committee's auspices on such questions as widening the range of coals suitable for cokefaction, continuous use of machines on open-cast sites, walking roof supports and coal enrichment plants. It was generally agreed that the furthering of exchanges of information and of visits of specialists on a reciprocal basis could make a positive contribution to solution of the industries' problems. Some delegations expressed their governments' approval of the suggestion that had been made to convene a meeting of directors of national mining research institutes to exchange information on the work being carried out and planned in their institutes.

272. The achievements of the Utilization Working Party in the field of low- and medium-temperature carbonization, the proper utilization of low-grade fuels, reactivity of coke and semi-coke and utilization of fly ash were commended and the working party was encouraged to pursue its activities.

#### *Conference of European Statisticians*<sup>32</sup>

273. All delegations which took part in the discussion commented favourably on the work carried out under the programme of the conference of European Statisticians. It was pointed out that, although the conference's activities were addressed primarily to questions of sta-

<sup>29</sup> See also paragraph 301, below.

<sup>30</sup> See E/ECE/AGRI/44, paragraphs 58 and 59.

<sup>31</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/9 & 10.

<sup>32</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/3.

tistical methodology and comparability, they had made an important contribution to the improved supply of national statistics in different fields and to the increased usefulness of these statistics for the work of ECE. The point was also made that since differences in national statistical needs had generally been taken into account by the Conference and its subsidiary bodies in their work on different subjects, the results of this work were of general interest. Satisfaction was also expressed with the arrangements which existed for co-operation in this work between the conference and the Statistical Commission of the United Nations.

274. With regard to specific items in the conference's work programme, particular attention was drawn to the progress made in the work on comparisons of systems of national accounts in use in countries in eastern and western Europe, in spite of the considerable methodological problems. It was felt that the Conference should be given full support to continue this work. Several delegations also pointed to the usefulness of the exchange of information on plans for the introduction of data-processing electronic machines, and of experience of operating such machines. The view was expressed that this exchange of information might be extended to other types of equipment designed for speeding up the processing of statistical data.

275. Several representatives expressed their agreement with the decision of the Conference to set up a working group to review all aspects of the statistical work carried out under the programmes of the various ECE committees. They felt that the working group's views concerning the statistical work of the ECE committees would enable the statistics needed by the committees to be developed in such a way that the collection of the data would not put an undue burden on national statistical offices.

#### *Committee on Electric Power*<sup>33</sup>

276. The delegations which took part in the discussion on the report of the Committee on Electric Power were unanimous in stating that the work done or being done within that Committee and its subsidiary bodies was extremely useful and made a constructive contribution to the solution of electric power problems in Europe.

277. In particular, they stressed the value of the report on "The Electric Power Situation in Europe in 1958/59", which, for the first time in this series of reports, contained a chapter on future prospects, and of the report on "Developments in the Situation of Europe's Electric Power Supply Industry during the Post-war Period".

278. As the constant increase in electric power consumption aggravated the difficulty of meeting demand at peak hours, the importance of the study undertaken on the covering of peak loads was particularly stressed.

279. Similarly, most delegations stressed the value of the Committee's work on rationalization of electric power consumption.

280. Several delegations also stressed the value of the preliminary study undertaken by the Committee on the comparison of the economic bases which could be used as criteria in selecting electricity plants.

281. Favourable comments were passed on the work accomplished by the Committee's subsidiary bodies—namely, the Working Party for the Study of Rural Electrification, the Group of Experts for the Study of Hydro-electric Resources in Europe and the Group of Experts for the Study of Legal Questions. In that connexion, a number of delegations mentioned the value of the annual report on the state of rural electrification in Europe, and of the publication of the new *Half-yearly Bulletin on Conditions of Hydraulicity in Europe*.

282. A number of comments were also made on the Committee's activities in facilitating exchanges of information between participating countries. Certain delegations pointed out that as a general rule such exchanges should be limited to economic aspects but recognized that co-operation with UNIPED and the value of the information made available to the Committee by that organization made it possible to avoid duplication with the work of existing international organizations and to single out specific problems for consideration by the Committee itself. Other delegations however stressed the need for the Committee to facilitate exchanges in the technical sphere also. In that connexion, the organization of symposia at the invitation of certain countries, at which the industrial associations of the various countries would also be represented, was mentioned as a means of developing exchanges of economic and technical information without greatly increasing the work of the secretariat. Several delegations expressed the hope that the Committee would take up the proposal made by the Romanian delegation that consideration of problems raised by the construction and operation of thermal plants should be placed on its agenda. The usefulness of study trips was also recognized, and the Soviet Union delegation announced their intention of inviting specialists from the participating countries to visit electricity plants in their country during the summer of 1962. The delegations of France, Ireland and the United Kingdom also announced the intention of their governments to invite, in 1960, members of the working party to take part once again in study tours in their countries.

283. Certain delegations expressed their interest in the comparison of methods used for determining production costs for power produced by nuclear and conventional plants respectively. They recognized that thanks to the existing collaboration between the secretariat of the IAEA and the secretariat of ECE, it was possible both to avoid duplication and to carry out studies of that kind.

284. The USSR delegation stressed the desirability of organizing wider co-operation within the Committee on questions concerning the planning and construction of all-European networks of high-capacity transmission lines. A number of delegations expressed themselves in favour of studying that problem. Some other delegations expressed the view that under present conditions work on such questions was limited by the inherent difficulties.

<sup>33</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/4.



285. All delegations who took part in the discussion on the activities of this Working Party stressed the high quality of the documentation presented on the various subjects. This material had provided a useful basis and background for policy decisions by governments and the gas industry.

286. Reference was made to the survey of the gas industry in Europe, which is now to include 1958 and 1959, as being of importance, as well as to the reports dealing with aspects of the flexibility of the gas industry, viz. underground storage of gas both in gaseous and in liquid form, and the application of various tariff systems in order to counteract seasonal fluctuations.

287. Some delegations felt that the working party should devote its attention to the question of using gas as a raw material for the chemical industries. It was understood that the report under preparation on the consumption of gas by sectors would also deal with gas as a raw material.

288. There was unanimity about the fruitful collaboration on technical questions now established with the International Gas Union. A number of new technical problems were suggested by some delegations for study while other delegations expressed their anxiety lest the programme of the working party be overloaded with purely technical studies to the disadvantage of economic studies.

289. One delegation emphasized that when studying markets for gas it was necessary to make comparisons with other forms of energy and the influence on one another.

290. The practice of the working party, to rely on groups of rapporteurs for carrying out the various reports, was regarded as an effective method of work.

291. In view of the rapid development of the gas industry in the region, many delegations suggested that the working party should hold plenary sessions twice a year, and organize seminars on particular problems more often.

292. As to the exchange of experience, some delegations thought that whilst in most cases it has been functioning well it could be arranged in a more systematic manner; in particular a number of delegations expressed the wish that more frequent reciprocal visits of experts be organized.

#### *Housing Committee* <sup>35</sup>

293. The delegations which took part in the discussion expressed their appreciation of the constructive achievements of this Committee. The quality of the documentation over a wide range of questions received favourable mention. It was generally expected that such an exchange of information and sharing of experience in the Committee would continue to make an effective contribution to the solution of a major economic and social problem.

294. All delegates agreed that the Committee's efforts to promote and accelerate the general trends towards industrialization of house-building, particularly with a view to reducing or checking the growth of building costs, on which a comprehensive report had been published, represented a substantial accomplishment. It was noted with satisfaction that such questions as mechanization and prefabrication would continue to be closely followed in the present phase of the work on actual costs and productivity on building sites. The Committee's work on the practical application of standardization in the building and building materials industries and its implication for international trade was also welcomed.

295. The growing importance and timeliness of the Committee's work in the field of urban renewal and on the economic problems of establishing new towns and residential areas was stressed by a number of delegations. The reports on utilization of dwelling space and on rural housing problems were favourably commented upon.

296. Many representatives emphasized the value of the Committee as an intergovernmental forum for discussion of the principal issues of housing policy, singling out in this connexion the annual reviews of housing trends and policies and the continuing work on housing finance. The considerable advance made in the field of statistics, as shown in the quarterly and annual bulletins, was considered fundamental to the Committee's work of economic analysis and reporting.

297. General satisfaction was expressed with the Committee's efforts to promote technical co-operation and all-European contacts. The close working relationships between the Committee and other international professional and technical organizations, especially the International Council for Building (CIB), were considered by several delegates as particularly appropriate for this purpose, thus relieving the Committee of work of a purely technical nature. The Committee's long-term programme of group visits to different countries was welcomed; it was suggested that the practical utility of such visits could be improved by the provision of well-documented information in advance. Several delegates, in suggesting how activities in this field might be intensified, gave examples of other forms of exchanges of technical and scientific information.

298. Most delegates agreed that the Committee's work programme, which for the first time showed a more long-term approach, reflected the main problems of current interest to governments and the building industry. It was also felt that the Committee should continue concentrating on a comparatively few principal questions with major economic implications rather than spread their efforts over a variety of technological questions which might better be left with other international professional and technical organizations. A number of delegations considered inopportune any tendency to reduce the scope of the Committee's activities. There was general satisfaction with the Committee's working methods involving the growing use of expert rapporteurs made available by governments and international organizations in carrying out a sub-

<sup>34</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/5.

<sup>35</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/7.

stantial part of the work programme. Several delegates particularly interested in problems of industrialization of house-building suggested that the Committee might follow more closely the experimental building work going on in some countries including the development of new materials, and proposed that model or pilot construction projects might be sponsored under the general aegis of the Committee; these delegates undertook to submit their specific proposals to the Committee.

#### *Industry and Materials Committee* <sup>36</sup>

299. Some of the delegations who took part in the discussion on the report on the Industry and Materials Committee expressed disappointment at the limited activities which had been carried out under the aegis of the Committee, whose terms of reference, in their view, covered some major sectors of European economy, in particular questions of machine building and the automation of production processes, on which little or no work has yet been done by the Commission; others expressed the view that experience continued to prove the wisdom of the decision taken at the eleventh session of the Commission that work in the field of the Committee "could be most efficiently carried out by *ad hoc* working parties and/or by studies on clearly defined and carefully chosen topics, rather than by plenary meetings of the Committee" (E/ECE/237, paragraph 260).

300. Several delegations again drew attention to the valuable work carried out by the *ad hoc* Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering, further evidence of which was provided by the high sales figures of the General Conditions for the Supply, and for the Supply and Erection, of Plant and Machinery for Import and Export which had been drawn up. Interest was also expressed by some delegations in drawing up conditions for erection without supply. The start made by the working party in drawing up general conditions of sale for the export of durable consumer goods and certain other forms of engineering stock articles was noted with satisfaction.

301. Views continued to be divided on the usefulness of convening a further meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery. It was noted that the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture, reflecting primarily the views of users of agricultural machinery, had not made suggestions as to work on production problems which might be carried out by the *ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery. Nevertheless, some delegations felt that the *ad hoc* Working Party should be reconvened. Others felt that its activities should be discontinued.<sup>37</sup>

302. Some delegations expressed interest in the work proceeding on the economic aspects of automation and on capital goods produced by the mechanical and electrical engineering industries, which, it was noted, would be examined in more detail under other items of the agenda.

303. The delegations of Czechoslovakia and Romania proposed that studies should be initiated and expert meetings convened in the field of chemicals, including plastics and synthetic fibres.

#### *Inland Transport Committee* <sup>38</sup>

304. The delegations which took the floor in this discussion recognized the role of the Committee in the solution of problems arising in the field of international transport in Europe and as an instrument of co-operation between countries of eastern and of western Europe.

305. The Committee's legal work in connexion with road, inland water and rail transport, its work on statistics and on the transport of perishable foodstuffs and dangerous goods received favourable comment. The completion of two conventions concerned with inland waterways, the work on road safety, the activities of the Sub-Committee on Rail Transport and of the Working Group on the Development of the Road Network in South-eastern Europe were particularly welcomed by a number of delegations. Some delegations considered that the task entrusted to the new group of experts set up to study the problems connected with the creation of a unified system of European inland waterways of international concern was of great importance and that this group should work in close co-operation with the Committee on Electric Power.

306. While certain delegations regretted the fact that it had not been found possible to bring the 1954 General Agreement on Economic Regulations for International Road Transport and its set of rules into force, the idea of a draft resolution by the Sub-committee on Road Transport requesting governments to introduce into their national regulations a number of the provisions contained in the General Agreement and its annexes was generally welcomed.

307. The Netherlands delegation proposed that the draft agreement on the conditions of transport for certain perishable foodstuffs should be submitted to an *ad hoc* working party which would be a kind of joint working party under the Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Agricultural Problems and in which each delegation should or could include, in addition to the usual representatives on the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs, experts — more particularly, traders — in the perishable foodstuffs in question. Other delegations pointed out that such a procedure would be inconvenient, and the Commission took no decision, thus leaving it to the committees concerned to do so.

308. The reduction in the number of sessions of certain working parties and the fact that some working parties were not convened at all in 1959 evoked favourable comment on the part of some delegations. In their opinion, undue attention had sometimes been devoted to work which did not deserve it — for instance, the study of combined transport equipment and of cost. Other delegations stressed the importance of the work

<sup>36</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/8.

<sup>37</sup> See also paragraph 266, above.

<sup>38</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/10.

on cost or expressed concern about the postponing of the meeting of the Working Party on Tariffs.

309. Several delegations thought that in view of the importance that transport by pipelines had acquired in recent years, the Committee should deal with this problem.

310. The USSR representative requested the Committee to work out long-term programmes for study tours, exchanges of missions of transport technicians, the showing of technical films, and the organization of exhibitions on transport subjects. The delegate also suggested the study of the possibilities of organizing, on the basis of parity, the transport of tourists by motor-coach, or the elaboration of an agreement concerning combined transport in Europe by rail and inland waterways, and of the elaboration of unified rules of transport. The USSR representative noted that the work of the Group of Experts to study the Standardization of Police Regulations and Signalling on Inland Waterways was proceeding too slowly; it should be speeded up and, if not terminated by the end of 1961, should be postponed.

311. The representative of Hungary pointed out that the TIR carnet system could not as yet be introduced in his country and, so he understood, in some other countries of eastern Europe because the insurance companies did not extend their guarantee system to those countries. This resulted not only in discrimination, but was a hindrance to trade and prejudicial to both eastern and western countries.

312. Several delegations pointed out that the German Democratic Republic was prevented from acceding to the conventions prepared under the Committee's auspices and proposed to amend the final clauses of the conventions to make it possible for all European countries to become parties to them. Other delegations were, however, of the opinion that such an amendment would not be desirable and that nothing precluded the eastern zone of Germany, if it so wished, from adapting its national regulations to the provisions of the conventions drawn up by the Committee.

313. Certain delegations expressed their agreement with the Committee's proposal concerning the draft recommendation to be addressed by the Commission to the Economic and Social Council on the recognition of international driving licences.<sup>39</sup> The United States delegation expressed its concern with respect to the paragraph of the draft recommending countries parties to the 1949 Convention to recognize international driving licences issued in conformity with annex 10 to the Convention, by countries not parties thereto. In the opinion of the United States delegation, it is inadvisable at this time to abandon the framework of the Convention and to encourage informal multilateral arrangements which grant special facilities to citizens of countries which do not accede to it. Furthermore, the US Federal Government cannot require the individual states of the Union to honour such an informal arrangement. The United States accordingly suggests that the paragraph under dis-

cussion be revised to urge countries not yet members to join the 1949 Convention.

314. The draft resolution of the Economic Commission for Europe for submission to and adoption by the Economic and Social Council to give effect to the proposal of the Inland Transport Committee concerning driving licences in international traffic was adopted by 27 votes for, none against, and 1 abstention. (For the text, see part IV.) The representative of the United States of America explained the reasons for his abstention,<sup>40</sup> and subsequently submitted through the Executive Secretary the following summary of his statement:

"The United States delegate stated that he wished to explain the reasons why the United States had decided to abstain when this resolution was put to a vote. As he explained when the work of the Inland Transport Committee was discussed in the Commission, his government believed that it was inadvisable at this time to abandon the framework of the 1949 Road Traffic Convention and to encourage an informal multilateral alternative. This was due particularly to the fact that most European countries have already adhered to the Convention, and ratifications were continuing at a satisfactory rate.

"Accordingly, the United States delegation had suggested that the relevant section of the resolution just voted be re-worded in such a way as to invite countries not parties to the 1949 Convention to adhere to the Convention at an early date, and to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations by 1 January 1961 of their intentions in the matter.

"Unfortunately, this suggestion did not receive the support of the other delegations, and the resolution just voted reflected the suggestion adopted at the last session of the Inland Transport Committee. In the circumstances, the United States delegation did not wish to oppose the views of the majority of the Commission, but abstained in the vote on the resolution.

"The United States delegate asked that the annual report to the Economic and Social Council include a summary of the United States' views on this subject."

#### *Committee on Manpower<sup>41</sup>*

315. The Executive Secretary, introducing section I of his additional note (E/ECE/370), drew attention to the Report on Manpower Problems in Europe (E/ECE/371) prepared by the International Labour Office for transmission to the Commission. He conveyed to the ILO the Commission's appreciation for keeping ECE regularly informed of the evolution of the situation in that vital sector. Drawing attention to ILO's activities in promoting training facilities in supervisory functions, instructor training and vocational training for skilled workers, he stated that it would seem appropriate for the ECE committees concerned to be increasingly aware of the relevant arrangements in matters of training developed by ILO, and possibly to suggest to the ILO

<sup>39</sup> See also E/ECE/SR.15/25.

<sup>41</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/5 and 6.

<sup>39</sup> See paragraph 105, above.

the provision of additional facilities, if necessary. ILO was already operating jointly with FAO and ECE a scheme of vocational training for forestry workers.

316. The representative of the ILO, introducing the above-mentioned report of his organization, referred to recent trends in the employment situation and the activities of the ILO in the manpower field in Europe. He pointed out that a number of specific projects of ECE had a bearing on manpower policies and programmes of mutual interest to ECE and ILO. Close collaboration between ILO and ECE on all such questions enabled the two organizations to serve its members as effectively as possible.

317. The representatives of the USSR and Czechoslovakia stated that the report of the ILO, alongside with many positive features, contained a number of shortcomings in not providing an analysis of the fundamental reasons for the existing high level of unemployment not always correctly or not adequately characterizing the employment situation and the system of workers training in their respective countries, and confining itself to a mere description rather than an evaluation of its own manpower activities. They felt that the Commission should seek to intensify its activities in this field.

318. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany considered the ILO report a valuable and instructive document.

319. The representative of the ILO, commenting on the discussion, assured the Commission of his organization's sincere interest in providing reports on the manpower situation in Europe which would serve the interests and needs of the Commission to the maximum degree possible.

#### *Steel Committee* <sup>42</sup>

320. Delegates from many countries paid tribute to the constructive and practical work carried out by this committee. It was agreed that such international co-operation was made possible largely by the business-like methods employed and the goodwill which prevailed.

321. Most delegates welcomed the issue of the comprehensive report on long-term trends and problems of the European steel industry in its world setting. Some delegates, while subscribing to the positive assessment of this work, expressed certain reservations on the methodology used especially with regard to forecasts of future production and consumption, it being generally understood, however, that individual country estimates were only rough guides for the purpose of arriving at an assessment of long-term perspectives. It was agreed that the report presented a wealth of information and contained much statistical data not elsewhere available which should prove valuable both to governments and the industry in considering their policies in this field in relation to long-term prospects.

322. There was a favourable appreciation of the annual reviews of the steel market. Some delegations

considered such short-term economic analysis and reporting particularly useful in view of the sharp short-term fluctuations in the market in many countries.

323. Improvements in the coverage and presentation of the steel statistical bulletins were welcomed since these bulletins were reported to be widely used by steel economists and statisticians as a unique and authoritative source of information. Several delegates in underlining the importance of all governments supplying full information for the statistical bulletins and other reports prepared for the Committee considered that there was scope for further improvement in the quality and coverage of data furnished, and in the speed with which they were transmitted to the secretariat. It was noted with satisfaction that the Steel Statistics Working Party had turned its attention to a wider and better coverage of statistics of merchants' and consumers' stocks.

324. A number of delegates drew attention to the progress made by an *ad hoc* working party in examining draft standard conditions of sale of steel products.

325. The steady development of technical co-operation and all-European contacts on iron and steel, which was fostered by the Committee, was welcomed by all delegates who participated in the discussion. The growing contacts between technical and scientific institutes and the wider participation of experts from all countries taking part in the work of the ECE in the technical congresses were regarded as particularly useful. An account was given by several countries of the growing exchanges of contacts and visits which had recently been made and of further exchanges envisaged. Some countries suggested that the activities in this field might usefully be expanded by, for example, the holding of seminars on selected scientific and technical questions and by organizing group visits to different countries under the aegis of the Committee.

326. In a discussion of the work programme, two inquiries were singled out as being of particular importance: the use of steel in the building and civil engineering industries; and the relative contribution to total crude steel output of the different steel-making processes, in the light of their respective economic and technical advantages and paying particular attention to the growing use of oxygen in the different forms of steel-making. It was noted that proposals on the automation of rolling and finishing of steel and productivity in the steel industry and a proposal on competitive factors affecting trade in steel products would be considered at the next committee session. There was general agreement that the work programme, which for the first time took a long-term approach, reflected major problems to the solution of which the Committee could contribute significantly.

#### *Timber Committee* <sup>43</sup>

327. The many delegates who spoke on the report of the Timber Committee expressed their government's appreciation of its work, which was considered to have contributed to the stabilization of the timber market

<sup>42</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/8.

<sup>43</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/8 and 9, and paragraph 419, below.

during the year under review and to the solution of problems of international concern in this field. The participation of FAO in the Committee's activities was welcomed.

328. Delegates expressed satisfaction with the Committee's annual review and market appraisal. The inclusion of an analysis of the hardwood market in the review was welcomed. The beneficial effect of the Committee's work on the promotion of east-west trade in timber and timber products was commented on, and the hope was expressed that such trade would be materially increased.

329. The Timber Committee's recommendation that a reappraisal of European Timber Trends and Prospects for the period 1960-1975 be initiated in 1961 promoted expressions of satisfaction by all delegates who spoke on this point. The far-reaching effects of recent technological developments on the production and consumption of timber and timber products were mentioned by several delegates as being one of the main reasons for undertaking a new appraisal. The delegate of Hungary announced that his country was willing to put an expert at the disposal of the secretariat for this study.

330. The activities of the Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and the Training of Forest Workers (in collaboration with ILO) were welcomed. ILO's collaboration in the sponsoring of training courses for instructors of forest workers was singled out for favourable comment, and the hope was expressed that such courses would be continued on a regular basis. The delegate of Czechoslovakia conveyed to the Commission the invitation of his government to hold the fourth session of the Joint Committee in his country.

331. Several delegates commended the work of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics. It was hoped that the working party would continue to refer to other international organizations such work as fell within their particular field, and thus avoid duplication of effort.

332. Several delegates spoke of the problem of the utilization of wood and wood waste and of the urgency of the problem of small-size timber, particularly hardwood. The intention of the Committee to convene a symposium on the utilization of small-size timber in the spring of 1961 was commended.

333. The exchange of information between countries, especially by means of reciprocal study tours, was important in the opinion of several delegates. It was noted that a programme of study tours within the framework of the Timber Committee was now in course of preparation.

334. The desirability of organizing a second International Board Consultation in 1962 or sooner was raised by a number of delegations. It was pointed out that, as requested by the Committee, the secretariat was currently looking into the possibilities of obtaining financial support from industry, and that it would report on this matter to the 18th session of the Committee. The view was, however, also expressed that the proposal to hold a second consultation should be dis-

cussed first by the Timber Committee, which would then be in a position to advise the Commission on this question.

335. Attention was drawn to the proposal by the group of experts drafting general conditions of sale for sawn hardwood that conditions of sale should be prepared for tropical species, and that experts from interested African, Asian and American countries should be invited to participate in the work.

336. Some delegations emphasized the need to intensify international scientific, technical and economic co-operation in the timber industry in accordance with the proposal for an all-European agreement in this field made by the USSR delegation at the Committee's fifteenth session and reiterated at its seventeenth session. One delegation expressed doubt whether fruitful agreement could be reached on this proposal.

337. With respect to the Committee's programme of work, some delegates commented favourably on the rationalization achieved by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Some suggestions were made as to how the Committee's work might be extended; it was considered by one delegate, however, that, in view of the limited resources available, the Committee should continue to concentrate its work on those projects which would be of most practical value to member countries and which could be brought to fruition reasonably quickly.

#### *Committee on the Development of Trade*<sup>44</sup>

338. The Commission in general emphasized the increasing importance of the work of the Committee and the part it should play as a means of overcoming practical commercial difficulties on a region-wide basis at a time when important changes were taking place in European trade patterns. Mention was made of the practical value to governments of the Committee's work on arbitration, insurance, trade consultations, exchange of information on organization and techniques of foreign trade, standardization of contracts, unification and simplification of export documents, facilities for fairs, and the multilateral compensation procedures.

339. A number of delegations stated that in their view the Committee's work should be intensified as it had hitherto not dealt with certain major problems, particularly those requiring consideration at an appropriately high level. The following problems were mentioned in particular as deserving special attention at such a level: customs tariffs, quotas, quantitative restrictions and trade prohibitions and restrictions with particular reference to discriminatory practices in the use thereof, the establishment of appropriate institutions for broad trade co-operation between ECE countries, and the effects on intra-European trade of the creation of sub-regional trading groups in Europe.

340. Some delegations referred to certain measures which in their view should be taken to improve conditions for intra-European trade. They considered that the introduction of more multilateral methods in inter-

<sup>44</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/11 and 12.

national trade and payments relations would lead to an expansion of mutually beneficial trade. They also noted the need for action in other fields relevant in their view to the work of the Committee, along such lines as enlargement of patent protection in the field of industry to facilitate trade between east and west through adherence of all member governments to the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, improvement in copyright protection, and elimination of flag discrimination in commercial shipping as a means of facilitating the exchange of goods in international trade. The desirability of diversification of trade to include more consumers' goods was also mentioned.

341. Other delegations expressed themselves in favour of a sensible combination of bilateral trade with multi-lateral methods, taking into account concrete economic conditions, commercial policy, and payments considerations; they considered, as far as their countries were concerned, that there was no flag discrimination in commercial shipping and also that no problem existed in the field of the protection of patents inasmuch as, irrespective of participation in the International Convention on the Protection of Industrial Property, their national legislation adequately safeguarded the protection of the interests of patent holders. They considered, moreover, that the questions of the choice of flag in commercial navigation and of authors' rights were not within the competence of the Commission.

342. It was also suggested that the Committee's work might be advanced by the expert consideration at the technical level during the coming year of topics suggested by the Special Meeting on the Organization and Techniques of Foreign Trade. Some delegations expressed their support for the proposal made by the Executive Secretary in his opening statement to the session regarding the drafting of a set of principles and procedures which might be applied in trade between ECE countries with different economic systems. Several delegations said that, as the conclusion of long-term agreements constituted a very effective means of harmonizing the interests of different countries, the Committee should examine the theoretical and practical aspects of such agreements. They also spoke in favour of a study of the possible consequences of disarmament on intra-European trade, on the balance of payments, and on aid to the under-developed countries. They urged that the secretariat should prepare, for the next session of the Committee, a detailed report on the work of the other regional economic commissions in the field of trade. A suggestion was also made that the Committee might study the possibility of financing sales of industrial plants through agreements to purchase the products of these plants.

343. Regarding the work of the Committee in the field of arbitration, the Commission noted the statement by the Executive Secretary that, on the basis of requests from several governments which wished to have further time to examine the draft European Convention prepared by the Working Group, he had postponed the meeting of plenipotentiaries which was to have been convened in April 1960.

344. Several delegations stated that in their view the secretariat should devote an increasing portion of its resources to work in the field of trade. The Executive Secretary, speaking in another context, informed the Commission that he had recently taken steps in this direction through the establishment of a Commission Affairs and Trade Development Division.

345. The delegations of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the USSR submitted a draft resolution on the improvement of techniques of foreign trade. This draft resolution was adopted unanimously. (For the text, see part III, page 55, resolution 6 (XV).) After the adoption of the resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement on this point.<sup>45</sup>

346. The representative of the United States of America submitted through the Executive Secretary the following summary of his statement:

"The United States delegate stated that in voting for this resolution he wished to add that the United States Government supports a fully multilateral system of trade and payments on a world-wide basis, and hopes that this resolution will make a useful contribution to achieving that objective.

"The United States delegate asked that the contents of his statement be included in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council."

347. The delegations of the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, France, Austria and Poland submitted a draft resolution on arbitration. This draft resolution was adopted by 27 votes for, none against, and 1 abstention. (For the text, see part III, page 55, resolution 7 (XV).)

348. The representative of the United Kingdom made a statement explaining his reasons for abstaining.<sup>46</sup>

#### ADDITIONAL NOTE TO THE COMMITTEE REPORTS <sup>46</sup>

##### *Section II. — Implementation of Commission resolution 4 (XIV). Contacts and strengthening of scientific and technical collaboration<sup>47</sup>*

349. In introducing section II, the Executive Secretary pointed to a number of useful practices developed in ECE's subsidiary bodies for the promotion of contacts which, in his view, could with advantage be used by all organs of the Commission, as appropriate. He wondered whether it would not be possible for participating governments to arrange to furnish the secretariat at regular intervals with lists of bilateral study tours for the information of all other interested governments. Commenting on the developing practice of governments to conclude direct bilateral agreements concerning exchanges of economic and technical information and contacts, he stated that in his opinion an organization such as the

<sup>45</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/25.

<sup>46</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/5 and 6 for discussion of section I of the Additional Note, Committee on Manpower, and paragraphs 315 to 319 above.

<sup>47</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/14.



ECE had a role to play as a focal point where governments could keep themselves informed of developments in this regard. Governments might therefore wish to furnish the secretariat with the texts of the bilateral agreements on contacts and related matters for collation and circulation.

350. All delegations who spoke on this question reaffirmed the importance which they attached to the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe, agreed that ECE had a useful function to perform in this regard and expressed satisfaction with the substantial progress made by the effective manner in which ECE's committees had been implementing resolution 4 (XIV). In the course of discussion information was supplied on bilateral accords covering east-west exchanges of information and contacts on a reciprocal basis. Several delegations expressed doubt as to the need for entrusting to the Commission co-ordinating functions in this field.

351. Reference was also made by a number of delegations to the draft resolution tabled by the delegation of the USSR on further expansion within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe of collaboration in exchanging scientific and technical experience which they considered deserved support.

352. The delegation of the United States of America said that an announcement would probably be made at the June session of the Housing Committee on the possibility of a study tour for housing experts in the USA.

### *Section III. — Economic development of southern Europe (Commission resolution 7 (XI))*<sup>48</sup>

353. The representatives of Turkey and Yugoslavia emphasized the usefulness of the work undertaken by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies on questions bearing upon the economic development of southern Europe. They welcomed in particular the work of the Inland Transport Committee on the development of an international road network in south-east Europe, and the inclusion in the *Economic Survey of Europe for 1959* of two chapters devoted to an analysis of economic problems of those countries. They hoped that the Commission would continue to devote due attention to problems affecting the economic development of southern Europe.

### RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED AT ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION REQUIRING THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

*Creation of an all-European regional trade organization. Report by the Executive Secretary, pursuant to resolution 1 (XIV), on governments' further views on this question*<sup>49</sup> (item 5 (a) of the agenda)

354. The Commission considered the report of the Executive Secretary transmitting the further views of

governments concerning the proposal made by the Government of the USSR at the fourteenth session regarding the creation of an all-European regional trade organization (E/ECE/372, Corr.1, and Addenda 1-6).

355. The representative of the USSR noted that some governments which had replied to the Executive Secretary's inquiry were in favour of the establishment of such an organization while others considered that the time was not yet ripe. The delegation of the USSR was still of the opinion that the establishment of such an organization would be in the best interests of all countries concerned and would promote the development of mutually advantageous co-operation, especially in view of the formation of economic sub-groups in western Europe. In view of the fact that some countries did not support their proposal, the delegation of the USSR suggested that it be left on the Commission's agenda for consideration at the next session. This suggestion was supported by delegates from a number of other countries.

356. Several delegations gave further explanations of the reasons for their governments' opposition to the USSR proposal. Some stated that it was considered to be difficult to find a real basis on which an all-European regional trade organization could be established because of the obstacles created by fundamental economic differences, but expressed willingness to join with other ECE governments in further studies with a view to eliminating, or at least reducing, as much as possible the adverse effects of these obstacles. Some delegations emphasized the value of the ECE as a forum for the exploration of solutions to trade problems and referred to the draft resolutions submitted during the present session which, in their view, would help in this effort. Some of the delegations, representing governments members of the European Free Trade Association, pointed out that this organization was liberal and outward-looking and that the increased prosperity which its member governments expected to derive from it would provide a greater demand for goods from other countries, thus appreciably benefiting them. It was also pointed out by delegations representing governments members of the European Economic Community that the common market they had established between them was designed to bring about a general expansion of trade, and not the diversion of trade or a disregard of the interests of third countries.

*Convening of a Conference of Ministers on questions of the development of intra-European trade: Report by the Executive Secretary pursuant to resolution 2 (XIV) on governments' further views on this subject*<sup>50</sup> (item 5 (b) of the agenda)

357. The Commission had before it a report by the Executive Secretary transmitting the further views of governments on the proposal made by the delegation of the USSR at the fourteenth session concerning the convening of a Conference of Ministers on questions of

<sup>48</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/14.

<sup>49</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/14 and 16.

<sup>50</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/14, 15 and 16.



the development of intra-European trade (E/ECE/373, Corr.1 and Addenda 1-7).

358. The representative of the USSR pointed out that the Soviet delegation attached considerable importance to the search for possibilities of a further development of foreign trade and that one of the steps in this direction would be the convening in 1961 of a Conference of Ministers of member countries of ECE dealing with foreign trade. He pointed out that at such a conference it would be appropriate to exchange views on questions of foreign trade which have become ripe for consideration, and to seek ways and means of its development. A frank exchange of opinions between ministers, and the discussion by them, on possible joint measures aiming at a broad development of intra-European trade would constitute an important contribution to the cause of co-operation between states, and would have a beneficial effect on the subsequent activity of the Commission in the field of foreign trade.

359. Several delegations expressed their further views in support of the USSR proposal, emphasizing in particular the need for such a meeting and listing the questions which it might usefully consider. It was pointed out in particular that the uncertainty which prevailed regarding future trade patterns due to the changes in the forms of economic organization of western Europe also indicated the need for discussing trade problems at a high level where decisions could be taken which might help bring about a significant expansion of intra-European trade.

360. Delegations whose governments did not accept the USSR proposal pointed out that they could not at present agree to it because they felt it would be useless to convene such a conference before agreement had been achieved on items which could profitably be discussed, which require for their solution agreement at ministerial level, and on which there was reasonable hope of such agreement. Furthermore, full use should first be made of the facilities which the ECE provided or could provide for consideration at a technical level of problems of east-west trade. In particular they expressed the belief that it would be desirable to follow up the Special Meeting on the Organization and Techniques of Foreign Trade, which had taken place in 1959, with a meeting of experts to study the possibilities for improving techniques in east-west trade.

*Automation: Report by the Executive Secretary pursuant to resolution 7 (XIV)*<sup>51</sup> (item 5(c) of the agenda)

361. The discussion was based on the Executive Secretary's note (E/ECE/374 and Add.1) on automation which reported on the special meeting of experts on the economic aspects of automation held from 28 to 30 September 1959. In his note, the Executive Secretary, having taken into account the views expressed at the special meeting and subsequently by governments in writing, suggested that the Commission should invite governments to encourage by every possible means the pre-

paration of case studies, which should be made available to the secretariat; that the additional case study material, when available, could then be examined and analysed by the secretariat, together with rapporteurs from interested countries; and that at a later stage, when more information was available, some of the broader aspects of the economics of automation might be studied.

362. Most delegations which spoke on this item expressed the view that a useful start had been made by the Commission in obtaining information on and analysing the economic aspects of automation. They felt that the next step was to encourage the preparation of detailed case studies, as far as possible on a uniform basis, and a number of delegations indicated that such case studies were in preparation in their countries and would be sent to the secretariat in due course. While some delegations expressed a preference for establishing a working party on automation, or at least convening as soon as possible another expert meeting, almost all were agreed on the usefulness at this stage of the approach suggested by the Executive Secretary. Some delegations, however, were doubtful whether it was possible to distinguish clearly between automation and other advanced industrial methods and therefore to undertake a separate study of the economics of automation. Other delegations stressed that the work done by the Commission should concentrate on the economic rather than the technological field, and also cautioned against trying to go too fast, in view of the time required to prepare at the national level really worth-while case studies.

363. All delegations who took part in the debate noted with satisfaction that several committees had included in their work programmes examination of the economics of automation in their own fields, and considered that this tendency should be encouraged.

364. The Commission took note that there was a large measure of agreement with the proposals of the Executive Secretary contained in his note on the subject, and felt confident that governments and the Executive Secretary would proceed along the lines indicated in this document.

365. The delegations of the USSR, France and Bulgaria submitted a draft resolution on automation. This draft resolution was adopted by 26 votes for, none against, and 2 abstentions. (For the text, see part III, page 56, resolution 8 (XV).) The representatives of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany explained their reasons for abstaining.<sup>52</sup>

366. The representative of the Netherlands submitted through the Executive Secretary the following summary of his statement:

"The Netherlands delegate explained his abstention by declaring that in his country the application of automation is a matter of private industries, and that the Netherlands Government does not dispose of means for obliging such industries to furnish third parties with information on their production methods."

<sup>51</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/15.

<sup>52</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/25.

*Technical and economic documentation: Report by the Executive Secretary pursuant to resolution 8 (XIV)*<sup>53</sup> (item 5 (d) of the agenda)

367. The Executive Secretary, introducing his report on this subject, observed that during the period under review the Commission's subsidiary bodies had sought to develop appropriate facilities for the supply and exchange of requisite technical and economic documentation.

368. Delegations attested to the importance of the provision of documentation relevant to the Commission's programme of work and felt that the subsidiary bodies had achieved useful results in this regard. A number of delegations believed that an intensification of this activity was called for by making greater use of existing documentation facilities, including exchanges of literature and wider dissemination of appropriate information by new methods, such as the organization of periodic trade and industrial fairs. The opinion was also expressed that, in view of the secretariat's limited resources, the Commission should not attempt to duplicate existing facilities.

369. The Commission took note of the Executive Secretary's report on this subject.

*Productivity of labour: Report by the Executive Secretary pursuant to resolution 9 (XIV)*<sup>54</sup> (item 5 (e) of the agenda)

370. The discussion was based on a report by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/376 and Add.1), in which it was stated that he intended to convene from 12 to 14 September 1960 a meeting of experts representing participating countries, national productivity centres and competent organizations. The purpose of the meeting would be an exchange of views between experts engaged in research work on productivity problems on, firstly, the measurement of productivity, and secondly, the methods applied in the analysis of the relative importance of the main factors determining levels of productivity, with the main emphasis on the latter and the discussion primarily devoted to the industry and individual enterprise level.

371. In introducing the discussion, the Executive Secretary stated his satisfaction at the willingness of the International Labour Office and the European Productivity Agency to contribute to and participate in the meeting.

372. The representative of the ILO, in addition to expressing the willingness of his office to co-operate in the meeting, gave an account of the principal work of the ILO in the field of productivity.

373. Most delegations which spoke stated their interest in the meeting, their willingness to participate and their general agreement with the proposed subject matter and arrangements for the meetings. Some delegations, however, expressed their doubts about the usefulness of the proposed meeting, largely owing to the inherent

difficulty of finding a common measurement of and making inter-country comparisons of productivity. Several delegations stressed the importance of avoiding duplication between international organizations working in the field of productivity. General satisfaction was expressed with the intention of the Executive Secretary, in preparing for the meeting, to work closely with the other international organizations particularly concerned.

374. The Commission took note of the intention of the Executive Secretary to convene a meeting of experts on the productivity of labour, on the basis of the programme indicated in his report.

*Energy problems in Europe: Report by the Executive Secretary pursuant to resolution 11 (XIV)*<sup>55</sup> (item 5 (f) of the agenda)

375. The Commission had before it a note by the Executive Secretary in which a progress report was given on the work done by the Secretariat on the various studies which, in the opinion of the Executive Secretary, would constitute a suitable basis for a Special Meeting of Government Experts on Energy Problems. The Executive Secretary confirmed that the studies in question would be completed by the end of 1960 or early 1961, thus making it possible for the Commission to convene the special meeting in the course of 1961.

376. At the beginning of the discussion, the representative of the IAEA drew attention to the co-operation which had developed between the secretariat of the Agency and that of ECE, and which had led to the undertaking of two parallel studies: one to determine what methods could be employed to calculate the cost per kWh of electricity generated by a nuclear power station, and the other to ascertain comparable methods that could be used in the case of conventional power stations. The first study was carried out by IAEA, and the second by ECE. The value of that co-operation was also acknowledged by delegations.

377. Some delegations referred to the importance of the Special Meeting of Government Experts on Energy Problems held in 1958. They emphasized the development which had taken place since that date in the energy situation in Europe, principally as a result of the increasing availability of oil and natural gas. They also underlined the importance of the energy factor in industrial development and, accordingly, in the light of the statement in the Executive Secretary's note that the documentation which could serve as a basis for a second meeting would be ready by the end of 1960 or the beginning of 1961, proposed that the Executive Secretary should be instructed to convene a second meeting in 1961.

378. Other delegations, while declaring their support in principle for such a meeting, felt that the work on the implementation of resolution 710 B (XXVII) of the Economic and Social Council on the appraisal of natural energy resources, and the studies undertaken by the Secretariat were not sufficiently advanced for a decision to be taken at the present session to instruct the Exe-

<sup>53</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/15.

<sup>54</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/15 and 16.

<sup>55</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/16.

cutive Secretary to convene a second meeting. They proposed that the Executive Secretary should continue the preparatory work for a meeting of experts, which might be held at some time in the future, and report progress at the next plenary session.

379. Subsequently, three draft resolutions on energy problems in Europe were submitted: by the delegations of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Ukrainian SSR; by the delegations of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, France, Italy and the Netherlands; and by the delegations of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, the Ukrainian SSR and the USSR. The representative of Czechoslovakia stated the reasons why the first of these draft resolutions was not put to the vote, and the representative of the USSR explained his position on this point;<sup>56</sup> the representative of the United Kingdom stated the reasons why the second draft resolution was not put to the vote;<sup>56</sup> the third draft resolution was adopted unanimously. (For the text, see part III, page 56, resolution 9 (XV).)

380. The following is the summary of the declaration by the representative of Czechoslovakia on the first and third of the above-mentioned resolutions:

"The representative of Czechoslovakia declared that in the light of the Executive Secretary's communication (E/ECE/377), a joint draft resolution by Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Ukrainian SSR had been submitted authorizing the Executive Secretary to convene the next meeting of experts for 1961. No general agreement was reached on this draft resolution. However, it proved possible to reach agreement on a consolidated draft resolution. The representative of Czechoslovakia expressed his belief that this common draft resolution will enable the Executive Secretary to continue and complete the preparatory work so that a decision on the convening of the second meeting of experts could be taken at the sixteenth plenary session of the Commission."

*Distribution of documentation: Report by the Executive Secretary pursuant to resolution 13 (XIV)*<sup>57</sup> (item 5 (g) of the agenda)

381. The Executive Secretary, commenting on his report on this matter, confirmed that the secretariat was making every effort to ensure that the documentation both for the plenary sessions and for the meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies be distributed in accordance with the amended rule 3 of ECE's rules of procedure and in the light of the classification of documentation for the subsidiary bodies into three broad categories, as set out in his report.

382. The delegates who spoke in this discussion welcomed the improvement that had occurred in respect of the timely distribution of documents and expressed the hope that the still existing shortcomings could be overcome.

383. The Commission took note of the Executive Secretary's report on this subject.

#### OTHER RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED AT ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO TAKE SPECIFIC ACTION

*Water pollution control problems in Europe: Progress report by the Executive Secretary submitted pursuant to resolution 10 (XIV)*<sup>58</sup> (item 6 (a) of the agenda)

384. Several representatives stated that the control of water pollution had become an increasingly serious problem in Europe, and that therefore the ECE had to be commended for having included the study of this problem in its programme of work. With regard to the progress report submitted by the Executive Secretary, general satisfaction was expressed with the way in which the secretariat continued to collect further basic information on the subject as well as with the preparations, made in close collaboration with the secretariats of FAO and WHO, for the 1961 Seminar on Water Pollution Control. The results of this seminar were awaited with great interest, and the hope therefore expressed that it be held early in 1961 in order that its conclusions could be communicated to the sixteenth session of the Commission.

385. Several observations were made with regard to the preliminary list of the most urgent problems annexed to the Executive Secretary's progress report, which problems might be discussed at the seminar; most representatives felt that the number of problems to be discussed should be limited, since it was evident from the preliminary list that a thorough discussion of all items at the seminar would hardly be possible. Several delegations suggested that technical problems be discussed at the joint seminar as specified in resolution 10 (XIV). It was felt that attention should be focused to those questions which, from an international point of view, are of the highest priority. Guidance was expected from the planning meeting with experts in Copenhagen as to which of the problems come into this category.

386. Stress was laid on the necessity to avoid duplication of work by the various organizations interested in one or more aspects of the problem.

387. Some representatives indicated that their countries were willing to share the experience gathered in the field of water pollution control with other countries. Reference was made in this connexion to the possibility of making the results of the work of ECE in this field available, through the recently established Water Centre at United Nations headquarters, to countries in other regions not yet, or only partly, industrialized.

388. A number of delegations took note with satisfaction of the resolution adopted at the last session of the Inland Transport Committee's Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport concerning water pollution caused by petroleum waste products from inland water craft. Some countries had already adopted the measures suggested in that resolution to abate this form of water pollution.

389. Certain delegations referred to the proposal of the Polish Government concerning the possibility to

<sup>56</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/25.

<sup>57</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/16.

<sup>58</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/17.

study the economic aspects of the utilization of European water resources, and stated that, in its broad outline, they could support the views expressed by the Polish Government in its memorandum on the subject (document ECE (XV), working paper No. 5).<sup>59</sup>

390. The Executive Secretary stated, in concluding the discussion, that he was grateful for the interest expressed by the various delegations in the work under way; the specific observations made on the nature and range of the subjects to be discussed at the 1961 Seminar would be taken into consideration by the planning meeting in Copenhagen when preparing the seminar which he hoped would take place early in the year so that he could report on its results to the sixteenth session of the Commission.

*Study of production and export of capital goods in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering: Progress report by the Executive Secretary submitted pursuant to resolution 14 (XIV)*<sup>60</sup> (item 6 (b) of the agenda)

391. A brief discussion took place on the progress report by the Executive Secretary submitted pursuant to resolution 14 (XIV) concerning the study of production and export of capital goods in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering being carried out by the secretariat with the assistance of rapporteurs from six countries. Those delegations which took part in the discussion considered that it could already be seen that there were prospects of valuable information being obtained from the study for both producers and traders in capital goods produced by the mechanical and electrical engineering industries. It was pointed out that it seemed likely for the first time that reasonably comparable data on an all-European basis would be obtained. Some of the delegations whose countries had nominated rapporteurs stated that these rapporteurs would continue to be ready to assist the secretariat in obtaining data, and in general to contribute to the work. The view was also expressed that emphasis should be placed on assessing as far as possible the import requirements of capital goods in less industrialized countries. It was pointed out that, at this stage, the study was being given a comparatively limited scope. It was also pointed out that, in so complex a field, it would be premature to attempt to make wide-ranging forecasts of future developments.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS SECRETARIAT: NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY<sup>61</sup> (item 7 of the agenda)

*Co-operation with the other regional economic commissions on matters of common concern*

392. Further to the information contained in his note on the possibility of including economists and statisticians from Africa in the UNTAO/ECE In-service Train-

ing Programme, the Executive Secretary stated that he had been in touch with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in this connexion and that he particularly welcomed this opportunity to assist the youngest of the regional economic commissions.

393. Delegates who took part in the discussion considered this section of the note a useful account of the satisfactory co-operation now taking place between the secretariats of the Commission and the other regional economic commissions. The growing interrelationship of economic problems in the various regions and increasing opportunity for co-operation in this field were emphasized. More particularly, the extension of the UNTAO/ECE In-service Training Programme to include trainees from African countries and the study tours to the ECE countries by experts from other regions were welcomed.

394. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, who was present during the discussion, thanked the Commission, the ECE countries, and the secretariat for the help extended to the countries of the ECA region, in particular in the field of training as well as of studies of the impact of the European Economic Community on trade with Africa, and expressed the hope that this co-operation would continue and be intensified.

395. The Czechoslovak delegation welcomed the fact that as a result of Council resolution 723 B and C (XXVIII), a new paragraph had been inserted in the terms of reference of ECAFE and ECLA which provides for liaison and co-operation with the other regional commissions. The Czechoslovak delegation is of the opinion that the terms of reference of the Commission should be amended in the same way.

396. The delegate of Romania stressed that it would be desirable for a greater number of representatives of countries of other regions to participate in the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. Other delegations stressed the usefulness of the existing liaison, through the secretariats, with the other regional economic commissions. Subsequently, the delegations of Romania, the United Kingdom, Hungary and the Federal Republic of Germany submitted a draft resolution inviting the Executive Secretary to provide the subsidiary bodies of the Commission with information about the work of similar subsidiary bodies of the other regional economic commissions of the United Nations. The draft resolution was adopted unanimously. (For the text, see part III, page 56, resolution 10 XV.)

*Activities bearing upon technical assistance*

397. The Commission took note, without discussion, of this section of the document.

398. In connexion with this point, the delegations of the United States of America, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark submitted a draft resolution on technical assistance. The representative of United States of America explained the reasons why this draft resolution was subsequently not put to the vote.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>59</sup> See paragraph 422, below.

<sup>60</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/17.

<sup>61</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/17.

<sup>62</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/25.

399. The following summary of the statement made by the representative of the United States of America in this connexion was submitted through the Executive Secretary:

"The United States delegate stated that his delegation was regretfully withdrawing the draft resolution on technical assistance (Conference Room document 19), which his delegation sponsored together with the delegations of the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark.

"He went on to say that this draft resolution underlined the importance of the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund in promoting the economic development of under-developed areas. It also took note of resolution 752 unanimously adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-ninth session. This latter resolution expressed the hope that additional funds would be made available to these important United Nations programmes.

"The operative paragraph of the draft resolution addressed itself to a further problem affecting these programmes. The contributions of some member governments are made in currencies which are not readily usable, and this obviously rendered the programmes mentioned less effective than they would otherwise be.

"The United States delegate stated the draft resolution was unfortunately not found acceptable by certain governments. In not pressing it to a vote, however, his government wished to reiterate its hope that all member governments will decide to enhance the value of the programmes mentioned in the draft resolution by making their contributions in readily usable currencies.

"The United States delegate requested that the contents of his statement be included in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council."

*Relations with specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations*

400. The Commission took note, without discussion, of this section of the document.

*Statistical Indicators of Short Term Economic Changes in ECE Countries*

401. All delegations which took part in the discussions on this section of the note stressed the value of this publication as a tool of economic analysis and its particular usefulness in preparing up-to-date reviews of short-term economic trends.

402. It was generally felt that in order to derive the optimum benefit from this data a wider circulation should be made to interested parties. However, the view was also expressed that any increase in distribution should not be at the expense of speed in the preparation and dissemination of the publication.

403. The delegate of the United Kingdom, while affirming the usefulness of the Statistical Indicators, felt that it might have been desirable to have discussed this project in the Conference of European Statisticians

before having implemented the proposal made at the fourteenth session of the Commission.

404. The secretariat indicated that a minor extension of the existing circulation (in terms of the number of copies despatched to each delegation) would be possible without any increase in the cost of the service or any delay, and that such extension would be introduced after consultation with the individual delegations.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONCERN TO THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS TWENTY-SEVENTH AND TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSIONS AND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FOURTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION: NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY <sup>63</sup> (item 8 of the agenda)

*International commercial arbitration* (Council resolution 708 (XXVII))

405. The representative of the USSR drew attention in this connexion to the important work of the Committee on the Development of Trade in the elaboration of a European Convention on Commercial Arbitration, and expressed the hope that this work would be completed as soon as possible.

*United Nations measures for promoting international exchange of scientific and technical experience* (Council resolution 727 A (XXVIII))

406. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR pointed to the useful activity of the Commission relevant to this resolution and stated that the acceptance by the Commission of the draft resolution of the USSR on further expansion within the framework of the ECE of collaboration in exchanging scientific and technical experience would contribute to the implementation of the above-mentioned decision of the Council.

*Concentration of activities of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields, and control and limitation of documentation* (Council resolution 742 (XXVIII))

407. The Executive Secretary, referring to the requests of the Council in part I of this resolution concerning the utilization of existing studies and publications, stated that the Commission's subsidiary bodies as well as the secretariat should continue to bear in mind these desiderata when planning or undertaking their work.

408. The Executive Secretary also mentioned an arrangement which he intended to make concerning the possible use by scholars and students of ECE "restricted" documentation whereby, after the lapse of a year or so as from the date of their issuance, these documents could be made available for research purposes at the request of bona fide interested parties. The Executive Secretary believed that such an arrangement, without interfering with the work of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, would serve a useful purpose.

<sup>63</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/17.

409. As regards part II of Council resolution 742 (XXVIII), the Executive Secretary drew attention to the limited language and documents services of the European Office of the United Nations for processing ECE documentation, and informed the Commission that this year the resources of the European Office were adequate for the translation and reproduction of approximately 15,000 pages of documentation (reckoned in terms of the number of pages of the original language version), which corresponded to the actual volume of ECE documentation issued in 1957 and 1958. The Executive Secretary expressed the hope that, despite the need to establish an upper target for the volume of ECE documentation, the documentation requirements of the Commission could be met provided that, firstly, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies exercise utmost restraint in their demands for new documentation and scrutinize the documentation implication of their respective programmes of work with a view to eliminating or reducing any routine documentation deemed to be of lesser importance; and that, secondly, the secretariat redouble its efforts to economize on documentation without, however, thereby impairing the substantive work involved. The secretariat would keep the Commission informed as to its ability to cope with the preparation and processing of the documentation required.

410. The Commission took note of Council resolution 742 (XXVIII) and the Executive Secretary's statement relative thereto.

*The strengthening and development of the world market and improvement of the trade conditions of the economically less developed countries* (General Assembly resolution 1421 (XIV))

411. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR, welcoming General Assembly resolution 1421 (XIV), stated that the Commission could contribute to its implementation by accepting the proposal of the USSR for the convening of a Conference of Ministers of Foreign Trade and, with regard to the resolution's part II, should examine the possibilities of improving the conditions of trade for the economically under-developed countries.

*Other resolutions of the Council and of the General Assembly*

412. Speaking about the resolutions adopted by the Council at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions and by the General Assembly at its fourteenth ordinary session dealing with the economic development of under-developed countries, the representative of the USSR pointed to the possibility of rendering aid to those countries by means of closer contacts between the ECE and the other regional economic commissions. He expressed support for the suggestion of the Executive Secretary<sup>64</sup> that the mechanism of ECE be more intensively used in assisting the less developed countries. He also stated that promising prospects in this regard would open up by achieving general and complete

disarmament and by earmarking a part of the economic resources thus released for aid to those countries.

413. The representative of Czechoslovakia referred to General Assembly resolution 1436 (XIV) on the geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat of the United Nations which provides that priority be given in recruitment of the staff of the Secretariat to qualified candidates from Member States which either have no nationals on the staff or which have a disproportionately small number of their nationals on the staff; and that vacancies in posts at higher levels in the Secretariat be filled, as far as possible, by qualified candidates representative of geographical areas and main cultures which are not, or not adequately, represented in these key posts. He stated that his delegation was drawing attention to this resolution since it also covered the secretariat of ECE, and since it affected a number of European countries, including Czechoslovakia. Speaking in another context,<sup>65</sup> the delegations of the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR had supported the same point of view.

#### REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN EUROPE

(item 9 of the agenda)

414. In its review of the economic situation in Europe, the Commission had as a background document for its discussion the Economic Survey of Europe in 1959 (E/ECE/383, and Corr.1 and 2), prepared by the Research and Planning Division, and issued by the secretariat of the Commission on its own responsibility.

415. In the course of the discussion, a number of delegations made suggestions concerning the future work of the Research and Planning Division and the subjects which might suitably be studied in subsequent annual economic surveys.

416. The delegations of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR tabled a draft resolution on the procedure for preparing economic studies requesting the Executive Secretary and the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to make it a regular practice to enlist the co-operation of government experts from member countries in the drafting of economic studies, including annual surveys and quarterly reviews, circulating the outlines of the studies to countries in good time for their comments.<sup>66</sup>

417. The summary records of the discussion under this item are contained in E/ECE/SR.15/18-23.

418. Hereunder is the summary of the declarations on this draft resolution as communicated to the Executive Secretary by the delegations wishing that their relevant statements be included in the present report, together with the summary of the Executive Secretary's statement in connexion with the discussion on this matter:

USSR: "Together with the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR, the delegation of the Soviet Union has submitted for consideration at the present session of ECE a draft resolution on the procedure for preparing economic

<sup>65</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/12 and 13/.

<sup>66</sup> This draft resolution was not put to the vote (E/ECE/SR.15/25).

<sup>64</sup> See E/ECE/386.

studies. In this draft it is suggested that, with a view to bringing about a further improvement in the preparation of such studies, the co-operation of government experts from member countries should be regularly enlisted and that the outlines of the studies should be circulated to countries in good time for their comments.

"The Soviet delegation was faced with the necessity of submitting this draft resolution because for some years the Research and Planning Division has allowed distortions to appear in its explanation of the economic development of the Soviet Union. Furthermore, the Division has not devoted sufficient attention to seeking ways and means of developing economic co-operation between member countries of the Commission. As is well known, Soviet delegations to the Commission's sessions have been drawing attention to this for some years.

"Several members of the secretariat responsible for preparing the chapters relating to the Soviet Union have had more than one opportunity of visiting the Soviet Union and studying certain questions on the spot. As the last *Survey* shows, however, the results yielded by these facilities have been insignificant.

"It should be noted that useful studies are being made by other divisions of the secretariat on such subjects as the housing question, the iron and steel industry and so forth. But no one can say that it is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations to enlist the co-operation of government experts in the preparation of studies in these fields. This useful practice, which has proved justified, should be extended to the Research and Planning Division.

"In this connexion, the statement made by Mr. Tuomioja on this subject at the present session has caused us some bewilderment.

"In view, however, of the fact that not all the members of the Commission are prepared to accept our draft resolution, the Soviet delegation considers that the draft resolution need not be put to the vote, provided that our remarks are taken into account in the conduct of the secretariat's work.

"I would ask you to arrange for the contents of this statement to be included in the record of the session and the annual report to the Economic and Social Council."

**BYELORUSSIAN SSR:** "The compilation of competent economic studies, including annual and quarterly surveys, is one of the most important tasks of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe, as a number of representatives have repeatedly pointed out. Our delegation accordingly considers that this branch of the secretariat's work should be continually improved. The quality of the preparation of such studies should be heightened. The debate on the *Economic Survey of Europe in 1959* at this session, for example, showed beyond all doubt that there are still a number of shortcomings in this field.

"What is the main purpose of such studies and surveys? In our view, it consists above all in an impartial elucidation of the processes taking place in the member countries of the Economic Commission for Europe, in

the economic, scientific and technical spheres, such elucidation being essential in order to seek successfully for ways and means of economic, scientific and technical co-operation between countries. The studies may be of definite advantage to the member countries of the ECE in the development of their national economy. If the studies and surveys are to fulfil their purpose, the co-operation of government experts of member countries will have to be enlisted, and the outlines of the studies circulated to countries for their comments in good time. This is precisely what the draft resolution on the procedure for preparing economic studies, submitted by the delegations of the Soviet Union and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, sets out to achieve. The Byelorussian delegation regretfully notes the fact that a number of representatives of the Western countries do not agree to this draft resolution, but expresses the hope that the States members of ECE will in the near future take up this question again. I request you to include the contents of this statement in the records of the session and in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council."

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** The Executive Secretary, referring to the comments of the delegate of the USSR, stated that he could not accept the charge that the secretariat had given a distorted picture of economic conditions in the Soviet Union, and that he took serious exception to any reflection on the integrity of the secretariat in whole or in part."

**DENMARK:** The delegate of Denmark stated that if his and some other delegations had refrained so far from entering into the debate on this matter this was not to be interpreted as due to lack of sympathy with the position of the Executive Secretary and his assessment of the situation."

#### PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1960/61<sup>67</sup> (item 10 of the agenda)

419. In considering this item of the agenda, the Commission had before it documents E/ECE/384 and Add.1 on the draft programme of work for 1960/61, as well as the statement by the Executive Secretary on Financial Implications of the Study on European Timber Prospects: A New Forward Appraisal, 1960-1975 (ECE (XV), Working Paper No. 4).

420. Commenting on the draft work programme for 1960/61, the Executive Secretary pointed out that since the fourteenth session of the Commission a number of projects had been completed or deleted in several sectors, such as transport, statistics, housing, steel, electric power and timber, while in these and other fields new work or extension of projects had in turn been included. He also recalled that in accordance with the usual practice the secretariat would complete the work programme in the light of the decisions taken at the present session.

421. The delegations which took part in the discussion of this item expressed general agreement with the programme of work for 1960/61. It was noted that a number of committees had begun to plan their

<sup>67</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/23.



work for several years ahead, a practice which led to considerable improvement in the efficiency of their work. A number of delegations drew the attention of the secretariat to the need to assist the committees in preparing long-term programmes of study tours and in intensifying their efforts to promote an exchange of economic, scientific and technical information.

422. The representative of Poland stated that his government attached considerable importance to the examination of the over-all problem of the rational use of water resources, a matter which had hitherto not been dealt with by any international body in Europe. While some representatives speaking under this item as well as item 3 had supported the proposal of the Polish delegation on international co-operation in the rational use of water resources in Europe, the representative of Poland expressed his regrets that the memorandum on this subject submitted by his government (ECE (XV), Working Paper No. 5) and the draft resolution which took into account the remarks and observations made by various representatives could not be discussed at this session in view of the fact that other delegations were not prepared to go into the substance of the matter. For these reasons, the representative of Poland withdrew the draft resolution submitted earlier by his delegation although it maintained the memorandum and the draft resolution (ECE (XV), Conference Room Document No. 23) which it considered to be entirely valid. The representative of Poland further stated that his government intended to revert to the matter at the sixteenth session and was convinced that, in the meantime, governments of member countries would study these documents so that action thereon could be taken at the next session of the Commission.

423. The representative of Poland also drew the attention of the Commission to a number of measures which could be taken in order to rationalize the compilation, translation and distribution of abstracts of economic, technical and scientific articles which were now being undertaken separately by the appropriate institutions in the various countries. He suggested that the secretariat might usefully look into the matter and see in which way they could assist ECE governments in this respect. The representative of Denmark expressed doubts whether it would be possible for the secretariat to select suitable subjects for such abstracts, and suggested that the subsidiary organs of the Commission might undertake such a task. In view of the considerable amount of work which was involved, he felt that any recommendations by the committees would have to be approved by the Commission before any action could be taken.

424. Having considered and approved its programme of work for 1960/61,\* the Commission considered a draft resolution concerning the Commission's programme of work submitted by the Chairman. The draft resolution

was adopted unanimously. (For the text, see part III, page 56, resolution 11 (XV).) In connexion with the adoption of resolutions by the Commission, the Executive Secretary explained that, as regards the financial implications thereof, he believed that the new tasks which the Commission had undertaken could be carried out with the budgetary resources already foreseen for 1960 and 1961, taking into account the small number of additional posts to which he had referred in the introductory note to the Commission's draft programme of work and priorities, document E/ECE/384 and Add.1.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS (item 12 of the agenda)

##### (a) *Statement by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization*<sup>68</sup>

425. At its fifteenth meeting the Commission heard a statement by the Director-General of FAO in which he stressed, *inter alia*, the importance and usefulness of the close and systematic co-operation between FAO and ECE in the fields of common concern, and outlined the purpose of, and practical arrangements for, FAO's Freedom from Hunger Campaign. The Vice-Chairman, who presided over this meeting, thanked the Director-General for his interesting statement and observed that he thought he was expressing the views of all delegations in saying that the Commission supported FAO's Freedom from Hunger Campaign. He added that the countries participating in ECE were preoccupied with seeking practical and effective measures for aiding the economic development of under-developed countries which was in line with the Campaign's basic aim.

##### (b) *Requests for hearings from non-governmental organizations*

426. Requests were received and accepted from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions for permission to present the views of that organization to the Commission on manpower problems in Europe (item 4)<sup>69</sup> and on the review of the economic situation in Europe (item 9);<sup>70</sup> and from the World Federation of Trade Unions for permission to present the views of that organization to the Commission on the work of the Coal Committee<sup>71</sup> and on the review of the economic situation in Europe.<sup>72</sup>

##### (c) *Date and place of meeting of next session*

427. The Commission decided to leave to the Executive Secretary the responsibility of determining, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and in the light of the arrangements of the Economic and Social Council, the proposed date and place of the sixteenth session of the Commission, and to advise governments thereon.<sup>72</sup>

\* *Editorial note.* — This programme of work was as usual adopted on the understanding that the secretariat would be authorized to make the necessary adjustments in the programme's final text in the light of the relevant decisions of the Commission (see editorial note to part V).

<sup>68</sup> See E/ECE/391, and E/ECE/SR.15/15.

<sup>69</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/6.

<sup>70</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/18-23.

<sup>71</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/9.

<sup>72</sup> See E/ECE/SR.15/26.

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION

1 (XV). Further expansion within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe of collaboration in exchanging scientific and technical experience <sup>73</sup>

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 1429 (XIV) on development of scientific and technical co-operation and exchange of experience,

*Noting* the work done within the framework of the Commission and its organs in developing scientific and technical collaboration among member countries on a multilateral basis,

*Noting* also the increasing number of scientific and technical exchanges being arranged bilaterally,

*Recognizing* that further extension of such collaboration, whether arranged through the Commission or bilaterally, contributes to the economic development of countries members of the Commission,

*Bearing in mind* the need for intensifying, with due regard to the mutual advantage of member countries, the Commission's activities in this field in the light of technical progress,

*Noting* further that the Executive Secretary has set up a special division to deal with Commission Affairs and Trade Development matters whose tasks include assistance to the Commission and governments in the promotion of contacts and the exchange of economic, technical and scientific experience and information,

*Considers* that the successful fulfilment of this task could be promoted by intensifying the activity of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission as regards the exchange of scientific and technical information; by organizing seminars of appropriate experts from member countries to discuss within the scope of the Commission's programme of work, the latest scientific and technical advances; by the preparation in the Commission's technical committees of long-term programmes of study tours for specialists on a reciprocal basis and by collecting and distributing advance information on international exhibitions in member countries devoted to the latest scientific and technical advances;

*Requests* the subsidiary organs of the Commission to continue their effort for the development of scientific and technical collaboration between member governments on matters of economic, technological and statistical importance and to prepare appropriate measures in accordance with this resolution;

*Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the appropriate implementing steps and to report on the subject of this resolution to the sixteenth session of the Commission.

*25th meeting*

*2 May 1960*

<sup>73</sup> See paragraph 254, above.

2 (XV). Assistance in the joint planning and carrying out of industrial projects by European countries <sup>74</sup>

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Bearing in mind* the requirements of the economic development of European countries and the existence of strong economic ties among them,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen economic co-operation on an all-European basis, especially between countries with different economic systems,

*Noting* that joint efforts by European countries towards the further development of their production capacity and the more rational utilization of their resources can be of great significance,

*Requests* the Executive Secretary when asked by all governments engaged in a particular undertaking of this kind or by one on behalf of others, to study the economic aspects of joint industrial projects and to advise the governments on these questions consulting whenever necessary the appropriate subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

*25th meeting*

*5 May 1960*

3 (XV). A meeting by high-level senior government advisers <sup>75</sup>

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Recognizing* the need for better understanding by countries members of the Commission of economic questions of mutual interest to member countries operating under different economic systems;

*Believing* that the free and informal exchange of views on such matters by economic advisers to member governments would serve to enhance such mutual understanding and thus contribute to the betterment of economic relations;

*Requests* the Executive Secretary

To obtain the views of the member governments of ECE concerning items which might profitably be discussed at a meeting of senior economic advisers to member governments;

To schedule such a meeting at a time and with an agenda acceptable to member governments; and

To submit a report on the meeting to member governments of the Commission.

*25th meeting*

*5 May 1960*

<sup>74</sup> See paragraph 255, above.

<sup>75</sup> See paragraph 256, above.

#### 4 (XV). Assistance to the less developed countries <sup>76</sup>

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Bearing in mind* the increasing need to accelerate, in the interest of the world economy as a whole, the development of the less developed countries of the world,

*Appreciating* the efforts of the United Nations and specialized agencies in the field of economic development,

*Considering* that the Commission, in accordance with its terms of reference, should foster the expansion of economic co-operation between European and other countries,

*Taking into account* that the great majority of European countries are highly industrialized and that, for this reason, the work of ECE can be of particular value to less developed countries,

*Believes* that the Commission should increasingly contribute to the strengthening of UN activities directed towards the economic development of less developed countries,

*Expresses* the readiness of European countries to intensify their efforts in facilitating the economic development of less developed countries,

*Invites* the Executive Secretary to ensure that the results of work undertaken by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies which are of interest to less developed countries are made available to these countries and other regional commissions.

25th meeting  
5 May 1960

#### 5 (XV). Study of certain aspects of the chemical industry <sup>77</sup>

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Noting* the proposal of Romania concerning the study of certain aspects of the chemical industry (ECE (XV) Conf. Room Doc. No. 18),

*Considering* that any decision concerning possible action in this field must be preceded by more detailed study,

*Requests* the Executive Secretary

To transmit the proposal to the countries members of ECE;

To collect and summarize the views of governments on the question;

To report to the Commission on the matter at its next session.

25th meeting  
5 May 1960

<sup>76</sup> See paragraph 257, above.

<sup>77</sup> See paragraph 258, above.

#### 6 (XV). Improvement of techniques of foreign trade <sup>78</sup>

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Considering* that general and mutual advantage could be derived from a sustained expansion of trade between member countries of the Economic Commission for Europe and from an increasingly rational international division of labour;

*Wishing* to promote these objectives without impairing established forms of international economic co-operation and whilst safeguarding mutual advantages in trade between member countries;

*Taking note* of the proposal by the Executive Secretary that an effort should be made to draft a set of multi-lateral trade principles and procedures for application in relations between ECE countries;

*Convinced* of the usefulness of comparing relevant views and methods in a detailed manner in order to develop suggestions for practical solutions which governments might agree to carry out;

*Invites* the Committee for the Development of Trade to examine and analyse the problems which need to be resolved and the possibilities which need to be explored in order to facilitate the introduction of more multi-lateral methods and any other methods likely to improve the international trade and payments relations between ECE countries, according to the criteria and with the safeguards indicated above.

25th meeting  
5 May 1960

#### 7 (XV). Arbitration <sup>79</sup>

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Recognizing* the importance for countries participating in the work of the ECE of the more effective use of arbitration;

*Having taken note* of the report of the Trade Committee's *ad hoc* Working Group on Arbitration on its Seventh Session submitting a draft European Convention on international commercial arbitration, and of the relative notes of the Secretariat (documents TRADE/96, TRADE/WP.1/37, TRADE/WP.1/38);

*Taking note* of the opinion of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Arbitration that this draft Convention should be submitted to a special meeting of plenipotentiaries for the purpose of negotiating and signing the European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration;

*Noting however* that differences existing between Government experts taking part in the discussions in the *ad hoc* Working Group on the text of Article IV of the draft Convention have prevented the submission of an agreed single text;

*Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene a special meeting to prepare an agreed text of Article IV of the

<sup>78</sup> See paragraph 345, above.

<sup>79</sup> See paragraph 347, above.

draft Convention in order that a single text of the whole draft Convention be submitted to a special meeting of plenipotentiaries.

25th meeting  
5 May 1960

## 8 (XV). Automation<sup>80</sup>

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of resolution 7 (XIV) on automation and of the suggestions made in this document,

*Noting* that the Electric Power Committee and the Working Party on Gas Problems included within their work programmes the question of automation,

*Bearing in mind* the need to continue the study of the economic aspects of automation problems

*Invites* the Executive Secretary

(a) To ask all interested member countries of the ECE to submit all the necessary data and information based on actual experience on the economic aspects of automation problems,

(b) To prepare and circulate to member countries an analysis of these data and information.

25th meeting  
5 May 1960

## 9 (XV). Energy problems in Europe<sup>81</sup>

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Bearing in mind* the need to utilize all forms of energy for ensuring economical production and the rational consumption of energy in Europe,

*Mindful* of the interest shown during the general discussion at the fifteenth session of the Commission in further promoting co-operation in the field of energy problems in Europe,

*Recognizing* the potential usefulness of periodic and special meetings on energy problems to analyse the overall energy situation in Europe,

1. *Takes note* of the communication of the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/377) to the effect that progress is being made with certain preparatory studies and the development of methods for appraising energy sources referred to in resolution 11 (XIV);

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to give within available resources proper attention to energy problems in Europe so that any future meetings of experts can be adequately prepared;

3. *Expresses* the hope that sufficient preparatory work will have been completed by its sixteenth session to enable that session to take a further decision on the implementation of resolution 11 (XIV);

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue and complete as soon as possible the necessary studies and

preparatory work on energy problems in Europe and to report back to the sixteenth plenary session on the progress made in implementing resolution 11 (XIV).

25th meeting  
5 May 1960

## 10 (XV). Information about the work of the other regional economic commissions of the United Nations relating to the fields of activity of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Europe<sup>82</sup>

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Recalling* paragraph 1 of its terms of reference, which states that one of the objects of the Commission is the strengthening of economic relations with countries in other regions of the world, as well as General Assembly resolution 1322 (XIII) and the Commission's resolutions 9 (XIII) and 12 (XIV), which recommended the intensification of co-operation and of exchanges of information with the other regional economic commissions,

*Noting* EP/Working Paper No. 179, in which the Committee on Electric Power informed its members about the work of the other regional economic commissions in the field of electric power,

*Considering* that, from the point of view of international co-operation, exchanges of information and experiences among the regional economic commissions are desirable,

*Invites* the Executive Secretary to provide the subsidiary bodies of the Commission with information concerning the work and the studies undertaken and concerning the principal projects planned within the framework of similar subsidiary bodies of the other regional economic commissions.

25th meeting  
5 May 1960

## 11 (XV). Programme of work of the Commission for 1960/61<sup>83</sup>

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Having considered* the reports of the Committees on their activities, the notes by the Executive Secretary on certain questions, and the programme of work of the Commission for 1960/61,

*Noting* that during the fifteenth session various delegations have raised a number of points concerning the Commission's programme of work,

*Draws the attention* of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to the points reported in the relevant passages of the summary records of the fifteenth session,

*Requests* its subsidiary bodies to take those points into consideration when reviewing their respective programmes of work.

25th meeting  
5 May 1960

<sup>80</sup> See paragraph 365, above.

<sup>81</sup> See paragraph 379, above.

<sup>82</sup> See paragraph 396, above.

<sup>83</sup> See paragraph 424, above.

## PART IV

### DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Commission approved with one abstention the draft resolution of the Inland Transport Committee concerning driving licences in international traffic, and unanimously approved the draft resolution concerning the annual report of the Commission, for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PROPOSAL OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE CONCERNING DRIVING LICENCES IN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC

The Economic Commission for Europe recommends the Economic and Social Council to adopt the following resolution:

*The Economic and Social Council*, on the proposal of the Economic Commission for Europe, and bearing in mind its resolution 603 (XXI) recommending that the period laid down in article 24, paragraph 6, of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic should be extended for three years, and its resolution 645 (XXIII) on the recognition of national driving licences,

1. *Recommends* the countries parties to the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic which do not fully apply resolution 645 (XXIII) to extend again — for two years and for the last time — the transitional period referred to in article 24, paragraph 6, of the said 1949 Convention and, accordingly, until 26 March 1962 to consider as fulfilling the requirements of the said article 24 any driver admitted to international traffic under the provisions of the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic signed at Paris on 24 April 1926, or of the Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic opened for signature at Washington on 15 December 1943, and holding the documents required thereunder,

2. *Recommends* the countries parties to the Convention relative to Motor Traffic of 24 April 1926 or to the Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic of 15 December 1943 which are not yet parties to the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic to recognize, as from a date not later than 26 March 1962, international driving permits conforming to the model in annex 10 to the 1949 Convention,

3. *Recommends* the countries parties to the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic to recognize, as from a date not later than 26 March 1962, the international driving permits conforming to the model in annex 10 to the said convention which may be issued by countries not parties to the Convention,

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the above recommendations to the Governments of the countries referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, with the request that they communicate by 1 January 1961 their intentions regarding the implementation in their countries of those parts of these recommendations which concern them.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1960/61

##### *The Economic and Social Council*

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe for the period 7 May 1959 to 7 May 1960, of the views expressed during the discussion, and the resolutions adopted during the fifteenth session of the Commission;

2. *Endorses* the programme of work and priorities contained in the report.

## PART V

### PROGRAMME OF WORK, AND PRIORITIES

#### Introduction \*

The Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1960/61, as considered and approved at the fifteenth session of the Commission,<sup>84</sup> is incorporated as part V of the Commission's present report to the Economic and Social Council at its thirtieth session.

\* *Editorial note:* The Executive Secretary has made certain adjustments in the final text of the Commission's programme of work for 1960/61 in the light of the relevant decisions of the Commission. This applies to projects 01.1.5, 01.1.6, 01.2.2, 01.2.4, 01.2.5, 01.2.6, 01.2.7, 05.2.1, 11.2.1, and 11.2.3.

<sup>84</sup> See paragraphs 419 to 424, above.

The work programme of the Commission is divided into the following broad subjects:

- 01 — General
- 02 — Agriculture
- 03 — Coal
- 04 — Electric power
- 05 — Engineering and industrial materials
- 06 — Gas <sup>85</sup>

<sup>85</sup> It will be noted that, consequent upon the change in the status of the Working Party on Gas Problems brought about by resolution 6 (XIV), the projects in the area of work covered by this subsidiary body are now listed separately.

- 07 — Housing and building
- 08 — Inland transport
- 09 — Steel
- 10 — Timber
- 11 — Trade

It is not practicable or realistic to attempt a differentiation of priority as between these broad subjects. Within these subjects, however, projects or functions have been divided into the groups established by the Economic and Social Council:

- Group 1.* Continuing projects and activities of high priority
- Group 2.* *ad hoc* projects of high priority
- Group 3.* Other projects

## 01. — GENERAL PROJECTS

*Authority:* Terms of reference of the Commission; relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission.

### 01.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

#### 01.1.1. *Continuing review and analysis of European economic developments and problems*

*Description:* This function is performed by the preparation and publication of the annual economic surveys and the quarterly economic bulletins. The survey is published before the annual session of the Commission, and is used as a background document for the review by the Commission of the general economic situation in Europe.

#### 01.1.2. *Collection and dissemination of statistics*

*Description:* The collection, appraisal and dissemination of statistical data which constitute the foundation of much of the other work of the ECE, including that described in project 01.1.1, also represent a separate function. The work covers substantially the full range of general economic statistics, as well as the specialized statistics required in the technical work of the Commission. The statistics are disseminated in studies, statistical bulletins and other publications of the secretariat, including the new monthly resumé of *Statistical Indicators of Short-term Economic Changes in ECE Countries*.

#### 01.1.3. *Improvement and standardization of national statistics and promotion of international statistical co-operation*

*Description:* The work of improving national statistics, increasing their international comparability and furthering co-operation on international statistical activities in Europe is carried out through the activities of the Conference of European Statisticians. The conference, whose members are the heads of the central statistical offices

of governments participating in the work of the Commission, operates under the joint auspices of the Statistical Commission and the ECE. The work programme of the conference for 1959/60 (adopted at its seventh plenary session (Conf.Eur.Stats/112)) consists of the following items:

#### (a) *Programme for meetings*

(i) A meeting of a working group on statistics of private consumption expenditure to consider concepts, definitions, classifications and methods of collection of statistics of private consumption expenditure, including the question of the relationship between annual and both longer-term and shorter-term statistics in this field. The object of the work is to draw up a programme for statistics of private consumption expenditure similar to that adopted on statistics of fixed capital formation.

(ii) A meeting of a working group on statistics of financial assets and liabilities to study the problems of developing statistics of financial assets and liabilities. The study includes classifications and cross-classifications of sectors to be distinguished, classifications of assets and liabilities by type, and consideration of problems of valuation. It also involves consideration of the financial items of national and sector balance-sheets of assets and liabilities. The primary object of the work is to develop financial accounts suitable for detailed economic analysis, including indications regarding which data should be collected annually and which at shorter intervals.

(iii) A meeting of the group of rapporteurs on comparisons of systems of national accounts to study in more detail the problems and possibilities of comparing the sectors of the accounts dealing with production and with personal consumption, as the next stage of its work. If time permits, the group will also give preliminary consideration to the possibilities of drawing up an accounting structure embracing the main elements of the different systems in use in Europe.

(iv) A meeting of a working group on industrial statistics to review a paper by the Statistical Office of the United Nations on plans for the World Industrial Census of 1963, and to consider related plans for Europe, taking account of the need to obtain data in respect of the flow of goods to the market.

(v) A meeting of a working group on statistical activities of ECE committees to review all aspects of the statistical work carried out under the auspices of the ECE committees, including the statistical bulletins and the programmes of work, and to report to the conference.

#### (b) *Other work*

(i) Preparation by a small group of experts to be convened by FAO of a report on the compilation of national index numbers of value added or net output in agriculture in accordance with the principles of national accounting underlying index numbers of industrial production, for consideration, if possible, at the next session of the conference.

(ii) Collaboration with FAO in a meeting on household consumption surveys, with special reference to the statistics needed from such surveys for demand analysis for agricultural products and for studies of the level and pattern of food consumption.

(iii) Preparatory work, in co-operation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations, on statistics of wholesale prices, with a view to a meeting of a working group on this subject at a later date.

(iv) Further study by France, in co-operation with the Statistical Office of the European Communities, of the subject of seasonal adjustments to economic time-series with a view to the presentation of a report at the next session of the Conference.

(v) Provision by national statistical offices and other appropriate bodies of papers describing the methods of education and supplementary training of official statisticians in their countries; preparation by UNESCO, in collaboration with the International Statistical Institute, of a paper on this subject, on the basis of these national documents, for consideration at a meeting to be held later.

(vi) Collection of information on the extent of implementation of the programme for the collection of statistics on stocks and work in process adopted by the conference at its third session.

(vii) Continuation of the exchange of information on plans for the forthcoming censuses of population and housing by means of the preparation of national reports, and exchanges of key census documents as they become available.

(viii) Continuation of the exchange of information on plans for the introduction of data-processing electronic machines, and on experience of operating such machines, by means of the preparation of national reports.

#### 01.1.4. *Co-operation in United Nations Technical Assistance Operations*

*Description:* The Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations of the United Nations through its office in Geneva consults the ECE secretariat on relevant projects of an economic character included in the UNTAO's programme of work. Also, arrangements are made by the Geneva Technical Assistance Office, as appropriate, for experts and fellows whose tasks relate to projects included in the programmes of work of the Commission's subsidiary bodies to be briefed by the ECE secretariat before assuming their duties in the countries of the region. The UNTAO/ECE in-service training programme offers training facilities with the ECE secretariat to suitably qualified young economists and statisticians from certain European countries.

#### 01.1.5. *Co-operation in exchanging economic, technical and scientific experience and information*

*Description:* In accordance with its terms of reference and a number of its resolutions (more particularly its resolution 1 (XV)), the Commission, recalling General

Assembly resolution 1429 (XIV) on development of scientific and technical co-operation and exchange of experience, considered that the successful fulfilment of the secretariat's task to assist the Commission and governments in the promotion of contacts and the exchange of economic, technical and scientific experience and information could be promoted by intensifying the activity of its subsidiary bodies as regards the exchange of scientific and technical information; by organizing seminars of experts from ECE countries to discuss, within the scope of its programme of work, the latest scientific and technical advances; by the preparation in its committees of long-term programmes of study tours for specialists on a reciprocal basis; and by collecting and distributing advance information on international exhibitions in ECE countries devoted to the latest scientific and technical advances. Consequently, the Commission requested its subsidiary organs to continue their effort for the development of scientific and technical co-operation between ECE governments on matters of economic, technological and statistical importance and to prepare appropriate measures in accordance with resolution 1 (XV). The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to take appropriate steps in implementing this resolution and to report to its sixteenth session.

#### 01.1.6. *Assistance in the joint planning and carrying out of industrial projects by European countries*

*Description:* In its resolution 2 (XV), the Commission, recognizing the need to strengthen economic co-operation on an all-European basis especially between countries with different economic systems, noted that joint efforts by European countries towards the further development of their production capacity and the more rational utilization of their resources can be of great significance, and requested the Executive Secretary, when asked by all governments engaged in the particular undertaking of this kind or by one on behalf of the others, to study the economic aspects of joint industrial projects and to advise the governments on these questions, consulting — whenever necessary — the appropriate subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

#### 01.2. *ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

##### 01.2.1. *Development problems of southern Europe*

*Description:* In resolution 7 (XI) the Commission requested its subsidiary organs and the Executive Secretary to assist in seeking appropriate solutions to the problems of the development of southern Europe, and drew particular attention to the recommendations concerning specific projects made by the Expert Group on the Economic Development of Southern Europe in its report (E/ECE/233 and Add.1). In response to requests by the governments concerned, a number of such problems are being considered by some of ECE's committees, and are included in their work programmes (see, for example, projects 04.1.2, 07.1.2 and 11.2.4). The Inland Transport Committee is continuing its consideration of the proposal for a highway linking Italy, Greece, Turkey



and Yugoslavia and, under its auspices, consultations are being held among the directors of highway departments from the countries concerned as well as from representatives of other interested countries and the International Road Federation. In its research work, the secretariat is placing special emphasis on the analysis of problems of economic development in countries of southern Europe.

#### 01.2.2. *Energy problems in Europe*

*Description:* The Commission, in its resolution 9 (XV) recognizing the potential usefulness of periodic special meetings on energy problems to analyse the over-all energy situation in Europe, noted the progress made by the secretariat in preparing a number of studies in the general energy field; requested the Executive Secretary to continue, within available resources, to give proper attention to energy problems in Europe, so that any future meetings of experts could be adequately prepared; expressed the hope that sufficient preparatory work will have been completed by its sixteenth session to enable it to take a further decision on the implementation of resolution 11 (XIV); and requested the Executive Secretary to complete the necessary preparatory work as soon as possible and to report to its sixteenth session on progress made.

#### 01.2.3. *Water pollution control problems in Europe*

*Description:* In accordance with Commission resolution 7 (XIII), work is in hand on the continuation of the programme relating to water pollution control problems in Europe as outlined in paragraphs 7-11 of the Executive Secretary's first progress report (E/ECE/312). This programme deals (a) with ways and means of assisting interested governments in promoting international co-operation in the field of water pollution abatement and water resources; and (b) with the exchange of information on specific technical, economic and administrative aspects of water pollution.

In accordance with Commission resolution 10 (XIV) the Executive Secretary is taking steps, in contact with WHO and FAO, to organize at the beginning of 1961 a joint seminar of experts to discuss the economic, administrative and technical as well as health aspects of water pollution control on the basis of a list of the most urgent problems in Europe in this field to be drawn up by the secretariat.

Pursuant to the above resolution, the Executive Secretary is further engaged in (a) drawing up a list of interested organizations, national and international commissions, societies, and university and other research institutes, together with a list of experts to whom governments desiring to contribute to the solution of the water pollution problem may request and from whom they may obtain advice on the various aspects of this problem; and (b) preparing, with the help of governments, a survey of existing sources of documentation on this subject.

This work is being carried out in close co-operation with WHO, FAO and IAEA.

#### 01.2.4. *Productivity of labour*

*Description:* Pursuant to resolution 9 (XIV) a meeting on labour productivity problems is to be convened in 1960 to be attended by experts representing ECE governments, national productivity centres and competent international organizations, in particular the ILO. The purpose of the meeting is an exchange of views between experts engaged in research work in productivity problems on (a) the measurement of productivity, and (b) the methods applied in the analysis of the relative importance of the main factors determining the levels of productivity.

#### 01.2.5. *A meeting of high level senior government advisers*

*Description:* The Commission, in its resolution 3 (XV) recognizing the need for a better understanding by countries members of the Commission of economic questions of mutual interest to ECE countries operating under different economic systems, requested the Executive Secretary to obtain the views of ECE governments on items which might profitably be discussed at a meeting of senior economic government advisers; to schedule such a meeting at a time and with an agenda acceptable to ECE governments; and to submit to them a report on this meeting.

#### 01.2.6. *Assistance to the less developed countries*

*Description:* In accordance with Commission resolution 4 (XV), the Executive Secretary was requested to ensure that the results of work undertaken by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies which are of interest to less developed countries are made available to those countries and other regional economic commissions.

#### 01.2.7. *Study of certain aspects of the chemical industry*

*Description:* In its resolution 5 (XV), the Commission noted the proposal of the Government of Romania concerning the study of certain aspects of the chemical industry and requested the Executive Secretary to transmit it to the ECE governments; to collect and summarize their views thereon; and to report on the matter to its sixteenth session.

### 02. — AGRICULTURE

(NOTE: The work programme of the ECE in the field of agriculture is developed and carried out jointly with FAO, the latter organization providing the majority of the professional staff engaged in the work. Close contact is maintained between the ECE/FAO Agriculture Division and FAO headquarters, to ensure full co-ordination of activities.)

*Authority:* Programme of work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems for 1960/61, drawn up in accordance with the decisions taken by the Committee at its eleventh session (E/ECE/AGRI/44, para. 69).

## 02.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

### 02.1.1. *Review of market situation and outlook*

*Description:* This project is carried on in pursuance of point (i) of the programme laid down for the Committee on Agricultural Problems in Commission resolution 6 (IX). The project, in all the aspects indicated below, is directed towards a better mutual understanding between countries of their respective agricultural policies and ultimately towards better reconciliation and co-ordination of those policies so as to ensure a more rational employment of resources and more advanced and more stable levels of living for the agricultural population.

(a) The Committee on Agricultural Problems reviews at each session the current agricultural situation in Europe, with special reference to the relation between supply and demand of food and agricultural products in the various countries and the implications for trade, farm prices and farm incomes. The review is based mainly on statements delivered by governments. Further background information is provided by a series of annual papers on the development of agricultural prices and relationship between prices paid and received by farmers. The secretariat also assembles and publishes from time to time data on the relation between and the composition of receipts and expenses in the agricultural economy.

(b) The Committee also examines at each session the situation and *short-term* prospects for the production and consumption of and trade in selected agricultural products. The secretariat prepares a report on each of the products studied, and this is supplemented by trade forecasts submitted by governments. For some products such as cereals governments also supply crop production forecasts at the appropriate time of year.

(c) Lastly, the Committee from time to time investigates the medium- and the long-term outlook for agricultural production and food consumption. As a general rule, governments submit notes indicating their countries' objectives, the methods which it is proposed to apply to reach those objectives, and statistical estimates of the volume of production and trade in a specified future year. In connexion with long-term studies, the factors affecting the demand for food products in the various European countries are investigated by a group of experts with the object of assisting governments in preparing their forecasts and adapting their agricultural policies to the probable trend of food consumption. In 1960, the Committee will examine the first comprehensive study prepared by the secretariat, with the assistance of numerous national experts, dealing with foreseeable trends in production and consumption of the main agricultural products for the period 1960-1965 and the probable effects of those trends on trade, price-levels, etc. It is planned to convene, in 1960, a small group of experts to study the general problems of method arising in forecasts of agricultural production.

## 02.1.2. *Studies and measures to facilitate the importation and exportation of agricultural commodities by European countries*

*Description:* In pursuance of point (ii) of the programme laid down for the Committee on Agricultural Problems in Commission resolution 6 (IX), the Committee studies certain concrete questions whose solution it considers would facilitate intra-European trade in agricultural commodities.

A working party carries on studies and prepares recommendations aiming at the acceptance of agreed international quality standards for perishable foodstuffs. Certain general provisions and minimum quality requirements relating to fruit and vegetables are contained in a protocol which has been accepted by the majority of governments. The Working Party is at present studying, on the basis of an analysis of national regulations, the extent to which these provisions and minimum requirements are in fact being observed in European trade and the extent to which they might be made compulsory by governments. It will also study, in 1960, the application and efficacy of the more detailed standards which it has already recommended for a number of individual products; make amendments to its recommendations where experience has shown this to be necessary; and extend the field to include certain products for which recommended international standards have not hitherto been worked out. A group of experts will pursue the study commenced in 1958 of methods and instruments used in the various countries by inspectors and other persons responsible for the practical work of quality control.

(*Note:* This work on international quality standards has been classified with "continuing projects and activities of high priority" because it is recognized that the various standards, although already accepted by many countries, are not final, but will need to be improved from time to time in the light of experience. Moreover, the manner and extent of their application varies from country to country and this will give rise to problems calling for further study. At the same time, certain parts of the work, such as the drafting of agreed quality standards for certain individual products, are clearly *ad hoc* and have been completed or will come to an end within a limited period. Thus the whole project, while being of a continuing nature, should be envisaged as being undertaken in successive phases.)

The Committee, following the recommendation of the Committee on the Development of Trade, has set up *ad hoc* working parties to establish standard conditions of sale for selected agricultural products. The products already under consideration are cereals, citrus fruit and potatoes; and at a later stage oil seeds will be added. The Working Party for Cereals, having dealt with model maritime contracts, will continue its work on contracts of carriage by land in 1960. The Working Party for Potatoes will finalize the preliminary draft of standard conditions of sale for that product.

The group of experts dealing with cereals, if time allows, will give separate consideration to the structural prob-

lems of long-term contracts with a view to facilitating the negotiation and fulfilment of such contracts in the future (E/ECE/AGRI/26, paragraphs 79 and 80 and E/ECE/AGRI/29, paragraph 42).

### 02.1.3. *Exchange of technical information and experience*

*Description:* In pursuance of point (iii) of the programme laid down for the Committee on Agricultural Problems in Commission resolution 6 (IX), and in pursuance of Commission resolutions 1 (X), 4 (XI), 3 (XII), 3 (XIII) and 4 (XIV), the Committee takes steps to promote in a number of different ways the exchange of technical information and experience concerning agriculture.

(a) An *ad hoc* working party of experts of interested governments prepares reports on the manifold aspects of mechanization of agriculture. Sixteen reports on different technical topics have already been approved for distribution and work will continue on a number of other topics not adequately dealt with by other bodies.

(b) An exchange of information between countries on various technical problems relating to agricultural production is at present taking place. This exchange will continue in 1960, and will cover, in addition, the further problems which the Committee has decided to study.

(c) The Committee will continue to study various problems relating to the marketing and distribution of agricultural products. Visits of experts will be arranged and steps be taken for the exchange of documentation with a view to the dissemination of the experience gained by certain countries in the marketing of foodstuffs. Particular attention will be paid in 1960 to modern methods of reducing losses and improving the efficiency of distribution chains for meat products.

(d) Steps will be taken to facilitate the exchange of films. The list of films, filmstrips and slides available in the countries participating in the work of ECE, and of general agricultural interest or of special interest to specialists in the mechanization of agriculture, will be completed. Films of technical or general agricultural interest are shown during sessions of the Committee and its working parties.

(e) *Collective visits* will be arranged for the Committee or some of its working parties, or both, to take place in the territory of one or other of the participating countries.

(f) With a view to facilitating visits by experts to exhibitions, demonstrations, etc., in other countries, the secretariat will continue to circulate, from time to time, selected lists of exhibitions and other events in Europe which have a special agricultural interest.

(g) The secretariat will continue to distribute to participants in sessions of the Committee or its working parties any bibliographical material or other documentation which member countries may provide, such distribution being confined to the language or languages in which the material is received.

## 03. — COAL

*Authority:* Programme of work of the Coal Committee for 1960/1961 adopted by the Committee at its forty-eighth session (E/ECE/COAL/147, para. 4).

### 03.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

#### 03.1.1. *Long-term problems facing governments in regard to the development of the coal industry and trade in Europe*

*Description:* The Committee examines long-term trends and the future outlook for coal production, consumption and trade with particular attention to problems capable of solution through international co-operation.

The first review analysing developments in the current coal situation in Europe and their repercussions on the coal industries has been considered by the Committee and is to be followed by similar regular annual reviews.

Work is proceeding on a number of projects emerging from the survey of coal production plans and of major policy questions facing governments. (i) Particular emphasis on the structural changes that are now taking place in the coal market is to be given in the annual review to be prepared in 1960. (ii) A provisional report on capital formation and costs of production in the European coal industries is to be revised and enlarged so as to include data on investment programmes in the coming years; other proposals for extending the work on investment problems are to be examined by the Working Party on Coal Statistics (see also under 03.1.6); (iii) Problems of concentration of workings and mechanization of mining operations will continue to be examined (see also under 03.1.2).

Possibilities of increasing exports of coal either directly, or indirectly in the form of electric power, are also taken into account in connexion with this and other relevant projects.

#### 03.1.2. *Production problems*

*Description:* The Committee has drawn up a procedure for the exchange of reports on both hard and brown coal production methods including the dissemination of bibliographical references and visits to mines on a reciprocal basis to study particular problems on the spot. *ad hoc* meetings of experts to consider specific problems are convened when necessary. A second *ad hoc* meeting of Experts on Concentration of Workings and Mechanization of Mining Operations is to be held during the first half of 1961. An *ad hoc* meeting of Experts on the Exploitation of Coal at Great Depth is to be held in 1961.

#### 03.1.3. *Exchanges of information and experience*

*Description:* In pursuance of Commission resolutions 2 (XII), 2 and 3 (XIII) and 4 and 8 (XIV) the Committee takes steps to promote the exchange of scientific, technical and economic information and experience on

questions coming within its terms of reference. The Committee examines a regular annual report relating to specific problems on which countries feel that they could benefit from the experience obtained in other countries; forthcoming exhibitions of coal mining machinery and equipment; national mining institutes dealing with research in coal problems; new basic research work of general interest initiated in national research institutes; forthcoming coal production and preparation conferences, as well as scientific meetings dealing with coal problems; exchanges of visits that have taken place over the past year and those scheduled to take place.

The possibility of convening a meeting of directors of national research institutes with a view to promoting contacts among them and facilitating exchanges of information is to be considered by the Committee.

Arrangements are made, as may be appropriate, for the Committee and the Utilization Working Party to visit mines and plants in the territory of a participating country. Plans are made as far ahead as possible.

#### 03.1.4. Trade problems

##### (i) Review of the coal market

*Description:* The European market in solid fuels is kept under continuous consideration on the basis of a coal market review prepared by the secretariat twice a year. Attention is given to the current situation and to special problems affecting the market—such as production, consumption, stocks, international trade and prices.

##### (ii) Distribution of export availabilities

*Description:* The Coal Trade Sub-committee considers the market situation on the basis of quarterly information supplied by governments as to requirements and availabilities of solid fuels, and endeavours to find solutions to the various problems facing governments with regard to supply and demand. In addition, the sub-committee is making a preliminary forecast, on a trial basis, of the following quarter in order to obtain a picture of the situation six months ahead.

##### (iii) General conditions for sale for solid fuels: see 03.2.2.

#### 03.1.5. Solid fuel utilization

*Description:* Following the completion of a report on the general aspects of the proper utilization of low-grade solid fuels, two specific problems are to be examined. A report on the utilization of ash from furnaces, especially fly ash, is to be prepared by rapporteurs. The Utilization Working Party is also examining the problems of low- and medium-temperature carbonization and, following on the completion of a general report, has drawn up a programme of work on the reactivity of cokes and semi-cokes. Trends in coke-oven construction and methods of increasing the yield of coke-oven ranges, economic advantages of various processes of enriching coal intended for coking and the economic advantages of mechanization in the coking industry are to be studied.

#### 03.1.6. Statistics

*Description:* The *Quarterly Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe* and the *Monthly Coal Statistical Summary* are issued. Continuous work is also under way, designed to improve European coal statistics by making them more comparable and complete. The Working Party on Coal Statistics is to meet in order to examine the report on capital formation and costs of production in the European coal industries and to consider the way in which proposals for extending the work could best be implemented (see also under 03.1.1).

#### 03.2. *ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

##### 03.2.1. Coal classification

*Description:* The Classification Working Party has encountered certain difficulties in its efforts to formulate a suitable classification for high-temperature hard coke by type. A number of rapporteurs have therefore been nominated to work together with the secretariat to endeavour to formulate a proposal for the parameters to be used for an international classification of coke. The working party will not be convened until the rapporteurs have drawn up a proposal on which it is considered that there will be a sufficient measure of agreement to justify further meetings.

##### 03.2.2. General conditions of sale for solid fuels

*Description:* A set of general conditions for the import and export of solid fuels drafted by the *ad hoc* group and approved by the Committee at its forty-fourth session, in September 1958, has been published and, following the trial period of two years, is due for review in 1960.

#### 04. — ELECTRIC POWER

*Authority:* Programme of work of the Committee on Electric Power for 1960-1961, drawn up in accordance with the decisions taken by the Committee at its eighteenth session (E/ECE/EP/210, para. 40).

##### 04.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

###### 04.1.1. Analysis of the electric power situation in Europe

*Description:* Publication on a European basis of quarterly bulletins and of an annual bulletin of electric power statistics.

Publication of a half-yearly bulletin on conditions of hydraulicity in Europe.

On the basis of the annual economic study prepared by the secretariat, consideration of the electric power situation during the previous year and of future prospects.

Periodical examination of the trends of the various factors likely to influence the future development of

Europe's electric power situation, including the development of nuclear energy and of other sources of energy. Some factors capable of influencing the development of the electric power situation are now the subject of special studies — (a) the covering of peak loads; (b) the rationalization of electric power consumption; (c) the influence of annual mean temperatures on electric power consumption.

At its eighteenth session, the Committee instructed the secretariat to consider, as a preliminary question, whether it would be desirable to study certain specific problems relating to the construction and operation of thermal power plants and also to compare the methods and economic criteria used by different countries in arriving at a number of solutions to problems encountered in the construction and operation of electric power plants and in the transmission of the electric power so produced.

#### 04.1.2. *Development of transfers of electric power across frontiers*

*Description:* (a) Consideration of the legal or administrative difficulties which tend to hamper transfers of electric power across frontiers, and drafting of recommendations to governments;

(b) Economic analysis of the possibilities of transfers of electric power between European countries; possible consultations and negotiations to facilitate the conclusion of agreements on such transfers between governments requesting this assistance;

(c) Collection of documentation on national electric power networks, limited to that part of the networks which can be used for purposes of international interconnexion.

#### 04.1.3. *The hydro-electric development of waterways of common interest*

*Description:* (a) Consideration by the Committee of the legal or administrative difficulties which tend to hamper the development of contiguous successive waterways; determination of the general principles by which negotiations may be guided in concrete cases and drafting of recommendations to governments;

(b) The secretariat has been instructed to place its services at the disposal of governments, at their request, to assist them in negotiating agreements on the development of such waterways;

(c) Study of the technical and economic features of plans for the development of such waterways.

#### 04.1.4. *Rural electrification*

*Description:* (a) Examination of the problems connected with the production, transmission, distribution and utilization of electric power in rural areas and of economic, administrative and financial questions. Under the present programme, nine reports are to be prepared by

rapporteurs designated by the various countries. Final drafts of three are being prepared for adoption at the working party's next session and the remaining six are being prepared in provisional form.

(b) Consideration of the annual economic study, prepared by the secretariat, on the rural electrification situation in Europe during the previous year.

#### 04.1.5. *Technical co-operation and development of all-European contacts*

*Description:* The Committee promotes, directly or indirectly, technical co-operation and contacts on an all-European basis, (a) by study tours; (b) by close co-operation with the international trade associations specializing in the various aspects of the problem of electric power and more particularly with the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electric Energy (UNIPED); (c) by encouraging specialists' exchange visits on a bilateral basis; (d) by collecting information on specific problems at the request of particular countries.

### 04.2. *ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

#### 04.2.1. *Europe's hydro-electric potential*

*Description:* Determination of the gross mean annual output potential of the various European countries on a common basis and preparation of the corresponding map.

#### 04.2.2. *Legal problems*

*Description:* (a) Powers with respect to local authorities and private persons enjoyed by electric power production, transmission and supply undertakings for the purpose of carrying out developments. Comparison of the relevant laws and regulations of the countries participating in the work of the Commission.

(b) Guarantees in contracts for electric power exchanges and sales. Preliminary consideration with a view to formulating a system of guarantees to facilitate the conclusion of contracts for electric power exchanges and sales between the countries participating in the work of the Commission.

### 04.3. OTHER PROJECTS

#### 04.3.1. *Prospects of reducing the building costs of hydro-power stations, and the effect of mechanization in that connexion*

*Description:* Consideration of the economic aspects of surface excavation operations involving the shifting of earth or rock.

#### 04.3.2. *Automation*

*Description:* Consideration of the ways and means of assessing the economic efficiency resulting from the introduction of automative processes in electric power plants.

## 05. — ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS

*Authority:* E/ECE/IM/43; E/ECE/IM/55, paras. 13 and 14; E/ECE/TRADE/33, para. 24; E/ECE/334/G, annex I; and E/2868, para. 260.

### 05.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

#### 05.1.1. *Review of trends of production, demand and trade in engineering products*

*Description:* Selected sectors of the industry and the general state of supply and demand for engineering products are kept under review within the framework of some of the reports prepared by the Steel Committee. Pursuant to resolution 14 (XIV), the Executive Secretary is engaged in preparing a study on the nature and scope of production and export of capital goods in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering, using available statistics as well as bibliographical material and other information to be supplied, if necessary, by governments. In this task the Executive Secretary is assisted by rapporteurs made available by a number of countries.

#### 05.1.2. *The standardization of contract practices in engineering*

*Description:* This project is designed to facilitate international trade in engineering products through standardization of contract practices. Two sets of general conditions for the supply of plant and machinery for export have been agreed by the *ad hoc* working party, the first in 1953, the second in 1955. In 1957, two comparable sets of general conditions for the supply and erection of plant and machinery for import and export were agreed by the *ad hoc* working party. All these general conditions are being used on an increasing scale in commercial practice. The working party is at present engaged in drawing up general conditions of sale for the export of durable consumer goods and of certain other forms of engineering stock articles. At its next session, in October 1960, the working party will examine a draft set of general conditions for the above goods which the secretariat is at present preparing. The secretariat is also consulting governments as to pure erection operations, with a view to the possible drawing up of general conditions of sale for the erection of plant and machinery abroad.

### 05.2. *ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

#### 05.2.1. *Automation*

*Description:* Pursuant to resolution 7 (XIV), the secretariat is to examine and analyse, together with rapporteurs from interested countries, case studies prepared by governments and submitted to the secretariat on the basis of a model outline (IM/Working Paper No. 31) as agreed by the Special Meeting of Experts on the Economic Aspects of Automation held in September 1959 (E/ECE/IM/60). Certain broader aspects of the economics of

automation are to be examined at a later stage, in the light of progress made by the secretariat and rapporteurs from interested countries in analysing additional material obtained.

## 06. — GAS

*Authority:* Programme of work of the Working Party on Gas Problems for 1960/61 drawn up in accordance with the decision taken by the working party at its sixth session (E/ECE/GAS/22, para. 27).

### 06.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

#### 06.1.1. *Analysis of the gas situation in Europe*

*Description:* The report submitted to the sixth session and relating to the gas situation in Europe during the period 1955-1957 will be supplemented by information relating to the years 1958 and 1959 examined by the working party at its seventh session.

Examination, on the basis of the secretariat's annual economic study, of the gas situation during the past year and of its long-term trends.

Certain factors capable of affecting the development of the gas situation are at present the subject of special studies — (a) the transport economy of natural gas; (b) the determination of the spheres in which the use of gas seems more particularly desirable from the point of view both of the satisfaction of the consumers' needs and of the requisites of the gas industry; (c) the economy of the use of propane, butane and residual refinery gas as supplementary resources for the production of gas.

Publication, on a European basis, of an annual bulletin of gas statistics.

Subsequent examination by the working party of a report prepared by the secretariat on the situation of the gas industry in Europe containing an analysis of a ten-year period and a survey of long-term prospects in that field.

#### 06.1.2. *The flexibility of the gas industry and its economic implications*

*Description:* (a) Publication, after revision, of a document relating to "gas tariff policy as a means of harmonizing supply and demand" which had been considered by the working party at its sixth session; (b) preparation and dissemination of an inquiry into the various existing tariff systems; (c) examination by the working party of a report on the economic problems raised by underground storage, particularly the storage of small quantities of gas and of liquefied petroleum gas.

#### 06.1.3. *Technical co-operation and development of European contacts*

*Description:* The working party directly or indirectly promotes technical co-operation and contacts on a European basis; (a) by close co-operation with the international trade organizations concerned with various

aspects of gas problems and in particular with the International Gas Union (IGU); (b) by encouraging exchanges of visits of experts on a bilateral basis; (c) by collecting information on specific problems at the request of particular countries.

More specifically, examination by the working party of reports prepared by the International Gas Union on the following subjects:

Standardization of units of measurement in the gas industry;

Safety measures designed to safeguard the consumers;

Use of automation and telematics in the operation of gas pipelines;

Technical and economic efficiency of compressors used for pumping gas through conductors;

Protection of gas pipelines and distribution networks from corrosion;

Standards applicable to combustion of gas in household appliances and industrial plant and governing the design of gas-combustion devices.

## 06.2. *ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

### 06.2.1. *The market for natural gas*

*Description:* Examination by the working group of the revised version of the report submitted to it at its sixth session on the markets for imported natural gas in Europe, the scope of this report to be widened so as to take into account the quantities available and the needs of each country.

### 06.2.2. *Methods of forecasting gas demand*

*Description:* Continuation of studies undertaken on methods of forecasting gas demand, particularly in the course of seminars organized by the interested participating countries.

Such a seminar will be held in the Federal Republic of Germany from 30 March to 1 April 1960.

### 06.2.3. *Legal provisions governing international gas pipelines*

*Description:* Examination by the working party of a document giving particulars of the rules applicable to the international transmission of gas and to other fields.

Preliminary study of measures for ensuring the international transmission of gas.

## 06.3. OTHER PROJECTS

### 06.3.1. *Safety measures for long-distance gas pipelines*

*Description:* Examination by the working party of a report prepared by the International Gas Union on the basis of information furnished by the United States of America and the Soviet Union.

## 06.3.2. *Transport of liquefied gases*

*Description:* An inquiry with a view to a comparative study of the efficiency of the various methods of transporting liquefied gases (methane, butane, propane).

## 07. — HOUSING AND BUILDING

*Authority:* Programme of Work of the Housing Committee for 1960/1961, adopted by the Committee at its nineteenth session (E/ECE/HOU/90, para. 12).

### 07.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

#### 07.1.1. *Survey of housing progress and policies*

*Description:* The object of the annual survey prepared by the secretariat is (a) to review the main current developments in the field of housing as a basis for an examination by the Committee of housing policies pursued and results achieved, and (b) to consider what action might be taken to deal with problems thus analysed. The annual survey is prepared within a standard framework adopted by the Committee to facilitate comparisons from year to year and after discussion by the Committee is revised by the secretariat for publication. It is also practice to include in part II of this report a fuller analysis of certain problems of a more long-term character, normally the final versions of reports prepared by rapporteurs. It is expected that part II of the next survey will deal with problems of rural housing, and of the survey following with the question of private financing of housing based on the pilot inquiry in hand.

#### 07.1.2. *Housing problems in countries in the course of rapid industrialization*

*Description:* Seminars for the benefit of countries in the course of rapid industrialization are organized from time to time. The preparation of housing surveys and programmes, as an important factor in the formulation of housing policies, was selected as the subject for the first seminar. Work in this field takes fully into account the technical assistance activities of the United Nations and other international organizations.

#### 07.1.3. *Government policies and the cost of building and the industrialization of house-building*

*Description:* Arising out of a comprehensive report on government policies and the cost of building published at the end of 1959, a pilot inquiry is being carried out on actual housing costs in selected European countries, along common lines and with a primarily methodological purpose in mind. Under this heading, the Committee is also serving as a focal point for work being carried out mainly by other international organizations on building regulations, the underlying objective of the inquiry being the eventual preparation of a general



tion in foreign countries of national driving licences and national registration certificates for motor vehicles, and the standardization of driving licences and of the requirements for obtaining them; simplification of the provisions for the checking of vehicle insurance; the bringing into force of the 1954 General Agreement on Economic Regulations for International Road Transport and of the annexes since adopted; or, failing that, the *de facto* application of provisions of the said agreement and annexes.

The Committee or its subsidiary bodies will continue their discussions and work on the formulation of principles and rules to be applied in the matter of international road transport tariffs; the licensing of regular international passenger transport services and the formulation or implementing of principles and rules to be applied in the licensing of other international services; the study of taxation problems arising in connexion with international transport operations.

#### 08.1.3. *Improvement of road traffic conditions and road safety*

*Description:* In 1960, the Sub-Committee on Road Transport will continue to concern itself with the improvement of road traffic conditions and road safety. To that end it will be responsible for the concerted implementing of the 1949 Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, in order to maintain the greatest possible uniformity in road signs and signals and traffic regulations in Europe; the implementing of the 1950 declaration on the construction of main international traffic arteries; the bringing into force, and implementing, of the 1957 European agreement on road markings and of the resolution adopted by it on the same subject, and the study of additions to be made to that resolution; the drafting of regulations to be annexed to the 1958 agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions of approval and reciprocal recognition of approval for motor vehicle equipment and parts.

It will continue to study the measures to be taken at the European level over and above those provided for in the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic and in the 1949 Protocol on Road Signs and Signals with particular reference to brakes and lighting and light signals, and for the adoption of new types of signs or signals. It will continue to study the effect of vehicle speed limits on the frequency and seriousness of accidents.

Lastly, it will proceed to classify all the decisions already adopted into the following categories: proposed amendments to the 1959 Convention or Protocol; proposed amendments to the European Agreement of 1950 supplementing the 1949 Convention and Protocol; Committee resolutions.

#### 08.1.4. *Collection, improvement, standardization and distribution of statistics on transport and its place in the economy*

*Description:* The Working Party of Experts on Statistical Information will continue in 1960 to be concerned with the development of statistics and particularly,

owing to their inadequacy, of those relating to road transport and motor traffic. It will co-ordinate the studies on the definition of transport terms in current use to be continued by the various working parties concerned.

### 08.2. *ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

#### 08.2.1. *Studies on transport economics*

*Description:* On the basis of reports prepared by experts or by the secretariat, the Committee or its subsidiary bodies will continue in 1960 studies on the accountancy costs and economic costs of the various modes of transport, on the share of track costs chargeable to the various types of transport equipment, on taxes or tolls levied and, more generally, on the co-ordination of goods and passenger transport.

#### 08.2.2. *Studies of productivity in the transport industry*

*Description:* In 1960, the Committee or its subsidiary bodies will study the economic advantages and the development of methods of mechanizing loading and unloading operations in the transport industry, the development of combined transport techniques, and problems connected with the rationalization of railway operating with a view to reducing costs and raising productivity.

#### 08.2.3. *Railway tariffs and routes*

*Description:* In collaboration with the International Union of Railways (UIC), the Working Party on Tariffs will continue to work for the co-ordination of national railway tariff structures and study the establishment or development of international railway tariffs independent of national tariffs.

The Sub-committee on Rail Transport will continue in 1960 to study measures to facilitate social and international tourism, and to observe the implementing of measures adopted or to be adopted with a view to concentrating international railway traffic on the most rational routes and increasing railway safety.

#### 08.2.4. *Development of the inland waterways system in Europe*

*Description:* In 1960 the Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport will study the problem of developing Europe's inland waterways system.

#### 08.2.5. *Technical questions*

*Description:*

*Rail transport:* In 1960 the Working Party on Transport Costs will study from the economic viewpoint questions concerning the change-over from one form of traction to another; the Sub-committee on Rail Transport will continue to study the problems of the standardization and utilization of rolling stock, and to have certain

specific technical railway problems studied by a group composed of experts appointed by the UIC and experts of railway administrations which are not members of the UIC but whose countries take part in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe.

*Inland waterways:* The Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport will facilitate exchanges of information on the technical and administrative problems raised by pushing of barge strings and navigation by night and, if necessary, will discuss these problems.

#### 08.2.6. *Regulations on the registration of inland navigation vessels and unification of signs and signals and policing regulations on inland waterways*

*Description:* In 1960, the Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport will continue the study of the draft convention on the registration of inland navigation vessels; expedite the implementing of its resolution No. 1 concerning signs and signals for waterways; continue its studies on the unification of signs and signals on vessels; continue its studies on the unification of policing regulations.

#### 08.2.7. *Transport of perishable foodstuffs*

*Description:* In 1960 the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs will study the possibility of preparing a draft agreement, applicable to all modes of transport, on the conditions to be observed during the international transport of certain perishable foodstuffs. It will also study the improvements to be made to the 1954 Protocol on Standardization of Wooden Packaging for Fruit and Vegetables and the recommendations to be made concerning the standardization of cardboard packaging.

#### 08.2.8. *Transport of dangerous goods*

*Description:* In 1960 the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods will have to revise the annexes to the European Agreement of 1957 concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road and study what amendments are needed to take account of the recommendations adopted at world level. It will continue the formulation of a similar agreement for transport by inland waterways.

### 08.3. OTHER PROJECTS

#### 08.3.1. *Development of private international law in the field of transport*

*Description:* In 1960 the Committee will endeavour to expedite the entry into force of the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road signed in 1956.

In 1960 the Working Party on River Law will discuss the draft of a convention on the limitation of the liability of boat owners.

The Sub-Committee on Rail Transport will study how the CIM Convention and the SMGS Agreement can be brought into line with each other.

An *ad hoc* working party will study the draft of a convention on the contract for furniture removals.

### 09. — STEEL

*Authority:* Programme of work of the Steel Committee for 1960/61, drawn up in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee at its twenty-third session (E/ECE/STEEL/132, para. 16).

#### 09.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

##### 09.1.1. *Short-term trends and problems in the European steel industry*

*Description:* The Committee holds an annual debate at its second session in the year on the current steel market situation on the basis of a short discussion note prepared by the secretariat. The secretariat then prepares a provisional version of the annual market review, which examines major trends in production, consumption and trade in steel and steel-making raw materials and includes a more detailed treatment of whatever key questions arise during the course of the year, as a basis for discussion by the Committee on the trend of development and future prospects. The annual market review is prepared within a standard framework adopted by the Committee to facilitate comparisons from year to year and after discussion by the Committee is revised by the secretariat for publication. A short report on wire rods and wire will be completed and included as part II of the steel market review for 1959.

##### 09.1.2. *Technical co-operation and all European contacts*

*Description:* The Committee endeavours to promote all-European co-operation on technical problems relating to steel through encouragement of contacts among steel technical and scientific institutes and of participation by experts from ECE countries in congresses and meetings held on specific technical problems. Efforts are also made to encourage visits by specialists interested in specific questions to each other's countries, as well as visits to steelworks in near-by countries on the occasion of the Committee session.

##### 09.1.3. *Statistics*

*Description:* The Committee, through its Working Party on Steel Statistics, (a) advises the secretariat on the preparation and issue of a quarterly bulletin providing detailed European statistics on a comparable basis; (b) promotes the collection and improvement of steel statistics, paying at present particular attention to the improvement of statistics on stocks and consumption of steel.

## 09.2. *ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

### 09.2.1. *Long-term developments in the European steel industry*

*Description:* The Committee is undertaking two inquiries under this heading: (a) the use and consumption of steel in the building and civil engineering industries; (b) the relative contribution to total crude steel output of the different steel-making processes, in the light of their respective economic and technical advantages, paying particular attention to the growing use of oxygen in the different forms of steel-making.

### 09.2.2. *Standardization of general conditions of sale of steel products*

*Description:* The Committee is considering the possibility of standardizing general conditions for the export and import of steel products.

### 09.2.3. *Exchange of information on the measurement of iron- and steel-making capacity*

*Description:* The Committee is exchanging information on methods of measuring blast- and steel-furnace capacity and has under consideration the possibility of arriving at a common measurement for blast furnaces.

## 10. — TIMBER

(NOTE: The work programme of the ECE in the field of timber is developed and carried out jointly with the FAO, the latter organization providing the professional staff engaged in the work. Below are listed the projects, primarily the responsibility of the ECE Timber Committee, to be undertaken during the period 1959/60. In addition to the annual session of the Timber Committee, joint FAO/ECE bodies will deal with the projects where appropriate. The joint projects for which FAO is primarily responsible do not figure in this list.)

*Authority:* Programme of work of the Timber Committee for 1960/1961, adopted by the Committee at its seventeenth session (E/ECE/TIM/63, para. 69).

### 10.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

#### 10.1.1. *Review of timber market for Europe including timber statistics*

*Description:* The Timber Committee reviews periodically the situation for sawn softwood, and also for hardwoods and small-sized roundwood. With regard to the last, however, principal attention will now be concentrated on pulpal wood raw materials. In addition, the secretariat publishes quarterly market reports for sawn softwood, hardwoods, pitprops and pulpwood, together with statistics relating to production and trade in the main forest products in Europe and North America, and price series supplemented by graphs, comparisons

of timber prices and those of alternative materials, and relevant economic indicators. The market reports are based on information collected from official and other sources and publications, which is analysed by the ECE secretariat. (E/ECE/TIM/46, annex III, section VII; E/ECE/TIM/48, para. 5; E/ECE/TIM/51, para. 9; E/ECE/TIM/57, para. 12). In connexion with sessions of the Committee opportunity is provided to interested countries to discuss special problems affecting the timber trade of two or more countries (E/ECE/TIM/51, para. 10; E/ECE/TIM/54, para. 7).

#### 10.1.2. *Increased efficiency in forestry operations*

*Description:* This project aims at increasing efficiency in forestry operations by improving methods of work, by mechanization and by better training of forest workers and prevention of accidents. This project is dealt with by the Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers, in co-operation with the ILO, by means of study groups and with the collaboration of experts.

#### 10.1.3. *Studies on the more rational utilization of wood*

*Description:* This project aims at rationalizing and expanding the industrial utilization of small-sized roundwood and fuelwood, and of the utilization of certain hard broadleaved timber species. The silvicultural aspects of the problem are under consideration by the European Forestry Commission of FAO, and the question of exploitation by the Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers (in collaboration with the ILO). In addition the secretariat will undertake a survey of successful techniques for processing small-sized wood; and subsequently convene a special meeting, prepared and carried out by government experts and rapporteurs, to lay down and define, on the basis of the findings of the survey, the specific problems requiring attention in this field.

## 10.2. *ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

### 10.2.1. *Minimum programme for European forest and forest products statistics*

*Description:* This project aims at setting up an over-all minimum programme for forestry and timber statistics covering the whole field. This programme is being examined by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics, which meets from time to time as the need arises. In addition, the working party also considers special statistical problems referred to it by the parent bodies.

### 10.2.2. *Study on trends in the utilization of wood and its products*

*Description:* The aim of this study is to examine and attempt projections of trends in the utilization of wood and its products in various end-users in European countries, and of the impact of these trends on Europe's

timber requirements. For 1960 priority is confined to the continuation of the sector study on packaging, and the completion of that on railway sleepers. In addition preliminary consideration will be given to the study of timber trends in other sectors, in particular pitprops and non-residential construction.

### 10.3. OTHER PROJECTS

#### 10.3.1. *Long-term trade arrangements*

*Description:* The possibilities of medium- and long-term trade arrangements are investigated upon request as needed.

#### 10.3.2. *General conditions of sale for timber including timber grading*

*Description:* A set of optional general conditions for sale of sawn softwood was prepared in 1956, and will be extended and adapted for sawn hardwood, pulpwood and pitprops. The question how to include timber grading of sawnwood in the general conditions is under consideration. In that connexion, the secretariat follows the work of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

## 11. — TRADE

*Authority:* Programme of work of the Committee on the Development of Trade for 1960/1961, drawn up in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee at its eighth session (E/ECE/TRADE/40, para. 53).

### 11.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

#### 11.1.1. *Review of developments in intra-European, especially east-west, trade*

*Description:* The Committee at its annual session reviews developments in the field of intra-European, especially east-west, trade. This review includes, *inter alia*, such questions as obstacles of an economic, administrative or trade policy character, possibilities of further trade expansion, and the work done in other ECE committees relevant to the problem of trade.

#### 11.1.2. *Consultations of experts on intra-European, especially east-west, trade*

*Description:* The eighth annual Consultation of Experts on East-West Trade, in the form approved by the Committee, is scheduled to take place as part of the ninth session of the Committee.

#### 11.1.3. *Inter-regional trade*

*Description:* The Committee continues to examine the possibilities for expansion of inter-regional trade, including possible inter-regional trade consultations, in

the light of ECOSOC resolution 579 (XX) B. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1322 (XIII) and Commission resolution 9 (XIII) and 12 (XIV) the Committee co-operates with the other regional commissions and other organs and takes into account work done in the field of trade by other regional economic commissions. The Committee has requested the secretariat to prepare, for its ninth session, a detailed report on the work of the other regional economic commissions in the field of trade so as to assist the Committee in identifying specific problems which it might take up in order to implement resolution 12 (XIV).

### 11.2. *ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

#### 11.2.1. *Improvement of techniques of foreign trade*

*Description:* In its resolution 6 (XV), the Commission considered that general and mutual advantage could be derived from a sustained expansion of trade between ECE countries and from an increasingly rational international division of labour, and, wishing to promote these objectives without impairing established forms of international economic co-operation and while safeguarding mutual advantages in trade between ECE countries, invited the Committee for the Development of Trade to examine and analyse the problems which need to be resolved, and the possibilities which need to be explored, in order to facilitate the introduction of more multilateral methods and any other methods likely to improve the international trade and payments relations between ECE countries, according to the criteria and with the safeguards indicated above.

#### 11.2.2. *Improvement of payments arrangements*

*Description:* The Committee explores means of improving payments relations, in particular through enlargement of the scope for multilateral transferability and greater flexibility in payments arrangements. Procedures for voluntary multilateral compensation of bilateral balances, which have been in operation on a quarterly basis since July 1957, and under which the secretariat acts as agent, are to continue subject to review by the Committee at its ninth session. The Committee at its eighth session also adopted a recommendation to governments to consider possibilities for further multilateralisation of payments and transferability of balances, and requested the secretariat to prepare and distribute to governments information on payments relationships amongst ECE countries so as to make possible an assessment of the degree of multilateralization existing in such relationships.

#### 11.2.3. *Arbitration*

*Description:* The *ad hoc* Working Party of Experts on Arbitration is preparing a Draft European Convention on international commercial arbitration and a set of arbitration rules for international trade. In its resolution 7 (XV), the Commission requested the Execu-

tive Secretary to convene a special meeting to prepare an agreed text of article IV of the draft Convention in order that a single text of the whole draft Convention be submitted to a special meeting of plenipotentiaries.

#### 11.2.4. *Standardization of general conditions of sale for selected commodities*

*Description:* The Committee keeps under review the work going on in this field under the auspices of other ECE committees (agriculture, timber, coal, industry and materials, and steel). The *ad hoc* Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering, under the auspices of the Industry and Materials Committee, has been requested to consider whether it would be desirable to draw up standardized general conditions of sale for ironware and metal manufactures or durable consumer-goods, or both.

#### 11.2.5. *Foreign Trade problems of southern European countries*

*Description:* Pursuant to resolution 7 (XI) adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe, the Committee has expressed the wish that the governments concerned will seek solutions to such trading problems through direct contacts while providing at its annual session a possible forum for consideration of the initiatives taken and the progress made on this problem.

#### 11.2.6. *Problems of Insurance*

*Description:* The *ad hoc* working party set up to deal with a number of problems in the field of international insurance in continuing its studies of freedom of choice of the insurer, general clauses of transport insurance policies, reinsurance problems, salvage of vessels by undertakings offering the best tenders regardless of their nationality, exchange of information on risks incurred by goods and on prevention of loss or damage, and collaboration between insurers and banks.

#### 11.2.7. *Consequences for intra-European trade of efforts to achieve a greater degree of economic integration on a sub-regional basis in Europe*

*Description:* The secretariat includes in its regular publications, so far as possible, analyses of the economic consequences for intra-European trade of all efforts being made on a sub-regional basis in Europe to achieve

a higher degree of economic integration. The Committee is to consider this problem at its ninth annual session.

#### 11.2.8. *Long-term agreements*

*Description:* Pursuant to Commission resolution 3 (XIV) and on the basis of information supplied by governments the secretariat is to prepare for consideration by the Committee a study consisting of (a) an analysis of economic factors determining the attitude of member states to the conclusion of long-term agreements, (b) a description of the main types of long-term agreements already concluded.

#### 11.2.9. *Problems of trade in machinery and equipment*

*Description:* Pursuant to resolution 14 (XIV) the secretariat is to prepare a study on the nature and scope of production and exports of capital goods in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering. The Committee will consider the trade aspects of this study at its ninth session.

#### 11.2.10. *Simplification and standardization of export documents*

*Description:* At its eighth session, the Committee decided to entrust to the secretariat, in consultation with experts from interested governments, the task of drawing up lists of export documents required for international trading operations which should be standardized at the international level and to prepare concrete proposals as to their standardization as well as their simplification.

### 11.3. OTHER PROJECTS

#### 11.3.1. *Trade in consumers' goods*

*Description:* At its eighth session, the Committee decided that it would from time to time consider, on the basis of information available, the achievements attained in organizing co-operation on a commercial basis directly between industries producing consumers' goods and would inquire of governments what specific problems they face with regard to mutual exchanges of technical experience between consumer-goods industries on a non-commercial basis in order that the Committee might consider possibilities for the solution of these problems.

# ANNEXES

## ANNEX I

### List of representatives at the fifteenth session of the Commission

#### *Albania*

Mr. Dhimitri Lamani, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Albania in France

#### *Austria*

Mr. Emanuel Treu, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary; Permanent Representatives; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Erich M. Schmid, Deputy Permanent Representative

Mr. Heinrich Simonet, Director, Federal Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction

Mr. Anton Zembsch, Federal Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction

Mr. Otto Engelhardt, Administrative Counsellor, Federal Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Othman Dörrer, Federal Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Friedrich Wondre, Federal Chamber of Labour

Mr. Philipp Rieger, Federal Chamber of Labour

#### *Belgium*

Mr. P. De Smet, Director of Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; Head of the International Organizations Service, Foreign Trade Administration; Head of the Delegation

Mr. A. Meersseman, Chief, United Nations and Conferences Division, Foreign Trade Administration; Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. F. de la Barre d'Erquelinnes, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. C. Zerghe, Deputy Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mr. Roelandts, National Bank of Belgium

#### *Bulgaria*

Mr. Latchezar Avramov, First Minister for Foreign Trade; Head of the Delegation

Mrs. Vela Lukanova, Permanent Representative of the Bulgarian People's Republic to the European Office of the United Nations and to the International Organizations at Geneva

Mr. Marin Kraleov, Commercial Counsellor, Legation of the Bulgarian People's Republic at Berne

Mr. Malin Molerov, First Secretary of Legation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Ivan Petrov, Second Secretary, Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Bulgarian People's Republic to the European Office of the United Nations and to the International Organizations at Geneva

#### *Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic*

Mr. F. Kohonov, Minister of Finance; Head of the Delegation

#### *Members of the Delegation*

Mr. B. V. Kudriatsev, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Member of the Collegium

Mr. I. Kachuro, Director of the Institute of Agricultural Economics, Academy of Agricultural Sciences

Mr. A. N. Sheldov, Second Secretary; Adviser

Mr. B. V. Kotliarov, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Expert

#### *Czechoslovakia*

Mr. Alois Hloch, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Robert Schmelz, Director of the Institute for Economic Research of the Ministry of Foreign Trade; Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Jaroslav Pscolka, Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Milan Klusak, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. Jan Muzik, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. Miroslav Zdarsky, Chief of Division, State Statistical Office

Mr. Jaromir Strnad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Adolf Suk, State Planning Commission

Mr. Karel Svec, Ministry of Foreign Trade

#### *Denmark*

Mr. V. Hoelgaard, Chief of Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Erik Hauge, Member of the Permanent Mission to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. H. Schlebaum, Head of Section, Ministry of Finance, Economic Secretariat

Mr. J. Børglum Jensen, Ministry of Finance, Economic Secretariat

Miss Ruth Krøger, Secretary of the Delegation

#### *Federal Republic of Germany*

Prof. Dr. Alfred Müller-Armack, Secretary of State for Economic Affairs; Ministerial Representative

### *Members of the Delegation*

- Dr. U. Meyer-Cording, Director, Ministry of Economic Affairs;  
Head of the Delegation
- Dr. V. von Zahn-Stranik, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs; Alternate Head of the Delegation
- Dr. C. R. Schwarz, First Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

### *Advisers*

- Dr. J. Rohrbach, Counsellor, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and  
Forestry
- Dr. W. Steidle, Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Mr. H. Felsch, First Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Mr. J. Boettger, Second Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Mr. H. Reichardt, Second Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Dr. Elisabeth Scheibe, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs
- Miss Gerda Burre, Interpreter

### *Permanent Delegation*

- Dr. R. Thierfelder, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Repre-  
sentative to the International Organizations at Geneva
- Dr. K. Barte, Deputy Permanent Representative
- Mr. W. Goeller, Transport Attaché to the Permanent Delegation

### *Finland*

- Mr. Olavi Munkki, Director, Commercial Division, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation
- Mr. E. O. Raustila, Assistant Director, Commercial Division,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Deputy Head of the Delegation
- Mr. K. V. Mäkelä, Permanent Representative to the International  
Organizations at Geneva
- Dr. H. J. Valvanne, Director, Research Division, Bank of Finland
- Mr. Reino Rossi, Member of the Board of Directors, Bank of  
Finland
- Mr. Niilo Pusa, Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Miss Liisa Hagelberg, Secretary
- Mrs. M. Zagorwski, Secretary

### *France*

- Mr. Johannès Dupraz, Former Minister; Head of the Delegation

### *Alternates*

- Mr. de Curton, Permanent Representative to the European Office  
of the United Nations
- Mr. de Lacharrière, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### *Representatives*

- Mr. Plescoff, Inspector of Finance
- Mr. Deciry, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Toutay, Administrator, Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Mr. Establie, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European  
Office of the United Nations, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs
- Mr. Bochet, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### *Advisers*

- Mr. Valéry, Head, Economic Co-operation Service, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Bonnome, Inspector-General, Ministry of Construction
- Mr. Le Guellec, Chairman, *Gaz de France*
- Mr. Schwob, Inspector-General, Ministry of Industry

### *Secretaries*

- Mrs. Hirleman
- Miss Jegou

### *Greece*

- Mr. Th. Chrysanthopoulos, Director, Department of Economic  
Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation
- Mrs. A. Pangalos, Head of Section, Ministry of Co-ordination;  
Member of the Delegation
- Miss L. Petrea, Secretary of the Delegation

### *Hungary*

- Mr. Jenő Baczoni, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade;  
Head of the Delegation
- Mr. Janos Szita, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary;  
Deputy Head of the Delegation
- Mr. Janos Nyerges, Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Trade
- Mrs. Julia Zala, Director, Central Statistical Office
- Mr. Ernő Hars, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Istvan Halasz, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission
- Mr. Peter Karasz, Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Trade;  
Secretary of the Delegation

### *Ireland*

- Mrs. Josephine McNeill, Irish Minister to Switzerland; Head of  
the Delegation
- Mr. Denis A. Holmes, Secretary, Irish Embassy, Bonn

### *Italy*

- Mr. Tommaso Notarangeli, Minister Plenipotentiary; Head of the  
Delegation
- Mr. Paolo Savini, Deputy Permanent Representative, responsible  
for questions relating to ECE and GATT; Deputy Head of the  
Delegation
- Mr. Francesco Accardo, Cabinet Office
- Mr. Giovanni Calderale, Ministry of the Budget
- Mr. Antonio Ferone, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
- Mr. Dino Lucattini, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
- Mr. Giovanni Colamarino, Ministry of Public Works
- Mr. Giuseppe Santoni Rugiu, Ministry of Transport
- Mr. Mario Cerallo, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- Mr. Osvaldo Gigliotti, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- Mr. Antonio Baglio, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- Mr. Guido Forte, Ministry of Foreign Trade
- Mr. Aurelio Cingolani, Ministry of Foreign Trade
- Mr. Reginaldo V. Munafo, Assistant to the Deputy Permanent  
Representative responsible for questions relating to ECE and  
GATT; Secretary of the Delegation



### *Luxembourg*

Mr. Ignace Bessling, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. Paul Peters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### *Netherlands*

Mr. M. J. Keyzer, Minister Plenipotentiary; Head of the Delegation

Jhr. Dr. W. H. J. van Asch van Wijck, Minister Plenipotentiary; Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. F. H. Gerritzen, Department of Foreign Economic Relations

Mr. A. de Bloeme, Department of Foreign Economic Relations

Mr. F. van Dam, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Miss E. de Gorter, Secretary

### *Norway*

Mr. Thomas Løvold, Director, Ministry of Shipping and Commerce; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Olav Lydvo, Counsellor, Norwegian Embassy, Warsaw

Mr. Asbjørn Skarstein, Counsellor, Acting Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. Johan Skutle, Head of Section, Ministry of Trade

Mr. Olav Bucher Johannessen, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### *Poland*

Mr. Franciszek Modrzewski, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Trade; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Adam Meller-Conrad, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Polish People's Republic; Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Jakub Kon, Secretary, Committee for Economic and Technical Co-operation with other Countries

Mr. Bronislaw Lisowski, Assistant Director, International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Eugeniusz Kulaga, Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Polish People's Republic

Mr. Zdzislaw Rurarz, Head of Division, Ministry of Foreign Trade; Secretary of the Delegation

### *Advisers*

Mr. Leszek Sukowski, Counsellor, Committee for Economic and Technical Co-operation with other Countries

Mr. Janusz Czaplarski, Member, Permanent Delegation of Poland at Geneva

Mr. Zenon Kurkowski, Member, Permanent Delegation of Poland at Geneva

Mrs. Lidia Wolska, Secretary

### *Portugal*

Mr. Albano Nogueira, Minister Plenipotentiary, Assistant Director-General of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Fernando de Alcambar Pereira, Permanent Representative to the Economic Commission for Europe; Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Arménio Fonseca Lopes, Assistant Secretary-General, Bank of Portugal; representing the Ministry of Finance

Mr. José da Silva Lopes, Member, Economic Co-ordination Commission, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mr. Hélio Paulino Pereira, Industrial Services Engineer, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mr. Eduardo Conde, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Secretary of the Delegation

### *Romania*

Mr. Gheorghe Radulesco, Minister of Trade; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Vasile Bucur, Secretary, Economic, Technical and Scientific Co-operation Commission

Mr. Stefan Gal, Secretariat, Economic, Technical and Scientific Co-operation Commission

Mr. Jacob Ionasco, Acting Permanent Representative

Mr. Dragos Serbanescu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mrs. Maria Vilcu, Secretary

### *Spain*

H.E. Don José Antonio de Sangroniz, Marques de Desio, Ambassador of Spain; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Luis Garcia de Llera, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations; Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Eduardo Junco, Commercial Counsellor, Spanish Embassy, Berne

Mr. Guillermo Cebrian, Commercial Attaché, Spanish Embassy, Berne

Mr. Juan Iturralde y de Pedro, Member of the Permanent Delegation

Mr. Pedro Temboury de la Muela, Member of the Permanent Delegation

Mr. José Luis Gomez Delmas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### *Sweden*

Mrs. Karin Kock, Professor; former Director in Chief; Head of the Delegation

Baron C. H. von Platen, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations; Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. K. Bernström, Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. A. Fälthelm, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. S. L. Klackenborg, First Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Mr. P. O. Forshell, Member, Swedish Permanent Mission

Mrs. S. Werner-Larsen, Secretary

### *Switzerland*

Mr. Friedrich Bauer, Deputy Director, Trade Division, Federal Department of Economic Affairs; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Anton J. Kilchmann, Principal Chief of Section, Trade Division, Federal Department of Economic Affairs; Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Gilbert de Dardel, Assistant Officer, Federal Political Department

Mr. Louis Maire, Chairman of the FAO Council

Mr. Paul E. Miescher, Engineer

Mr. Edmund Wyss, Member of the National Council

## *Turkey*

Mr. C. S. Hayta, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations; Head of the Delegation  
Mr. K. Gürün, Assistant Director-General, Department of Trade and Trade Agreements, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Y. A. Menderes, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations  
Mr. K. Cantürk, Assistant Director-General of the Treasury, Ministry of Finance  
Mr. O. Çinar, Adviser on Foreign Trade, Ministry of Trade  
Mr. R. Erkmen, Rapporteur, Ministry of Trade  
Mr. Y. Germen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mrs. K. Örüci, Permanent Delegation

## *Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic*

Mr. A. D. Kochubei, Member, Governmental Planning Commission, Council of Ministers; Head of the Delegation  
Mr. A. A. Boiko, Head, International Economic Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Deputy Head of the Delegation  
Mr. I. N. Romanenko, Academician; Director, Institute of Economics and Agricultural Organization; Representative

### *Advisers*

Mr. G. Y. Udovenko, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Y. M. Hilzhevskii, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr. A. I. Mashkov, Second Secretary, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations

## *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*

Mr. N. P. Firubin, Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR; Head of the Delegation

### *Members of the Delegation*

Mr. A. S. Chistyakov, Permanent Representative of the USSR to the European Office of the United Nations  
Mr. M. V. Lavrichenko, Deputy Head, Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR  
Mr. V. V. Mordvinov, Deputy Head of Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Trade  
Mr. N. G. Sysoev, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR

### *Advisers*

Mr. E. V. Novikov, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR  
Mr. V. N. Timofeev, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of the USSR to the European Office of the United Nations  
Mr. G. S. Batrushevich, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of the USSR to the European Office of the United Nations  
Mr. K. M. Savitsky, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of the USSR to the European Office of the United Nations  
Mr. V. M. Lessiovsky, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR

### *Experts*

Mr. G. Y. Zverev, First Secretary, Permanent Delegation of the USSR to the European Office of the United Nations  
Mrs. A. A. Sentuleva, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR  
Mr. Y. I. Busikin, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR

Mr. V. A. Gnevashev, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR; Secretary of the Delegation

Mr. V. A. Vlasov, Attaché, Permanent Delegation of the USSR to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. V. M. Gerbov, Attaché, Permanent Delegation of the USSR to the European Office of the United Nations

## *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

Mr. Robert Allan, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation  
Mr. F. G. K. Gallagher, Foreign Office; First Alternate  
Mr. E. Sniders, M.B.E., Head of the United Kingdom Permanent Delegation; Second Alternate  
Mr. G. Parker, Board of Trade; Adviser  
Mr. J. S. Sadler, Board of Trade; Adviser  
Mr. W. H. Twells, Ministry of Power; Adviser  
Miss M. P. Brown, Treasury; Adviser  
Mr. K. H. Jones, Foreign Office; Adviser; Secretary to the Delegation  
Mr. M. K. O. Simpson-Orlebar, Foreign Office; Private Secretary to the Head of the Delegation  
Mr. D. M. Edwards, United Kingdom Permanent Delegation

## *United States of America*

Mr. Louis W. Cabot, Vice-President and Treasurer, Godfrey L. Cabot, Inc., Boston; Representative  
Mr. Benson E. L. Timmons, III, Deputy Chief of Mission and Counsellor of Embassy, American Embassy, Stockholm; Alternate Representative  
Mr. George A. Tesoro, Senior Economic Adviser, Resident Delegation and Consulate-General, Geneva; Principal Adviser

### *Advisers*

Mr. Ernest F. Chase, Economic Officer, Resident Delegation and Consulate-General, Geneva  
Mr. Frederick W. Flott, Political Officer, Resident Delegation and Consulate-General, Geneva  
Mrs. Margaret Potter, Economic Officer, Resident Delegation and Consulate-General, Geneva  
Mrs. Selma G. Kallis, Trade Agreements Division, Department of State, Washington  
Mrs. Ruth H. Kupinsky, Office of European Regional Affairs, Department of State, Washington  
Mr. Samuel E. Perkins, Office of International Economic and Social Affairs, Department of State, Washington  
Miss Leocade Leighton, United States Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Paris

## *Yugoslavia*

Mr. Josip Djerdja, Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation  
Mr. Sergije Makiedo, Minister Plenipotentiary, Head of the Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations; Deputy Head of the Delegation  
Mr. Janvid Flere, Assistant Director, Office of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Mirceta Cvorovic, First Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Branko Komatina, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations  
Mrs. Vera Starcevic, Secretary to the Delegation

COUNTRIES ATTENDING UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 11  
OF THE COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

*Argentina*

Dr. Pablo Salomon Singer, Economic Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of the Argentine Republic to the European Office of the United Nations and to the International Organizations

*Australia*

Mr. L. D. Thomson, First Secretary, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations

*Canada*

Mr. R. K. Thomson, Commercial Counsellor, Canadian Embassy, Vienna

Mr. W. F. Stone, First Secretary, Permanent Mission to the European Office of the United Nations

*Ghana*

Mr. H. R. Amonoo, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

*India*

Mr. M. Bhavandas, First Secretary (Commercial), Indian Embassy, Berne

*Israel*

Mr. Menahem Kahany, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. Nissim Yaish, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

*Japan*

Mr. Shunzō Kawai, First Secretary, Japanese Embassy, Berne

Mr. Koremoto Takahashi, Second Secretary, Permanent Delegation to the International Organizations in Geneva

*Mexico*

Mr. Enrique Bravo Caro, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the International Organizations in Geneva

*United Arab Republic*

Dr. Hassan Muraywid, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Republic at Geneva

*Uruguay*

Mr. Victor M. Pomes, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the European Office of the United Nations and to the specialized agencies with headquarters in Geneva

*Venezuela*

Dr. Dusan Sidjanski, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of Venezuela to the European Office of the United Nations

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

*International Labour Organisation*

Mr. R. N. Lyman, Chief of the Manpower Division; Representative  
Mr. R. A. Metall, Chief of the International Organisations Division; Alternate

Mr. M. Osmay, Chief of the Rural and Indigenous Workers Division; Alternate

Mr. R. Roux, Economic Division; Adviser

Mr. M. Paranhos da Silva, International Organisations Division; Adviser

*Food and Agriculture Organization*

Dr. E. Glesinger, Director, Forestry and Forest Products Division

*International Monetary Fund*

Mr. Gordon Williams, Special Representative to the United Nations

Mr. J. P. Salle, Acting Director of the European Office of the International Monetary Fund

Mr. Aldo Guetta

*World Meteorological Organization*

Dr. K. Langlo, Chief, Technical Division, WMO

Mr. P. Miljukov, Chief, Hydrological Meteorology Section, WMO

\* \* \*

*Contracting parties to GATT—Interim commission for an international trade organization*

Mr. J. Royer, Deputy Executive Secretary, GATT

Mr. F. A. Haight, Special Assistant in the Office of the Executive Secretary

\* \* \*

*International Atomic Energy Agency*

Mr. P. R. Jolles, Deputy Director General

Miss Mary Jeffreys, Division of External Liaison

Mr. R. Krymm, Division of Economic and Technical Assistance

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

*Category A*

*International Confederation of Free Trade Unions*

Mr. Walter Schevenels, General Secretary of European Regional Organization

Mr. Herman Patteet, Director, Geneva Office

Mr. Borek Zofka, Geneva Liaison Office

*International Organization of Employers*

Mr. Joseph Vanek, Permanent Representative at Geneva

*World Federation of Trade Unions*

Mr. Marcel Bras, Secretary, World Federation of Trade Unions

Mr. Jean Duret, Member of the Economic Council, Confédération générale du travail, France

Mr. Idomeno Barbadoro, Member of the Economic Service, Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro

Mr. Giuseppe Boglietti, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

*World Federation of United Nations Associations*

Miss Marta Aphalo

*World Veterans Federation*

Mr. Antonio Ronconi, Representative at Geneva

Mrs. Jacqueline Schwab

*Category B*

*International Bar Association*

Mr. Michael Brandon, Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

*International Union for Inland Navigation*

Mr. Raymond Otten-Sooser, Permanent Representative

*International Union of Official Travel Organizations*

Mr. J. G. Bridges, President

Mr. R. C. Lonati, Secretary-General

Mr. A. Nair, Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Tadeusz Szmitkowski, Permanent Representative

*Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*

Miss Gertrude Baer, Permanent International Representative

*International Catholic Youth Federation*

Mr. Pierre Ricca

*International Federation of Free Journalists*

Mr. M. Zaleski

## ANNEX II

### Terms of reference of the Commission

1. The Economic Commission for Europe, acting within the framework of the policies of United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect to any country without the agreement of the government of that country;

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction of Europe, for raising the level of European economic activity, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the European countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems of and developments within member countries of the Commission and within Europe generally as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate.

2. The Commission shall give prior consideration, during its initial stages, to measures to facilitate the economic reconstruction of devastated countries of Europe which are Members of the United Nations.

3. Immediately upon its establishment, the Commission shall consult with the member Governments of the Emergency Economic Committee for Europe, the European Coal Organization and the European Central Inland Transport Organization with a view to the prompt termination of the first, and the absorption or termination of the activities of the second and third, while ensuring that the essential work performed by each of the three is fully maintained.

4. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matter within its competence directly to its member governments, governments admitted in a consultative capacity under paragraph 8 below, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals for activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

5. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

6. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year, and shall make interim reports at each regular session of the Council.<sup>a</sup>

7. The members of the Commission are the European Members of the United Nations and the United States of America.<sup>b</sup>

8. The Commission may admit in a consultative capacity

European nations not members of the United Nations, and shall determine the conditions in which they may participate in its work, including the question of voting rights in the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

9. The Commission shall invite representatives of the Free Territory of Trieste (when it is established) to participate in a consultative capacity in the consideration by the Commission of any matter of particular concern to the Free Territory.

10. The Commission may consult with the representatives of the respective Allied control authorities of the occupied territories, and be consulted by them for the purpose of mutual information and advice on matters concerning the economies of these territories in relation to the rest of the European economy.

11. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

12. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practices of the Economic and Social Council.

13. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 288 (X), parts I and II.

14. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies.

15. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at the seat of the European Office of the United Nations.

19. The first session of the Commission shall be called by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as soon as practicable after the Commission has been created by the Economic and Social Council.

20. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

<sup>a</sup> The Council decided, in resolution 232 (IX), that "it does not, for the present, require the Commission to submit interim reports to each session, in accordance with point 6 of its terms of reference".

<sup>b</sup> Pursuant to resolution 594 (XX), the Federal Republic of Germany became a member of the Commission on 21 February 1956.

## Rules of procedure of the Commission

### Chapter I

#### SESSIONS

##### Rule 1

Sessions of the Commission shall be held:

- (a) On dates fixed by the Commission, after consultation with the Executive Secretary, at previous meetings;
- (b) Within thirty days of the communication of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council;
- (c) At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, after consultation with the Executive Secretary;
- (d) On such other occasions as the Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the Executive Secretary, deems necessary.

##### Rule 2

Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the European Office of the United Nations. The Commission may, with the concurrence of the Secretary-General, decide to hold a particular session elsewhere.

##### Rule 3

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session of the Commission, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with a copy of the provisional agenda. The basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda of a session shall be transmitted not less than forty-two days before the opening of the session, provided that in exceptional cases the Executive Secretary may, for reasons to be stated in writing, transmit such documents not less than twenty-one days before the opening of the session.

##### Rule 4

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

### Chapter II

#### AGENDA

##### Rule 5

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

##### Rule 6

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

- (a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;
- (b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;
- (c) Items proposed by any member of the Commission;
- (d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies; and
- (e) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

##### Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

##### Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

### Chapter III

#### REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

##### Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

##### Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

##### Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

##### Rule 12

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

### Chapter IV

#### OFFICERS

##### Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

##### Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall preside.

##### Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. In that case, or if the Vice-Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Commission shall elect another Vice-Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

##### Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

##### Rule 17

The Chairman or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

### Chapter V

#### SECRETARIAT

##### Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its sub-commissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

#### *Rule 19*

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

#### *Rule 20*

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its sub-commissions, any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

#### *Rule 21*

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

#### *Rule 22*

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

### *Chapter VI*

#### CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

#### *Rule 23*

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

#### *Rule 24*

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

#### *Rule 25*

During the discussion of any matter a representative may raise a point of order. In this case the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision and it shall stand unless overruled.

#### *Rule 26*

During the discussion of any matter a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

#### *Rule 27*

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

#### *Rule 28*

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

#### *Rule 29*

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

#### *Rule 30*

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

#### *Rule 31*

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

#### *Rule 32*

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

#### *Rule 33*

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

### *Chapter VII*

#### VOTING

#### *Rule 34*

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

#### *Rule 35*

Decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

#### *Rule 36*

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the government of that country.

#### *Rule 37*

The Commission shall normally vote by show of hands. If any representative requests a roll call, a roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

#### *Rule 38*

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

#### *Rule 39*

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

### *Chapter VIII*

#### LANGUAGES

#### *Rule 40*

English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

#### *Rule 41*

Speeches made in any of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

### *Chapter IX*

#### RECORDS

#### *Rule 42*

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government, agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than forty-eight hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made.

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

## Rule 44

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

## Rule 45

As soon as possible the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations and to the specialized agencies.

## Chapter X

## PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

## Rule 46

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

## Chapter XI

## RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

## Rule 47

Non-governmental organizations in categories A and B and on the Register may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Non-governmental organizations in category A may circulate to the members of the Commission written statements and suggestions on matters within their competence. Non-governmental organizations in category B and on the Register may submit such statements and suggestions to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary will prepare and distribute at each session of the Commission a list of such communications received, briefly indicating the substance of each of them. On the request of any member of the Commission the Executive Secretary will reproduce in full and distribute any such communication.

## Rule 48

The Commission at its discretion may consult with non-governmental organizations in categories A and B and on the Register on matters in which the Commission regards these organizations as having special competence or knowledge. Such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the Commission or on the request of the organization. In the case of non-governmental organizations in category A, consultations should normally be held with the Commission itself. In the case of non-governmental organizations in category B and on the Register consultations might be effected either directly or through *ad hoc* committees.

## SUB-COMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

## Rule 49

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

## Rule 50

The Commission may establish such committees and sub-committees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

## Rule 51

Sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees and sub-committees shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

## Rule 52

Committees, sub-committees and working parties should, as in rules 47 and 48, consult non-governmental organizations in category A, which because of their importance as regards their activity and the number of their members in Europe, play a part in the economic life of Europe, on questions within the competence of the Commission and deemed of interest to such organizations. These organizations could in appropriate cases be invited to be represented at meetings of committees, sub-committees and working parties.<sup>a</sup>

## Chapter XIII

## REPORTS

## Rule 53

The Commission shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year, and shall make interim reports at each regular session of the Council.<sup>b</sup>

## Chapter XIV

## AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

## Rule 54

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>a</sup> This rule cannot be considered as implying, between the non-governmental organizations in category A, any discrimination contrary to the decision and rules of the Assembly or the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>b</sup> The Council decided, in resolution 232 (IX), that "it does not, for the present, require the Commission to submit interim reports to each session, in accordance with point 6 of its terms of reference".



## A. Statement made by the Chairman of the Commission at the inaugural meeting

It is with a feeling of deep responsibility that I declare open the fifteenth session of the Economic Commission for Europe.

A year ago, at the end of the fourteenth session, I expressed the hope that the results achieved by the Commission might prove useful, as the expression of a common desire for co-operation between the various countries of Europe, for decisions on a larger scale and at the highest levels.

These meetings have not yet taken place, but fortunately they are now imminent.

The situation for Europe, therefore, is particularly important, and in my personal view it entitles us to make certain reflections. I think in fact that we are more than ever bound to make the greatest possible efforts to find points of contact within a framework of comprehension of our mutual needs.

If we look back at the general economic situation in Europe over the year that has elapsed since our fourteenth session, we shall find that there are numerous points which give cause for satisfaction.

For instance, the rhythm of economic development in the various countries of Europe has been satisfactory, so that it has been possible appreciably to improve the living standards of the peoples and at the same time to reduce the incidence of unemployment and its unfortunate repercussions.

But for me, at least, the most important factor has been the ever-growing conviction that despite the still existing political divergencies all the countries that are members of the Commission, without exception, are fully aware of the fact that it is not possible today — and will be even less possible tomorrow — to consider economic phenomena in a national setting, for any improvement is illusory and quite impermanent if the needs of the other countries within the same continent, and indeed the needs of one continent vis-a-vis other continents, are ignored.

I believe that even if we maintain circumspect attitudes — legitimate enough in a world which has not yet reached a state of equilibrium and where, unhappily, causes for anxiety both in the political and in the economic field are all too frequent — it has to be recognized that the realization of the interdependence of countries and continents has made remarkable headway.

If we remember the discussions which took place in this very commission in its early days, or indeed a few years ago, when every member State was inclined to consider its own interests

against a background of national egoism, heedless of the circumstances and needs of fellow members, we can safely say that the work of the Economic Commission for Europe since its inception in 1947 until the present time has made an outstanding contribution to the creation of this positive atmosphere of collaboration which is a cause of gratification and satisfaction to all of us and enables us to look forward with confidence to our Commission's future activities.

Moreover it cannot be denied that the various processes of economic integration which are taking shape today had their origin in the actual opportunities for economic research and studies to which the Economic Commission for Europe and its committees undoubtedly gave the initial stimulus.

Even though progress is sometimes slow and difficult, there is every reason to believe that at some future date — nearer, perhaps, than might seem credible — general results of importance for the whole of Europe will be achieved.

This is the spirit in which, I am convinced, the Commission will study the proposals put before it during the present session.

It is probable that some of our discussions will be arduous, but given goodwill and understanding on all sides we shall surely go on to further achievements.

The most important factor, in my opinion, is the need for a joint effort in seeking solutions which even if they do not represent the "optimum" today — namely, the final solution of a problem — may still be reached unanimously and be worked out in such a way as to create the premisses for future progress.

As I pointed out at the beginning, at the time when our Commission will be finishing its work, other much more important and decisive deliberations will be about to start.

This means that the responsibilities weighing on us during our discussions will be greater than ever before in the history of our Commission.

Moreover, even though the difficulties to be overcome are not negligible it should not be forgotten that our Commission has excellent opportunities for dealing with the economic aspect of the various problems.

It is within this broad field that our work is capable not only of yielding positive results in itself, but also of forming a sound and practical basis for discussions of much vaster scope.

## B. Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the fifteenth session of the Commission

In my message to you last year I spoke of the importance of the efforts being made by your governments in working in ECE towards a common solution of practical economic problems in the whole of Europe. During the past year you have not only continued this work but also have opened up new fields for intergovernmental co-operation in your region. Your work on questions of automation and productivity as well as the Special Meeting on the Organization and Techniques of Foreign Trade can be mentioned in this connexion.

In my introduction to the revised Programme Appraisal of the United Nations I pointed out that the emphasis in UN programmes on assistance to under-developed countries, lent additional importance to the work of the regional economic commissions. This is also true of your Commission because of the increasing role which Europe is being called upon to play in the world economy and in the efforts to help the less advanced regions of the world. The work of your Commission and the other regional commis-

sions, while primarily devoted to problems of the respective regions, should strengthen and support the world-wide activities of the UN as a whole. The study of production and export of capital goods on which you decided last year is an example of an activity which, while concentrating on the regional aspect of the problem, can also contribute to the United Nations work for the industrialization of the less developed countries.

You are meeting on the eve of important events. We all hope that the impending efforts at improving international relations may bring some progress. Your Commission, too, has a part to play in this process and it is my earnest hope that with an improvement in the political atmosphere you may be able to tackle more effectively some of the crucial problems involved in the confrontation and harmonization of economic policies in your region.

I should like to express my sincere wishes for the success of your present session and my hope that you will succeed in finding solutions to the questions now before you.

## C. Statement made by the Executive Secretary of the Commission at the inaugural meeting

When, some months ago I began to consider the kind of opening statement I would make to this session, I felt that the moment was arriving when governments could in their common interest use the instrument of ECE to make a further step forward in economic co-operation. In my view, it is not enough that this co-operation among ECE governments should merely follow after and reflect solutions of the outstanding political questions which divide the ECE countries. Indeed, it may not be an exaggeration to believe that intergovernmental economic co-operation in ECE, maintained since 1947 despite all vicissitudes, has perhaps helped to some extent to promote the calmer and more practical approach to political issues which now seems to be prevailing. But, I was not motivated solely by the hope that an increased use of the ECE by governments might be possible at the present time and might contribute to a further easing of tension. I was motivated also by the conviction that it is the duty of the Executive Secretary continuously to point out to governments, from the vantage point of his central non-partisan position, specific possibilities for a progressive increase in their co-operation on economic questions. We in the secretariat can have only one prejudice or bias, and that is to favour the growth of intergovernmental co-operation. This not because of any Parkinson's law of bureaucracy or a desire to increase our size or activity, but in order properly to carry out our duties under the Charter of the United Nations.

I realize that advice is not always welcome; and I have no illusions about the possibility of arranging agreement on new paths, particularly at a time when there are so many problems to face. But it is precisely because there are many problems clamouring for attention that I think a voice is needed to stress the opportunity for a new look at the economic issues confronting the region as a whole. If governments wait until they can solve other problems before dealing with the vital problem of east-west economic relations, I fear that they may thereby lose the possibility of shaping the future as they wish.

For these reasons I decided to write to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of ECE governments outlining certain possibilities for intensified co-operation in the ECE. In communicating with governments well in advance of the session, I hoped they would have sufficient opportunity to reflect upon the policy questions involved so as to be able during this session to take some forward steps on these or other means of further developing their joint efforts.

The first possibility I raised was that of convening a new kind of ECE meeting. At such a meeting, *private* (and I emphasize *private*) discussions would be held at a high, but not necessarily a ministerial, level to consider major economic questions of a general policy character facing ECE countries. One possible subject I mentioned was the international aspects of measures which are being, or might be, taken to promote economic growth. Although the particular level of representation would not be a necessary condition or requirement, governments would undoubtedly want to be represented at such meetings by officials who carry major responsibilities for formulating or executing economic policies.

This first possibility is not a new idea and it is, of course, entirely independent of the proposal for a conference of Ministers of Trade which is before you at this session. You will recall that I made a similar suggestion in my opening statement one year ago at the fourteenth session of the Commission. I said then that it might be desirable to "arrange in ECE a procedure for consultations to be held in private, at a policy level, on economic programmes or problems of major importance" thus satisfying "a need which is not and cannot be met through meetings of the subsidiary bodies or the annual public sessions of the Commission". I said on that occasion that the purpose of such a meeting would not be to adopt collective decisions or recommendations nor to set up a complaints procedure, but rather to exchange

information and views on specific questions and, where appropriate, to seek agreement.

In this connexion, delegates will recall that a proposal similar in some respects made by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council was recently unanimously adopted by that body. As you know, the Council has decided to accept the proposal by the Secretary-General whereby, in conjunction with the session of the Council to be held in July, there will take place "a short special meeting at the ministerial level" to hold "a searching examination and discussion of key issues of decisive general importance". It should also be borne in mind that what I had in view was the kind of off-the-record discussions on economic policy between governmental experts which take place rather regularly between officials having major responsibilities in countries in separate parts of Europe but which rarely, if ever, take place on a region-wide basis.

If governments are not yet ready to embark upon such an experiment, I should regret it; but I am confident that they will eventually take action along these lines and not continue to deal with each other at arm's length on economic issues the rational solution of which requires mutual understanding and concerted action.

The second possibility which I called to the attention of the ECE governments in advance was that work might be started in an effort to draft a set of multilateral trade principles and procedures which could be applied in relations between countries having different economic systems. This was not an entirely new idea, either. I had put it forward in my opening statement to the Committee on the Development of Trade last October.

I am, of course, aware of the difficulties in any such effort to erect a bridge between the different trading systems. Some may argue that principles are not needed and, in fact, may be harmful and that what is important is that we should develop trade on a case-by-case basis. Some may say that what is needed is a decision to set up a regional trade organization and not to confuse this issue by trying to spell out trade principles. Others may believe that it would be impossible to reach agreement on such principles or that if it were possible they would constitute a purely literary exercise, since the differences between the systems are so great that the principles could not be applied in the same way in both and might even become a source of conflict. Or it may be said that we must gather further information about trading methods and techniques and not seek to bridge the unbridgeable.

I do not wish now to argue these points, since in my view it is less important that we agree on ultimate objectives than that we agree on next steps which are generally acceptable. I am not wedded to any formula, but I am wedded to the idea that we must move forward to a multilateral understanding or a series of understandings in the field of trade. There is a danger of divergencies within the European and world trading systems. Such divergencies can cause real harm to all countries. They can slow down or even reverse the trend toward multilateralism which has been making some headway in many parts of the world. They can strengthen the tendency toward bilateralism which may seem to promise immediate benefits but which, in the long run, will injure all.

If there are any workable ideas as to ways in which this break-up in the field of trade can be avoided and links built between the separate trading systems which are being set up, or methods devised to strengthen the force of multilateralism and ensure a more rational international division of labour, then I hope the Commission will explore them. As regards the particular possibility I outlined I would be happy if another more acceptable solution were found which would better accomplish a positive result.

The problem of harmonizing trade structures is, of course, a world-wide as well as a regional problem, and efforts to deal with

it might be taken on both levels in parallel. You have all noted resolution 1421 (XIV), adopted by the General Assembly at its last session, from which it would appear that the question of ways and means of promoting wider trade co-operation among States, irrespective of their economic systems and stages of development, is of global as well as of regional interest. If the ECE were to decide to undertake such work it could be done within the framework of the General Assembly resolution and as one of the pilot contributions to the work which the General Assembly envisages.

The third possibility to which I drew the attention of ECE governments was that the mechanism of the Commission might be used more intensively to strengthen and support the United Nations' world-wide activities in assisting the less developed countries. This would be in line with the high priority given by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to development programmes as an overriding objective of the United Nations Organization as a whole. It would also be in accord with the views expressed by the Secretary-General in his five-year programme appraisal, and which he recalled in his message to this session, where he said that (and I quote) "the work of the regional economic commissions, while primarily devoted to their respective regions, should strengthen and support the world-wide activities of the United Nations as a whole".

It is, of course, true that any action which the Commission might take along these lines should be within its basic mandate and should not lead this regional body to rove the world, as Don Quixote did, in search of good deeds to perform. In fact, your existing terms of reference, established by the Council, envisage the possibility of participation, in a consultative capacity in any ECE meeting, of countries members of the United Nations which are not members of the Commission. It is on this basis that countries from Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East have already participated in ECE work.

If the Commission wished to use its mechanism more intensively to assist the less-developed countries various possibilities would seem to be open to it. One which would not involve any change in the present procedures of the Commission might be to express the general wish that less-developed countries wanting to consult with the ECE countries on particular questions might take advantage of article 11 of the ECE terms of reference and participate more frequently and fully in the work of interest to them carried out by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. Another possibility, which would also require no change in its present procedures, might be to ask the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, in drawing up their programmes of work, to give special attention to problems which are of interest both to less developed countries participating under article 11 and to the ECE countries. These are merely examples of possible steps, and others might be considered more appropriate or more effective.

I should make it clear that I am not suggesting any substitute for the United Nations technical assistance programme or bilateral programmes of assistance. What I am suggesting is that, in accordance with the wishes of our parent bodies and the Secretary-General, we gear our regional programme into a world-wide effort which the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly have indicated as of special priority, while at the same time serving our region. And what I envisage is the kind of exchange of knowledge and experience which might usefully precede or supplement, but not replace, technical assistance or financial aid, whether bilateral or multilateral.

Mr. Chairman, these are three possibilities which seem to me to deserve some consideration at the present time. I hope my references to them will at least have served to stimulate the ECE governments to make a search for other and better means of increasing the degree of inter-governmental economic co-operation in this region and between countries of this region and those in other parts of

the world — a duty laid upon us by article 1 (a) of the Commission's terms of reference.

I am firmly convinced that the governments here represented will sooner or later have to face squarely the basic east-west problem in the economic field. This problem consists essentially in the fact that no regular and serious dialogue takes place between countries with different economic systems on major questions of economic policy, that no broad-scale multilateral efforts are being made to harmonize the norms applied in economic relations, that no joint effort is being undertaken to deal with the great challenge of economic development. Unless this basic problem is faced, there is a real danger that competitive co-existence will take place in a destructive atmosphere, and that while the cold war may be ended, a barren peace may follow.

\* \* \*

Turning to the present state and immediate prospects of the European economy, there is little I can add to the indications of the outlook for 1960 given in the *Economic Survey* which you have before you.

Since we completed the drafting of the *Survey*, the signs that the growth of output may slow down somewhat during 1960 in a number of western European countries have become more distinct. This appears to be less the result of slower growth of total demand than a consequence of the rapid narrowing of available margins for further expansion in terms of labour and physical capacity. However, credit policies have been tightened in many countries of western Europe, and further steps in that direction — in some cases supplemented by action in the fiscal field — appear probable. At the same time, expectations in the United States are now generally somewhat less optimistic than at the turn of the year.

There appears, indeed, to be a possibility that the rise in activity in the United States may slow down considerably, late in 1960 or early in 1961; and this may be the time when the effects of contractionary monetary policies in western Europe might make themselves felt. Such a possibility is clearly one that no government represented in this Commission could contemplate with equanimity — not least because of the importance of sustained expansion in the industrialized countries to the well-being of those countries, in Europe and overseas, which are still heavily dependent on exports of primary products.

In eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union, the plans for 1960 — now published by all countries except eastern Germany — reveal expectations of continuing rapid industrial expansion at rates generally, though not invariably, slightly below those actually attained last year. The long-term plans for four of these countries, which have been reviewed in the *Survey*, presage a new phase of intense investment effort directed towards both sustained rapid growth and considerable structural transformation of their economies in the years up to 1965.

The transformation now in progress or intended applies not only to the pattern of output but to some institutional features also. Among the striking characteristics of developments during 1959 and the early months of this year in most of these countries have been the intense campaigns for collectivization of agriculture — already virtually complete in Bulgaria and, of course, the Soviet Union. These campaigns have brought the share of the farming area under co-operative or state farming to about 85 per cent of the total in Czechoslovakia, eastern Germany and Albania, to nearly 80 per cent in Romania, and to over 70 per cent in Hungary. In other fields, gradual changes in the approach to problems of economic planning and management are taking place in most countries of the area. These changes may, over time, tend to modify some of the features of both the domestic economic and the external trading policies of these countries.

Among the questions of direct concern to all countries of Europe—and to the rest of the world also—that of the future trading relationships of the European countries with each other and with the outside world remains of immense importance and also subject to special uncertainties. The next stages in the establishment of the common market of the European Economic Community, the relations between that organization and the seven countries of the Free Trade Association, and the effects of the policies of these two groups and of those of the countries adhering to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, are major elements of uncertainty affecting any assessment made today of the future development of the European economy.

No one who observes closely what is happening in Europe today can fail to regret the further splintering of the continent, even though we recognize the value of a closer integration of national economies of a limited number of countries. If such integration on a sub-regional level is not accompanied by equally vigorous efforts to create unity between the parts, the inevitable effect will be to reduce multilateral economic co-operation and

to stimulate bilateralism not only in east-west relations, and not only in Europe, but throughout the world.

I hope that during the discussions in this session delegates will be prepared to indicate their governments' views and intentions both regarding the prospects for sustained expansion in their countries this year and regarding the trade policies they plan to pursue.

In this way, the Commission may serve your governments as a forum for increasingly useful discussion—and possibly even as a centre for negotiation—helping them to prevent the deepening of divisions within the European economy and eventually helping them to bridge these divisions.

Let me, in conclusion, express the hope that the Commission and its secretariat will be of real help to your governments at this decisive moment; that through this mechanism your efforts to solve the problems confronting this region will be advanced, and that this fifteenth session of the Commission will be not only a harmonious one, but also of practical value to all the governments and peoples here represented.

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