

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Annual Report

(16 May 1957 - 24 April 1958)

CORRIGENDUM

On page 54 in the List of Representatives at the thirteenth session of the Commission, after Luxembourg, add the following :

Netherlands

Baron E. J. Lewe van Aduard, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Foreign Economic Relations; Head of Delegation

Mr. W. H. J. van Asch von Wijck, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations ; Alternate Head of Delegation

Mr. K. Vonk, Deputy Director-General of Shipping, Ministry of Transport and "Waterstaat "

Mr. F. H. Gerritzen, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mr. O. H. B. Schoenewald, Assistant to the Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. J. P. Prins, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Miss W. A. C. Koedijk, Secretary of the Delegation



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS
TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 3

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Annual report to the Economic and Social Council covering the period
from 16 May 1957 to 24 April 1958 inclusive

INTRODUCTION

1. This annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) which covers the period 16 May 1957 to 24 April 1958, was adopted unanimously by the Commission on its 21st meeting on 24 April 1958. It is presented for the consideration of the Economic and

Social Council at its twenty-sixth session in accordance with article 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. . ." ¹

PART I

THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE TWELFTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

2. The following is a summary account of the activities of the committees of the Commission during the period under review. A fuller statement of their work is contained in the reports submitted for the consideration of the Commission at its thirteenth session (E/ECE/307, A-J). The committees considered the relevant resolutions taken by the Commission at its twelfth session, in particular resolutions 32 (XII) concerning the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe, and 5 (XII) concerning the Commission's programme of work for 1957/1958. Economic and Social Council resolution 664 (XXIV) and its annex were drawn to the attention of the committees, and their programmes of work for the coming year were adopted in the light of this decision.

¹ The previous activities of the Commission and its subsidiary organs have been reported to the Economic and Social Council in the following documents: Report of the Economic Commission for Europe on its first and second sessions, document E/451; Interim Report submitted by the Executive Secretary to the sixth session of the Economic and Social Council, document E/603; Annual Report submitted by the Economic Commission for Europe to the seventh session of the Economic and Social Council, document E/791; Interim Report submitted by the Executive Secretary to the eighth session of the Economic and Social Council, document E/1074; and in annual reports to the Council's ninth, eleventh, thirteenth, fourteenth, sixteenth, eighteenth, twentieth, twenty-second and twenty-fourth sessions (documents E/1328, E/1674, E/2002, E/2187, E/2382, E/2556, E/2706, E/2868 and E/2989).

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS

Committee on Agricultural Problems

Chairman: Mr. L. Maire (Switzerland)

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

Ninth session — 16-20 December 1957

Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Food-stuffs

Chairman: Mr. R. Grooten (Belgium)

Vice-Chairman: Mme. M. Klímová (Czechoslovakia)

Eighth session — 8-11 October 1957

Ad hoc Working Party on Standardization of Conditions of Sale for Cereals

Chairman: Mr. B. G. du Rietz (Sweden)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Trojan (Czechoslovakia)

No meeting held

Ad hoc Working Party on Standardization of Conditions of Sale for Citrus Fruit

Chairman: Mr. J. Trojan (Czechoslovakia)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. G. Milazzo (Italy)

No meeting held

Ad hoc Working Party on Standardization of Conditions of Sale for Potatoes

Chairman } not elected for first session
Vice-Chairman }

First session — 4-8 November 1957

Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture

Chairman: Mr. M. Rauscher (France)

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

Fifth session — 27-31 May 1957

Ad hoc Study Session on New Methods of Planting Vineyards

30 September-2 October 1957

ACTIVITIES

3. For the Committee's ninth session delegations were requested to present their opening statements according to an agreed pattern, comprising (a) estimates of the current year's harvest and of the state of livestock production; (b) an analysis of the probable repercussions of past changes in the volume of agricultural production on imports and exports over the next twelve months; and (c) recent changes in agricultural policy and reasons for each.

Review of Market Outlook

4. At its ninth session, the Committee considered the short-term market outlook for cereals, meat and livestock, and eggs and poultry, taking account of trade statistics and forecasts submitted by countries of this purpose and of additional information assembled by the Secretariat.

5. The Secretariat began to collect the necessary basic information for the preparation in 1958 of a new systematic study of the outlook for the next fifteen years with regard to production, consumption and trade of the commodities covered by the Committee.

6. The Committee unanimously agreed that the study of factors affecting the demand for the principal agricultural products and foodstuffs was of importance. The group of experts in this field will meet during 1958 to investigate the methodology problems and other technical factors involved in such a study, particular attention being given to livestock products (dairy produce and meat). In order to improve methods of investigation and analysis, an exchange of experience will be organized between countries. The Committee will decide at its tenth session on ways and means to implement the results of the study.

7. The Committee studied the influence of the frosts of February 1956 on production from fruit trees. It also examined at the request of FAO's European Commission on Agriculture the economic aspects of long-term trends in horse-breeding.

Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs

8. During the period under review the governments of Spain and Yugoslavia indicated their position regarding acceptance of the Protocol on Standardization of Fruit and Vegetables. At its eighth session the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs approved certain minor amendments to the text of the Protocol.

9. The Working Party also reviewed in the light of commercial experience the standards which it had previously established for citrus fruit, apples and pears,

peaches and potatoes, and agreed upon certain amendments. New standards were established for onions, artichokes, early potatoes and salted herring.

10. The Working Party took note of the progress made in the detailed confrontation of its protocol and individual product standards with the regulations or recommendations in force in the various countries, and decided to extend this study. Further work was also carried out in preparation for a study of methods used to control the quality of fruit and vegetables at the time of consignment. Co-operation with the International Standardization Organization (ISO) and with other international bodies working in the field was strengthened.

Examination of Problems associated with the Mechanization of Agriculture

11. Continuing its series of technical studies, the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture approved for general distribution two reports dealing respectively with the harvesting, transport and storage of green fodder in mountainous regions and the harvesting and conservation of green fodder in dry regions. Reports on six other topics are still under consideration, and preliminary reports or draft questionnaires are being prepared on a number of other topics, as agreed.

Establishment of Standard Conditions of Sale for Certain Agricultural Products

12. The texts of eight model contracts for the c.i.f. sale of cereals, adopted at the fifth session of the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Standardization of Conditions of Sale for Cereals were published in December 1957 (AGRI/133). Work on the two model contracts for the f.o.b. sale of cereals is continuing.

13. At its third session, the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Standardization of Conditions of Sale for Citrus Fruit adopted draft general conditions for the sale of this group of products. Consultations between the Secretariat and the various governments have been carried out and, after some amendments to the draft, agreement has been reached on a final text which will be published in the near future.

14. The *Ad hoc* Working Party on Standardization of Conditions of Sale for Potatoes requested the Secretariat to prepare a preliminary draft which will be submitted to governments and examined by the Working Party at its second session.

Exchange of Information on Technical Problems

15. An *ad hoc* study session on new methods of planting vineyards recommended that the study of this question should be pursued further by the most appropriate technical bodies (i.e., outside the framework of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies), and selected certain aspects as being particularly worthy of study. A certain number of replies to a questionnaire on new techniques for the conservation and improvement of soil fertility have been forwarded to the rapporteur, who will prepare

a report and indicate whether the subject is ripe for discussion at a study session.

16. As requested by the Committee, the Secretariat is assembling certain information on methods of combating some of the diseases and parasites of hops and sugar-beet.

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

17. In addition to the exchange of information and experience which has taken place in carrying out the work described above, the following activities may be mentioned.

Collective visits

18. In September 1957 a group of participants in the work of the Committee visited Bulgaria and studied the organization and methods of agricultural production and research. After their eighth session members of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs made a study visit to fruit and vegetable centres and research stations in Valais, Switzerland. In June 1957 participants in the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture visited Moscow and other parts of the Soviet Union to see mechanized farms (state and collective), machinery research centres and testing stations, factories producing tractors and equipment, and the Permanent Agricultural Exhibition. In October 1957 participants in the study session on new methods of planting vineyards visited wine-producing areas in Switzerland and France.

Films

19. A number of films of technical or general agricultural interest were shown during sessions of the Committee and of the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture.

20. The Committee decided to draw up a list of films, film-strips and slides of general agricultural interest which countries are prepared to lend, or perhaps donate, to each other. An exchange system based on the methods recommended by UNESCO will then be devised.

21. In connexion with the fifth session of the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture a select list of 182 films was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of replies from thirteen countries. The list includes information about the subject-matter, length and other technical details of each film.

Bibliographical material and other documentation

22. Various countries supplied sets of copies of documents which were distributed at the fifth session of the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture. At the eighth session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs the Italian delegation presented copies of a Fruit and Vegetables Commercial Calendar to all participants.

23. A second list of publications dealing with agricultural mechanization, circulated to members of the Working Party, covers books and technical reports as well as periodicals.

COAL COMMITTEE

Coal Committee

Chairman: Mr. R. Duflou (Belgium)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. A. Schummer (Luxembourg)

Mr. A. Bem (Poland)

Forty-first session — 16 to 18 September 1957

Forty-second session — 17 December 1957

Forty-third session — 17 to 19 March 1958

Coal Trade Sub-Committee

Chairman: Mr. J. Picard (France)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. N. Hansen (Denmark)

Mr. J. Farrell (United Kingdom)

Mr. V. Babacek (Czechoslovakia) (thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions)

Mr. L. Husek (Czechoslovakia) (thirty-seventh session)

Thirty-fourth session: 17 June 1957

Thirty-fifth session: 16 September 1957

Thirty-sixth session: 16 and 17 December 1957

Thirty-seventh session: 17 March 1958

Utilization Working Party

Chairman: Mr. B. Roga (Poland)

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

Twenty-second session: 18 and 19 June 1957

Twenty-third session: 17 to 19 December 1957

Classification Working Party

Chairman: Mr. C. Charmelot (France)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. B. Tejnický (Czechoslovakia)

Fourteenth session: 20 and 21 June 1957

Working Party on Coal Statistics

No meeting held

Ad hoc Group of Experts to Examine the General Conditions of Sale for the Import and Export of Solid Fuels

Chairman: Mr. A. Schummer (Luxembourg)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Butler (Poland)

Second session: 20 to 24 May 1957

Ad hoc Group of Experts to Draft General Conditions for the Import and Export of Solid Fuels

Chairman: Mr. A. Schummer (Luxembourg)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Butler (Poland)

First session: 10 to 14 February 1958

ACTIVITIES

Long-term Problems facing Governments in regard to the Development of the Coal Industry and Trade in Europe

24. As was indicated in its report to the twelfth session of the Commission, the Committee has embarked upon a review of fundamental policy questions facing governments in regard to the future development of the coal industry and trade in Europe with the object of obtaining an over-all view of both producers' and consumers' intentions as to the future. As a first step the Committee agreed that a detailed questionnaire on this subject should be sent out.

25. At its session in September 1957 the Committee noted with satisfaction the encouraging response to this inquiry. It was emphasized that the discussions on this subject which took place at that session were of a preliminary nature as it had not been possible to make a full analysis of all the information available.

26. At its session in March 1958 the Committee continued its discussion of long-term problems and, in particular, considered two documents—namely, “Coal Mining Conditions and Problems” and “Investments in the European Coal Industry”. These two papers will eventually form part of the final report.

Production Problems

27. As reported last year the Committee has agreed on a procedure for exchanging information on coal production methods including, *inter alia*, visits to mines to study specific problems on the spot and a special procedure was adopted in order to make such visits as fruitful as possible. A number of visits have taken place and are scheduled for the near future. A list of bibliographical references has been published by the Secretariat related to the various subjects chosen for study at the *ad hoc* meeting of Experts on Production Methods held in March 1957, together with statements made by delegations on these subjects. An *ad hoc* meeting on accelerated sinking of shafts and their reconstruction as well as on high-speed roadway driving is going to be held in the summer of 1958. The Committee at its forty-first session also agreed on a procedure for the exchange of information according to which interested countries would prepare reports on the fourteen specific subjects selected earlier for study. Such reports are to be circulated to the participating countries for their comments.

28. The Secretariat has issued a report on “Mining and Upgrading of Brown Coal in Europe: Developments and Prospects” (Document E/ECE/297 — E/ECE-COAL/124), taking into account the comments made by delegations at the Committee’s March 1957 session and subsequently also in writing. The Committee, at its session in March 1958, decided that the utilization problems proposed in this connexion by different countries should be referred to the Utilization Working Party.

Trade Problems

29. On the basis of the ninth and tenth Coal Market Reviews prepared by the Secretariat, the Coal Trade Sub-Committee has examined the current coal market situation concerning production, consumption, stocks, international trade and prices, etc. Each quarter the Sub-Committee has, as usual, reviewed the situation for the next quarter on the basis of information received from participating countries concerning import requirements and qualities available for export. The Sub-Committee at its thirty-fifth session held in September 1957 agreed that, at its session in December 1957, in addition to the examination of the situation for the first quarter of 1958, a preliminary review of the import situation for the subsequent quarter should also be made during which exporters’ opinions would be gathered

on the estimates of the importers. At its thirty-sixth session the Sub-Committee decided to continue this experiment during one or two quarters.

30. The Coal Committee, at its forty-first session, heard a report from the *ad hoc* Group of Experts on General Conditions of Sale for the Import and Export of Solid Fuels in which the Group expressed the opinion that the establishment of general conditions of sale might be considered as useful and that it was at any rate possible to establish such conditions to be used in the international solid fuel trade provided they are freely to be accepted by both parties. The Secretariat was requested to draft a set of conditions based on the finding of the Group’s first and second sessions, as rapidly as possible. The Secretariat drew up the requested set of conditions (COAL/Cond. Sales/7) which were considered by an *ad hoc* Group of Experts in February 1958 and will again be considered in August this year.

Solid Fuel Utilization

31. The Secretariat has issued a Report on the “Rational Utilization of European Coal Availabilities for Carbonization Purposes” (E/ECE/293—E/ECE-COAL/121). Although this Report can be regarded as final for the time being, the Working Party has decided to retain the subject on its agenda. The Utilization Working Party has considered the problem of measuring heat used for space heating and hot water consumption in dwellings served by central heating or district heating systems.

32. Considerable progress has been made with regard to the study of low and medium temperature carbonization and a progress report including recommendations to governments was drafted at the twenty-third session of the Working Party for transmission to the Coal Committee. The final version of the report on this subject is to be discussed at the September 1958 session of the Working Party.

33. At its twenty-third session the Working Party also discussed the proper utilization of low-grade solid fuel.

Classification of Solid Fuels

34. The Classification Working Party reached a preliminary agreement on an international classification system for brown coals and lignites and suggested that it be given a trial period of one year. This proposal was endorsed by the Coal Committee at its forty-first session. The Working Party is continuing its efforts to work out a suitable classification system for high-temperature hard-coal coke. As was the case when establishing an international classification for hard coals, the Classification Working Party has stressed the importance of making world-wide the classification system for brown coals. In this field close co-operation is being maintained with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

Coal Statistics

35. The *Quarterly Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe* and the *Monthly Summary of Coal Statistics* have been regularly issued. At the request of the Coal

Committee at its session in March 1958 the Working Party on Coal Statistics will meet in the summer of 1958 in order to examine questions related to the problem of comparability of investment statistics in the coal industry.

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

36. In accordance with Commission resolution 4 (XI), concerning the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe, the Committee has discussed and agreed upon procedures for the exchange of technical information as indicated above.

COMMITTEE ON ELECTRIC POWER

Committee on Electric Power

Chairman: Mr. R. Hochreutiner (Switzerland)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. C. Mihaileanu (Romania)
Fifteenth session: 10 to 12 October 1957

On the occasion of the Committee's tenth anniversary, 10 October 1957, a commemorative meeting was held at which the Committee's former Chairman made statements on the general problem of the development of the electric power situation between 1946 and 1956 and future prospects in that respect.

Working Party on Electric Power Statistics

Chairman: Mr. R. Gautheron (France)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Z. Pavlicek (Czechoslovakia)
Fourth session: 16 and 17 May 1957

Working Party for the Study of Rural Electrification

Chairman: Mr. N. Sazonov (USSR)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. C. A. Cameron-Brown (United Kingdom)
Fifth session: 7 to 9 October 1957

Group of Experts for the Study of Hydro-electric Resources in Europe

Chairman: Mr. D. Tonini (Italy)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. Jevdjevic (Yugoslavia)
Eighth session: 7 and 9 October 1957

Group of Experts for the Study of Legal Questions

Chairman: Mr. M. Visentini (Italy)
No meeting held

Drafting Committee for Inquiry into the Economic Aspects of the Influence of Mechanization on the Construction of Hydro-Power Stations

Chairman: Mr. T. Nilsson (Sweden)
12 and 13 August 1957

ACTIVITIES

Utilization of Europe's Electric Power Resources

37. The Co-ordination Committee, set up following the completion of the study on the prospects of exporting electric power from Yugoslavia (E/ECE/EP/154), held its third meeting, at which it examined the report submitted by the Study Group comprising the representatives of the electricity undertakings of Austria, the Federal Republic

of Germany, Italy and Yugoslavia. It took note of the Group's intention finally to complete the technical studies on the Lika-Gacka project by the end of 1957.

38. The Committee considered the results of an inquiry into the possibilities of electric power exchanges between the countries of central and south-eastern Europe. It requested the Secretariat to pursue its study of those possibilities on the basis of information to be supplied by the countries in question.

Rural Electrification

39. The Working Party for the Study of Rural Electrification examined a series of eight reports which it approved and proposed for final publication (E/ECE-260—E/ECE/EP/178, volume III). These reports deal with problems of production, transmission, distribution and utilization of electric power in rural areas as well as certain economic, administrative and financial problems connected with rural electrification.

40. The Working Party also examined in detail a second series of twelve reports (EP/WP.3/Working Paper No. 2), which will be prepared in final form for the Working Party's 1958 session. In addition, the Working Party decided to include in its programme of work five other subjects, reports on which will be prepared in provisional form for a later session.

41. The Working Party examined the report on the rural electrification situation in Europe during the previous year. The plan adopted for subsequent reports concentrates attention on the economic problems in that field and on technical progress achieved.

Production of Electric Power by Nuclear Power Stations

42. The Committee was kept informed of the action taken by the United Nations, by other international bodies and on the initiative of certain countries, in connexion with the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes (EP/Working Paper No. 127).

43. It considered a draft resolution submitted by the Soviet Union delegation concerning the setting up of a working group on the exchange of experience in the construction of nuclear power stations and on the periodical publication by the Committee of a special bulletin devoted to questions relating to the construction of nuclear power stations. It decided to keep the problem of the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes on the agenda for its next session and to defer consideration of the draft resolution till then. At the same time, it expressed the wish to be kept informed of progress made in the conclusion of such agreements between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations as might be of concern or interest to the Committee. It further requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe to convene a special session of the Committee if circumstances so warranted.

Statistics

44. The Working Party on Electric Power Statistics, at its fourth session, reviewed the headings of the

Quarterly and annual bulletins of statistics and adopted a number of measures for standardizing the rules for compiling electric power import and export statistics.

45. After studying the consumption break-downs used in the various countries, it decided to add to the annual bulletin a table distributing electric power consumption under twenty-two headings.

46. On the basis of the work of the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electric Power, the Working Party made a preliminary examination of definitions to be adopted in the electric power field.

Hydro-electric Resources of Europe

47. Work on the determination of the gross hydro-electric potential of Europe was continued during the period.

48. The Committee also pursued the study of the methods of determining exploitable hydro-electric resources with a view to their calculation on a common basis and the collection of annual flow statistics for certain rivers with a view to studying regional simultaneity of dry years and wet years.

49. The Committee further decided to bring to the attention of the International Association of Scientific Hydrology a document dealing with the standardization of hydrological statistics (EP/WP.2/Working Paper No. 4).

Electric Power Situation in Europe

50. The annual report analysing the main factors influencing the electric power situation in Europe during 1956 was examined by the Committee, which decided to issue it for general distribution (E/ECE/302—E/ECE/EP/192).

Exchange of Technical Information

51. Following the Meeting of Specialists to study the prospects of reducing construction costs for hydro-power stations and the effect of mechanization in that connexion, the Committee decided to pursue the study of some of the more specifically economic aspects to which attention had been drawn during the session. For that purpose, a Drafting Committee prepared, in co-operation with the Secretariat, a questionnaire on: banking and surface excavation involving the movement of earth or rock, bulk concreting, and underground excavation, the results of which it was instructed to analyse.

52. A number of preliminary reports were prepared dealing with certain problems upon which exchange of information had been requested and which are to be studied in collaboration with UNPEDE. These are the inter-connected working of large networks, the technical and economic aspects of automation and remote control and the development of power transmission networks.

Relations with other International Bodies

53. In order to prevent any overlapping with other international bodies and to enable their attention to be effectively drawn to certain questions which are submitted to the Committee although not falling within its competence, close contact with such bodies has been established. Initial contact with the International Atomic Energy Agency has also been established. The Committee has also been kept informed of the measures taken by the United Nations to co-ordinate the work concerning hydraulic resources.

Development of Contacts between Countries of Eastern and Western Europe

54. The Committee took note of various resolutions adopted by the Commission at its twelfth session, including resolution 3 (XII), concerning the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe; in pursuance of this resolution, it requested the Secretariat to invite countries participating in the Committee's work to present proposals which might relate, *inter alia*, to the organization of study tours for the Committee or its subsidiary bodies and of contacts on a more restricted geographical basis and the exchange of information.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Housing Committee

Chairman: Mr. Bonnome (France)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Cerverka (Czechoslovakia)
Fourteenth session: 29-31 May 1957
Fifteenth session: 20-22 November 1957

Working Party on Housing and Building Statistics

Chairman: Mr. Anonsen (Norway)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Macovei (Romania)
Eighth session: 27-29 May 1957
Ninth session: 18 and 19 November 1957

Ad hoc Working Party on Problems of Housing Development in Less Industrialized Countries

Chairman: Mr. Paquay (Belgium)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Maksimovic (Yugoslavia)
No meeting held

ACTIVITIES

Economic Aspects of Housing Policy

55. The Committee discussed European housing progress and policies, based on the provisional version of the Secretariat survey of these questions and reviewed especially the level and rate of house-building, its relation to housing requirements, and prospects and perspectives for the future; the movement of rents, buildings prices and costs; manpower changes; and recent changes in housing policy affecting in particular financing, rents, technical questions, 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 formulation of house-building programmes and housing management were

also examined. The provisional report was subsequently reviewed and completed by the Secretariat in the light of the Committee's discussion and issued for general distribution (*European Housing Trends and Policies in 1956*, E/ECE/292, July 1957).

56. The Committee decided that the annual housing surveys should in future follow a more uniform presentation in order to facilitate comparisons with reports on previous years, and adopted an outline for this purpose.

57. The Committee decided to undertake, with the aid of rapporteurs, more detailed inquiries on rural housing and on methods of formulating house-building programmes currently in use.

58. Problems of housing finance were examined by the Committee on the basis of provisional reports prepared by the rapporteurs and the Secretariat. In this connexion the Committee considered economic and financial problems of housing, investment in housing, sources of capital for housing and the financial institutions concerned, and public financial aid. It was agreed that the provisional report should be revised and completed by the Secretariat, with the help of the rapporteurs, for consideration by the Committee at its sixteenth session in June 1958 and prior to the release of the final report for general circulation.

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

59. Work by the Secretariat and rapporteurs continued on the preparation of a comprehensive report on government technical policies with particular reference to reducing the cost of house construction. The purpose of this project is to present a systematic and comparative analysis of measures taken by governments to reduce or limit increases in the cost of house-building and to arrive at conclusions and recommendations.

60. Rapporteurs appointed by the Committee undertook a comprehensive inquiry on the utilization of space in current types of dwellings. The report will present plans of typical dwellings in selected categories recently built in urban and rural areas, together with particulars on standards prescribed for low-cost housing and current regulations or codes governing ceiling heights and certain facilities and equipment.

61. The Committee decided to hold an *ad hoc* meeting to consider what action could be taken by governments to promote and accelerate the practical application of standardization and modular co-ordination with the view to reducing building costs and to examine the impact of these developments on trade in building materials and components. Rapporteurs were appointed to prepare, together with the Secretariat, detailed agenda and arrangements for such an *ad hoc* meeting for consideration by the Committee.

62. The delegates of Sweden and Yugoslavia proposed that the Committee should undertake certain work in the field of town planning and urbanization in relation to house-building costs. The Committee invited rapporteurs from these two countries to prepare specific and detailed proposals for its consideration.

Housing Problems of Less Industrialized Countries

63. Work was undertaken by rapporteurs on two specific questions of practical co-operation between the southern European countries: one concerned the prospects of developing the production of building materials, components and equipment on the basis of a more rational division of labour between the countries concerned; and the other the possibility of developing regional arrangements for the promotion of building research, including the dissemination of up-to-date technical information.

Housing and Building Statistics

64. As a result of progress made in arriving at standard definitions of concepts and terms and in improving the supply of statistical information, the *Quarterly Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe* was issued for the first time on a subject rather than a country basis (Vol. V, No. 2). Bibliographies on studies and on statistical methods relating to housing and building continued to be published from time to time in 1957 as a supplement to the *Quarterly Bulletin*. Final arrangements were made for the first issue of an annual bulletin of housing and building statistics for Europe.

65. The Working Party on Housing and Building Statistics agreed on standard definitions of an additional number of concepts and terms and continued work on others with a view to improving the accuracy and comparability of European housing and building statistics. The Committee's activities in this field are co-ordinated with that of the Conference of European Statisticians and of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

Development of Contacts and Technical Co-operation

66. The Committee discussed ways and means of promoting and facilitating contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe in the light of the Commission's resolution 3 (XII). There was unanimous agreement on the usefulness of group visits as shown by the experience gained in past visits to Switzerland, France, Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria. In view of the growing number of invitations the Committee concluded that annually there should be no more than one comprehensive visit after the spring session and one short concentrated visit after the autumn session. The Committee agreed on a long-term programme of group visits which provides: in 1958 a comprehensive group visit to Czechoslovakia in June and a short concentrated visit to Stuttgart in the autumn; in 1959 a comprehensive group visit to the USSR after the spring session and possibly a short concentrated visit to a town in Italy in the autumn; in 1960 a comprehensive visit to the Scandinavian countries after the spring session; in the spring of 1961 a comprehensive visit to the Federal Republic of Germany; and at a later date a visit to Bulgaria.

67. The Committee endorsed in principle a full documentation programme for a regular distribution of technical literature, bibliographical information and material concerning housing and building worked out specifically at its request by the President of the International Council for Building Research, Studies and Docu-

mentation. It was noted that this work would be carried out on the basis of a non-profit-making but self-financing scheme relying wholly on subscriptions.

68. The Committee discussed ways and means of developing closer working relations with the international non-governmental organizations working or having an interest in the field of housing and building. The value of the Housing Committee's work and publications was stressed by such organizations which participate in the work of the Committee. A number of these organizations undertook to contribute to the work of the Committee.

INDUSTRY AND MATERIALS COMMITTEE

Ad hoc Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering

Chairman: Mr. G. de Sydow (Sweden)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. B. Jicinsky (Czechoslovakia)

No meeting held

Ad hoc Working Party on Agricultural Machinery

Chairman: Mr. R. Schwob (France)

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

No meeting held.

ACTIVITIES

69. During the period under review the Committee itself has not met. In view of the fact that the preparatory work had not progressed sufficiently, no meetings were called of either the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering or the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery.

Contract Practices in Engineering

70. General Conditions for the Supply and Erection of Plant and Machinery for Import and Export, No. 188 A and 574 A, which had previously been adopted by the *Ad hoc* Working Party, were published in July 1957. It will be recalled that the Working Party, after a preliminary discussion on the advisability of drafting general conditions for erection work alone, had requested the Secretariat to submit to the governments, for comment, a preliminary note enumerating the problems and to conduct an inquiry among undertakings engaged in international contracts for erection work. The Secretariat, on 31 July 1957, transmitted this note and began the inquiry. The next session of the *Ad hoc* Working Party will be convened after completion of the inquiry, probably at the beginning of 1959.

Agricultural Machinery

71. In accordance with the decisions of the *Ad hoc* Working Party, inquiries on production of specific types of agricultural machinery—namely, cereal harvesting machinery, soil preparing machinery and agricultural tractors—are being drawn up by rapporteurs from the USSR, France and Czechoslovakia.

72. Documentary information and publications on agricultural machinery supplied by governments were circulated at their request by the Secretariat to participants in the *Ad hoc* Working Party.

Automation

73. Pursuant to the decision taken by the Commission at its eleventh session (E/2868, para. 260) plans were made for a meeting of the two rapporteurs, from the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union respectively, to start work on the preparation of an over-all report on the economic implication of automation at its present stage of development throughout the region covered by the Commission's activities. It is hoped that this report can be circulated towards the end of 1958.

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Inland Transport Committee

Chairman: Mr. K. Vonk (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. Z. Zolcinski (Poland)

Mr. B. Tapernoux (Switzerland)

Seventeenth session: 9-13 December 1957

Sub-Committee on Road Transport

Fifteenth session (special):

Chairman: Mr. C. Mariamé (Belgium)

Sixteenth session:

Chairman: Mr. C. Mariamé (Belgium)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. N. Semikin (USSR)

Fifteenth session: 25-26 April 1957

Sixteenth session: 16-20 September 1957

Sub-Committee on Rail Transport

Chairman: Mr. P. Ionescu (Romania)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Cuttica (Italy)

Eleventh session: 5 and 6 December 1957

Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport

Chairman: Mr. H. Scheffer (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. S. Hlava (Czechoslovakia)

First session: 26-28 August 1957

Working Party on the International Road Transport Regime

Chairman: Mr. C. Tosti (Italy)

Thirteenth session: 7-11 January 1957

Fourteenth session: 14-18 October 1957

Working Party on Transport of Dangerous Goods

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

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Buzzi-Quattrini (Austria)

Sixth session: 14-18 January 1957

Seventh session: 11-14 June 1957

Group of Experts on the Standardization of Policing and Signalling Regulations on Inland Waterways

Chairman: Mr. J. H. Verhey (Central Commission on the Navigation of the Rhine)

Third session: 6-8 February 1957

Fourth session: 21-23 August 1957

Working Party on Legal Questions

Chairman: Mr. A. Buzzi-Quattrini (Austria)

Ad hoc session: 13-15 February 1957

Working Party on the Prevention of Road Traffic Accidents

Chairman: Mrs. R. Liger (France)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Wojciechowski (Poland)
Eighth session: 18-22 February 1957

Group of Customs Experts

Chairman: Mr. A. van Aken (Belgium)
Tenth session: 4-8 March 1957
Eleventh session: 18-22 November 1957

Working Party on River Law

Chairman: Mr. G. de Sydow (Sweden)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. S. Hlava (Czechoslovakia)
First session: 7-15 March 1957
Second session: 28-30 August 1957
Third session: 11-15 November 1957

Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles

Chairman: Mr. G. Pocci (Italy)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. N. Ostrovsky (USSR)
Fifth session: 25-29 March 1957

Working Party on International Passenger Transport Services by Road

Chairman: Mr. J. Cor (France)
Thirteenth session: 29-30 April 1957

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

Chairman: Mr. A. Martin (Switzerland)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. S. Surmak (Poland)
Twelfth session: 3-7 June 1957

Working Party on Tariffs

Chairman: Mr. H. Janssen (Netherlands)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Fiser (Czechoslovakia)
Ninth session: 24-28 June 1957
Tenth session: 4-6 November 1957

Working Party on Experts on Statistical Information

Chairman: Mr. H. Kuiler (Netherlands)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. L. Frey (Switzerland)
Thirteenth session: 5-9 August 1957

Group of Experts on Track Costs

Chairman: Mr. H. Hondemarcq (Belgium)
First session: 9-11 September 1957

Working Party on Main International Traffic Arteries

Chairman: Mr. R. Coquand (France)
Ad hoc session: 12 and 13 September 1957

Group of Experts to Study Certain Technical Railway Questions

Chairmen:
Mr. C. Martin (UIC)
Mr. A. Melnik (USSR)
Second session: 30 September-4 October 1957

Working Party on Costs

Chairman: Mr. A. Brunet (France)
Eighth session: 21-24 October 1957

ACTIVITIES

Road Transport

74. An Agreement on Road Markings has been completed and signed by several governments. The Sub-Committee on Road Transport passed two resolutions, one dealing with provisions to govern night marking of vehicles and the other concerning certain arrangements to be made for traffic light signals. Three new symbols for road signs to be used throughout Europe were approved and the introduction of other new signs is under consideration.

75. An Agreement now being drafted establishes uniform standards of approval for motor-vehicle accessories of specific types and provides for the recognition in one country of approval marks given in another country. Work is proceeding on the standardization of specifications for lights, reflectors and signals on vehicles, and the Sub-Committee on Road Transport has adopted a resolution concerning provisions to govern the braking of motor vehicles.

76. Work on the preparation of certain annexes to the General Agreement of 17 March 1954 on Economic Regulations for International Road Transport and the Set of Rules continues.

77. Applications for licences for regular passenger transport services submitted by the organizations concerned were reviewed by the appropriate working party and two new lines were authorized for 1958.

78. The text of Annex II to the 1950 Declaration defining the characteristics desirable for the main international traffic arteries in relation to the traffic they carry has been revised.

79. In the interests of clarity, the resolution adopted last year recommending all countries to recognize one another's driving licences was amended, and a further resolution recommending uniform principles and methods for the provisional registration of motor-vehicles was adopted.

80. The Committee agreed that periodical meetings of the highway directors of Austria, Greece, Italy, Turkey and Yugoslavia should be held under its auspices in order to discuss ways of improving certain international roads in south-eastern Europe.

Inland Waterways

81. Progress has been made with the preparation of the draft convention on the contract for the carriage of goods and of the draft convention for the unification of certain rules concerning collisions in inland navigation.

82. A resolution on the signalling system on inland waterways has been adopted, and it has been decided to review each year the progress made in implementing it. Work has begun on the signals on craft, the visibility of

lights, the unification of certain rules of the road and of auditory signals and the standardization of identification marks and of ships' papers.

Rail Transport

83. The study of questions concerning the improvement of certain types of rail transport equipment as well as of the causes and prevention of shunting accidents and the standardization of railway equipment continued.

Tariffs

84. A report was drawn up on tariffs for the international transport of goods by road and on the preparation of a draft model tariff for such transport.

Costs

85. Studies have been made on such subjects as traffic peaks, the lifetime of road transport vehicles and their consumption of fuel and lubricants.

Co-ordination of Transport

86. The Committee discussed a study on the extent to which track cost should be taken into account in estimating the economic costs of the various categories of motor-vehicles and inland water craft.

Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

87. A resolution has been adopted defining various types of perishable foodstuffs and the special equipment used for their transport.

88. The effect on perishable foodstuffs carried by road of lengthy frontier checks and the travel ban on Sundays and public holidays has also been dealt with. Ways of standardizing cardboard packaging are under examination. A pamphlet to serve as a manual on refrigerated transport for users and carriers has been published.

Combined Transport Equipment

89. A group of experts is considering what provisions should be adopted concerning the material to be used for making pallets, while another group is comparing the various combined transport methods from the technical and economic points of view.

Transport of Dangerous Goods

90. The European Agreement concerning the International Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road has been completed and signed by Austria, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom.

91. The action to be taken on the Economic and Social Council's resolution 645 G (XXIII) concerning the transport of dangerous goods was discussed by the Committee. It agreed on the importance of maintaining or of bringing about harmony between road and inland water transport regulations in Europe and the relevant annex of the International Convention concerning the Carriage of Goods by Rail, and, in a general way, of harmonizing to

the greatest possible extent the provisions relating to the carriage of dangerous goods by the various means of transport. The Committee expressed its support, in principle, of the system worked out by the United Nations Committee of Experts, noting at the same time that certain questions still gave rise to difficulties.

Statistics

92. The form in which the results of the 1955 census of traffic on main international arteries should be published was agreed upon by the appropriate working party which also recommended that another similar census be held in 1960.

Customs Questions

93. The Committee has thoroughly gone into the way in which the formalities for the temporary importation of vehicles for private use could be simplified and, as a result, several countries have ceased to require any customs document whatsoever. Governments have been requested to consider what measures they could adopt to simplify the present system, including the possibility of adopting the radical solution of dispensing with all documents.

94. The preparation of a final European convention on the TIR carnet system for the international transport of goods by road has reached an advanced stage. Various problems arising out of the provisional application of that system have been settled. Customs problems arising out of the pooling of pallets by railway administrations are being examined.

95. A convention to facilitate the repair of "EUROP" pool wagons has been signed by the representatives of the nine countries whose railway administrations make up the pool.

COMMITTEE ON MANPOWER

96. In April 1948 the Committee on Manpower established a programme of work and agreed that it be taken over by the International Labour Organisation. The Committee remained inoperative between the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Commission. The ILO has kept the Commission regularly informed of its activities in the field of manpower. Accordingly, the International Labour Office transmitted a report on manpower problems in Europe in 1957 to the Commission at its thirteenth session (E/ECE/308).

STEEL COMMITTEE

Steel Committee

Chairman: Mr. van der Rest (Belgium)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. W. Musialek (Poland)
Eighteenth session: 12-14 June 1957
Nineteenth session: 27-29 November 1957

Ad hoc Working Party on the Definition of Iron and Steel Production Capacity

Chairman: Mr. V. Brodsky (USSR)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. L. Gollop (United Kingdom)
Fifth session: 27 November 1957

Working Party on Steel Statistics

Chairman: Mr. E. Ruist (Sweden)

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

Sixth session: 25 and 26 November 1957

ACTIVITIES

Short-term Trends and Problems in the European Steel Industry

97. The Committee held its annual debate on the steel market in the preceding year, based on a review of the provisional version of the annual survey prepared by the Secretariat. The Committee discussed the main features of the steel market in 1956 in eastern and western Europe respectively, including indirect exports, raw materials and trends in the main sectors of demand for steel in 1956. Subsequently, the report was revised by the Secretariat in the light of the Committee's discussion and issued for general circulation (*The European Steel Market in 1956*, E/ECE/STEEL/294, July 1957).

98. The Committee also had a first exchange of views on the main trends in the steel market in 1957 based on a note prepared by the Secretariat for this purpose.

Long-term Trends and Problems in the European Steel Industry

99. The Committee examined the scrap situation and its implications for the long-term policy of the western European steel industry. The final report on railways and steel was issued for general circulation (E/ECE/296, August 1957). The Committee considered the possibility of preparing a report on wire rods and wire, and agreed to take a definite decision after a further attempt is made to obtain the necessary data. The Committee agreed that consumption prospects by sectors of the steel industry, problems arising in the sectors already covered and major problems arising in other sectors of the steel industry should be considered in the annual market reviews; sector reports already completed should be brought up to date within the framework of the long-term inquiry.

100. A comprehensive inquiry on the long-term prospects of the European steel industry was started. This study would comprise two parts. The first would recall developments during recent years; the second would assess probable trends in steel demand and productive capacity in Europe, taking into account also world prospects. The Committee discussed a full outline of Part I and had a preliminary discussion of a brief outline of Part II of the report. With a view to assessing in the long-term inquiry the economic effects of specific technological developments already having taken place or likely to occur in the future, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat should consult with or seek advice from technical experts as necessary.

Technical Co-operation and all-European Contacts

101. A report on "Advances in Steel Technology in 1956" covering the whole of Europe was released for

general circulation (E/ECE/305). It contains signed articles by eminent experts from different countries, together with a bibliography.

102. *A Directory of National Organizations in Europe and the United States of America and International Organizations concerned with Iron and Steel*, prepared by the Secretariat and examined by the Committee, was issued for general circulation.

103. The Committee considered problems of technical co-operation and ways and means of further developing contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe as recommended in the Commission's resolution 3 (XII). It was agreed that technical and scientific institutes in the field of steel should be invited to take steps to increase mutual contacts between all countries taking part in the work of the Committee and to endeavour to bring about the participation of all countries in the congresses and meetings held in different countries from time to time on specific technical problems, an example being the invitation made on behalf of the Belgian and Luxembourg research institutes and the British Iron and Steel Institute to experts from all countries participating in the Steel Committee to attend the meeting to be held in Belgium in June 1958 on a number of specific technical questions in the field of steel. Contacts between the United Kingdom and the USSR delegates with a view to promoting closer relations between the steel research institutes of the two countries were reported.

104. The Committee recommended that efforts should be made to increase reciprocal visits by small groups of steel specialists and that these visits should relate to more specific topics and cover a longer period of time. It was noted that the following were among the exchange of visits which took place or were bilaterally exchanged in 1957: Czechoslovakia-France; France-Poland; Belgium and Luxembourg-Poland; Poland-United States of America; Poland-United Kingdom. The delegate of the United States reported on the discussions which were proceeding with the USSR authorities with a view to arranging an exchange of visits expected to take place in 1958. The delegate of the USSR reported on reciprocal visits which had taken place in the few years between his country and Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The delegate from the Netherlands announced that he would seek to consult with the USSR delegate on the possibility of an exchange of visits.

105. All countries agreed on the usefulness both of short preliminary visits to see what facilities were available in particular countries and follow-up visits by smaller groups of specialists interested in specific questions. It was pointed out that possible visits to steelworks in near-by countries by delegates to the Steel Committee might be particularly valuable to smaller steel-producing countries. The delegate of Czechoslovakia announced that his Government was going to invite participants in the Steel Committee meetings to visit iron and steel enterprises in Czechoslovakia and that his country was also willing to invite separately, if advisable, experts from small countries less developed in the manufacture of iron and steel.

Statistics

106. The *Quarterly Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe* continued to be published regularly. The Working Party on Steel Statistics reviewed and simplified the regular questionnaires. It also considered the question of improvement of statistics on deliveries, stocks and consumption of steel.

Iron and Steel Capacity

107. The *Ad hoc* Working Party on the Definition of Iron and Steel Production Capacity considered the possibility of standardizing methods of calculating blast-furnace and open-hearth furnace capacity on which information on current practices will be collected and detailed proposals examined. The Working Party also started to consider practical methods of defining production capacity of rolling-mills of the simpler type.

Methodology of Manning Tables

108. The Committee examined the possibility of an exchange of information on the methodology used in the staffing of modern steelworks, on the basis of reciprocal exchanges of detailed manning tables. It was agreed that an *ad hoc* group of experts from those countries which had expressed interest in the work, viz: Czechoslovakia, the Eastern Zone of Germany, the USSR and the United Kingdom would meet to work out ways and means and the terms on which information on the methodology of manning tables could be exchanged among themselves. It was also agreed that consideration should be given to exchange information on smaller steelworks so as to enable other countries with no large steelworks but with an interest in the work to participate. Experts from these four countries and from France met early in February 1958. It was agreed that the exchange will be on a confidential and reciprocal basis directly between the central organizations for the iron and steel industry in the countries concerned and that at the present stage the exchange of information should be regarded as an experiment. Agreement was also reached on the types of works on the manning tables on which information would be exchanged and on the questionnaire to be filled out by the works participating in this exercise.

Inter-regional Co-operation

109. Steel experts from the ECAFE region who were taking part in a study tour in Europe attended the Committee's nineteenth session and participated in a discussion on the long-term inquiry, which, *inter alia*, involved questions of long-term consumption prospects and production plans in the Far East (see also para. 171).

TIMBER COMMITTEE

Timber Committee

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

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. J. O. Söderhjelm (Finland)

Mr. J. Knothe (Poland)

Fifteenth session: 15-18 October 1957

Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers

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

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. I. I. Sudnitsin (USSR)

Mr. J. M. Venet (France)

Second session: 9-14 September 1957

Study Group on Working Methods and Performance

Chairman: Mr. H. H. Hilf (Federal Republic of Germany)

No meeting held

Study Group on the Testing of Forest Machinery

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

Second session: 24 and 25 February 1958

Study Group on the Application of Machinery to Forest Work

Chairman: Mr. I. Samset (Norway)

No meeting held

Study Group on Vocational Training and Prevention of Accidents

Chairman: Mr. H. Frølund (Denmark)

No meeting held

Study Group on the Handling and Transport of Timber in Mountainous Regions

Chairman: Mr. H. J. Steinlin (Switzerland)

No meeting held

Study Group on a Multilingual Glossary of Forest Work Science

Chairman: Mr. U. Sundberg (Sweden)

11-14 June 1957

Ad Hoc Working Party on the Testing of Forest Tractors

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

Second session: 26 February-1 March 1958

Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics

Chairman: Mr. J. Keller (Switzerland)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. L. Funiciello (Italy) (Deceased, November 1957)

Mr. F. C. Hummel (United Kingdom)

Mr. V. Popov (USSR)

No meeting held

ACTIVITIES

Market Review

110. At its fifteenth session, the Timber Committee reviewed the course of the European market in sawn softwood, pitprops and pulpwood during 1957 and appraised prospects for 1958. The conclusions of the Committee are given in full in the report of its fifteenth session (E/ECE/TIM/57, paras. 4 and 5).

Trends in the Utilization of Wood and its Products

111. The Committee reviewed the printed final version of the secretariat study on Trends in the Utili-

zation of Wood and its Products in Housing. The discussion revealed a desire to devote increasing attention to the problem of wood utilization, and various proposals were made for intensified international cooperation in this field. These included a proposal by the delegation of the USSR to set up a working group on the utilization of wood and wood waste. The Secretariat stressed that an extension of work could only be achieved if the Committee recommended and the competent organs of the United Nations agreed to make additional facilities available. The Committee requested the Executive Secretary to invite interested member governments to make available experts to consult with the Secretariat in Geneva and to prepare recommendations for submission to the next session of the Committee concerning methods of work, programmes and priorities in the field of wood utilization including wood waste.

112. The Committee recommended in line with earlier decisions that priority be given to a study of trends in wood consumption in packaging, as the next sector study in the series. Such a study would require contacts to be made with various national and international groups interested in packaging which hitherto had not yet established direct contacts with the Timber Committee and its secretariat.

113. The Executive Secretary was asked by the Committee to explore with the Director-General of FAO the advisability of establishing a joint FAO/ECE Working Party on the economic aspects of wood utilization and its trends to report to the Timber Committee of ECE and the European Forestry Commission of FAO in the same way as the joint organs already established. The Executive Secretary is to report to the next session of the Committee on the outcome of the discussions, together with a statement of the financial implications.

Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers

114. The Committee took note of the report on the work of the Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers (TIM/124). This report described the excellent arrangements made for the Joint Committee's second session held in Moscow in September 1957 and followed by a study tour. Certain delegations stated their opinion that meetings arranged in a participating country, combined with a study tour, provide a unique opportunity for effective international collaboration in the technical field. The Committee commended the manner in which the activities of the Joint Committee were organized, and stressed the practical utility of international courses on forest work. In this connexion tribute was paid to the increasing collaboration of ILO with the Joint Committee.

115. Work in this field has since continued in subsidiary bodies and through studies undertaken by experts from various participating countries. As a general rule, meetings of study groups and working party are followed by study tours or practical demonstrations. Thus, after the meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Tractor Testing held in February 1958, delegates saw a demon-

stration of small and medium multi-purpose tractors in one of the Swiss state-owned forests.

Joint Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics

116. The Committee took note of a report on the second session of the Joint Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics (TIM/225). The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the work accomplished and requested the Working Party to complete its mandate. It hoped that the more urgent outstanding problems could be resolved in spite of the limited resources available to the Secretariat which made the holding of the third session of the Working Party in 1958 uncertain.

International Consultation on Insulation Board, Hardboard and Particle Board

117. The Secretariat reported on the International Board Consultation held in Geneva in January 1957, and on subsequent developments. The Committee commended the FAO/ECE secretariat on the organization of this consultation and decided to take up the question of future work in the field at its next session when experts would have studied the published report on the proceedings of the Consultation.

General Conditions of Sale for Timber

118. As not all governments had, at the time of the Committee's 15th session, submitted their reports on the extent to which the general conditions of sale for sawn softwood had been accepted, the Committee deferred a decision concerning the extension of this work to other timber categories to its next session when traders in the various countries will have acquired further experience in this matter.

Timber Bulletin for Europe

119. The Committee was informed by the Secretariat that the changes introduced in the *Timber Bulletin for Europe* had considerably brought forward the publication of the issue of the quarterly statistics. The Committee decided to review the new arrangements for the bulletin at its next session.

A proposal of the USSR under resolution 2 (XII) of the 12th session of ECE

120. The Committee's attention was drawn to the discussions and decisions of the 12th session of the Economic Commission for Europe bearing on the Committee's work (TIM/127). With reference to Commission resolution 2 (XII), the delegation of the Soviet Union introduced a proposal for an all-European agreement on scientific, technical and economic collaboration in the timber industry.

121. A detailed procedure was agreed for further consideration of the proposal which is to be included in the agenda of the 16th session of the Committee. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary circulated the text of this proposal to the governments and invited their comments

thereon. He has likewise circulated a statement indicating to what extent the activities covered by the proposal of the USSR are receiving the attention of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental bodies.

COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT ON TRADE

Committee on the Development of Trade

Chairman: Mr. Ake Malmaeus (Sweden)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Léon Cogan (Romania)

Sixth session: 21-29 October 1957

Consultation on East-West Trade

Fifth session: 24-29 October 1957

Consultation of Financial Experts

Chairman: Baron K. H. von Platen (Sweden)

Fifth session: 25 October 1957

Ad hoc Working Group on Arbitration

Chairman: Mr. J. Trojan (Czechoslovakia)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Trolle (Denmark)

Fourth session: 3-7 June 1957

Working Party on International Fairs

Chairman: Mr. A. Staehelin (Switzerland)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Z. Bantchev (Bulgaria)

No meeting held

ACTIVITIES

Intra-European Trade

(i) *Development of intra-European and, especially, east-west trade*

122. At its sixth session the Committee reviewed the development of intra-European and especially east-west trade during the past year. It was generally recognized that while east-west trade continued to increase, further growth could be attained through positive efforts to promote these exchanges. Some delegations referred to particular trade barriers and other problems or difficulties to be eliminated or overcome.

123. The Committee heard factual statements by the Secretariat on the market situation and outlook with respect to major agricultural products, coal, steel and timber, and considered that it would be useful to receive similar communications at future sessions.

124. The Committee noted that the Secretariat intended to participate in the Colloquium of Jurists on "Legal aspects of trade between planned and free economies" sponsored by UNESCO and the International Association of Legal Science.

(ii) *Improvement in the techniques of intra-European trade*

(a) *Multilateralization of payments*

125. The Secretariat reported on the results of the first two quarterly operations of the multilateral compensation procedures which had been arranged in accordance with the Committee's recommendation and put into

effect as on 30 June 1957.¹ The Committee also gave further consideration to the proposals made by the Government of the United Kingdom for the improvement of payments relations and decided to revert to the question at its next session.

(b) *Consultation of Experts on Multilateral Compensation*

126. A Consultation of Experts on Multilateral Compensation held in conjunction with the Committee's sixth session provided an opportunity for a general review of operations under the procedures established, a consideration of suggestions for technical improvements in these procedures, and an exchange of views on the future organization of the work.

(c) *Trade fairs and technical shows*

127. The Committee decided to reconvene the Working Party on International Fairs to review the recommendations made in 1956 regarding administrative facilities to be granted to international fairs and international technical shows and, more particularly (1) to reduce the divergencies apparent in the replies from the various countries, in order to arrive, if possible, at generally acceptable recommendations; and (2) to lay down criteria for the definition of international technical shows. In the light of the findings of the Working Party, the Committee will at its next session decide whether the Working Party is to be entrusted further with tasks.

(iii) *Arbitration*

128. The Committee examined and took note of the Report of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Arbitration at its fourth session.

(iv) *Standardization of general conditions of sale*

129. The Committee took note of the Secretariat's progress report relating to this matter.

Foreign trade problems of southern European countries

130. The delegates of Yugoslavia, Italy and Greece reviewed the evolution of their trade relations within the group of countries of southern Europe as well as with countries outside the area. They referred to their efforts directed towards the intensification of such trade relationships. The Committee noted these statements and reaffirmed its continued interest in the subject.

Work of other ECE Committees on problems of importance for intra-European trade

131. The Committee noted with satisfaction that ECE committees and other bodies concerned with agriculture, agricultural machinery, coal, housing, steel and timber were devoting due attention to the trade aspects of their particular sectors through market reviews and trade promotion activities. The Committee decided to retain this item on the agenda of its future sessions.

¹ During the first three quarters beginning in July 1957 compensation circuits were arranged amounting to 19.7 million US dollars.

Inter-regional Trade

132. The Committee considered the work of other regional economic commissions in the field of trade and the question of the expansion of inter-regional trade.

Organization, Techniques and Mechanization of Retail and Wholesale Trade

133. The delegation of Czechoslovakia expressed its appreciation for the readiness of the United States Government to assist in obtaining information on this subject and in making arrangements for an exchange of visits. It hoped to be able to avail itself of the facilities offered. The delegation of the United States confirmed its positive attitude towards the matter.

134. Representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce and the International Co-operative Alliance signified their readiness, on request, to furnish assistance and information on the subject which the Committee agreed to retain in its programme of work.

Discussions and Decisions of the Twelfth Session of the Commission bearing on the Work of the Committee

135. With respect to Commission resolution 3 (XII) concerning the development of contracts between countries of eastern and western Europe, several delegates referred to measures taken by their governments to promote east-west commercial visits and contacts.

136. In connexion with relevant discussions at the twelfth session of the Commission and the twenty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council, the Czechoslovak delegation asked that a study be made of the economic consequences of the establishment of the European Economic Community. After the discussion the Committee took note of the Secretariat's intention to prepare, within the framework of the *Annual Economic Survey*, a study of European trade, including east-west trade, which would deal with this question as envisaged in the report of the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-fourth session (A/3613, paras. 159-160). It was understood that in preparing the study envisaged the Secretariat would take into consideration studies made by other United Nations bodies and inter-governmental organizations. As regards information and suggestions that interested governments might find it useful to submit to the Secretariat, it was agreed that these would be summarized by the Secretariat and would be considered by the Committee which would discuss this problem at its next session, unless the Commission decided otherwise.

137. The delegation of the USSR proposed that the Secretariat should include in its Annual Surveys and Quarterly Bulletins analytical investigations on such questions as the system of tariffs applied in European countries, quantitative and other restrictions, etc., with the aim of aiding the participating countries subsequently to draw on the basis of this analysis realistic conclusions concerning these problems which affect the interest of all-European co-operation in the field of trade. After discussion, the Committee took note of the Secretariat's intention to include in its Annual Economic

Surveys and Quarterly Bulletins studies of the possibilities of facilitating European and particularly east-west trade which would take into account, to the extent possible, *inter alia*, the questions mentioned above as well as other relevant problems referred to in the discussion. The Committee requested the Secretariat in making such studies to bear in mind the information which different countries might wish to furnish.

Insurance Matters

138. The Committee requested that the Secretariat explore the improvements which could be brought to the development of intra-European trade as regards insurance and particularly with a view to specifying, in the field of re-insurance and maritime insurance, concrete questions the solution of which, by international action, might usefully be considered by the Committee at its next session.

Consultation on East-West Trade

139. Concurrently with the sixth session of the Committee, the Fifth Consultation of Experts on East-West Trade was held from 24-29 October 1957 along the lines of previous consultations of this kind. A total of some 106 first-round bilateral talks were scheduled and experts had also an opportunity to follow up these initial talks by subsequent conversations arranged on their own initiative.

140. At the close of the Consultation, the Executive Secretary concluded that the bilateral talks had provided an opportunity for discussions of current trading problems and of basic improvements in trade and payments relationships between the countries concerned. In some cases actual agreements were reached and settlements of outstanding issues arranged. The Executive Secretary believed that in the light of these results it would appear advisable to convene a Sixth Consultation in conjunction with the next session of the Committee.

B. Other activities

Conference of European Statisticians

Fifth Plenary Session

Chairman: Sir Harry Campion (United Kingdom)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. P. J. Bjerve (Norway)

Mr. F. Closon (France)

Dr. F. Fajfr (Czechoslovakia)

17-21 June 1957

Group of rapporteurs on the classification of persons by social and economic characteristics

Chairman: Mr. M. Bichler (France)

6-10 May 1957

Group of rapporteurs on capital formation and capital consumption

Chairman: Mr. I. Ohlsson (Sweden)

20-24 May 1957

Working Group on Statistics of Savings

Chairman: Mr. O. Aukrust (Norway)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. E. Bealse (United Kingdom)
11-15 November 1957

Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing

Chairman: Mr. M. Macura (Yugoslavia)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Meli (Switzerland)
9-14 December 1957

Working Group on the Statistical Unit in Economic Statistics

Chairman: Dr. G. Fürst (Federal Republic of Germany)
17-21 February 1958

Working Group on Indicators of Short-term Economic Changes

Chairman: Mr. L. Fastbom (Sweden)

Vice-Chairman: Dr. M. Zdarsky (Czechoslovakia)

141. The fifth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians considered:

(a) The reports of its Working Groups on Censuses of Population and Housing, Agricultural Censuses and Surveys and General Economic Censuses; of an *ad hoc* meeting on data-processing electronic machines; and of groups of rapporteurs on the classification of persons by social economic characteristics and on capital formation and capital consumption;

(b) Reports by national rapporteurs on co-ordination of censuses, statistics of savings, seasonal and similar adjustments, and discrepancies between import and export figures;

(c) Reports by specialized agencies and other international organizations on work done in the field of agricultural statistics, statistics on labour and living conditions, transport statistics and national accounting;

(d) Reports by the Secretariat on other items in the current work programme of the Conference:

(e) A report by the Secretariat on statistical activities carried out under the programmes of the Committee on Agricultural Problems, the Coal Committee, the Committee on Electric Power, the Housing Committee, the Inland Transport Committee, the Steel Committee, the Timber Committee and the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Gas Problems;

(f) A report on the results of a seminar on industrial statistics held in May 1957 in Athens under the Programme of the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations; and

(g) The programme of work.

142. The Conference took note of the reports of its Working Groups and other subsidiary bodies and requested that during 1957-58 further work should be done, *inter alia*, as follows:

(a) The Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing should be reconvened to discuss the questions of the classification of persons by social and economic characteristics and of the definition and measurement of households.

(b) The Working Group on Indicators of Short-Term Economic Changes should be reconvened to consider monthly or quarterly indicators of private consumption expenditure.

(c) An expert group should be convened to consider the question of the statistical unit in economic statistics.

(d) A Working Group on data-processing equipment should be established, to meet either in 1957-58 or later. The Conference also agreed that during 1957-58 a Working Group should be convened to discuss statistics of savings and a group of rapporteurs should be set up to study differences in systems of national accounts (Conf. Eur. Stats/80, para. 103).

143. The Conference took note of the reports submitted by specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned referred to in paragraph 141 (c) above, and made a number of suggestions for the further development of this work (Conf. Eur. Stats/80, paras. 60-77).

144. With regard to the statistical activities carried on by the various ECE Committees, the Conference made a number of specific suggestions which have been drawn to the attention of the Committees and Working Parties concerned (Conf. Eur. Stats/80, paras. 78-93).

145. The Conference also supported a proposal to continue regional statistical seminars referred to in paragraph 141 (f) above and expressed the hope that it would be possible to hold one in 1958 (Conf. Eur. Stats/80, para. 101).

146. The Conference adopted a programme of work which is set out in the report of its fifth plenary session (Conf. Eur. Stats/80, para. 103), and summarized in project 01.1.2. in the Commission's Programme of Work and Priorities (see Part V of this Report).

GAS PROBLEMS IN EUROPE

Ad hoc Working Party on Gas Problems

Chairman: Mr. B. Nilsson (Sweden)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. Riedl (Czechoslovakia)

Third session: 23-25 September 1957.

147. The *Ad hoc* Working Party on Gas Problems set up by the Commission at its eleventh session "to examine those of the economic, statistical and technical aspects of the production, transport and utilization of gas, both natural and manufactured, in respect of which it is considered that useful results could be accomplished by international action", held its third session during the period under review. The report of this session (E/ECE/309) was submitted to the Commission at its thirteenth session.

148. It considered the flexibility of the gas industry from the point of view of both consumer and producer. On the consumer's side the variations in demand due to seasonal fluctuations and temperature variations and means of counteracting them by diversified tariff policies are being studied. In this connexion the practice of charging for gas on a thermal basis is being considered. On the production side the Working Party is studying

means of improving the flexibility of supply, such as the introduction of new flexible units used in conjunction with coke ovens and gas works of the conventional type. Greater use of storage capacity, in particular underground, is also considered by the Working Party.

149. A report on the establishment of estimates for future demand for gas, a subject of great importance to the industry, has been generally released (E/ECE/298); this report compares experience gained in different countries in this field. The study of this subject is being continued.

150. Problems related to production, transport, distribution and utilization of natural gas have been considered by the Working Party and a report on this matter has been generally released (E/ECE/289). At its third session the Working Party concentrated on the problems concerning liquefying, transporting and regasifying natural gas and the possible markets in Europe for liquefied gas are being investigated.

151. The Working Party has drawn up questionnaires dealing with national legislation in connexion with the legal protection for international gas pipelines and the legal aspects of underground storage are also being examined.

152. With reference to the Working Party's decision to exchange information and experience on gas questions in direct contacts between experts, either at the meeting or between them and to encourage reciprocal visits of experts, the Secretariat has wherever possible facilitated such exchanges and this practice will be expanded further.

153. The Secretariat has collected statistics on gas production, availabilities and consumption by consuming groups and on the exchange of gas between countries. These are incorporated in two bulletins for 1955 and 1956 respectively (*Annual Bulletin of Gas Statistics for Europe*, Volume I (1957) and Volume II (1958)).

ENERGY PROBLEMS IN EUROPE

154. In pursuance of Commission resolution 1 (XI) concerning energy problems in Europe, a Special Meeting of Government Experts on Energy Problems was held from 20 to 26 March 1958. The meeting was attended by experts from most of the participating governments and several international organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency.

155. The discussions at the meeting were based on the Study on the Energy Situation in Europe prepared by the Secretariat. The findings of the experts are contained in the report of the Special Meeting (E/ECE/310) which was submitted to the Commission at its thirteenth session for consideration.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROBLEMS IN EUROPE

156. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1 (XII) concerning pollution of waters in Europe, the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with the Secretariats of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization and drawing on the advice of experts, prepared a Study identifying specific water pollution

control problems in Europe. This document (E/ECE-311) together with the Executive Secretary's Progress Report (E/ECE/312) containing proposals on possible programmes of work which might usefully be carried on by the international agencies concerned, were submitted for consideration by the Commission at its thirteenth session (see also paras. 202, 206 and 209).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN EUROPE

157. It will be recalled that the Commission, in resolution 7 (XI) concerning the economic development of southern Europe, *inter alia*, 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 expansion".

158. Two projects carried forward within the purview of the *Committee on Electric Power* are of direct relevance to countries of southern Europe. The first relates to the scheme of exporting electric power from Yugoslavia (YOUGELEXPORT) and the second concerns the Secretariat enquiry into the possibilities of electric power exchanges between the countries of central and south-eastern Europe (see E/ECE/307-C, paras. 3 and 4).

159. The *Housing Committee* has been dealing with the housing problems of less industrialized countries through an *ad hoc* working party and rapporteurs concerned with this subject, focusing attention on (a) the prospects of developing the production of building materials components and equipment on the basis of a more rational division of labour between the countries concerned; and (b) the possibility of furthering building research in that region (see E/ECE/307-D, para. 10).

160. At the seventeenth session of the *Inland Transport Committee* an account was given by the representative of the International Road Federation of a meeting held at Salonica from 15 to 17 November 1957 between the Directors of the Highway Departments of Greece, Italy, Turkey and Yugoslavia to discuss ways of improving certain highways of international importance.

161. It will be recalled that this project on highway development stems from a proposal contained in the Report of the Expert Group on the Economic Development of Southern Europe (E/ECE/233, Add. 1, Chapter 6) submitted to the eleventh session of the Commission. The Committee agreed to the suggestion that other meetings of a similar nature might be held under its auspices. In accordance with this recommendation, the Executive Secretary is co-operating with the countries concerned in preparing for a meeting on highways in south-eastern Europe, scheduled to be held in Istanbul in May 1958, the Turkish Authorities acting as hosts. Representatives of Austria, Greece, Italy, Turkey, the United States of America, Yugoslavia and the International Road Federation have been invited to this meeting (see also para. 80).

162. Problems of the steel industry in southern Europe were discussed at the eighteenth session of the *Steel Committee*. In the course of the discussion it became apparent that the problems raised were essentially those

of a less industrialized country which was considering the setting up of or developing of its steel industry. A number of delegates expressed the willingness of their governments to extend practical co-operation to countries that requested it.

163. The consideration of foreign trade problems of southern European countries was included in the agenda of the sixth session of the *Committee on the Development of Trade*. The statements made by the representatives of the countries concerned on steps being taken towards the development of trade amongst themselves were noted with interest by the Committee and the subject is being retained on the Committee's programme of work (see E/ECE/307-I, para. 10).

164. On the suggestion of the Conference of *European Statisticians* put forward at its fourth session, a seminar on industrial statistics was held in Athens in May 1957 (see para. 141 (f)).

Inter-Regional Co-operation

165. Co-operation between ECE on the one hand and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) on the other has continued in practically all fields within the Commission's purview. At the Secretariat level consultations took place by correspondence and by personal contacts, in particular among the Executive Secretaries of the three regional economic commissions on the occasion of their periodic meetings with the Under-Secretary in charge of economic and social affairs.

Standard Conditions of Sale

166. The ECE Secretariat continued its co-operation with the Secretariat of ECLA concerning the extension to Latin America of the Standard general conditions of sale for certain commodities prepared under the auspices of ECE. The Secretariat of ECAFE also was kept informed of this matter.

Coal

167. The ECE Coal Committee and the ECAFE Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development have kept each other informed of their activities, in particular as regards the development of coal resources and the classification of brown coal and lignites. The Chairman of the ECE Coal Classification Working Party took part, as a member of his country's delegation, in the meeting of ECAFE's Sub-Committee in Calcutta in November 1957 and contributed to its considerations especially in respect of the classification of Asian coals on the basis of ECE's experience in the same field.

Electric Power

168. The ECE Committee on Electric Power and the ECAFE Sub-Committee on Electric Power continued to keep themselves abreast, as in the past, of each other's activities, particularly in respect of the analysis of potential hydro-electric resources which was initiated by ECAFE along the lines developed earlier in ECE. The

Director of the ECE Energy Division visited ECLA at the invitation of its Executive Secretary, for consultations on problems of development of electric power resources of Latin American countries.

Housing

169. The ECE Housing Committee was kept informed regularly of the relevant work of ECAFE and consultations took place at Secretariat level on problems of common interest.

Inland Transport

170. The Secretariat co-operated with the Secretariat of ECAFE on a number of projects relating in particular to rail and road transport as well as the co-ordination of transport and customs problems. Assistance was given by the Secretariat in the selection of consultants for some of the seminars and working parties of the ECAFE Transport Committee as well as in preparation of the various studies carried out by that Committee.

Steel

171. The ECE Steel Committee continued to follow the work of ECLA and ECAFE with regard to steel. The Secretariat co-operated with the Secretariat of ECAFE and UNTAA on arrangements for the Study Tour to Europe of Asian steel experts in iron and steel technology in the autumn of 1957 (see also Part III of this document and E/ECE/307-G, para. 15). Steel experts from Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand who participated in this Study Tour afterwards attended the nineteenth session of the ECE Steel Committee at the latter's invitation. They followed in particular the Committee's consideration of the Long-Term Enquiry into the Prospects of the European Steel Market and informed it of the trends in the steel industry in some of the countries of the ECAFE region.

Timber

172. The ECAFE Secretariat is currently engaged, in collaboration with FAO, on a survey of the region's forest resources and timber requirements, and members of the FAO/ECE Timber Division have made available to the ECAFE Secretariat experience gained in the execution of the earlier and similar European study. A member of the Division visited Bangkok to assist in the planning phases. Arrangements have been made for ECE to render assistance in the preparation of the regional pulp and paper conference which ECAFE is to hold jointly with FAO in 1959.

Trade

173. The ECE Committee on the Development of Trade and the corresponding Committees of ECAFE and ECLA were kept abreast of each other's activities. The Secretariat followed closely the work of ECAFE and ECLA in this field and was assisted by the Secretariat of ECAFE as regards data on trade between Asian and East European countries.

Statistics

174. Consultations took place with the ECAFE Secretariat on questions involved in preparations for the first Conference of Asian Statisticians and for the subsequent arrangements to be made for servicing the Conference which is now established.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

Co-operation with UNTAA

175. During the period under review the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations, through its European Office, continued to inform and to consult the Secretariat along established lines on relevant projects of an economic character included in TAA's programme of work. Arrangements were made by the European Office of the TAA, as appropriate, for TA Experts and Fellows whose tasks relate to projects included in the work programme of the Commission's subsidiary bodies to be briefed by the ECE Secretariat before assuming their duties in the countries of the region. More particularly, the Secretariat co-operated with UNTAA during the period under review on the specific projects mentioned below.

176. In May 1957 a seminar on industrial statistics was held in Athens under the joint auspices of the Government of Greece, the UNTAA and the Conference of European Statisticians, the Greek Government acting as host. The documentation for this seminar was prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the Secretariat, who also provided experts to lead the discussion. The purpose of the seminar was to give an opportunity to statisticians responsible for industrial statistics to consider problems concerning the best methods of implementing in their respective countries the relevant recommendations of international organizations. The seminar was attended by participants from Austria, Greece, Spain and Yugoslavia.

177. The Secretariat assisted the UNTAA and the Secretariat of ECAFE in preparing for and organizing the Study Tour to Europe of experts on iron and steel technology from the ECAFE region which took place in October/November 1957 (see also paras. 109 and 171).

178. Following the relevant decisions of the Committee on Electric Power, the Secretariat co-operated with UNTAA in arrangements for work to be carried out by UNTAA experts on projects of rural electrification and development of hydro-electric resources on the rivers Aliakmon and Strymon in Greece, of rural electrification in Turkey as well as of the feasibility of a submarine cable for transmission of electric energy from Yugoslavia to Italy (the latter resulting from a request originally made by the Co-ordination Committee of YOUNGEXPORT).

179. In connexion with the work of the Housing Committee on problems of housing development in less-industrialized countries the Secretariat was consulted by UNTAA on a number of projects concerning Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia in the field of building research and documentation.

180. The UNTAA/ECE In-Service Training Programme which offers training facilities with the ECE Secretariat to suitably qualified young economists from certain European countries, has been continued. As part of its programme for 1958, fellowships were granted by UNTAA to economists from Finland, Greece, Hungary, Turkey and Yugoslavia. It will be recalled that these Fellows are given opportunities for practical inservice training for one year in the projects included in the current work programme of the Research and Planning Division and, where appropriate, also of the other Divisions of the Secretariat.

Other activities pertaining to Technical Assistance

181. It may be recalled that 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 the other regions, and therefore partake of the character of technical assistance in the broad sense of the term.

182. The Secretariat has kept in touch, as necessary, with the Liaison Office of TAB in Europe and with the TAB Resident Representatives in countries participating in the work of the Commission.

RELATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 10 OF THE COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

183. During the period under review experts from the Eastern Zone of Germany continued to participate in the meetings of the Commission's subsidiary organs in accordance with Article 10 of the Commission's Terms of Reference.

WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT

184. The Secretariat of the Commission, forming an integral part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat of the United Nations, maintained close and regular general liaison with Headquarters and co-operated with the Department on a number of specific projects. It also continued its collaboration with the Secretariats of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the Economic Commission for Latin America as well as with other appropriate units of the United Nations Secretariat (see above, paras. 165-174 and paras. 175-182).

185. In addition to the work described under sections B and C of Part I of this report, the Secretariat during the period under review has taken further action required under resolution 1 (XI) concerning energy problems in Europe and has implemented the decisions of the Commission's twelfth session, as applicable; more particularly it has taken the necessary steps required under resolution 1 (XII) concerning pollution of waters in Europe, 2 (XII) concerning the proposal for an All-European Agreement on Economic Co-operation, 5 (XII) concerning the Commission's programme of work for 1957/1958, 6 (XII) concerning the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Economic Commission for Europe (see paras. 189 and 190 below), and 7 (XII) concerning the granting of equal treatment to the three working languages of the Commission.

186. The Secretariat has serviced the Commission, its committees and their subsidiary organs, as well as other special meetings held under ECE auspices. In so doing, the Secretariat furnished the requisite material, in the form both of routine documentation, reports, and of studies and analyses. 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, housing, steel, timber and transport, was continued. The publication of agricultural statistics of eastern European countries and of gas statistics was begun during the period under review.

187. In its work, the Secretariat was significantly aided by the services rendered by government experts who, as delegates to the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and in many cases as rapporteurs, assumed a major responsibility for carrying out a number of technical investigations. Expert representatives of several inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations have rendered similar services.

188. 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 1958/59 (see Part V of this Report).

Tenth Anniversary of the Founding of the Economic Commission for Europe

189. Pursuant to Commission resolution 6 (XII) concerning the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Secretariat, on 3 July 1957, issued a volume in English under the title *The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe — The First Ten Years* (E/ECE/291).

190. The Executive Secretary has also made arrangements, in co-operation with the Department of Public Information, that the text of DPI's new descriptive pamphlet on ECE be largely drawn from document E/ECE/291 and that the pamphlet's decennial character and designation be suitably emphasized. This pamphlet (entitled *In the Service of Europe — Ten Years of International Co-operation in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe*) has appeared in its original language version and is to be published shortly in the other two working languages of the Commission (Sales No. 58.1.6).

Relations with Specialized Agencies and other Organizations

191. Co-operation of the Commission and its Secretariat with the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, other inter-governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations continued between the twelfth and thirteenth sessions over a wide range of the Commission's activities.

The International Atomic Energy Agency

192. During the period under review working relations were established between the Secretariat and the

staff of the International Atomic Energy Agency in accordance with the Relationship Agreement concluded between the Agency and the United Nations. The IAEA was set up on 29 July 1957 as an agency under the ægis of the United Nations. The Agency was represented at the Special Meeting of Government Experts on Energy Problems in March 1958 (see paras. 154 and 155).

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

(i) International Labour Organisation

193. Co-operation with the ILO on questions of manpower has continued. A Report on Manpower Problems in Europe in 1957 was prepared by the ILO for transmittal to the thirteenth session of the Commission (see E/ECE/308).

194. In the field of timber, co-operation with ILO was further developed, mainly through ILO's association with the work of the FAO/ECE Joint Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers. During the period between the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Commission ILO sponsored 53 fellowships enabling forestry workers from eleven countries to attend courses of instruction and training. This programme is to continue in 1958. The Secretariat worked closely with the ILO on forest accident prevention and forest accident statistics. ILO assisted in organizing an international course for cable operators held in Austria in May-June 1957 (see also para. 113).

195. In the field of industry and materials the Secretariat has kept in touch with the Office regarding ECE's work on the economic implications of automation.

196. The two Secretariats have followed the respective activities of the two organizations in the fields of housing and steel, both at the Committee and Secretariat levels.

197. In the field of transport the ILO was represented at a number of meetings concerned with the drawing up of regulations for the transport of dangerous goods, the prevention of shunting accidents, and the carriage of goods by inland waterways, while the ECE Secretariat followed the work of ILO's Inland Transport Committee.

198. In matters of statistics the Conference of European Statisticians and ILO co-operate on international comparisons of real wages and the study of wages and related elements of labour cost in European industry.

(ii) Food and Agriculture Organization

199. Systematic co-operation with FAO is being maintained principally through the joint FAO/ECE Agriculture and Timber Divisions servicing the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems and the Timber Committee respectively. This arrangement ensures effective co-ordination and prevents duplication of the work undertaken by the two organizations in related fields in Europe.

200. Whilst FAO's European Commission on Agriculture concentrates principally on technological problems, ECE's Committee on Agricultural Problems is concerned in the main with the economic aspects of agriculture. The Committee on Agricultural Problems, at the explicit

request of the European Commission on Agriculture, studied the economic aspects of the trends and outlook of horse breeding in Europe, the purely technical aspects of this question being dealt with by the FAO body. At the twenty-sixth session (June 1957) the Executive Council of FAO "expressed special interest in the proposal that greater attention should be given to the examination, at the regional level, of the outlook for demand, supplies and trade, both overall and by individual products. . . . The Council stressed that where appropriate the co-operation of the Regional Economic Commissions of the United Nations should be sought." The question of the probable development of demand for various agricultural and food products has been included in the current programme of work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems.

201. A similar distribution of functions and assignments exists with regard to inter-governmental co-operation in Europe in matters of forestry and timber. FAO's European Forestry Commission has tended to concentrate on questions such as forest policy, forest management and forest operations, whilst ECE's Timber Committee deals with inter-governmental co-operation in matters which primarily concern forest industries and trade in forest products. Questions closely bearing on both forestry and the timber industry, like forest working techniques as well as forest and forest products statistics, are within the purview of joint FAO/ECE bodies set up for this purpose—i.e., the FAO/ECE Joint Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers and the FAO/ECE Joint Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics.

202. In addition to agriculture and timber FAO has actively co-operated with the ECE Secretariat in preparing a study to identify water pollution control problems in Europe (see also E/ECE/311 and 312).

203. In the field of statistics FAO and the Conference of European Statisticians co-operate on agricultural censuses and surveys, in preparation for the 1960 World Census of Agriculture.

204. The possibilities of ECE's co-operation with FAO on the latter's Study on Forestry and Agricultural Development of the Mediterranean area are being explored in consultation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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

205. The Secretariat participated in the Colloquium of Jurists on "Legal aspects of trade between planned and free economies", sponsored by the International Association of Legal Science in conjunction with UNESCO, held in February 1958, and in the Meeting of Economists on Peaceful Co-operation, held in March 1958. On the invitation of the Conference of European Statisticians UNESCO, in consultation with the Secretariat, is collecting and will disseminate information on national experience of census questions on the level of education.

(iv) *World Health Organization*

206. WHO's Regional Office for Europe worked closely with the Secretariat in the preparation of documentation on the question of water pollution in Europe. The Study on Water Pollution Control Problems in Europe (E/ECE/311) was originally prepared by a WHO Consultant.

207. The Secretariat has continued to keep in touch with the Agency on questions of road accidents to children and on the problem of automation.

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

208. The usual co-operation with the above agencies on matters of research were maintained. Balance of Payments data continued to be regularly furnished by the Fund. The Bank is being kept informed on all projects of economic development arising from the work of the committees which may involve outside financing.

(vi) *World Meteorological Organization*

209. The WMO has followed the work of the Committee on Electric Power on hydroelectric potential and is assisting the Secretariat in an enquiry concerning precipitation data for different countries. The Agency has also taken part in the work by FAO, WHO and ECE on water pollution control problems in Europe.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

210. During the period covered by this Report the Secretariat continued, by means of informal contacts at the working level, to keep itself informed on the activities of a number of intergovernmental bodies outside the United Nations' structure, which operate in Europe in fields within the Commission's purview.

211. The Secretariat has maintained such informal working relations with the staff of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation on agriculture, coal, electric power, gas, general energy questions, steel, timber and trade, as well as general economic research and statistical matters. The Secretariat continued its informal contacts with the European Productivity Agency on matters of common concern, such as agriculture (and more particularly the standardization of perishable foodstuffs), housing, steel and timber. The existing informal working relations were further developed with the Secretariat of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance with respect to agriculture, electric power, trade and payments. With the Secretariat of the Council of Europe the informal exchange of information was continued. Similar inter-Secretariat relations with the staff of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community were carried on along established lines.

212. In the transport field contacts were maintained with the Secretariat of the Danube Commission, located in Budapest, and with the European Conference of Ministers of Transport and its officials. During the period under review informal working relations were also established with the staff of the Organization for the Co-operation of Railway Administrations, located in Warsaw.

213. Several other intergovernmental organizations, such 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, continued their association with ECE's work on a number of questions, particularly in the field of inland transport.

214. Contact on the Secretariat level with ICITO on matters of trade and commercial policy was continued,

including a forthcoming inquiry by the GATT Secretariat regarding certain trends in international trade.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

215. A large number of international non-governmental organizations of all categories continued to co-operate with the Secretariat and the Commission's subsidiary bodies. This co-operation ranged over most of the fields covered by ECE and has proved of great value to its work, particularly with regard to work on projects requiring highly specialized knowledge.

PART II

THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

216. The thirteenth session of the Commission was held from 9 to 24 April 1958. 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, Canada, Cuba, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, United Arab Republic and Uruguay were represented under the provision of paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference. The following international agencies sent representatives: the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the International Monetary Fund. Representatives from the following non-governmental organizations attended the session: International Co-operative Alliance, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Organization of Employers, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Veterans Federation, International Union of Official Travel Organizations and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. A full list of representatives is attached as Annex II to this report.

217. At its first meeting the Commission heard opening statements by the Chairman, Mr. Oskar Lange (Poland), the Executive Secretary,¹ the Under-Secretary in charge of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs² and the Director of the European Office of the United Nations.

218. The Commission re-elected Mr. Oskar Lange (Poland) Chairman, and Mr. Tommaso Notarangeli (Italy) Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

¹ See E/ECE/325.

² See E/ECE/326.

B. Agenda

219. The following provisional agenda was adopted by the Commission (E/ECE/306):

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Work of the Committees of the Commission:

Agricultural Problems
Coal
Electric Power
Housing
Industry and Materials
Inland Transport
Manpower
Steel
Timber
Development of Trade

Reports of the committees on their activities since the closing date of the twelfth session and an additional note thereto by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/307, A-J).

4. Gas Problems in Europe: Report by the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Gas Problems (E/ECE/309).
5. Energy Problems in Europe: Report of the Special Meeting of Government Experts on Energy Problems convened pursuant to Commission resolution 1 (XI) (E/ECE/310).
6. Pollution of Waters in Europe: Study and Progress Report submitted by the Executive Secretary pursuant to Commission resolution 1 (XII) (E/ECE/311; E/ECE/312).
7. Co-operation in the Economic Aspects of the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy: Note by the Executive Secretary pursuant to Commission resolution 4 (XII) on the progress of arrangements between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations in so far as they are of interest and concern to the Commission (E/ECE/313).
8. The granting of equal treatment to the three working languages of the Commission: Note by the Executive Secretary on action taken pursuant to Commission resolution 7 (XII) (E/ECE/314).

9. Other activities of the Commission and its Secretariat: note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/315).
10. Resolutions of concern to the Commission, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions and by the General Assembly at its twelfth session: Note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/16).
11. Review of the Economic Situation in Europe.
12. Programme of Work for 1958/1959 (E/ECE/318).
13. Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Europe to the twenty-sixth session of the Economic and Social Council.
14. Any other business.

220. In connexion with the consideration of the adoption of the agenda, the delegation of Czechoslovakia raised the question of the representation of the German Democratic Republic in the Commission, observing that the continued denial to that country of the right to representation in ECE was hampering the Commission's work. The German Democratic Republic was endowed with the full attributes of state sovereignty and was playing an important role in the economy of the region. The delegations of the Soviet Union, Poland and Yugoslavia associated themselves with the view expressed by the representative of Czechoslovakia, the representative of the Soviet Union pointing out that to continue to ignore the claims of the German Democratic Republic as a sovereign European state to take part in the work of the Commission itself would harm not only international co-operation, but also the Commission's prestige.

221. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany reaffirmed the statement his delegation had made at the twelfth session of the Commission on the subject of the participation of the Eastern Zone of Germany in the Commission's work as reported on pages 4 and 5 of the summary record of the second meeting of that session (E/ECE/SR.12/2).¹ The delegations of France, the United Kingdom and Belgium supported this statement and stressed that during the period under review no changes had intervened in the status of the Eastern Zone of Germany and no new facts had emerged that would warrant either a modification of the views expressed by these delegations at the twelfth session of the Commission or a revision of the decisions taken with regard to the Eastern Zone of Germany's participation in the Commission's work.

222. Following the discussion, it was agreed to have the statements made by the above-mentioned delegations reported in the summary record of the meeting² and included in the present report.

¹ *Editorial note.* — For a summary note of the statement, see the Commission's Annual Report to the Twenty-fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2989, para. 243).

² See E/ECE/SR.13/2.

C. Account of Proceeding : Work of the Committees of the Commission

*General Statements*³

223. Before proceeding to a detailed consideration of the work of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, many delegations availed themselves of the opportunity of making general statements on the work of the Commission as a whole. The statements dealt both with past and current performance as well as with trends of future work. Some of the contributions to this general discussion contained observations on certain items of the agenda which later were examined separately.

224. Common to all contributions under this heading was the recognition of the usefulness to governments of the work of the Commission and its committees, and delegations reaffirmed the resolve of their governments to continue their active and constructive co-operation in the ECE. The significant contribution which the Commission could make to the promotion of peace, co-operation and mutual trust was recognized. Some delegations expressed satisfaction with the development of practical, flexible and workmanlike arrangements, procedures and methods whereby economic, technical and statistical information was being exchanged and contacts, by such means as visits and study tours, organized on an increasing scale between all participants. Some delegations thought that the potentialities of ECE's machinery had not yet been fully utilized and that some of the existing major problems of economic co-operation in the region were not given adequate attention. Others stressed that, in accordance with the injunctions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, care should be taken, in view of the limitation of the resources of the Secretariat and member governments, to concentrate on projects which were of general interest and likely to lead to effective results within a reasonable time.

225. It was appreciated that the Commission could not be a static one and that it would have to tackle new subjects in the light of changing circumstances.

226. Amongst major fields which were mentioned as deserving increasing consideration in the Commission's future work were questions of the development of trade, energy and productivity. Some delegations thought that certain aspects of such work might usefully be taken up by the presently inactive committees on Industry and Materials and Manpower. Several delegations referred to inter-regional co-operation as a subject that was worthy of emphasis.

227. Several specific suggestions were made for new activities. The representative of the Soviet Union stated that at a later stage in the Commission's proceedings his delegation would propose the convening of a conference of Ministers of Trade to discuss the principal problems concerning the development of long-term trade among countries participating in ECE and the development of technical production processes, including the exchange of patents and licences on a commercial

³ See E/ECE/SR.13/2, 4 and 6.

basis. The representative of the Soviet Union also proposed that ECE should devote more attention than hitherto to the consumer goods industry and, in particular, to the newer industries concerned with synthetic materials. These proposals were supported by a number of other delegations.

228. The delegation of Bulgaria declared that it would be desirable to strengthen economic ties between Balkan countries by developing co-operation in the fields of economics, trade, banking, transport and tourism, and hoped that appropriate initial measures would be taken with this end in view.

229. A number of delegations said that in their opinion the Soviet proposals concerning all-European economic co-operation and the utilization of energy resources in Europe, submitted at the eleventh and twelfth sessions of ECE, were of great importance; these delegations expressed their confidence that these proposals might become suitable bases for further development of the work of the Commission with respect to the solution of economic problems of all-European significance.

230. A number of other delegations stated that at a later stage they would indicate their attitude towards some of the proposals put forward. Some delegations agreed that exchanges in the field of the production of consumer goods could be of great value and importance but emphasized that such exchanges could more appropriately be organized on a bilateral basis since those sectors of industry in countries of Western Europe fell into the private rather than the governmental sector.

Committee on Agricultural Problems¹

231. A large number of delegations expressed satisfaction with the report of this Committee and its Working Parties; all emphasized the value of the work being done and promised continued support.

232. The statements on agricultural developments and policies which are made on behalf of the various countries at each session of the Committee were found to be most valuable. The hope was expressed that countries which had reported important policy changes would indicate at subsequent sessions the extent to which these changes had been successful. Several delegations suggested that in its studies the Committee should include an appraisal of the effects of the establishment of the Common Market upon trade in agricultural products in Europe as a whole. One delegation asked that the effects of the establishment of the European Economic Community upon trade in agricultural products in Europe be studied only by the Committee on the Development of Trade. The supply of more complete statistical material from certain countries had greatly assisted the Committee to obtain a correct appreciation of the situation in Europe as a whole, though there was still room for improvement.

233. The work envisaged for the analysis of the factors influencing the demand for agricultural products was given high priority in the statements of a number of delegations, and it was emphasized that the group

responsible for this work should be composed of experts representative of the various economic systems existing in Europe.

234. Appreciation of the results achieved by the Working Parties on standardization of perishable food-stuffs, on the mechanization of agriculture and on the preparation of standard conditions of sale was widely expressed. The suggestion was made that it might be necessary to introduce more flexibility into the questionnaire method of obtaining information, particularly in connexion with the study of problems of mechanization and other technical matters.

235. As on previous occasions, a number of speakers proposed that the work on technical problems of agricultural production be extended, while others pointed out that the Committee's role was more economic than technical. With due regard to these two points of view the Committee should manage to strike a proper balance in its work programme. Some delegations urged that new work be undertaken only as the completion of current tasks permitted.

236. The proposal to take up specific and limited studies in the field of marketing and distribution was welcomed as one deserving attention in the near future.

234. The exchange of films, bibliographies and other documentation had been found to be mutually beneficial and efforts in this direction should be continued.

238. The study visits organized for participants in the sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies were mentioned by many delegations as having been of great value. Several speakers suggested that in future a programme of such visits should be drawn up covering a period of two or three years ahead, that the visits should generally be arranged in conjunction with sessions of the body concerned, but that consideration should also be given to the possibility of organizing more extended visits for small groups of experts interested in particular problems.

239. A number of delegations commented on the need for continued close co-operation with other organizations working on agricultural questions so as to avoid duplication and expressed appreciation of the efforts already made to this end.

Coal Committee²

240. Delegations from the principal coal producing and consuming countries were unanimous in expressing their approval of the constructive and positive achievements of the Coal Committee and its subsidiary bodies. A number of speakers praised the way in which the various tasks of the Committee were being tackled, ranging from coal production problems, international trade and trading methods to the rational utilization and classification of coal.

241. The importance of the work of the Coal Trade Sub-Committee in the present situation of a changing market was underlined and it was pointed out that coal

¹ See E/ECE/SR.13/7.

² See E/ECE/SR.13/4 and 5

would continue to supply the major part of European energy requirements for many years to come. In connexion with marketing problems, delegates stressed their approval of the work that had been initiated on long-term supply and demand problems aimed at the establishment of an over-all balance sheet of the intentions of producers and consumers of coal and the seeking of ways and means of reducing the long-term fuel deficit in Europe, taking into account relative costs of investments and imports. The work that had begun on problems concerning the comparability of investment statistics was welcomed, and the representative of Poland hoped that it would be followed by studies relating to the financing of investments. Some delegates pointed out that there were considerable untapped reserves of coal in many parts of Europe that could be economically worked, and believed that the Committee should consider the matter.

242. Particular emphasis was laid by most delegates who took the floor on the work on coal production problems and on the exchange of technical information as well as on the development of contacts, including study tours, between experts from the different countries on a reciprocal basis. It was noted that an increase in visits fostered by the Committee was taking place, and in welcoming this development delegates stressed the value of such contacts. The USSR delegation proposed the examination of a number of projects with regard to increasing the exchange of information on technical and economic achievements in the coal industry, organizing annual international exhibitions of mining machinery, equipment and accessories, arranging for experts in coal undertakings to spend training periods in each other's countries. The flexible procedure unanimously adopted by the Committee for examining the projects was noted with approval.

*Committee on Electric Power*¹

243. The delegations which took part in the discussion on the report of the Committee on Electric Power were unanimous in stating that the work being done in that committee and its subsidiary bodies made an effective contribution towards the solution of Europe's electric power problems.

244. In that connexion, particular reference was made to the value of the reports prepared by the Working Party for the Study of Rural Electrification, the work on the development of electric power exchanges across frontiers, and the work of the Group of Experts for the Study of Hydro-electric Resources in Europe.

245. Favourable comment was also passed on the annual and quarterly bulletins containing statistical information on all the countries participating in the work of the Commission and the annual report on the electric power situation in Europe.

246. A number of countries made proposals and suggestions regarding the Committee's future work. These dealt with the following subjects:

Study of the advisability of constructing a European interconnexion network to facilitate international exchanges of electric power;

Study of the advisability of strengthening the links between national grids for the same purpose;

Increasing the value of the statistical bulletins by the addition of certain special data;

Establishment of a working party to study matters relating to the integration of nuclear power stations in the electric power production system.

A number of delegations reserved their positions with regard to the proposal to establish a working party on nuclear power stations, since they considered this would be more appropriately discussed in relation to item 7 of the agenda, on the economic aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

247. Several delegations expressed the wish that the Committee take an active part in studying and giving effect to the recommendations of the Special Meeting of Government Experts on European Energy Problems falling within its terms of reference, and stressed that this would raise the level of its activity and broaden business-like co-operation among the countries of Europe in energy matters.

248. The Secretariat announced that it would draw the Committee's attention to the observations contained in paras. 4 and 5 above in connexion with the Committee's discussion of its programme of work at its sixteenth session.

249. It was generally recognized that exchanges of technical information, such as that carried out with regard to the reduction of the construction costs of hydro-electric power plants, were of widespread interest. However, some delegations pointed out that before undertaking such an exchange of information, the Committee should make sure that the work was not already being done by some other international body.

250. The delegations of the Ukrainian and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republics announced that their countries would in future take part in the work of the Committee on Electric Power.

*Housing Committee*²

251. A considerable number of delegations expressed their appreciation of the constructive and practical work carried out by this committee. General satisfaction was also expressed with its working procedures involving the growing use of expert rapporteurs made available by governments and increasingly closer working relations with a large number of other international organizations having an interest in various specialized aspects of housing. It was felt that such procedures enabled the Committee to provide a useful focal point and co-ordinating facilities for these organizations.

252. The comprehensive work on housing finance which it was noted would shortly be completed was singled out as a substantial contribution to the solution

¹ See E/ECE/SR.13/7 and 8.

² E/ECE/SR.13/3.

of problems of immediate concern to governments. Some delegations requested the Secretariat to be particularly careful when drawing conclusions from this work which might affect the wider economic and social policies of governments.

253. The considerable advance made in the field of statistics, including the issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics*, which were now appearing on a subject rather than a country basis, were considered by several delegations as being fundamental to the Committee's work of economic analysis and reporting. The financial implications of printing an Annual Statistical Bulletin, which was being prepared for the first time (at an estimated yearly cost of \$2,000), were also noted. The delegate of Belgium suggested that the Committee's Statistical Working Party should focus its attention on housing rather than building statistics. The delegate of Sweden thought that there were practical limits to attempting to arrive at standard definitions of statistical concepts in the field of housing and that in the future more attention might be paid to developing and improving national statistics which would also be useful for international studies.

254. Several delegations expressed the wish that the Committee's work on technical policies of governments in relation to the industrialization of house-building and with particular emphasis on reducing the cost of building should now be given priority. There was general agreement on the importance of the Committee's work on standardization and modular co-ordination. As to the Committee's decision to hold a meeting on this question, as recorded in the report of its fifteenth session, two delegations thought that such a meeting should not be held until the work of the European Productivity Agency on modular co-ordination had been completed.

255. The establishment by the Committee of a longer-term programme of group visits was welcomed by many delegations as facilitating advance planning and wider participation which would make such sharing of experience and information on the spot more useful in the future. The work of the International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation (CIB), which it was recalled was established following preparatory work and recommendations by the Committee, received favourable comment for providing facilities for technical co-operation, the dissemination of technical and scientific documentation and other forms of all-European contacts in this field.

*Industry and Materials Committee*¹

256. The discussion was based on the report on the Industry and Materials Committee (E/ECE/307-E) and on part I of the Additional Note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/307-J). It was noted that neither the Committee nor its subsidiary bodies had met during the year under review, but that preparatory work had been done with a view to the possible drafting of general

conditions for the erection of machinery, for consideration by the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering; on specific types of agricultural machinery, for consideration by the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery; and on the economic implications of automation, with a view to preparing the over-all report required on the subject.

257. Delegates from a number of countries considered that in addition to pressing on with work already in hand, the time had come to tackle new questions. The delegation of the USSR, supported by some other countries, suggested that attention should be devoted to problems involved in increasing production and trade and in exchanging economic and technical information on light industries, including textiles, footwear, food and household goods. The Romanian delegation proposed that an enquiry should be made into trends in the plastics industry, with a view in the first instance to establishing the possible scope for an exchange of technical and economic information on the manufacture and use of plastics and the expansion of trade. Other delegations drew attention to the growing importance of synthetic materials, including textile fibres, and the implications of this for the work of the Committee. The Bulgarian delegation proposed that the Committee should examine problems of increasing labour productivity, in the light of technical developments, and in particular the possibility of organizing a regular exchange of information between organizations in different parts of Europe concerned with studying and promoting the growth of productivity.

258. A number of delegations noted with regret that the Industry and Materials Committee, notwithstanding the big tasks which it is called upon to solve, did not find it possible to convene in plenary session. These delegations expressed the hope that this committee would be convened in the near future.

259. Other delegations drew attention to the criteria which should govern work under the aegis of the Industry and Materials Committee, as agreed by the Commission at its eleventh session, and to the decision that such work should normally be handled by *ad hoc* working parties and/or studies rather than by plenary meetings of the Committee (E/2868, paragraphs 259-261). They pointed out that the results of work done in the Committee's field of competence since this decision had been somewhat meagre, and suggested that in their view it was preferable not to undertake new work until the results of the work already in hand could be evaluated. These delegations also drew attention to a further difficulty in connexion with some of the proposals for new work which had been made—i.e., that the industries concerned were almost entirely in private hands in western Europe, and highly competitive in nature. Accordingly, it was not reasonable to expect these industries to provide the detailed information without which work of the kind suggested could hardly be done. There was indeed scope for exchanging technical information relating to these industries, but this would have to be done on a commercial basis and arranged directly with the industries concerned.

¹ See E/ECE/SR.13/3 and 4.

*Inland Transport Committee*¹

260. All delegates who took the floor expressed their appreciation of the Inland Transport Committee's work which continued to concentrate on the solution of problems of a concrete nature. Particular stress was laid on the importance of the conventions signed in 1957 and the adoption of certain resolutions—especially that concerning the abolition of customs documents for the temporary importation of private motor vehicles. Several delegations expressed the hope that such customs documents would generally be abolished. The importance of the work done by the Sub-Committee on Inland Waterways and especially that concerning the standardization of signalling systems and the preparation of certain conventions was also emphasized. Special mention was made of the studies on the transport of perishable foodstuffs, dangerous goods, road safety, statistics, and the technical studies undertaken by the Sub-Committees on Rail Transport and Inland Waterways respectively. The increasing participation of countries which had not hitherto taken part in some of the Committee's activities and the exchange of various technical, statistical and economic information were welcomed by a number of delegates. It was hoped that such exchange would assume growing importance and that a greater number of study tours by experts to various countries could be arranged.

261. Certain delegates were of the opinion that the Committee's studies on co-ordination should be resumed. In this connexion it was stated that it would be regrettable if the various countries adopted unilaterally co-ordination measures which it would subsequently be difficult to harmonize internationally. It was also stated that studies on costs should be given second priority.

262. Regret was expressed that no progress had so far been made in the solution of the problem of the rational routing of traffic and that no more tangible results had been obtained as regards international tariffs of a new character. Attention was drawn also to the necessity of arriving at an agreement on the problem of maximum weights and dimensions of road vehicles. It was suggested that the studies of road traffic regulations should be carried out in a more systematic way. The necessity was stressed of bringing up to date the customs system for international road transport of goods known under the name of TIR carnet.

263. Some delegates requested that more attention should be paid to certain technical problems, such as the mechanization of loading and unloading operations in inland waterway and road transport, the study of the various systems of traction from the energy standpoint and the unification of certain railway regulations. The Soviet Union delegation recommended that the Committee should pay greater attention in its work to questions of rail transport, and particularly such matters as the efficiency of the various modes of rail traction depending on the energy resources of the country concerned, the possibility of unifying the various railways agreements and the establishment of uniform rules governing inter-

national rail transport, the most up-to-date methods for the prevention of transport accidents, etc. It was also suggested that a uniform consignment note should be established for traffic originating in western Europe and destined for certain countries of eastern Europe and Asia and vice versa and that the Inland Transport Committee should work in co-operation with the Electric Power Committee for the establishment of a common system of inland waterway transport for European States.

264. With regard to transport of dangerous goods, it was stated that efforts should be made not only to adjust the rail and road agreements to technical developments but also to maintain harmony wherever possible in their provisions. One delegation expressed the opinion that, once the work of the United Nations Committee of Experts in this field is completed, the agreement concluded under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe should be replaced by a new world-wide agreement on the subject.

*Manpower Committee*²

265. The consideration of the situation of the Committee was based on Part II of the Additional Note by the Executive Secretary to the reports of the committees (E/ECE/307-J). The Executive Secretary, in introducing this matter, explained that during the past year the Committee on Manpower had remained inoperative in view of the arrangement whereby its programme had been taken over by ILO. That body had continued to give unfailing and invaluable co-operation in the Secretariat's research work on certain aspects of the manpower problem in Europe. He also welcomed the submission by the ILO of its customary report on manpower problems in Europe during the period under review.

266. The representative of the ILO commended the Secretariat's study of employment in countries of eastern Europe and the Soviet Union which formed part of the *Economic Survey of Europe in 1957*. Speaking in connexion with the document submitted by his organization the representative of ILO stated that ILO's joint programme with ECE for the training of vocational training instructors for the countries of southern Europe had been completed, but that ILO would be interested in further collaboration of ECE in this field provided funds could be made available. He also hoped that it would be possible for ILO to continue collaboration with ECE and FAO in the scheme for the vocational training of forestry workers.

267. Commenting on the statement by the representative of the World Federation of Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in category A, on the matter under consideration (see also paragraph 365), the representative of the USSR, while agreeing that the various committees of the Commission should devote due attention to problems of labour productivity, wondered whether in view of the seriousness of the current employment situation, certain problems should not be entrusted to the Committee on Manpower in the event of this body being reactivated.

¹ See E/ECE/SR.13/2 and 3.

² See E/ECE/SR.13/6.

Steel Committee¹

268. A large number of delegations both from steel-producing and importing countries were unanimous in expressing their governments' appreciation of the constructive and practical work carried out by the Steel Committee and the business-like methods employed which were conducive to all-European co-operation in this field.

269. The value of the Steel Market Annual Review as an objective and searching report, dealing with Europe as a whole, to governments and the industry was stressed, this being considered the principal task each year of the Committee. The trilingual edition for the first time and in a new form of the *Quarterly Bulletin of Steel Statistics* was welcomed as a unique source of information made possible after a considerable improvement in the comparability, coverage and availability of steel statistics.

270. Commenting on the Committee's programme of work, several delegates stressed the importance of the comprehensive inquiry already initiated on the long-term trends and problems of the European steel industry. It was noted that the primary objectives of this report were to try to assess on a scientific basis the likely shape and course of the European steel industry in the years to come in order to consider how best Europe might adapt itself to the probable long-term changes in the world steel market, including measures of inter-European and inter-regional co-operation. The report would also indicate what might be the main tasks of the Committee in the coming years. Some delegations suggested points which might be examined within the framework of this inquiry.

271. In view of the difficulty of obtaining sufficient information on wire products, several delegations expressed the view that this inquiry might be discontinued. Some delegations expressed doubt on the practical value of attempting to define rolling-mill capacity and to standardize general conditions for the import and export of steel products and ores.

272. The steady development of technical co-operation and all-European contacts on iron and steel, which was facilitated by the Committee, was welcomed by all speakers who participated in the discussion. Appreciation was expressed of the invitation made on behalf of the Belgian, British and Luxembourg Iron and Steel Research Institutes to experts from all countries participating in the Steel Committee to attend a meeting to be held in Belgium in June 1958 on a number of specific technical questions. Attention was also drawn to an exchange of visits of steel experts being arranged this year between the USA and the USSR and a return visit to the United Kingdom of steel experts from Poland in May 1958. There was general agreement that such contacts and technical co-operation should continue to be promoted.

Timber Committee²

273. All delegates who spoke on the report of the Timber Committee paid tribute to the contribution of

this body to the development of the timber economy in Europe, covering the utilization of timber resources, the development of the timber industry and trade, and market stability.

274. Several representatives spoke favourably concerning the value of the continuing study by the Committee of the timber market situation. The studies on the hardwood market and on the raw materials used for wood-pulp manufacture were commended. Regarding the quarterly *Timber Bulletin for Europe*, a number of delegations expressed satisfaction with the measures taken to minimize delays in publication and to provide current market information on a quarterly basis. It was felt that this publication provides a service which is of great interest and value to forest industries and the timber trade.

275. Most delegates expressed satisfaction with the work being carried out in the field of forest work rationalization and training of forest workers, such as logging techniques in mountainous areas, the testing of forest tractors and the ILO fellowship scheme for forest personnel. The recent session of the Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and the Training of Forest Workers, held in Moscow in September 1957, had proved to be most useful, particularly since it was linked with study trips and demonstrations.

276. Several delegates spoke in favour of studies on the more rational utilization of wood. Special interest was evinced in the subject of utilization of wood waste and problems of the processing industries. The idea of a Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on the Economic Aspects of Wood Utilization and its Trends received the support of some delegations.

277. The studies on trends in wood utilization, in particular the recently published *Trends in the Utilization of Wood and its Products in Housing*, were deemed to be of general interest. It was hoped by some delegates that a similar study on packaging could be completed at an early date.

278. Several delegates stressed the value of study tours, demonstrations and courses in the field of forest industries, and expressed the hope that the Timber Committee would pay particular attention to this question in the future.

279. The work of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Products Statistics was commended.

280. Regret was expressed that the final report of the FAO/ECE International Consultation on Insulation Board, Hardboard and Particle Board, held in Geneva in January 1957, was not yet available. The work of this meeting was regarded by several delegations as of great interest and importance.

281. Some delegates spoke in favour of extending the work on the standardization of the conditions of sale of timber to hardwoods and to wood-pulp, but others believed that this activity might be given non-priority classification or even eliminated from the work programme.

¹ See E/ECE/SR.13/6.

² See E/ECE/SR.13/5.

282. With regard to the proposal of the USSR submitted in accordance with Commission resolution 2 (XII) concerning a draft all-European agreement on scientific, technical and economic collaboration in the field of logging and woodworking is to be examined at the next session of the Committee, several delegations expressed the opinion that its implementation would promote systematic international co-operation in this field and would provide a sound basis for continuity in the work programme of the Timber Committee. Others, however, whilst sympathetic to some aspects of the programme contained in the proposal of the USSR, considered that its aims could be achieved without the conclusion of a formal general agreement. These delegations also pointed out in this connexion that duplication of work with other inter-governmental organizations should be avoided.

283. Some delegations felt that the Committee's programme of work was too extensive in relation to its means. Several representatives stressed the necessity for the Committee at its next session to devote sufficient time to a systematic review of its programme of work in the light of the resources of the Secretariat and the possibilities of participating countries.

284. One delegation suggested that in programme planning, priority should be given to those projects which are of the greatest practical value and widest interest, and where results could be achieved within a reasonable time.

*Committee on the Development of Trade*¹

285. The importance of the work of the Committee on the Development of Trade was emphasized particularly in the light of recent developments in the European economy and the slackening in the growth of intra-European trade. The delegates of certain countries referred to the increases which had taken place during the past year in their east-west trade. Other delegates stated that the rate of increase in their trade which had taken place during the past years had recently been reduced.

286. The delegate of the USSR recalled the proposals introduced by his delegation at the Commission's twelfth session regarding the application of the most-favoured-nation system, the development of trade on a long-term basis, the extension of insurance for goods moving in foreign trade, the utilization and development of foreign-trade transport, etc., and also regarding the reduction of customs duties, the abolition of import quotas and other quantitative restrictions and the removal of prohibitions and restrictions of a non-economic nature. In his opinion, the level of the Committee's activity should be substantially raised, and there should be a Division on Trade in the Commission's Secretariat. He said that Commission resolution 2 (XII) and the constructive proposals discussed at the twelfth session should be put into effect. He urged that the Committee should pursue more actively its efforts to eliminate obstacles to trade

and that the level and intensity of the work should be increased. This viewpoint was supported by the delegate of Czechoslovakia who also emphasized the importance of long-term agreements as "built-in-stabilizers" for trade. The delegations of Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland suggested that the Committee at its next session could prepare the work of an eventual Conference of Ministers to deal with trade questions, a conference which had been proposed by the delegation of the USSR (see paragraphs 349-357). The delegate of the United Kingdom expressed the view that while the Committee might explore the question of reducing trade restrictions there would seem to be little hope of results unless the countries of eastern Europe could offer on a reciprocal basis an adequate counterpart to tariff reductions and the elimination of quantitative restrictions.

287. Regarding the discussion envisaged by the Committee for its next session, on the economic consequences of the formation by the European Economic Community, delegates of countries participating in that community emphasized the fact that they were conscious of its economic importance not only for themselves but also for other countries. They appreciated the concern which other countries might have, and welcomed the opportunity at the next session of the Committee to consider this question.

288. The delegate of France, supported by delegates of other countries, proposed that the Committee should also study the effects upon European trade, in particular on east-west trade, of other efforts to achieve economic integration on a sub-regional basis in Europe. The representative of the United States supported the view that the Common Market will lead to expanded world trade and said that the GATT is the most appropriate institution in which to consider the trade interests of third countries. A number of delegations, however, referring to the views they had expressed on the question of the Common Market at the previous session of the Commission, emphasized that they consider, as they did before, that the creation of a Common Market would have harmful effects upon the development of intra-European trade and in particular upon trade between east and west. The delegate of France, having requested that his proposal should be presented in the Commission's Report as a decision of the Commission, the Chairman noted that no objection had been raised to the request made by the delegate of France. Subsequently, during the discussion of the present report, several delegates stated that they did not agree that any decision had been taken by the Commission except the decision to include the French proposal in the Commission's Report, and they wished to reserve their position regarding the French proposal.

289. The delegate of Romania proposed an analysis of trade trends on the basis of a long-term perspective and the possibility of closer ties between Balkan countries, and the delegate of Yugoslavia favoured a study of agricultural protectionism and its effect on trade of countries in south-eastern Europe in particular.

¹ See E/ECE/SR.13/8, 9 and 20; see also part III, Commission Resolution 12 (XIII).

(a) *Automation*

290. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission about progress on and arrangements concerning the preparation of an over-all report on the economic implications of automation.

(b) *Committee on Manpower*

291. The Commission noted that this section of the Additional Note had already been dealt with in another context under item 3 of the agenda (see paras. 265-267)

(c) *Action taken pursuant to Commission resolution 2 (XII) concerning the proposal for an All-European Agreement on Economic Co-operation*

292. The Executive Secretary said that two proposals had been submitted to him under resolution 2 (XII) for transmission to the Coal Committee and the Timber Committee respectively where they were now under consideration.

293. After a brief discussion, the delegations of Czechoslovakia and Belgium submitted a draft resolution concerning the application of Commission resolution 2 (XII). This draft resolution was adopted unanimously. (For full text of this resolution see part III of the Report.)

294. After the vote was taken, the representative of the USSR made a statement in which he referred to his Government's proposals submitted at the twelfth session of the Commission; he said that the resolution just adopted, which represented a further development of 2 (XII), confirmed that the Commission's subsidiary bodies could successfully study and elaborate the constructive proposals concerning regional economic co-operation put forward by the Soviet Union.

(d) *Economic development of southern Europe*

295. The Executive Secretary said that that section summarized, for easy reference, the action taken by the committees and the secretariat pursuant to Commission resolution 7 (XI) concerning the economic development of southern Europe.

RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION

296. In connexion with the consideration of the work of the committees of the Commission, the following draft resolutions were adopted:

(a) *Resolution concerning economic, technical and scientific documentation*²

297. The delegations of Greece and Romania submitted a draft resolution on economic, technical and scientific documentation. This draft resolution was adopted unanimously. (For text of this resolution see Part III of the Report.)

¹ See E/ECE/SR.13/11 and 17.

² See E/ECE/SR.13/17.

(b) *Resolution concerning the further development of contacts*³

298. The delegations of the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution concerning the further development of contacts. This draft resolution was adopted unanimously. (For text of this resolution see part III of the Report.)

(c) *Resolution concerning plastics and artificial and synthetic fibres*⁴

299. The delegations of Czechoslovakia and Romania submitted a draft resolution concerning plastics and artificial and synthetic fibres. The draft resolution was adopted by thirteen votes in favour, with none against, and fourteen abstentions. (For text of this resolution see part III of the Report.)

300. The Executive Secretary stated that the Secretariat would be able to undertake the study requested by the Commission only if and when:

- (1) sufficient information is received from the participating governments; and
- (2) adequate assistance is given to the Secretariat by expert rapporteurs put at its disposal by governments.

He added that such a study would, of course, have to be undertaken with due regard to the other commitments of the Secretariat arising from the existing work programme of the Commission.

301. The delegate of the United Kingdom, explaining the reasons which prompted his delegation to abstain on the vote on this resolution, stated that on an earlier occasion the United Kingdom delegate had pointed out the practical obstacles to undertaking such work in view of the fact that, for the most part, manufacturing industry in the west is in private hands and highly competitive both domestically and internationally and, consequently, it would be unrealistic to expect that western manufacturers would be prepared to divulge information of practical value to a governmental body. Therefore, the study contemplated was, in his view, neither practical nor realizable.

302. The delegate of the United States of America explained that he abstained from voting on this resolution for the reasons put forward by the delegate of the United Kingdom.

(d) *Resolution concerning productivity of labour*⁴

303. The delegation of Bulgaria submitted a draft resolution concerning productivity of labour.

304. Before this draft resolution was voted on as a whole, the delegation of the United States of America proposed two amendments to the effect that the first operative paragraph read as follows:

"Consult, as he deems appropriate [first amendment] the specialized agencies of the United Nations and

³ See E/ECE/SR. 13/17.

⁴ See E/ECE/SR. 13/18.

other organizations, national and international..." [second amendment].

The first amendment was accepted by eighteen votes in favour, with none against and nine abstentions; the second amendment was accepted by seventeen votes in favour, with none against and eleven abstentions.

305. The draft resolution as amended was adopted unanimously. (For text of this resolution see Part III of the Report.)

GAS PROBLEMS IN EUROPE (E/ECE/309)¹ (item 4 of the agenda)

306. The delegations that participated in the discussion of the Report of the *Ad hoc* Working Party were unanimous as to the value and interest of the work being undertaken. There was full agreement that its activities should be continued. Representatives pointed out that the task of the *Ad hoc* Working Party had been greatly facilitated by the spirit of harmony and collaboration shown by all participants and that, furthermore, this had led to the development of the contacts between experts of the various countries and to exchanges of information and visits which had directly helped in the solution of economic and technical problems.

307. Commenting on the work in hand, all the speakers who took the floor emphasized the importance to the harmonious development of production and demand of the work, on the improvement of the flexibility of the gas industry, and on methods of forecasting gas demand. In this connexion the very rapid development in the production and use of natural gas in many parts of Europe was emphasized. The representative of the USSR gave details of developments in his country.

308. Delegates also expressed their interest in the work on the liquefaction, transport and re-gasification of natural gas, which is a subject of increasing importance to a number of countries. The decision of the *Ad hoc* Working Party to study the legal protection and safety regulations of international gas pipelines was also commended. A number of speakers were of the opinion that more emphasis should be given to economic problems than to those of a strictly technical character. It was recognized that studious care had been taken to avoid duplication of effort with other international bodies concerned with technical problems. One delegation stressed the value of also studying the use of gas for chemical purposes. The publication of an annual bulletin containing statistical data covering all countries participating in the Commission's work was commended. A number of projects for inclusion in the work programme were proposed; it was understood that these would be brought to the attention of the *Ad hoc* Working Party at its next session.

ENERGY PROBLEMS IN EUROPE (E/ECE/310)² (item 5 of the agenda)

309. During the discussions on the Report of the Special Meeting of Government Experts on Energy

Problems, some delegations stressed the importance of the studies proposed in that field by the Special Meeting.

310. Others, on the contrary, expressed doubt as to the usefulness of undertaking such studies as a joint venture, pointing out that the coverage of energy needs largely depended upon national economic policies. One delegation stated that there were greater gaps in the data which were submitted than was reflected in the report. Another delegation stressed the difficulty in finding general solutions in a field where each country was faced with its own peculiar problems.

311. Certain delegations emphasized the importance of close collaboration between all European countries in the energy field. They recalled the specific projects in that connexion suggested by the Special Meeting—namely, the possibilities:

- of exporting coal and electric power from Poland;
- of exporting coal from the Soviet Union and of that country's participation in the construction in other countries of thermal power stations to use such coal;
- of exporting electric power generated in thermal power stations fired with Yugoslav brown coal;
- of multi-purpose development of the Danube and, more particularly, of the hydro-electric development of that river;
- of exporting petroleum and petroleum products from the Soviet Union and of that country's participation in the building of pipelines to other countries;
- of importing liquefied gas.

312. A delegation stated that it was difficult to decide on the relative value of the various projects mentioned in the Report.

313. Some delegations, such as those of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the USSR, were in favour of convening such special meetings of experts in the field of energy periodically. Other delegations, among them those of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, were opposed to such a procedure. The French delegation, for its part, proposed deferring any such meeting pending a decision at a later session of the Commission.

314. The delegations of Czechoslovakia and Hungary proposed instructing the Secretariat to draw up an annual European energy balance-sheet.

315. Some delegations urged the impossibility of discussing energy problems without reference to the impact upon them of nuclear energy. Others emphasized that care should be taken to avoid duplication with international organizations already concerned with nuclear energy, and referred in this connexion to item 7 of the agenda on the economic aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

316. One delegation emphasized that European self-sufficiency in energy supplies was not an end in itself; many western countries found it to be economical to import some of their supplies from overseas. Others stressed that there were considerable untapped sources of energy in Europe, and expressed a desire to see them studied and exploited by a common European effort.

¹ See E/ECE/SR.13/8.

² See E/ECE/SR.13/10 and 17.

They emphasized that energy problems lent themselves particularly well to regional action.

317. The United Kingdom delegation, supported by that of the Netherlands, said that while his Government would see no objection to the publication of Chapters 1 and 2 as background material for any studies of the European energy balance which the Secretariat might make, they did not consider that the study as a whole was suitable for publication.

318. After discussion, the delegations of France, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia submitted a *draft resolution concerning energy problems in Europe*. This draft resolution was adopted unanimously. (For text of this resolution see Part III of the Report.)

POLLUTION OF WATERS IN EUROPE (E/ECE/311 and 312)¹ (item 6 of the agenda)

319. For the consideration of this item the Commission had at its disposal a study on Water Pollution Control Problems in Europe (E/ECE/311) prepared jointly by the Secretariats of ECE, WHO and FAO and a progress report by the Executive Secretary presented pursuant to Commission resolution 1 (XII) (E/ECE/312).

320. Several representatives stated that they could, in general, agree with the conclusions reached in the above-mentioned documents, in particular that individual studies on the specific problems of water pollution in each of the common drainage areas appeared to be the most practical way of dealing with those problems.

321. Some delegations stated that they would have preferred the creation of a new joint standing body within the framework of ECE, WHO and FAO to deal with water pollution abatement.

322. The delegate of Poland suggested that ECE should also take up the broader aspects of the utilization of water resources. His delegation was fully aware that there were many aspects of that problem which would have to be dealt with by other organizations, and that the Economic and Social Council already had the matter under consideration. The time, therefore, might not be ripe for an over-all study by ECE, but the Commission should think of tackling the matter in the not too distant future.

323. After discussion, the delegations of Poland and the United States of America jointly submitted a *draft resolution concerning water pollution control problems in Europe*, which was unanimously adopted. (For text of this resolution see Part III of the Report.)

CO-OPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY: NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (E/ECE/313)² (item 7 of the agenda)

324. The Soviet Union delegation recalled the draft resolution it had submitted at the Commission's eleventh session calling for the establishment, within the Commis-

sion, of an organ to deal with matters relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It noted that the relationship agreement concluded between the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in October 1957 did not preclude study of the problem on a regional basis.

325. Some delegations supported this idea, stressing the value of regional co-operation in the field of nuclear energy and the contribution that the Commission could make to the work of the IAEA. The Romanian delegation recalled in that connexion the resolution adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America calling for the establishment of a regional nuclear energy centre for Latin America.

326. Other delegations said that the IAEA was the competent body for studying the technical and economic aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They drew the Commission's attention to the limited number of experts on nuclear energy that countries had at their disposal and to the dangers of duplication of effort that the establishment of a special body within the Commission for the study of such problems would create. At the same time they emphasized the importance of consultations at the secretariat level between the Commission and the IAEA.

327. The IAEA representative said that it was the earnest wish of the Director-General of the Agency to translate into fruitful co-operation the relevant clauses of the relationship agreement between the United Nations and the IAEA. He stressed the advisability of adopting flexible procedures in order to permit of effective collaboration in each specific case.

328. After discussion the delegation of Austria submitted a *draft resolution concerning nuclear energy*.

329. This draft resolution was adopted unanimously. (For text of this resolution see Part III of the Report.)

330. The representative of the United States of America said that in voting for this resolution his delegation wished to reiterate that in the view of their government article XII of the agreement between IAEA and UN made it clear that the initial working out of the relationships between the Agency and UN bodies and the establishment of guide lines for work on the economic aspects of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, was the responsibility of the Secretary-General. The presence of the permanent representative of the Secretary-General at the IAEA headquarters would facilitate the Executive Secretary's contacts with the Agency through the appropriate channels and according to the rules and procedures laid down in the above-mentioned agreement.

331. The representative of Romania recalled the suggestion made by his delegation that there should be set up within the framework of the Commission a body dealing with nuclear energy. He regretted that a number of delegations were not yet ready to agree to work with ECE along the lines he had suggested, and expressed the hope that the position would change by the time the Commission met for its fourteenth session. He reserved the right to revert to this matter on that occa-

¹ See E/ECE/SR.13/10, 11 and 17.

² See E/ECE/SR.13/10 and 19.

sion. Meanwhile, he hoped that the appropriate contacts between ECE and IAEA would lead to the establishment of effective working relationships between the two bodies.

THE GRANTING OF EQUAL TREATMENT TO THE THREE WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE COMMISSION: NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (E/ECE/314)¹ (item 8 of the agenda)

332. Delegations who spoke on this item, while appreciating the efforts made by the Secretariat, emphasized that these were still inadequate and that conditions in this respect remained unsatisfactory. A certain number of delegations expressed the wish that the three working languages might be used more equally for the drafting of original documents. They considered that this would make the Secretariat's work easier, and speed up publication and distribution of documents without an increase in the language staff. In particular, there were inordinate delays in the publication of documents in all three working languages, more particularly of the *Economic Survey of Europe*. It was therefore hoped that the Executive Secretary would take further steps to ensure the fullest possible implementation of Commission resolution 7 (XII).

333. In concluding the consideration of this item by the Commission, the Chairman stated he understood that the wishes expressed during the discussion would be borne in mind by the Executive Secretary.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS SECRETARIAT: NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (E/ECE-315)² (item 9 of the agenda)

(a) *Conference of European Statisticians*

334. A number of delegations commended the work of the Conference and emphasized the value and importance attached to it by their national statistical offices. The representative of France, supported by the representatives of Norway, Netherlands, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, expressed the view that the work of the Conference was hampered by inadequacy in the amount of secretariat resources devoted to it, and requested the Executive Secretary to consider means of increasing the amount of these resources. The representative of Czechoslovakia stated that it would be valuable if the work of the Conference were not limited to statistical methodology, but included also exchanges of experience on the utilization and analysis of economic statistics; he also considered that there should be closer co-ordination between the work of the Conference and the general work of the Commission.

335. The delegate of Sweden agreed that the work of the Conference could be made more valuable if more secretariat resources were put into it. She expressed the hope that this would be possible but pointed out that the allocation of secretariat resources was a matter for the Executive Secretary to decide on in the light of the various

demands made on him by the Commission. She did not think that the Conference should extend its work to include economic analysis.

336. Replying to the discussion, the Executive Secretary stated that he recognized the value and importance of the work of the Conference and had been particularly impressed by the willingness of statistical offices to undertake much of the work by providing the services of experts as rapporteurs or as members of small groups.

The secretariat contribution to the work had to be considered in the light of the entire work programme, and as he did not wish to propose an increase in the budget of ECE at the present time, an increase in the resources assigned to the Conference would be possible only by diversion from other work. He would, of course, examine the possibilities of providing adequately for the servicing of the Conference, and would do his best in this respect. He hoped the Conference would continue to examine carefully the priority of any new tasks proposed and would consider the possibility of deferring or eliminating work of a less essential nature; he hoped also that the national statistical offices would continue to undertake their share of the essential work.

(b) *Co-operation with ECAFE and ECLA on Matters of Common Concern*³

337. Delegations who commented on this matter recognized the fruitful nature of the co-operation between the three regional economic commissions of the United Nations and believed that it could with advantage be further developed. The representative of the Soviet Union stated that in the view of his delegation trade and energy were particularly appropriate fields with respect to which ECE should work as closely as possible with its two sister commissions.

338. After discussion the delegation of Czechoslovakia submitted a draft resolution concerning inter-regional co-operation. This resolution was adopted by 25 votes in favour, with none against and two abstentions. (For full text of this resolution see Part III of the Report.)

339. After the vote the delegate of the United Kingdom explained that he had voted in favour of this resolution on the understanding that it did not imply any activities beyond the continuation of existing measures of co-operation with the other regional economic commissions in accordance with established procedures.

(c) *Activities bearing upon Technical Assistance*⁴

340. The representatives of Poland and France welcomed the existing collaboration between ECE and UNTAA and submitted a draft resolution on this question. This draft resolution was adopted unanimously. (For text of this resolution see Part III of the Report.)

341. The Turkish representative stated in explanation of his vote that in the discussions which had led to the adoption of resolutions 1214 and 1215 (XII) by the General Assembly at its last session, the Turkish delegation

¹ E/ECE/SR.13/11.

² See E/ECE/SR.11.

³ See E/ECE/SR.13/11 and 17.

⁴ See E/ECE/SR.13/11 and 20.

had made reservations regarding Economic and Social Council resolution 658.A.II (XXIV) endorsing a provisional TAB decision that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance should not be extended in Europe. The Turkish delegation had voted for the two-Power draft resolution in that sense.

(d) *Relations with Specialized Agencies, Inter-governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations*¹

342. This section of the Note was examined without comment.

(e) *Relations under Article 10 of the Commission's Terms of Reference*²

343. This section of the Note was examined without comment.

(f) *Tenth Anniversary of the Founding of the Economic Commission for Europe*³

344. This section of the note was examined without comment.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONCERN TO THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (E/ECE/316)⁴ (item 10 of the agenda)

345. In the course of the discussion of this item the representative of the Netherlands stated that special attention should be paid to resolutions 664 (XXIV) and 665 (XXIV) of the Economic and Social Council, which were intended, *inter alia*, to avoid overloading the existing programmes of work.

346. The Executive Secretary, in reply to a query by the representative of Poland concerning Part C of Council resolution 665 (XXIV), confirmed that it was the Secretariat's intention, after consulting the Commission's various subsidiary bodies on the scope, trend and costs of their respective programmes of work for the period 1959-1964, to communicate the results of these consultations to the fourteenth session of the Commission.

347. The representative of the Soviet Union stated that General Assembly resolutions 1156 (XII) (Expansion of International Trade), 1157 (XII) (Bases for International Economic Co-operation), and 1236 (XII) (Peaceful and Neighbourly Relations among States) had a direct bearing on the Commission's activities and expressed the hope that the ECE Secretariat, after consultation with all countries participating in the work of the Commission, would prepare recommendations as to what measures it would be appropriate to take with a view to implementing those decisions.

In particular the Commission could usefully co-operate in preparing a draft of a declaration, under the auspices of the United Nations, setting forth the principles of economic co-operation.

¹ See E/ECE/SR.13/11.

² See E/ECE/SR.13/11.

³ See E/ECE/SR.13/11.

⁴ See E/ECE/SR.13/11.

REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN EUROPE
(item 11 of the agenda)

348. In its review of the economic situation in Europe the Commission had as a background document for its discussions the *Economic Survey of Europe in 1957* (E/ECE/317), prepared by the Research and Planning Division, and issued by the Secretariat of the Commission on its own responsibility. The summary records of the discussion are contained in documents E/ECE/SR.13/12 to 16.

349. In the course of his speech under this item, the representative of the Soviet Union submitted the following draft resolution about the convening of a conference at ministerial level on the development of trade among countries participating in the work of ECE.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Considering that the extensive development of trade in civilian goods between all countries, irrespective of their social structure, constitutes one of the means of strengthening peace and establishing trust between peoples,

Recognizing the great importance of the development of external trade on a long-term basis, especially in view of the present economic situation,

Attaching great importance also to the development of exchanges under commercial conditions in the field of technical progress and the organization of manufacturing processes connected with the production of civilian goods,

Recognizing that these problems could best be solved through personal meetings between officers of State in charge of external economic problems,

Decides to convene before the end of 1958 a conference at ministerial level of the countries participating in the work of ECE, to consider problems concerning the development of trade and particularly:

(a) ways and means of developing trade on a long-term basis between the countries participating in the work of ECE, and

(b) the development of exchanges under commercial conditions in the field of technical progress and the organization of manufacturing processes;

Requests governments to communicate to the Executive Secretary their views concerning other possible questions for inclusion on the agenda of the conference;

Instructs the Executive Secretary and the Committee for the Development of Trade:

(a) to draft a provisional agenda and other documents necessary for a conference of ministers;

(b) to circulate those documents to the governments;

(c) to consult with the governments in order to settle a date for the convening of the conference and a provisional agenda.

350. The above proposal was the subject of thorough consideration by the Commission in which most delegations participated.⁵

⁵ E/ECE/SR.13/19 and 20.

351. After discussion, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that his delegation had noted with satisfaction that many countries had recognized the usefulness of the initiative of the Soviet delegation and, in principle, favoured the proposal of the USSR. At the same time, some delegations were not ready, for this or that reason, to take a definite position on the Soviet proposal, whilst some delegations believed that the time for such a conference was not yet ripe. The Soviet representative added that, at the same time, he noted with satisfaction that many delegations had supported the Soviet proposal and believed that it was both timely and useful.

352. Bearing in mind the difficulties of a number of countries to take a final position on the question under discussion here and now, the representative of the USSR said that his delegation was prepared not to insist that this proposal be put to the vote. He hoped that governments would continue the study of the Soviet proposal with due attention. He assumed that those governments which, for this or that reason, were not in a position to define their attitude at this juncture, would be able to do so later. The way was thus open for further contacts concerning a conference at ministerial level.

353. In conclusion of this statement the representative of the USSR expressed the hope and expectation that the Executive Secretary would concern himself with the Soviet proposal if the necessary consensus between countries were attained.

354. After the Chairman had confirmed that the Soviet delegation had withdrawn the above-mentioned draft resolution, the United Kingdom delegate said that his delegation, in its turn, was prepared, given the agreement of the co-sponsors,¹ to withdraw the following draft resolution concerning the convening of a conference at ministerial level on questions bearing upon the development of trade between countries participating in the work of the Commission which they had submitted under this item:

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Noting the proposals made by the Soviet delegation that a meeting of ministers of countries participating in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe should be called before the end of 1958 to consider the development of trade,

Considering that the development of mutually advantageous trade among all countries is one of the means of promoting peace and establishing mutual confidence among the peoples of the world,

Considers that any new suggestions for specific methods of expanding mutually advantageous European trade which can serve as a useful basis for discussion under present circumstances should, in the first place, be studied at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on the Development of Trade;

Recommends that countries participating in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe should as far as possible circulate via the Secretariat and well in advance

of the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on the Development of Trade any such suggestions as they may have for consideration at the meeting of the Committee.

355. The necessary agreement by the co-sponsors having been given, the above-mentioned draft resolution was withdrawn.

356. The Chairman of the Commission concluded by making the following statement:

“The thirteenth session of the ECE has discussed the proposal of the delegate of the USSR concerning the convening of a conference of ministers of member countries on international trade. The discussion has shown that many delegations were in favour of the principle of the proposal, some consider that the time is not yet ripe for such a meeting, and some are not prepared to take a final position on this issue. Concerning the proposal made by the delegate of the USSR, the way remains open for interested countries to revert to the question later if they deem it advisable.”

357. It was so agreed.

358. Under the same item of the agenda, the delegation of the USSR submitted a *draft resolution concerning consumer goods*. After discussion and amendments tabled by the delegation of the United Kingdom, this draft resolution was adopted unanimously as amended. (For text of this resolution see Part III of the Report.)

359. After the vote the representative of the USSR explained that he had voted for the resolution in its amended form although he believed that the amendments had limited its purpose as it completely excluded ECE's participation in this work. He added that his delegation reserved the right to revert to this important problem on another occasion.

360. The representative of the United States of America stated that the United States Government, as one of the countries whose economy is based on private enterprise, is in no position to dictate to its business men, and particularly to business men in the highly competitive consumer goods industry, to dispose of their technical knowledge.

361. Under the same item of the agenda the delegations of the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Netherlands, Albania, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Poland, the United States of America and Romania submitted a *draft resolution concerning the activities of the Committee on the Development of Trade*. After a brief discussion this draft resolution was adopted unanimously. (For text of this resolution see Part III of the Report.)

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1958/1959
(E/ECE/318)² (item 12 of the agenda)

362. During the discussion on the Programme of Work of the Commission for 1958/1959, delegates expressed general satisfaction with the draft presented (E/ECE, 318). Several delegates drew attention to the need for concentration of effort on major problems

¹ Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, United States of America.

² See E/ECE/SR.13/20.

appropriate for consideration within the framework of the Commission, particularly in the light of the additional tasks which the Commission was undertaking on the basis of decisions made at the present session. In the course of the discussion of this item some observations were also made on the research work of the Secretariat.¹

363. Having considered and approved its Programme of Work for 1958/1959² the Commission considered a draft resolution concerning the Commission's programme of work submitted by the Chairman.

364. This draft resolution was adopted unanimously (for text of this resolution see Part III of the Report).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (item 14 of the agenda)

Requests for hearings from non-governmental organizations

365. Requests were received and accepted from the International Co-operative Alliance for permission to present the views of that organization to the Commission

¹ See E/ECE/SR.13/20.

² *Editorial Note:* This programme of work was as usual adopted on the understanding that the secretariat would make the necessary adjustments in the programme's final text in the light of the relevant decisions of the Commission (see footnote ¹ to Part V).

on the work of the committees of the Commission;³ from the World Federation of Trade Unions for permission to present the views of that organization to the Commission on the work of the Committee on Man-power;⁴ and from the World Federation of Trade Unions⁵ and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions⁶ for permission to present the views of those organizations to the Commission during the discussion of item 11 (Review of the economic situation in Europe).

*Date and place of next session*⁷

366. The Commission decided to leave to the Executive Secretary the responsibility of determining, in consultation with the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, and in the light of the arrangements of the Economic and Social Council, the proposed date of the fourteenth session of the Commission, and to advise governments of the date in due time. It was understood that the fourteenth session would be held at the seat of the European Office of the United Nations.

³ See E/ECE/SR.13/6.

⁴ See E/ECE/SR.13/6.

⁵ See E/ECE/SR.13/12.

⁶ See E/ECE/SR.13/13.

⁷ See E/ECE/SR.13/20.

PART III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION

Resolution 1 (XIII)

Concerning the application of resolution 2 (XII)

*The Economic Commission for Europe,
Bearing in mind its resolution 2 (XII),*

Having noted the reports on the promotion of economic relations and co-operation among the countries participating in the work of the Commission submitted at its thirteenth session,

Wishing to be kept informed of the progress made and the results obtained through the implementation of the aforesaid resolution by the competent bodies of the Commission,

Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to its fourteenth session a comprehensive progress report on such activities.

[See above, para. 293]

Resolution 2 (XIII)

Concerning economic, technical and scientific documentation

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Appreciating the importance of enabling countries members of the Commission to be kept regularly informed of the most recent achievements in the various fields covered by the Commission,

Considering that the publication of appropriate documentation would promote better reciprocal knowledge of the level reached by countries participating in the work of ECE,

Invites the Executive Secretary:

to assess the extent to which existing international bibliographies and selected lists of documentary films meet documentation requirements in the fields coming within the competence of ECE;

to report to the subsidiary bodies and the fourteenth session of the Commission on any omissions revealed by that assessment and on the best means (including a financial estimate) of remedying them;

to develop in the meantime the action already taken in this connexion by the Commission's subsidiary bodies in the normal course of their work.

[See above, para. 297]

Resolution 3 (XIII)

Concerning the further development of contacts

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling the recommendations of its resolutions 1(X), 4(XI) and 3(XII) concerning the development of contacts between countries participating in the work of the Commission,

Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved so far in this field with the assistance of the Committees and their subsidiary organs,

Noting also with satisfaction that improved facilities have been made available in some countries for tourists and that several countries participating in the work of the Commission concluded bilateral agreements concerning development of relations in various economic fields including industry, trade, agriculture and technology,

Invites the subsidiary organs of the Commission and the Secretariat to continue their efforts for the promotion of contacts, including study tours, between countries participating in the work of the Commission;

Further invites countries participating in the work of the Commission to develop further such contacts and, on a basis of reciprocity, facilities for business visitors and tourists.

[See above, para. 298]

Resolution 4 (XIII)

Concerning plastics and synthetic fibres

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Considering the growing importance of plastics and artificial and synthetic fibres for the European economy,

Considering in particular the part played by those products in many industries producing consumer goods,

Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on those economic problems relating to plastics and artificial and synthetic fibres which might usefully be studied within the Commission.

[See above, para. 299]

Resolution 5 (XIII)

Concerning productivity of labour

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recognizing the importance of the study of the problem of productivity of labour for raising the standard of living, particularly under conditions of present-day technological development,

Taking note of the work already undertaken in this field by the Committees and other organs of the Commission,

Taking note of the efforts undertaken by national organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations towards a study of the problem of productivity of labour in Europe,

Invites the Committees and other organs of the Commission to continue to devote their attention to aspects of productivity related to the points included in their respective programmes of work;

Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(1) Consult as he deems appropriate the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other organizations, national and international, which are already examining problems of productivity of labour in relation to the above points;

(2) Draw up a list of these organizations, with a view to establishing contact with them;

(3) Distribute this list to the organizations referred to in paragraph (1) above and to the governments taking part in the work of the Commission, with a view to facilitating co-operation and exchange of information between the above-mentioned organizations;

(4) Inform the Commission at its fourteenth session of the work undertaken in accordance with the present resolution.

[See above, para. 305]

Resolution 6 (XIII)

Concerning energy problems in Europe

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Bearing in mind the general discussion at the XIIth session of the Commission on co-operation in the field of energy problems in Europe between the countries participating in its work,

Noting with satisfaction that since the XIIth session the Coal Committee, the Committee on Electric Power and the *Ad Hoc* Working Party on Gas Problems have to some extent developed their activities in that field,

Noting also the considerable amount of work performed by the Secretariat in preparing the review of the energy situation in Europe covering all aspects of the problem, and in arranging a special meeting of government experts on energy problems,

Recalling its resolution 1 (XI) and the interest shown by countries therein,

Having considered the Report of the Special Meeting of Government Experts on Energy Problems (E/ECE/310),

1. *Expresses its appreciation* of the work performed by the Meeting of Government Experts;

2. *Requests* both the appropriate subsidiary bodies of the Commission, when drawing up their programme of work, and the Secretariat to consider the suggestions made in the Report, bearing also in mind the relevant conclusions of the Commission and the statements and observations made on the Report by the various delegations at the Commission's XIIIth session.

[See above, para. 318]

Resolution 7 (XIII)

Concerning water pollution control problems in Europe

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Having considered a study on water pollution control problems in Europe (E/ECE/311) and the progress report by the Executive Secretary on water pollution control problems in Europe (E/ECE/312),

Recognizing the mounting urgency of the problem as well as the advisability of studying the broader questions of water utilization in Europe,

Notes with appreciation the joint ECE/FAO/WHO "Study on Water Pollution Control Problems in Europe"

(E/ECE/311) and the "Progress Report of the Executive Secretary" (E/ECE/312);

Requests the Executive Secretary to call these documents to the attention of all countries participating in the work of the Commission, together with the Commission's comments thereon, with the recommendation that they give this problem serious and continuous study;

Approves continuation of the programme of work relating to European water pollution control problems, outlined in paras. 7-11 of the Executive Secretary's "Progress Report" (E/ECE/312);

Decides to consider this problem again at its 14th session, taking into account: (i) a further "Progress Report" on activities undertaken in Europe during 1958/59 by the Executive Secretary and the competent agencies, especially WHO, FAO, and IAEA, which should be distributed in advance of the 14th session; (ii) recommendations on "Water Resources Development" made by ECOSOC; (iii) comments made by the next session of the UN Inter-Agency Committee on Water Resources (including the IAEA) on the ECE "Study"; and (iv) comments which countries participating in the work of the Commission may wish to submit.

[See above, para. 323]

Resolution 8 (XIII) Concerning nuclear energy

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Taking cognizance of the note by the Executive Secretary on regional co-operation in the economic aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy (E/ECE/313) submitted pursuant to resolution 4 (XII),

Requests the Executive Secretary to inform the Commission at its fourteenth session of the progress made in this field in so far as it is of interest and concern to the Commission.

[See above, para. 329]

Resolution 9 (XIII) Concerning inter-regional co-operation

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Considering the important role of regional economic commissions in the development of the economy of their respective regions,

Mindful of the importance of close co-operation between regional economic commissions in particular when they are confronted with problems of common concern or of analogous or similar character,

Referring in this connexion to the General Assembly resolution 627/VII on the activities of regional economic commissions and economic development of underdeveloped countries, as well as to the recent General Assembly resolutions 1155/XII on the proposed Economic Commission for Africa and 1158/XII on the activities of the regional economic commissions,

Expresses the hope that a close co-operation among all regional commissions will enhance the expansion of

mutually beneficial commercial and other economic relations between countries participating in their work with the aim to promote—in compliance with the spirit of paragraph 55 of the UN Charter—"higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development",

Invites its subsidiary organs and the Secretariat to continue fully to co-operate, in the spirit of the resolutions mentioned above, in accordance with established procedures, with the other regional economic commissions, and their organs.

[See above, para. 338]

Resolution 10 (XIII) Concerning technical assistance

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Considering Section III of the Note by the Executive Secretary on other activities of the Commission and the Secretariat bearing upon technical assistance,

Noting with satisfaction that the activities of the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme in the member countries of the ECE have been beneficial to the countries concerned,

Noting resolutions 1214 (XII) and 1215 (XII) of the General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the necessity for making the most efficient use of the limited resources of the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme,

Considering that some European countries are interested in receiving assistance under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme,

Requests the Economic and Social Council in examining the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme to take into account the requests of these countries.

[See above, para. 340]

Resolution 11 (XII) Concerning consumer goods

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recognizing the great importance of increasing the production of consumer goods as one means of raising the standard of living,

Taking into account the considerable technical progress which has been made in recent years in industries producing consumer goods and the raw materials for their manufacture,

Considering that for the purpose of increasing the supply of consumer goods it would be helpful to develop the trade in equipment for light industry and industries producing artificial and synthetic raw materials for consumer goods and to promote the mutual exchange, on a commercial basis, of technical experience, including production techniques, and also the trade in consumer goods themselves,

Considers that a fuller use can be made of the possibilities that are available for developing the exchange

of experience and for mutually advantageous trade in the sphere in question;

Calls upon the countries participating in the work of the Commission to make fuller use of these opportunities for trade and the exchange of production techniques, on a commercial basis, and further calls upon the said countries, taking into account the fact that in many countries the industries engaged in the production of consumer goods and the raw materials for them are organized on a private basis, to take such action as is possible within their competence to promote the development of such exchanges of experience and trade, in the interests of the peoples of the countries participating in ECE.

[See above, para. 358]

Resolution 12 (XIII)
Concerning activities of the Committee
on the Development of Trade

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Noting the views, comments and suggestions in the statements made by the delegates of many countries in the course of the present session of the ECE in respect of the further development of mutually advantageous trade and other economic relations on a commercial basis between countries participating in the work of the ECE,

Considering that the development of mutually advantageous trade among all countries is one of the means of promoting peace and establishing mutual confidence among the peoples of the world,

Considers that any new suggestions for specific methods of expanding mutually advantageous European trade which can serve as a useful basis for discussion under present circumstances should, in the first place, be studied at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on the Development of Trade,

Recommends that countries participating in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe should as far as possible circulate via the Secretariat and well in advance of the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on the Development of Trade any such suggestions as they may have for consideration at the meeting of the Committee.

[See above, para. 361]

Resolution 13 (XIII)
Concerning the Commission's programme
of work for 1958/59

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Having examined the reports of the committees on their activities, the notes of the Executive Secretary on certain questions, and the programme of work of the Commission for 1958/59,

Noting that in the course of the thirteenth session a number of points were made by various delegations regarding its programme of work,

Draws the attention of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to points made as contained in the relevant parts of the records of the thirteenth session;

Invites its subsidiary bodies to consider these points when adjusting their programme of work.

[See above, para. 364]

PART IV

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
CONCERNING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Takes note* of the Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Europe for the period 16 May 1957 to 24 April 1958, of the views expressed during the discussion, and the resolutions adopted, during the thirteenth session of the Commission;

2. *Endorses* the programme of work and priorities contained in the Report.

PART V

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

Introduction¹

367. The Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1958/59, as considered and approved at the

¹ *Editorial Note:* The Executive Secretary has made certain adjustments in the final text of the Commission's programme of work for 1958/59 in the light of the relevant decisions of the Commission. This applies to projects 01.2.2, 01.2.4, 01.2.5, 01.2.6 and 01.3.

thirteenth session of the Commission,² is incorporated as Part V of the Commission's present report to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-sixth session.

368. The work programme of the Commission is divided into the following broad subjects:

01 — General

² See above, paragraphs 362 to 364.

- 02 — Agriculture
- 03 — Coal
- 04 — Electric power
- 05 — Engineering and industrial materials
- 06 — Housing and building
- 07 — Inland transport
- 08 — Steel
- 09 — Timber
- 10 — Trade

369. It is not practicable or realistic to attempt to make a differentiation of priority as between these broad subjects. Within these groups, however, projects of functions have been divided into the categories established by the Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority;
- (b) *Ad hoc* projects of high priority;
- (c) Other projects.

Within category (c), projects have, wherever possible, been listed in order of importance. This category includes:

- (i) Projects which have been deferred because of the staffing position, but which are considered of sufficient importance to remain on the work programme for future attention should the circumstances permit;
- (ii) Projects which are not so important as those in the priority categories, but which are of such a nature that useful work can be done on them by staff which would, in any case, be required for the priority projects;
- (iii) Projects which are part of certain committees' broad functions under their respective terms of reference, but which are not yet mature for systematic study.

01.—GENERAL PROJETS ¹

01.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

01.1.1. *Continuing review and analysis of European economic developments and problems*

This function is performed by the preparation and publication of the annual economic surveys and the quarterly economic bulletins. Under present arrangement 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. The quarterly bulletins are published in May, August and November.

¹ The authority for these is as follows:

- 01.1.1 Terms of reference of the Commission.
- 01.1.2 Terms of reference of the Commission; resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and of the Statistical Commission; decisions, recommendations and requests of ECE committees and the Conference of European Statisticians.
- 01.1.3 Terms of reference of the Commission and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council.
- 01.2.1 Commission resolution 7 (XI).
- 01.2.2 Commission resolution 1 (XI).

01.1.2. *Collection, improvement, standardization and dissemination of statistics and promotion of international statistical co-operation through :*

Collection, collation and dissemination of statistics in studies, statistical bulletins and other publications of the Secretariat ;

Co-operation with national statistical agencies and with other international organizations in improving national statistics and their international comparability ;

Promotion of co-operation among international organizations on European statistical activities.

The collection, appraisal and dissemination of statistical data is the foundation of much of the other work of the Secretariat—for instance, that described in project 01.1.1—but is nevertheless a function in itself. The work covers substantially the full range of general economic statistics, as well as the specialized statistics required in the technical work of the ECE.

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 work of the Conference rests on procedure set up by the Economic and Social Council for the promotion of regional activities in statistics, including regular meetings of the heads of national statistical offices. It covers demographic and social as well as economic statistics and is mainly carried out by means of meetings of technical experts. These functions are carried out in close collaboration with the Statistical Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and, when their special fields of interest are involved, with the statistical departments of other international agencies active in Europe.

The programme of the Conference for 1957/1958 ² includes (a) meetings of working groups on population and housing censuses, indicators of short-term economic changes and statistics of savings; (b) meetings of groups of rapporteurs on the statistical unit in economic statistics and on systems of national accounts; (c) the collection and dissemination of reports on plans for population and housing censuses, data-processing electronic equipment, statistics of wholesale prices and seasonal and similar adjustments to economic time-series; (d) the preparation of a list of statistical terms in different languages.

01.1.3. *Co-operation in the Technical Assistance Programme*

The Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations consults the ECE Secretariat on relevant projects of an economic character included in TAA's programme of work. Also, arrangements are made by the European Office of the TAA, as appropriate, for experts and fellows whose tasks relate to projects included in the work programme of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, to be briefed by the ECE Secretariat before assuming their duties in the countries of the region.

² Authority: Programme of Work for the Conference of European Statisticians, adopted by the Conference at its fifth session (Conf. Eur. Stats/80, para. 103).

01.2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

01.2.1. *Development problems of southern Europe*¹

In resolution 7 (XI) the Commission requested its subsidiary organs and the Executive Secretary to seek appropriate solutions to the development problems of southern Europe, and to place particular emphasis on exploring all ways and means of carrying out the specific projects recommended 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 have been considered by the Committees on Housing, Steel, and Trade and are included in their work programmes as projects 06.1.2., 08.1.2., and 10.2.4 respectively. The Inland Transport Committee also has discussed the proposal for a highway development linking Italy, Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia and consultations are held between the Directors of Highway Departments from the countries concerned as well as representatives of other interested countries and the International Road Federation. In accordance with a recommendation of the Expert Group also, a study of the problem of afforestation possibilities and land use amelioration in the Mediterranean region has been undertaken by FAO with the help, as regards the European countries concerned, of the ECE Secretariat. The possibilities of the Secretariat's co-operation with FAO on the sequel to that study are being explored in consultation with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

01.2.2. *Energy Problems in Europe*²

The Report of the Special Meeting of Government Experts on Energy Problems in Europe, convened by the Executive Secretary in March 1958 pursuant to Commission resolution 1 (XI), was considered by the Commission at its thirteenth session. The Commission in resolution 6 (XIII) requested the appropriate subsidiary bodies of the Commission, when drawing up their programme of work, and the secretariat to consider the suggestions made in the Report, bearing also in mind the relevant conclusions of the Commission and the statements and observations made on the Report by the various delegations at the Commission's thirteenth session.

01.2.3. *Gas Problems in Europe*³

Programme of Work for the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Gas Problems

The *Ad hoc* Working Party on Gas Problems, which reports directly to the Commission, is concerned with the examination of those of the economic, statistical and technical aspects of the production, transport and utilization of gas, both natural and manufactured, in respect of which it is expected that useful results could be accomplished by international action.

¹ Authority: Commission resolution 7 (XI).

² Authority: Commission resolution 6 (XIII).

³ Authority: Twelfth session of the Commission (E/2989, para. 332).

The Programme of Work for the Working Party, which follows, has been prepared by the Secretariat and approved by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman as authorized by the third session of the Working Party (document E/ECE/GAS/9).

(a) *Flexibility of the gas industry and its economic implications*

(i) On the consumption side, the *ad hoc* Working Party examines means of counteracting fluctuations by the use of diversified tariff policies and also the means of charging for gas on a thermal basis. In addition, variations in gas demand according to temperature changes are under consideration.

(ii) On the production side the Working Party continues to study the introduction of new flexible units used in conjunction with coke-ovens and gas works of the conventional type and possibilities of greater use of increased storage capacity, in particular underground.

(b) *Future demand for gas*

The Working Party is concentrating on the comparison of experience gained in the use of different methods of forecasting demand.

(c) *Natural gas*

The Working Party considers problems relating to production, transport, distribution and utilization of natural gas, in particular those involved in liquefying, transporting and re-gasifying natural gas.

(d) *Legal problems*

The Working Party has under study problems involved in legal protection for international gas pipelines as well as in underground storage of gas.

(e) *Exchange of information and experience*

Exchange of information and experience in the field of gas is being arranged by way of direct consultations among experts.

(f) *Statistics*

An annual statistical bulletin of gas production, availabilities and consumption is issued.

01.2.4. *Water Pollution Control Problems in Europe*⁴

The Commission at its thirteenth session in resolution 7 (XIII), approved the continuation of the programme of work relating to European water pollution control problems, outlined in paras 7-11 of the Executive Secretary's "Progress Report" (E/ECE/312). This programme deals (1) with ways and means of assisting interested governments in promoting international co-operation in the field of water pollution abatement and water resources; and (2) the exchange of information on specific technical, economic and administrative aspects of water pollution. The Commission decided to consider this problem again at its fourteenth session, taking into account a number of specific points set out in the above-mentioned resolution.

⁴ Authority: Commission resolution 7 (XIII).

01.2.5. *Assessment of Economic, Technical and Scientific Documentation*¹

At its thirteenth session the Commission in resolution 2 (XIII) invited the Executive Secretary to assess the extent to which existing international bibliographies and selected lists of documentary films meet documentation requirements in the fields coming within the competence of ECE; to report to the subsidiary bodies and the fourteenth session of the Commission any omissions revealed by that assessment and on the best means (including a financial estimate) of remedying them; and to develop in the meantime the action already taken in this connexion by the Commission's subsidiary bodies in the normal course of their work.

01.2.6. *Productivity of labour*²

At its thirteenth session the Commission in resolution 5 (XIII) requested the Executive Secretary (1) to consult the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other organizations, national and international, which are concerned with problems of productivity of labour; (2) to draw up a list of these organizations, with a view to establishing contact with them; (3) to distribute this list to the organizations referred to above and to the governments participating in the work of the Commission with a view to facilitating co-operation and exchange of information between these organizations; and (4) to inform the Commission at its fourteenth session of the work undertaken in accordance with the resolution under reference.

01.3. OTHER PROJECTS

01.3.1. *Plastics and artificial and synthetic fibres*³

At its thirteenth session the Commission in resolution 4 (XIII) requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on those economic problems relating to plastics and artificial and synthetic fibres which might usefully be studied within the Commission.

02.—AGRICULTURE⁴

(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).

¹ Authority: Commission resolution 2 (XIII).

² Authority: Commission resolution 5 (XIII).

³ Authority: Commission resolution 4 (XIII).

⁴ Authority: Programme of Work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems for 1958/1959, drawn up in accordance with the Committee's decision taken at its ninth session (E/ECE/AGRI/38, para. 63).

02.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

02.1.1. *Review of market situation and outlook*

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 examines at varying intervals the situation and *short-term* prospects for production, consumption and trade of selected agricultural products. The Secretariat prepares a report on each of the products in question and this is supplemented by trade forecasts submitted by governments. For cereals governments also supply crop production forecasts at the appropriate time of the year.

(c) The Committee investigates the *medium and long-term* outlook, with special reference to selected products. Governments submit notes indicating: their countries' objectives as regards production and consumption of the products in question; the methods which it is proposed to apply to reach these objectives; and statistical estimates of the volume of production and trade in a specified future year.

(d) The Committee also attaches great importance to the examination of the probable development of the demand for various agricultural and food products and the factors influencing it. It has entrusted this task to a group of experts, who will review available basic data and discuss specific problems of methodology.

02.1.2. *Studies and measures to facilitate the import and export of agricultural commodities by European countries*

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 will continue its study, on the basis of an analysis of national regulations, of the extent to which these provisions and minimum requirements are in fact being observed in European trade. It will also study 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 study the 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 "projects of a continuing nature" 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. It is probable that with the establishment of standards for most of the major perishable foodstuffs, the peak of the volume of work on the project as a whole has now been passed.)

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 taken up for consideration are cereals, citrus fruit and potatoes. The Working Party for Cereals, having dealt with model CIF contracts, will continue its work on FOB contracts and on contracts for transport by land and inland waterways. The text of standard conditions of sale for citrus fruit will be finalized. Comments of governments on the preliminary draft of standard conditions of sale for potatoes will be examined by the working party for that product.

The group of experts dealing with cereals will also give separate consideration to the structural problems 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 having important economic implications*

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 I (X), 4 (IX) and 3 (XII),

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 selected aspects of *mechanization of agriculture*. Seven 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) Apart from questions of mechanization, the Committee has selected other *technical problems* for special study. Rapporteurs, working on the basis of governments' replies to questionnaires, prepare draft reports for submission to experts from interested countries, who meet in study sessions if this is felt to be desirable. Experience in new methods of planting vineyards has already been dealt with in this way and a report on a second topic, new techniques for the conservation and improvement of soil fertility, is being prepared. A third topic, namely control of weeds and plant diseases encountered in the cultivation of hops and sugar beet, will be dealt with through the medium of the secretariat. In addition, the secretariat will continue to assemble information on chemical means of improving animal fodder.

(c) In the field of marketing and distribution of agricultural products the Committee will study concrete problems with a view to finding those techniques which contribute most to the reduction of the cost of distribution. The secretariat will organize visits to commercial enterprises for experts chosen in relation to certain specified products. As the outcome of these visits the experts will formulate precise suggestions for further action, taking full account of work already being done by other organizations.

(d) Steps are taken to facilitate the *exchange of films*. A list will be prepared of films, filmstrips and slides which are available in the countries participating in the work of ECE and which are of general agricultural interest. A list has been established dealing specifically with films relating to mechanization of agriculture and this will be brought up to date when necessary. Films of technical or general agricultural interest are shown during sessions of the Committee and its working parties.

(e) Collective visits are customarily arranged for the Committee and certain of its working parties, to take place in the territory of one or other of the participating countries. These are planned as far ahead as possible.

(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 ¹

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*

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.

An inventory of the intentions of governments as to their policy with regard to future coal production and trade is being drawn up; particular attention is being given to the factors which condition increases in production including the attitude of consumers in this respect. It is foreseen that a review of the relevant documents will be made during the first session of 1958.

The relations between the coal industry and other energy suppliers both in the setting of the European economy and within each of the main coal consuming sectors are kept under review by the Committee.

03.1.2. *Production problems*

(a) The Committee continues to follow the procedure adopted earlier for the exchange of experience on coal production methods including the dissemination of bibliographical references, direct contacts between experts, visits to mines on a reciprocal basis to study specific problems on the spot and the holding of *ad hoc* meetings on specific problems if deemed necessary. An *ad hoc* meeting of experts on accelerated sinking of shafts and on their reconstruction as well as on high—speed roadway driving will be held in the spring of 1958. In view of the importance of coal production problems it was agreed at the forty-first session that interested countries would indicate to the secretariat on which of the fourteen subjects chosen by the *Ad hoc* Group of Experts on Coal Production Methods they were prepared to draft reports and to supply them in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to other participating countries who would be invited to send in their comments.

(b) Development and prospects in brown coal mining and processing are under examination by the Committee for the mutual benefit of countries which either to a great extent base their industrial activities on this fuel or are now beginning to develop their brown coal resources.

03.1.3. *Trade problems* ²

(a) *Review of the coal market*

The European market in solid fuels is kept under continuous consideration on the basis of a coal market review prepared by the secretariat periodically, at least twice a year.

Attention is given to the current situation and special problems affecting the market, such as production,

consumption, stocks, international trade and prices with the object of agreeing on such action by governments as appears feasible and necessary.

(b) *Distribution of export availabilities*

After receiving quarterly information supplied by governments as to requirements and availabilities of solid fuels, the Coal Trade Sub-Committee studies what measures could be taken to facilitate the situation for certain countries and if necessary may proceed to an equitable distribution of solid fuels available for export.

In addition to the above mentioned quarterly forecast, the Sub-Committee will, on a trial basis, also make a preliminary review of the following quarter in order to obtain a preliminary picture of the situation six months ahead.

03.1.4. *Solid fuel utilization*

The problem of widening the range of coal to be used for carbonization purposes, with a view to achieving a rational utilization of European coal availabilities, particularly coking coal, is being kept under consideration by the Utilization Working Party. The Working Party is also studying the possibilities of developing low and medium temperature carbonization as well as a number of problems relating to the proper utilization of low-grade solid fuels.

03.1.5. *Statistics*

A *Quarterly Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe* and a *Monthly Coal Statistical Summary* are issued. Work is also under way designed to improve European coal statistics by rendering them more comparable and complete.

03.2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

03.2.1. *Coal classification*

The Classification Working Party is continuing its work on an international classification system for brown coals and lignites and also a classification system for hard-coal coke.

03.2.2. *General conditions of sale for solid fuels*

An *ad hoc* group of experts is to consider a draft set of conditions of sales drawn up by the secretariat and to report its findings to the Committee.

04.—ELECTRIC POWER ³

04.1. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF A CONTINUING NATURE

04.1.1. *Analysis of the electric power situation in Europe*

On the basis of the annual economic study prepared by the secretariat, consideration by the Committee of the electric power situation during the previous year.

¹ Authority: Programme of Work of the Coal Committee for 1958/1959, adopted by the Committee at its forty-second session (E/ECE/CON/127, para. 4).

² See also 03.2.2.

³ Authority: Programme of Work of the Committee on Electric Power, drawn up in accordance with the Committee's decision taken at its fifteenth session (E/ECE/EP/189, para. 14).

Periodical examination by the Committee of the trends of the various factors influencing future developments, with a view to identifying problems requiring international action.

04.1.2. *The development of transfers of electric power across frontiers*

Consideration by the Committee of the legal or administrative difficulties which tend to hamper such transfers, and drafting of recommendations to governments.

Economic analysis of the possibilities of transfers of electric power between European countries and negotiations under the auspices of the secretariat to facilitate the conclusion of agreements on such transfers between governments requesting this assistance.

(a) The Co-ordination Committee, composed of representatives of Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and Yugoslavia, set up following the study undertaken on the prospects of exporting electric power from Yugoslavia, continues its work within the terms of reference assigned to it.

(b) The results of an enquiry into the possibilities of electric power transfers between the countries of Central and South Eastern Europe were given general distribution at the Committee's request. Study of these possibilities is being pursued on the basis of information supplied by the countries concerned.

04.1.3. *The hydro-electric development of waterways of common interest*

Consideration by the Committee of the legal or administrative difficulties which tend to hamper the development of contiguous or successive waterways, and drafting of recommendations to governments. Negotiations under the auspices of the secretariat to facilitate the conclusion of agreements on the development of such waterways between governments requesting this assistance.

Study of general principles for the guidance of negotiations in concrete cases.

04.1.4. *Rural electrification*

Examination by the Working Party, meeting from time to time, of the problems connected with the production, transmission, distribution and utilization of electric power in rural areas, as well as the related economic, administrative and financial questions, with a view to the drafting of recommendations addressed to the countries participating in the work of the Commission.

Under the present programme, seventeen reports are to be prepared by rapporteurs nominated by the various countries. Final drafts of twelve will be prepared for adoption at the Working Party's next session and the remaining five will be prepared in provisional form for a later session.

Consideration by the Working Party of the annual economic study on the rural electrification situation in Europe during the previous year with a view to identifying problems requiring international action. Organization by the Working Party of visits to typical installations in various countries.

04.1.5. *Statistics*

Publication on a European basis of quarterly and annual bulletins of electric power statistics.

Examination with a view to their adoption, of common statistical definitions of terms relating to power.

04.2. *Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY*

04.2.1. *Hydro-electric resources of European countries*

Determination of the gross hydro-electric potential of the various European countries on a common basis and preparation of the corresponding map.

Analysis of methods used for determining exploitable hydro-electric resources with a view to their calculation on a common basis, together with their relationship to the gross and economic potentials.

Collection of annual flow statistics for certain rivers with a view to studying regional simultaneity of dry years and wet years.

04.2.2. *Production of electric power by nuclear power stations*

Consideration by the Committee of the economic repercussions of integrating nuclear energy in electric power generation in Europe.

04.2.3. *Exchange of technical information*

Prospects of reducing construction costs for hydro power stations and the effect of mechanization in that connexion; preparation of a bibliographical index of works published on the subject.

Study of some of the more specifically economic aspects of the problem on the basis of a questionnaire adopted by the Committee.

Preparation by rapporteurs of preliminary studies on the following subjects: problems arising from the inter-connected operation of large networks; the technical and economic aspects of automatic and remote control; the development of power transmission networks.

Exploration of the possibilities of further development of contacts between the countries of eastern and western Europe, in particular by the organization of study tours for the Committee or its subsidiary bodies.

04.2.4. *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.

04.2.5. *The guarantees in contracts for electric power exchanges and sales*

Endeavour to evolve 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.

05.—ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS¹

05.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

05.1.1. *Review of trends of production, demand and trade in engineering products*

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.

05.1.2. *The unification of contract practices in engineering*²

This project is designed to facilitate international trade in engineering products through unification 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 of these general conditions are being used on an increasing scale in commercial practice. After a preliminary discussion on the advisability of drafting general conditions for erection work alone, the *ad hoc* working party requested the secretariat to obtain the comments of governments on a preliminary note enumerating the problems and to conduct an enquiry among undertakings engaged in international contracts for erection work only. The next session of the *ad hoc* working party will be convened after completion of the enquiry, probably at the beginning of 1959.

05.2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

05.2.1. *Agricultural machinery*³

The main project in the work programme of the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery is an examination of problems of production and utilization of specific types of agricultural machinery, in particular at present cereal harvesting machinery, soil preparing machinery and agricultural tractors. Reports on these three types of agricultural machinery are being prepared by rapporteurs respectively from the USSR, France and Czechoslovakia, on the basis of information supplied by governments in response to enquiries circulated. The programme of work also includes an exchange of technical information on agricultural machinery, through a reciprocal exchange of literature, including bibliographical material, by encouraging direct contacts between national research institutes, and in other ways as outlined in Commission resolution 4 (XI), and an analysis on the basis of information supplied by governments on obstacles to trade in agricultural machinery.

¹ Authority: Industry and Materials Committee (E/ECE/IM/43 and E/ECE/IM/55, para. 14) and Commission resolution 2 (X).

² Authority: Industry and Materials Committee (E/ECE/IM/55, para. 13).

³ Authority: Commission resolution 2 (X).

05.2.2. *Automation*⁴

In accordance with the decision of the Commission, two governmental rapporteurs—from the United Kingdom and the USSR—have prepared, with the help of the secretariat, the outline of a report on the economic implications of automation at its present stage of development throughout the region. This has been transmitted by the Executive Secretary to participating governments, asking them to furnish the required information. An over-all report on the question is under preparation on the basis of information supplied by governments, and will be made available by the Executive Secretary to the countries taking part in the work of the Commission.

06.—HOUSING AND BUILDING⁵

06.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

06.1.1. *Survey of housing progress and policies*

The object of the annual survey prepared by the secretariat is (a) to review the main current development in the field of housing as a basis for an annual 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. Part I of the next Survey will describe and discuss the main housing trends and the principal changes in housing policies in 1957. The following problems of a more long-term character were provisionally selected for fuller analysis, with the aid of rapporteurs, in Part II of the Survey: (a) rural housing, especially an analysis of the present rural housing situation and government policies in relation to rural housing; (b) methods of formulating house-building programmes currently in use.

06.1.2. *Housing problems of less industrialized countries*

The purpose of the project is to exchange information which would be useful to governments of the less industrialized countries in developing and expediting their housing programmes. There is an *ad hoc* working party to deal with these problems. In the present plan of this work, questions of practical collaboration between the southern European countries are being examined between experts from the countries concerned; one is the prospect of developing the production of building materials, components and equipment, on the basis of a more rational division of labour between the countries concerned; and the other, the possibility of developing regional arrangements for the promotion of building research, including the dissemination of up-to-date technical information.

06.1.3. *Industrialization of house-building*

A comprehensive enquiry is being carried out by rapporteurs and the secretariat on governments' technical

⁴ Authority: Commission's decision at eleventh session (E/2868, para. 260, point 5).

⁵ Authority: Programme of Work of the Housing Committee for 1958/1959, adopted by the Committee at its fifteenth session (E/ECE/HOU/71, para. 21).

policies, with particular reference to the industrialization of house-building and the reduction of the cost of house construction. The report will discuss the nature and make-up of housing costs in the different countries; analyse the organization of demand, including such questions as the scale and continuity of demand, contract practices in the building industry, and the standardization of house plans, materials and components; and examine the structure of the industry and the organization of production, including such questions as prefabrication, mechanization and research and the application of research in practice.

06.1.4. *Collection and publication of housing and building statistics*

The Committee through its Working Party of Statistical Experts: (i) advises the secretariat on the preparation and issue of the Quarterly and Annual *Bulletins of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe*; (ii) continues to seek agreement on standard definitions of housing concepts and terms with a view to improving the degree of precision and international comparability of European housing and building statistics; (iii) exchanges information on national studies and statistical methods relating to housing and building. Work in this field is co-ordinated with that of the Conference of European Statisticians and of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

06.2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

06.2.1. *Problems of existing housing stock*

An enquiry is being carried out by governmental rapporteurs on the policies pursued and methods of preparation with regard to programmes for the clearance of dwellings unfit for human habitation, and re-housing programmes, including the identification of sub-standard dwellings and the improvement of existing dwellings. The purpose of the project is to exchange experience on the organization and execution of such programmes and to draw conclusions where possible.

06.2.2. *Utilization of space in current types of dwelling*

The report will present plans of typical dwellings in selected categories recently built in urban and rural areas, together with particulars on standards prescribed for low-cost housing and current regulations or codes governing ceiling heights and certain facilities and equipment; each type plan presented will be described and information will also be given on the equipment normally provided and if possible on the mode of living for which the dwelling was designed. The purpose of the enquiry, which is being carried out by governmental rapporteurs, is to exchange information and experience on the utilization of space in current types of dwellings.

06.2.3. *Standardization and modular co-ordination*

The Committee decided that in view of the importance of inter-governmental co-operation on standardization and modular co-ordination, both from the point of view of reducing building costs and of developing trade

in building materials and components, an *ad hoc* meeting under the auspices of the Housing Committee should be held as soon as possible to consider what action could be taken by governments to promote and accelerate the practical application of standardization and modular co-ordination, and to examine its impact on trade in building materials and components.

07.—INLAND TRANSPORT ¹

07.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

07.1.1. *Improvement of customs facilities for the crossing of frontiers by transport equipment, passengers and goods*

The Group of Customs Experts endeavours to facilitate international transport and travel. Its work accordingly covers the following questions:

Rail transport

Implementing of the two Conventions of 10 January 1952. Discussion and, subsequently, bringing into force and implementing of a convention on the repair of EUROPE wagons.

Road transport

Implementing at European level of the New York Customs Convention of 1954 on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles; study and introduction of more liberal measures than those provided for under that Convention;

Bringing into force and implementing of the 1956 Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles;

Discussion and, subsequently, bringing into force and implementing of a convention on the international transport of goods by road (TIR carnet) and in the meantime implementing of the 1949 Provisional Agreement;

Miscellaneous topics: co-ordination of the functions and office hours of Customs offices on the same route; facilities for the passage of vehicles carrying perishable foodstuffs; etc.

Air and waterway transport

Bringing into force and implementing of the 1956 Convention on the Temporary Importation for Private Use of Aircraft and Pleasure Boats and in the meantime implementing of the 1949 Provisional Agreement.

Combined transport

Bringing into force and implementing of the 1956 Convention on Containers and, in the meantime, implementing of the resolutions adopted by the Committee;

Study of problems arising out of the establishment of an international pallet pool.

¹ Authority: Programme of Work of the Inland Transport Committee for 1958/1959, adopted by the Committee at its seventeenth session (E/ECE/Trans/502, para. 99).

07.1.2. *Simplification and standardization of documents required for international motor traffic and international transport*

The Sub-Committee on Road Transport is endeavouring to obtain:

the recognition in foreign countries of national driving licences and registration certificates for motor vehicles;

the recognition in foreign countries of national insurance policies; the abolition for private vehicles of double levying of the road tax.

The Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport is studying the standardization of the documents to be carried by boats and boatmen and of the identification and registration marks of boats.

07.1.3. *Improvement of road safety*

The Sub-Committee on Road Transport is 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 preparation and subsequently the bringing into force and implementing of an agreement on road marking;

the implementing of the 1950 Declaration on the Construction of Main International Traffic Arteries.

It is studying the measures to be taken at European level concerning vehicle equipment over and above those provided for under the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic.

07.1.4. *Development of private international law in the field of transport*

The Committee is endeavouring to expedite the entry into force of the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road signed in 1956.

The Working Party on River Law is at present considering:

the draft of a convention on the contract for the international carriage of goods by inland waterways;

the draft of a convention on the unification of certain rules concerning collisions in inland navigation.

Subsequently the Committee will study conventions on: the forwarding agent's contract in international transport;

the contract for international combined transport;

the contract for international furniture removals;

limitation of the carrier's liability in inland navigation;

assistance and life-saving in inland navigation;

liens, mortgages and other rights *in rem* concerning inland navigation vessels, attachment and execution.

07.1.5. *Collection, improvement, standardization and distribution of statistics on transport and its place in the economy*

The Working Party of Experts on Statistical Information is concerned to develop statistics and particularly,

owing to their being at a less advanced stage, those relating to road transport and motor traffic.

07.1.6. *International road transport regime*

The Sub-Committee on Road Transport is continuing its discussions and studies on:

the formulation of principles and rules to be applied in respect of international road tariffs;

the bringing into force and implementing of the General Agreement of 1954 on Economic Regulations for International Road Transport;

the implementing of the 1947 Agreements on freedom of the road;

the licensing of regular international passenger transport services;

the formulation of principles and rules to be applied in the licensing of other international services;

the bringing into force and implementing of the 1956 Conventions on the taxation of road vehicles engaged in international passenger and goods transport;

the study of taxation questions not settled by these Conventions.

07.2. *Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY*

07.2.1. *Studies on transport economics*

On the basis of reports prepared by experts or by the secretariat, the Committee is continuing:

studies on the share of track costs chargeable to the various types of transport equipment and on taxes or tolls levied;

studies on the accountancy costs and the economic costs of the various modes of transport and of the various types of equipment used in combined transport.

In 1958, taking as a basis a general report to be drawn up by the secretariat on the co-ordination of transport, it will consider how it may resume its general studies on the co-ordination of transport.

07.2.2. *Concentration of international rail traffic on rational routes*

The Sub-Committee on Rail Transport has recommended certain measures to bring about such concentration, which would lead to economies; it is observing their implementing and considering whether supplementary measures are required.

07.2.3. *Technical questions*

Railways

The Sub-Committee on Rail Transport is studying questions concerning the renewal, standardization and utilization of rolling stock and also certain specific technical problems relating to the improvement of rail transport equipment. Technical studies are carried out either by the UIC or by a group composed of experts appointed by the International Union of Railways (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 is studying the rationalization and mechanization of loading and unloading operations in river ports.

Combined transport

The Working Party on Combined Transport Equipment is studying new technical developments in this sphere.

07.2.4. Regulations on the registration of inland navigation vessels and unification of signs and signals and policing regulations on inland waterways

The Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport:
is discussing the draft of a convention on the registration of inland navigation vessels;
supervises the implementing of the resolution 1 concerning signs and signals on waterways;
is studying the unification of signs and signals on vessels;
is studying the unification of policing regulations.

07.2.5. Transport of perishable foodstuffs

The task of the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs is to frame:

recommendations on the international transport of perishable foodstuffs covering such subjects as transport equipment;

recommendations on the standardization of wooden and cardboard packaging, a subject being studied in collaboration with the Committee on Agricultural Problems, which is itself working on the standardization of products.

07.2.6. Transport and handling of dangerous goods

The Working Party on 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 is continuing the formulation of a similar agreement for transport by inland waterway, and it may undertake later the discussion of general rules for the handling of dangerous goods, bearing in mind the studies undertaken in this field at world level and for all modes of transport.

07.3. OTHER PROJECTS

07.3.1. Railway tariffs

In collaboration with the International Union of Railways, the Working Party on Tariffs is seeking to co-ordinate national railway tariff structures and is studying the possibility of establishing international railway tariffs independent of national tariffs.

07.3.2. Balance-sheets of the various systems of railway traction in relation to energy resources

The Sub-Committee on Rail Transport will study these balance-sheets, taking particularly into consideration the work done by the UIC.

07.3.3. Rail transport safety

The Sub-Committee on Rail Transport co-ordinates studies undertaken to reduce the number of shunting accidents and, if required, to introduce automatic coupling.

07.3.4. Safety in the handling of containers

The Working Party on Combined Transport Equipment is observing the implementing of Committee resolution 190 on this subject.

07.3.5. Terminology

Groups of rapporteurs are preparing definitions of the terms in current use in discussions on transport, with particular reference to tariffs (in progress) and costs (completed). Subsequently, the Working Party of Experts on Statistical Information will co-ordinate and finalize these definitions.

08.—STEEL ¹

08.1.—CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

08.1.1. Short-term trends and problems in the European steel industry

On the basis of an annual market review prepared by the secretariat, 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, the Committee holds an annual debate on the steel market situation and considers what action might be taken to deal with problems thus revealed and analysed. In order to facilitate comparisons from year to year, the Committee has now adopted a framework for a uniform presentation of the annual market review.

08.1.2. Long-term trends and problems in the European steel industry

The main objective of the work at present being done under this heading is to examine what measures would help Europe to adapt itself to the probable long-term changes in the world steel market. A comprehensive inquiry is being carried out as a basis for discussion and action by the Committee. This study, presented in the form of an analysis accompanied by statistical tables, would comprise two parts. The first would recall developments during recent years; the second would assess

¹ Authority: Programme of Work of the Steel Committee for 1958/1959, adopted by the Committee at its nineteenth session (E/ECE/STEEL/117, para. 14).

probable trends in steel demand and productive capacity in Europe, taking into account also world prospects. There will be an examination of the evolution of steel-making capacity, both in Europe and overseas; of requirements and potential output of steel-making raw materials, including the likely evaluation of the pattern of trade in raw materials, particularly in view of the increasing shortage of certain materials, especially scrap; and of the growth of demand for steel in Europe and overseas, including problems of intra-European trade and trade between Europe and overseas, both direct and indirect.

08.1.3. *Technical co-operation and all-European contacts*

The Committee endeavours to promote all-European co-operation on technical problems relating to steel and has agreed in this connexion that:

(i) technical and scientific institutes in the field of steel in all countries taking part in the work of the Commission should be invited to take steps to increase mutual contacts and to endeavour to achieve the participation of experts from all these countries in the congresses and meetings held in different countries from time to time on specific technical problems;

(ii) efforts should be made to increase reciprocal visits both of a short preliminary character to see what facilities are available in particular countries, and follow-up visits by smaller groups of specialists interested in specific questions;

(iii) visits to steelworks in near-by countries on the occasion of the Committee sessions might be particularly valuable to smaller steel producing countries.

08.1.4. *Statistics*

The Committee through its Working Party on Steel Statistics:

(i) advises the Secretariat on the preparation and issue of a Quarterly Bulletin providing detailed European statistics on a comparable basis;

(ii) promotes the collection and improvement of steel statistics, paying at present particular attention to the improvement of statistics on deliveries, stocks and consumption of steel.

08.2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

08.2.1. *Methodology of manning tables*

The Committee, through an *ad hoc* group of experts from interested countries, is considering ways and means and the terms on which information on the methodology of manning tables in steelworks could be exchanged on a reciprocal basis between countries willing to participate in the work.

08.2.2. *Standardization of general conditions of sale for selected commodities*

The Committee is considering the possibility of standardizing conditions of sale of rolled-steel products and of ores of iron, chrome and manganese.

08.2.3. *Iron and steel capacity*

The Committee, having agreed on a common definition of iron- and steel-making capacity, has under consideration the possibility of establishing a common definition of rolling-mill capacity. It is also promoting exchange of information on methods of calculating blast- and steel-furnace capacity.

08.2.4. *Consumption prospects by sectors of the steel industry*

Reports have been completed on flat steel products, tubes and on railway material. The possibility of preparing a report on wire rods and wire is under consideration; the undertaking of this report depends primarily on whether sufficient and detailed information can be made available. Problems in the sectors already covered, together with any major problems arising in other sectors of the steel industry, are kept under review in the annual market reviews and reports already completed will be brought up to date within the framework of the long-term inquiry (see 08.1.2).

09.—TIMBER¹

(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 1957/58. 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.)

09.1 CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

09.1.1. *Review of timber market for Europe, including timber statistics*

The Timber Committee reviews periodically the situation in the sawn softwood, pitprops, pulpwood and sawn hardwood markets. In addition the secretariat publishes quarterly market reports for sawn softwood, pitprops and pulpwood, together with statistics relating to production, trade and prices in the main forest products in Europe and North America. The market reports are based on information collected from official and other sources and publications which is analysed by the ECE secretariat. In connexion with the market intelligence furnished to the Committee, the secretariat prepares and, where appropriate, publishes price series supplemented by graphs, comparisons of timber prices and those of alternative materials, and relevant economic indicators (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).

¹ Authority: Programme of Work of the Timber Committee for 1958/1959, adopted by the Committee at its fifteenth session (E/ECE-TIM/57, para. 14).

09.1.2. *Special import/export problems*

Opportunity is provided to interested countries in connexion with sessions of the Committee 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).

09.1.3. *Increased efficiency in forestry operations*

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.

09.1.4. *Studies on the more rational utilization of wood*

These studies, the aim of which is to improve the utilization of wood, include in particular:

Reducing waste in the forest and ensuring the fuller use of by-products in the wood-using industries;

The use by industry of types and sizes of wood not hitherto normally used.

09.2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

09.2.1. *Minimum programme for European forest and forest products statistics*

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 also considers special statistical problems referred to it by the parent bodies.

09.2.2. *Study on trends in the utilization of wood and its products*

The aim of this study is to examine trends in the utilization of wood and its products in construction, in packaging and other end-uses in European countries, and the impact of these trends on Europe's timber requirements.

09.3. OTHER PROJECTS

09.3.1. *Long-term timber trends, forecasts and trade arrangements*

The question of long-term trends of timber requirements and import and export trade is kept under review, and, upon request, the possibilities of medium- and long-term trade arrangements are investigated.

09.3.2. *General conditions of sale for timber*

A set of optional general conditions for sale of sawn softwood has been prepared in 1956. The question whether this work should be extended to timber other than sawn softwood is under consideration.

09.3.3. *Timber grading*

The Secretariat follows the work of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in this field. This project may be explored further by the secretariat in the light of the results of ISO's deliberations, but no work on the project is foreseen during the coming year.

10.—TRADE ¹

10.1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

10.1.1. *Review of developments in intra-European, especially east-west, trade*

The Committee undertakes at each session a review of developments in the field of intra-European, especially east-west, trade. This review includes, *inter alia*, such points as obstacles of an economic, administrative or trade policy character to intra-European trade as well as possibilities of further expansion of such trade. The Committee also reviews at each session the results obtained and techniques used in long-term trade arrangements or contracts. In reviewing these developments, the Committee takes into account the work done in other ECE committees relevant to the problem of trade. On the basis of a proposal for a study of the economic consequences of the establishment of the European Economic Community, the Committee at its sixth session took note of the secretariat's intention to prepare within the framework of the *Annual Economic Survey* a study of European trade, including east-west trade, which would deal with this question as envisaged in the Report of the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-fourth session (A/3613, paras. 159-160). The Committee is to discuss this problem at its next session, unless the Commission decides otherwise. On the basis of a proposal for study of such questions as the system of tariffs applied in European countries, quantitative and other restrictions, etc., the Committee also took note of the secretariat's intention to include in its *Annual Economic Surveys* and *Quarterly Bulletins* studies of the possibilities of facilitating European and particularly east-west trade, which would take into account to the extent possible, *inter alia*, these questions as well as other relevant problems referred to in the discussion on this proposal. (See paras. 9 and 12 of the Committee's Report.)

10.1.2. *Consultations of experts on intra-European, especially east-west, trade*

The sixth annual Consultation of Experts on East-West Trade, in the form approved by the Committee, is scheduled to take place as part of the seventh session of the Committee.

10.1.3. *Inter-regional trade*

The Committee keeps under review the possibilities of expansion of inter-regional trade, including possible

¹ Authority: Programme of Work of the Committee on the Development of Trade for 1958/1959, adopted by the Committee at its sixth session (E/ECE/Trade/27, para. 38).

inter-regional trade consultations in the light of ECOSOC resolution 579 (XX) B.

10.2 *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

10.2.1. *Improvement of payments arrangements*

The Committee is exploring means of improving east-west payments relations by enlarging the scope for multilateral transferability. Procedures for voluntary compensation of balances arising under bilateral agreements have been put into effect as of 30 June 1957, with the secretariat acting as agent. The Committee is also exploring the possibility of the adoption by governments of other measures which could further increase the degree of transferability applicable to balances arising in east-west trade.

10.2.2. *Arbitration*

The *Ad hoc* Working Party of Experts on Arbitration is engaged in collecting information on international commercial arbitration and examining problems concerning arbitral settlements of commercial disputes.

10.2.3. *Standardization of general conditions of sale for selected commodities*

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, Steel).

10.2.4. *Foreign trade problems of southern European countries*

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.

10.3 OTHER PROJECTS

10.3.1. *Trade fairs and technical shows*

At its sixth session the Committee decided to direct the Working Party on International Fairs to review the recommendations regarding administrative facilities to be granted to international fairs and international technical shows and requested it:

(1) to reduce the divergencies apparent in the replies from the various countries, in order to arrive, if possible, at generally acceptable recommendations;

(2) to lay down criteria for the definition of international technical shows.

The Committee will decide at its seventh session, in the light of the Report of the Working Party, whether the Working Party should be entrusted with further tasks.

10.3.2. *Exchange of information regarding organization, techniques and mechanization of retail and wholesale trade*

The Committee, at its fifth session, requested the secretariat to assist interested countries in arranging for the mutual exchange of experience, documentation and visits of experts in this field.

ANNEX I

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES AT THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Albania

M. Pupo Shyti, Vice-President of State Planning Commission; Head of Delegation
M. Meleq Babani, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Austria

H. E. M. Bruno Kreisky, Secretary of State, Fed. Chancellery, Department of Foreign Affairs; Head of Delegation
M. Emanuel Treu, Counsellor of Legation, Fed. Chancellery, Department of Foreign Affairs; Deputy Head of Delegation
M. Johannes Willfort, Austrian Permanent Representative; Alternate Deputy Head of Delegation
M. Ludwig Gregor, Counsellor, Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction
M. Alexander Grachegg, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
M. Otto Engelhardt, Ministry of Social Affairs
M. Gerhard Marsch, Ministry of the Interior
M. Friedrich Wondre, Chamber of Labour
M. Alois Partl, Central Board of the Austrian Chambers of Agriculture

Belgium

Mr. M. Spreutels, Inspector-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head of Delegation
Mr. J. Etienne, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations; Deputy Head of Delegation
Mr. Ch. Walhin, *Chargé de mission*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. R. Faniel, Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr. H. J. Robinet, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations; Secretary
Mr. M. Malbrecq, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Bulgaria

Mr. Givko Givkov, First Deputy-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head of Delegation
Mr. Avakum Branitchev, Head of Department, Ministry of Trade
Mr. Athanas Belinski, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Malin Molerov, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Marin Kralev, Commercial Counsellor, Legation of Bulgaria at Berne
Mr. Veliko Velikov, Member of the Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations

Byelorussian SSR

Mr. F. L. Kohonov, Minister of Finance; Head of Delegation
Mr. B. V. Kudriavtsev, Expert-Consultant, Ministry for Foreign Affairs; Alternate Head of Delegation
Mr. S. G. Skoroparov, Director of the Institute for Improvements, Academy of Agricultural Sciences
Mr. V. S. Kolbasin, Third Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Czechoslovakia

Mr. Karel Kurkg, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; Head of Delegation
Mr. Robert Schmelz, Director of the Institute for Economic Research, Ministry of Foreign Trade; alternate Head of Delegation
Mr. Otto Herbst, Vice-President of the State Statistical Office
Mr. Pribyslav Pavlik, Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Karel Svec, Head of Division, Ministry of Foreign Trade
Mr. Otto Benes, Permanent Mission to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Jan Muzik, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Jiri Jambor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Miss Vera Kadlecova, Secretary
Mrs. Valentina Jamborova, Secretary
Miss Miroslava Mrazkova, Secretary

Denmark

Mr. J. O. Krag, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations; Head of the Delegation
Mr. H. Maegaard Nielsen, Deputy Chief of Section, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Deputy Head of the Delegation
Mr. F. Gundelach, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Kurt Hansen, Deputy Head of Section, The Economic Secretariat
Miss Ruth Krøger, Secretary of the Delegation

Federal Republic of Germany

Delegates

Dr. R. Baetzgen, Head of Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs; Head of Delegation
Dr. V. von Zahn-Stranik, Senior Counsellor of Legation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Alternate Head of Delegation
Mr. K. H. Winter, Senior Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Advisers

Dr. M. Meyer-Burckhardt, Head of Department, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry
Dr. K. A. Zapp, Senior Counsellor of Legation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dr. W. Steidle, Senior Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr. Fr. Pfeiffer, Principal, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr. A. H. von Arnim, Counsellor, Ministry of Transport
Mr. H. Reichardt, Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Miss G. Burre, Interpreter
Mr. H. H. Haunschild, Counsellor, Ministry of Atomic Affairs
Mr. F. Klemm, Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr. K. Zuschlag, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Miss M. Leipziger, Secretary

Permanent Delegation

Dr. R. Thierfelder, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the International Organizations at Geneva
Dr. K. Barte, Deputy Permanent Representative
Mr. W. Göller, Transport Attaché to the Permanent Delegation

Finland

Mr. Olavi Munkki, Deputy Chief, Commercial Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head of Delegation
Mr. Torsten Tikanvaara, Permanent Delegate to the International Organizations in Geneva
Mr. E. Raustila, Consul General
Mr. Pentti Uusivirta, Secretary of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Miss Liisa Hagelberg, Secretary to the Delegation

France

Mr. Joannes Dupraz, Former Minister, Member of Parliament; Head of Delegation
Mr. E. de Curtion, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations; Deputy Head of Delegation
Mr. A. Lawrence, Economic Counsellor
Mr. C. F. Bonnome, Ministry of Reconstruction and Housing
Mr. R. Establie, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. E. d'Harcourt, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. G. de Lacharriere, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. G. Plescoff, Inspector of Finance
Mr. R. Schwob, Ministry of Industry and Trade
Mr. J. Simondet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. M. du Vigneaux, Ministry of Agriculture

Greece

Mr. G. Coustas, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head of Delegation
Mr. G. Bensis, Permanent Representative to the International Organizations at Geneva; Deputy Head of Delegation
Mrs. A. Pangalou, Chief of Section, Ministry of Economic Coordination
Mr. J. Presmazoglou, Chief of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. N. Kyriazidis, Bank of Greece

Hungary

Mr. Jenő Bacsoni, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade; Head of Delegation
Mr. Janos Szita, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations
Mrs. Julia Zala, Director, Central Statistical Office
Mr. Ernő Hars, Second Counsellor, Chief of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. István Halasz, Second Secretary, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Péter Karasz, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Trade

Ireland

H.E. Mrs. Josephine McNeill, Irish Minister to Switzerland; Head of Delegation
Miss Sheila Murphy, Counsellor, Department of External Affairs
Mr. T. O'Sullivan, Irish Legation, Berne; Adviser

Italy

Mr. Alberto Berio, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations; Head of Delegation
Mr. Tommaso Notarangi, Minister Plenipotentiary; Deputy Head of the Delegation
Mr. Lionello Cozzi, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Dante Negretti, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Francesco Accardo, Cabinet Office
Mr. R. Ricci, National Touring Board
Mr. Gilvanni Calderale, Treasury
Mr. Silvano Palumbo, Treasury
Mr. Guida Milano, Ministry of Foreign Trade
Mr. Roberto Gualtieri, Ministry of Industry
Mr. Vincenzo Camuccini, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Mr. Antonio Ferone, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Mr. Mario Lariccia, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Mr. Amedeo Cuttica, Ministry of Transport
Mr. Aldo Morganti, Ministry of Transport
Mr. Osvaldo Gigliotti, Ministry of Industry
Mr. Mario Minasi, Secretary to the Delegation

Luxembourg

Mr. Ignace Bessling, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

Norway

Mr. Jens Schive, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; Head of Delegation
Mr. Johan Cappelen, Counsellor of Legation, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the International Organizations in Geneva; Alternate Head of Delegation
Mr. Erik Ribu, Deputy Director, Ministry of Commerce
Mr. Olav Lydvo, Chief of Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Gabriel Kielland, Chief of Section, Bank of Norway
Miss Agnes A. Wergeland, Secretary of the Delegation

Poland

Mr. Oscar Lange, President, Economic Council of the Polish Peoples' Republic; Head of Delegation
Mr. Adam Meller-Conrad, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations; Deputy Head of Delegation
Mr. Andrzej Kruczkowski, Minister Plenipotentiary, Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Trade; Delegate
Mr. Mieczyslaw Blusztajn, Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Delegate
Mr. Andrzej Horoszkiewicz, First Secretary, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations; Adviser
Mr. Włodzimierz Wiczorek, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Adviser
Mr. Sergiusz Mikulicz, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Adviser, Secretary to the Delegation

Portugal

Mr. Ruy Teixeira Guerra, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director-General of Economic Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head of Delegation
Mr. Fernando de Alcambar Pereira, Permanent Representative to the Economic Commission for Europe; Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Arménio Fonseca Lopes, Deputy Secretary-General, Bank of Portugal, representing the Ministry of Finance
Mr. José da Silva Lopes, Adviser, Economic Co-ordination Commission, representing the Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr. Pedro Madeira de Andrade, Legation Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Secretary

Romania

Mr. Gheorghe Radulescu, Deputy Minister of Trade; Head of Delegation
Mr. Bazil Serban, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Deputy Head of Delegation
Mr. Stefan Gal, Permanent Representative to the Economic Commission for Europe
Mr. Paul Alexiu, Deputy-Director, State Planning Committee
Mr. Valerian Stan, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Spain

H.E. Don José Antonio de Sangroniz, Marquis de Desio, Ambassador of Spain; Head of Delegation

Deputies to Head of Delegation

Mr. José Manuel Aniel-Quiroga, Director, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Luis Garcia de Llera, Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Eduardo Junco-Azcoitia, Counsellor for Foreign Economic Affairs

Counsellors to Head of Delegation

Mr. Guillermo Cebrián Montán, Attaché, Foreign Economic Affairs
Mr. Javier Molina-Fajardo, Ministry of Industry
Marquis de Robledo, Member of the Permanent Delegation to the International Organizations in Geneva

Sweden

Mrs. Karin Kock, Former Director in Chief, Central Bureau of Statistics; Head of Delegation
Baron C. H. von Platen, Chief of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Alternate Head of Delegation
Mr. P. B. Kollberg, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. A. Faltheim, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. P. O. Forshell, Member of the Permanent Mission to the European Office of the United Nations
Mrs. M. Porret, Secretary
Miss I. Nordin, Secretary

Switzerland

Mr. Friedrich Bauer, Deputy Director, Trade Division, Federal Department of Economic Affairs; Head of Delegation
Mr. Anton J. Kilchmann, Principal Chief of Section, Trade Division, Federal Department of Economic Affairs; Deputy Head of Delegation
Mr. Gilbert de Dardel, Assistant Officer, Federal Political Department
Mr. Louis Maire, Vice-Chairman, Swiss National FAO Committee
Mr. Paul E. Miescher, Engineer, Georg Fischer S.A., Schaffhausen
Mr. Edmund Wyss, Secretary, Swiss Trade Unions' Association

Turkey

Mr. C. S. Hayta, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations; Head of the Delegation

Mr. M. Öktem, Adviser on Foreign Trade, Ministry of Trade
Mr. N. Enüstün, Director, Technical Planning Committee, Ministry of Public Works
Mr. H. Gülerüz, Ministry of Industry
Miss J. Rais, Secretary

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

Mr. G. L. Sahnovskii, Minister for Trade; Head of Delegation
Mr. A. S. Koroed, Deputy Director, Institute of Economics of the Academy of Sciences; Alternate head of Delegation
Mr. A. A. Boiko, Counsellor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Mr. A. I. Mashkov, First Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Mr. E. M. Prohorov, Second Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Mr. A. V. Zaharov, Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs; Head of Delegation
Mr. A. S. Chistyakov, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. D. D. Degtyar, Member of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations
Mr. M. V. Lavrichenko, Deputy Chief of the Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Mr. S. F. Chenchikovskii, Assistant Chief, Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Trade
Mr. A. V. Kirsanov, Section Chief, Institute of World Economics and of International Relations of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR
Mr. E. N. Makeev, Assistant Chief, Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Mr. V. M. Timofeev, Counsellor, Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Mr. N. I. Ivanov, Chief of Department, State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations
Mr. G. S. Batrushevich, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. B. G. Boldyrev, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. V. L. Borisov, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. K. M. Savitskii, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. A. N. Puchkov, Senior scientific collaborator, Institute of World Economics and of International Relations, Academy of Sciences of the USSR
Mr. N. G. Sysoev, First Secretary, Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Mr. V. V. Snegirev, First Secretary, Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Mr. B. V. Sergienko, Expert-Consultant, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. G. Y. Zverev, Second Secretary, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations
Mrs. S. D. Shaverdian, Assistant to the Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr. Y. I. Büzykin, Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Interpreter
Mr. V. A. Gnevashev, Department for International Economic Organizations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs; Secretary to the Delegation

United Kingdom

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Gosford, O.B.E., Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Head of Delegation
Mr. D. A. H. Wright, C. M. G., Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office; First Alternate

Mr. E. Sniders, M. B. E., Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations; Second Alternate
Mr. G. F. Rodgers, Foreign Office; Third Alternate
Mr. W. M. Scammell, Treasury; Adviser
Mr. D. N. Byrne, Board of Trade; Adviser
Mr. P. Chantler, Ministry of Power; Adviser
Mr. F. C. D. Sargeant, Foreign Office; Secretary to the Delegation
Mr. J. M. O. Snodgrass, Foreign Office; Private Secretary to the Head of the Delegation
Mr. W. Hindle, Foreign Office; Conference Officer

United States of America

Mr. Henry J. Heinz II, President, H. J. Heinz Company, Pittsburg Pa.; Head of Delegation

Principal Advisers

Mr. John W. Evans, American Embassy, London
Mr. George A. Tesoro, Senior Economic Officer, US Resident Delegation and Consulate General, Geneva

Advisers

Mr. Frederik W. Flott, Jr., American Embassy, Bonn
Mr. M. Goodman, US Mission to European Regional Organization, Paris
Mr. Michael G. Kelakos, Office of Economic and Social Affairs, Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Mrs. Ruth Kupinsky, Office of European Regional Affairs, Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Mr. Cameron J. Laclair, Jr., Economic Officer, US Resident Delegation and Consulate General, Geneva
Mr. John G. McCarthy, US Mission to European Regional Organization, Paris
Mr. Joe A. Robinson, Economic Officer, US Resident Delegation and Consulate General, Geneva
Mr. Charles L. Schultze, Council of Economic Advisers, Executive Office of the President, The White House Office, Washington, D.C.

Yugoslavia

Mr. Vladimir Velebit, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Head of Delegation
Mr. Sergije Makiedo, Minister Plenipotentiary; Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations; Deputy Head of the Delegation
Mr. Rados Stamenkovic, Professor at the University of Belgrade
Mr. Mladen Sekicki, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Branko Komatina, Deputy-Representative, Permanent Delegation
Mr. Mauro Hencic, Member of the Permanent Delegation
Mrs. Tatjana Popavic, Secretary to the Delegation

COUNTRIES ATTENDING UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 11 OF THE COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

Argentina

Mr. Andrés M. Lescure, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Adolfo P. Lacu, Adviser, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations

Canada

Mr. R. Harry Jay, First Secretary, Canadian Permanent Mission to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. M. G. Clark, Second Secretary (Financial), Canadian Permanent Mission to the European Office of the United Nations

Cuba

H. E. Mr. J. Enrique Camejo-Argudin, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Head of Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations

India

Mr. Madhao V. Deo, First Secretary (Commercial) Indian Embassy, Berne

Israel

Mr. M. Kahany, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. Yaacov Yannay, Second Secretary, Embassy of Israel, Paris

Japan

Mr. Ichiro Kawasaki, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Geneva

Mr. Megum Sato, Second Secretary to the Permanent Delegation in Geneva

Mexico

Mr. Juan Antonio Merigo Aza, Permanent Delegation to the International Organizations at Geneva

United Arab Republic

Dr. Ashraf Ghorbal, Permanent Delegation to the International Organizations at Geneva

Mr. Omar Hefny Mahmoud, Permanent Delegation to the International Organizations at Geneva

Uruguay

Mr. Victor Pomes, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations

INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International Atomic Energy Agency

Mr. Leon Steinig, Special Consultant

Mr. Beaumont

International Labour Organisation

Mr. R. Lyman, Chief of the Manpower Division; Representative

Mr. G. Koulischer, Manpower Division; Alternate

Mr. J. L. Burtle, Economic Division; Alternate

Mr. P. Mouly, Economic Division; Alternate

International Monetary Fund

Mr. J. P. Salle, Representative

Mr. James G. Evans, Counsellor

Food and Agriculture Organization

Mr. Egon Glesinger, Representative, Deputy Director, Forestry Division of FAO, and Director FAO/ECE Timber Division

Mr. Pierre Sinard, Director, FAO/ECE Agriculture Division

World Health Organization

Mr. Robert N. Clark, Chief Sanitary Engineering Adviser, Division of Environmental Sanitation; Representative

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Category A

International Co-operative Alliance

Mr. Marcel Boson

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

Mr. Eric Göttlicher, Office of European Regional Organization

Mr. Borek Zofka, Geneva Office

International Organization of Employers

Dr. Joseph Vanek, Permanent representative of the IOE in Geneva

International Federation of Christian Trade Unions

Mr. Georges Eggermann, Permanent representative in Geneva

World Federation of Trade Unions

Mr. Marcel Bras, Secretary, World Federation of Trade Unions

Mr. Jean Duret, Member of the Economic Council, French General Confederation of Labour

Mr. Ruggero Spesso, Member of the Research Bureau, Italian General Confederation of Labour

Mr. Guiseppe Boglietti, Permanent Representative of the WFTU to the European Office of the United Nations

World Veterans Federation

Mr. Antonio Ronconi, Representative at Geneva

Category B

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Mr. Elfan Rees, Permanent Representative in Geneva

International Statistical Institute

Mr. James Nixon, Permanent Delegate in Geneva

International Union of Official Travel Organizations

Mr. R. C. Lonati, Secretary-General

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Miss Gertrude Baer, International Permanent Consultant

ANNEX II

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION

as amended by the thirteenth, seventeenth and twentieth sessions of the Economic and Social Council

1. The Economic Commission for Europe, acting within the framework of the policies of the 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.¹

7. The members of the Commission are the European Members of the United Nations and the United States of America.²

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,

¹ 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".

² Pursuant to resolution 594 (XX), the Federal Republic of Germany became a member of the Commission on 21 February 1956.

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 inter-governmental 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.

ANNEX III

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMISSION

as adopted on 14 July 1947 and amended by the Commission at its eleventh session 1956

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 twenty-one days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with a copy of the provisional agenda.

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 alternative 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 over-ruled.

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.

Rule 43

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, B and C 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 categories B and C 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, B and C 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 categories B and C consultations might be effected either directly or through *ad hoc* committees.

CHAPTER XII. 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 organiza-

tions could in appropriate cases be invited to be represented at meetings of committees, sub-committees and working parties.¹

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

¹ 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.

of any subsidiary bodies, once a year and shall make interim reports at each regular session of the Council.²

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.

² 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 ".