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SUPPLEMENT No. 6

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Annual report to the Economic and Social Council covering the period
22 April 1956 to 15 May 1957

INTRODUCTION

1. This annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is presented for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-fourth session in accordance with article 6 of ECE's terms of reference requiring the Commission to "... submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary

body, once a year ...". The present report covers the activities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies since the adjournment of the eleventh session on 21 April 1956 up to the end of its twelfth session on 15 May 1957.¹ The report was adopted by the Commission at the 27th plenary meeting of its twelfth session on 15 May 1957, under item 17 of its agenda.

PART I

THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

A. Subsidiary bodies of the Commission

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 twelfth session (E/ECE/265, A-J). The committees considered the relevant resolutions taken by the Commission at its eleventh session, in particular resolutions 4 (XI) concerning the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe, and 8 (XI) concerning the Commission's programme of work for 1956/57, as well as Council resolution 630 A I (XXII) concerning the general review of the development and co-ordination of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole. The committees took these decisions into account in their current activities as well as in drawing up their programme of work for the coming year.

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 and twenty-second sessions (E/1328, E/1674, E/2002, E/2187, E/2382, E/2556, E/2706 and E/2868).

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS

MEETINGS HELD

Committee on Agricultural Problems

Seventh Session 2-6 July 1956
Eighth Session 15-18 January 1957

Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Food-stuffs

Seventh Session 24-28 September 1956
Group of Experts on Fish 16-18 January 1956
29 October - 2 November 1956

Group of Experts on Eggs 6-8 June 1956
Working Group on Application of the Protocol 12 June 1956
11 and 12 February 1957

Group of Experts on Potatoes 18 February 1957

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

Third Session 6-10 February 1956
Fourth Session 24-29 September 1956
Fifth Session 1-12 April 1957

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

Second Session 30 January - 4 February 1956
Third Session 7-12 January 1957

Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture
Third Session 7-11 May 1956
Fourth Session 1-4 October 1956
Ad hoc Working Party on the Selection of Technical and
Economic Problems
Second Session 14 January 1957

OFFICERS

Committee on Agricultural Problems
Chairman : Mr. L. Maire (Switzerland)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. S. Gal (Romania)

Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Food-
stuffs
Chairman : Mr. R. Grooten (Belgium)
Vice-Chairman : Mme M. Klímová (Czechoslovakia)

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)

Ad hoc Working Party on Standardization of Conditions
of Sale for Citrus Fruit
Chairman : Mr. J. Trojan (Czechoslovakia)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. G. Milazzo (Italy)

Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture
Chairman : Mr. I. Rázzó (Hungary)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. C. Santini (Italy)

Ad hoc Working Party on the Selection of Technical and
Economic Problems
Chairman : Mr. S. Gal (Romania)

ACTIVITIES

3. The Committee has maintained its practice of beginning each session with statements by delegations on developments in their own countries since the previous session and on any special problems in the field of agriculture to which they consider it useful to draw the Committee's attention. An appraisal of the statements is contained in the report of each session (seventh session E/ECE/AGRI/32; eighth session E/ECE/AGRI/35).

Review of Market Outlook

4. At its seventh session, the Committee considered the short-term market outlook for cereals, milk and milk products, rice and table grapes, taking account of trade statistics and forecasts submitted by countries for this purpose and of additional information assembled by the secretariat. At the eighth session, the short-term outlook for cereals and for meat and livestock was reviewed.

5. The Committee also continued its examination of the medium-term trends in production, consumption and trade of cereals, milk and milk products, meat, livestock and eggs. At its eighth session, the Committee agreed that the secretariat should ask the countries concerned to communicate such additional information as would be necessary to enable the secretariat to draw

up a more complete and up-to-date report, which would be submitted to the Committee in 1958.

6. The Committee decided at its seventh session to embark upon a systematic study of factors affecting the demand for the main agricultural products, with a view to forecasting the probable trend of consumption. At the eighth session, it was decided that the secretariat should ask governments whether they would participate in the work of a group of experts, if such a group were set up to study the demand for milk and milk products; on the basis of replies from governments, a decision as to how work should proceed will be taken by the Committee at its ninth session in December 1957.

Establishment of Standard Conditions of Sale for Certain Agricultural Products

7. The *Ad hoc* Working Party on Standardization of Conditions of Sale for Cereals held two sessions in 1956. It completed the preparation of a draft contract for the international sale of cereals (Contract No. 1) c.i.f. (maritime), cargoes and parcels, *tale quale*, shipping weight-final. The secretariat was instructed to amend the other forms of contract in the light of the changes made by the Working Party to Contract No. 1. The draft texts were submitted to governments to enable them to consult the circles concerned. At its fifth session, the Working Party completed the texts of eight c.i.f. and two f.o.b. contracts for maritime sale of grain.

8. The *Ad hoc* Working Party on Conditions of Sale for Citrus Fruit held its second and third sessions during the period under review. Agreement was reached on standard general conditions of sale for this group of products. The text has been communicated to governments for comment, and in the light of the replies, the Executive Secretary will decide whether to convene the Working Party for a further session.

Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs

9. During the period under review, a number of governments clarified their position regarding acceptance of the Protocol on the Standardization of Fruit and Vegetables. Details are given in the report of the seventh session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs. At that session, the Working Party approved one amendment to the text of the Protocol.

10. An *Ad hoc* Working Group met in June 1956 to work out the details of the method by which a confrontation would be made between the provisions of the Protocol and the corresponding national regulations. The secretariat carried out the work along the lines indicated by the Working Party, in consultation with the competent authorities in the countries concerned. The results of the confrontation for a number of countries were reviewed by the *Ad hoc* Working Group at its second session in February 1957, and will be considered by the Working Party at its eighth session (October 1957).

11. During 1956, new draft recommendations were approved for witloof chicory, hen egg products, and certain species of fresh fish. The recommendations for eggs in shell were revised. Work continued on the pre-

paration or revision of the recommendations for other products, and the Working Party decided to add further products to those already under consideration. It will also study the methods and instruments used in various countries in the practical work of quality control of various kinds of produce.

Examination of Problems associated with the Mechanization of Agriculture

12. The Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture held its third and fourth sessions during 1956. It approved for distribution (after minor amendment and the inclusion of certain supplementary information) five reports dealing respectively with methods of green fodder conservation, the harvesting and conservation of maize stalks for forage, rice harvesting, the mechanization of dairy farms and the harvesting and shortage of the more common cereals. Reports on other topics were in course of preparation, and the Working Party discussed the questionnaires to be used by rapporteurs when assembling material for them. Preliminary consideration was given to a list of selected topics suggested for future study by the Working Party.

13. The Working Party approved arrangements for effective liaison with the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery (Industry and Materials Committee) and the Working Party for the Study of Rural Electrification (Committee on Electric Power).

Exchange of Information on Technical Problems

14. Questionnaires prepared by the rapporteurs were sent to participating countries to obtain information on the subjects which had previously been selected for study by the Committee, namely:

- (a) New methods of planting vineyards, and
- (b) New techniques for the conservation and improvement of soil fertility.

The replies will form the basis of reports which the rapporteurs will prepare for submission to the Committee. It is also intended to organize study sessions at which these subjects would be discussed. At its eighth session, the Committee decided to take up in due course the study by the same method of a third topic — namely, chemical means and equipment for controlling weeds and plant diseases. In addition, the secretariat will assemble and distribute documentation relating to chemical methods of improving animal fodder.

The Development of Contracts between Countries of Eastern and Western Europe

15. In addition to the exchange of information which has taken place in carrying out the work in the fields of mechanization of agriculture and the exchange of information on technical problems, the following activities may be mentioned:

Collective visits

16. The Committee and its Working Parties arranged a number of visits in order to promote the exchange of experience and information between the participating

countries. Following the seventh session of the Committee, groups of participants visited Czechoslovakia and eastern Germany and studied the organization and methods of agricultural production, agricultural research and agricultural education. Members of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs made a study visit to fruit and vegetable markets and research stations in the Netherlands a few days before their seventh session. Participants in the third session of the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture made a tour in parts of France, visiting factories producing tractors and equipment, and mechanized farms and machinery research centres. After the fourth session, participants made a visit to the United Kingdom, where they saw mechanized farms, research centres, manufacturers' training centres, and a world ploughing contest.

Individual visits and visits arranged on a bilateral basis between countries

17. With a view to facilitating visits by experts to exhibitions, demonstrations, etc., in other countries, the secretariat has continued to circulate from time to time lists of the main events in Europe which have a special agricultural interest.

Films

18. A number of films of technical or general agricultural interest were shown during sessions of the Committee and its Working Parties.

19. All countries were asked to furnish to the secretariat lists of films, film-strips and slides of general agricultural interest. The secretariat is in process of collating and classifying the lists which have been received.

Bibliographical material and other documentation

20. Various countries have supplied documentation which was distributed at the third and fourth sessions of the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture.

21. A list of publications dealing with agricultural mechanization was circulated to members of the Working Party. This list covers ten countries; more countries will furnish information for a supplementary list.

COAL COMMITTEE

MEETINGS HELD

Coal Committee

Thirty-eighth session	18-20 September 1956
Thirty-ninth session	11 December 1956
Fortieth session	19-20 March 1957

Coal Trade Sub-Committee

Thirtieth session	25 June 1956
Thirty-first session	18 September 1956
Thirty-second session	10 December 1956
Thirty-third session	18 March 1957

Utilization Working Party

Twentieth session	29 and 30 June 1956
Twenty-first session	13 and 14 December 1956

Classification Working Party

Thirteenth session 26-28 June 1956

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

First session 13-17 August 1956

Special Meeting of Experts on

Coal Production Methods 15-16 March 1957

OFFICERS

Coal Committee

Chairman : Mr. R. Duflou (Belgium)

Vice-Chairman : Mr. A. Schummer (Luxembourg)
Mr. A. Bem (Poland)

Coal Trade Sub-Committee

Chairman : Mr. J. Picard (France)

Vice-Chairmen : Mr. N. Hansen (Denmark)
Mr. C. de Peyer (United Kingdom)
for the 30th session
Mr. J. Farrel (United Kingdom)
for the 31st and 32nd sessions
Mr. V. Babacek (Czechoslovakia)
for the 33rd session

Utilization Working Party

Chairman : Mr. B. Roga (Poland)

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

Classification Working Party

Chairman : Mr. C. Charmelot (France)

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

Working Party on Coal Statistics

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. Hurník (Poland)

Special Meeting of Experts on Coal Production Methods

Chairman : Mr. R. Duflou (Belgium)

ACTIVITIES

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

22. In order to obtain an over-all view of the situation in the coal industry and trade in years to come, the Committee decided at its thirty-eighth session to make an inventory of intended policies in European countries. The producers have been asked to submit detailed statements of such intentions, including an indication of the conditions under which a more significant increase could be obtained; at the same time, an enquiry will be made

concerning the attitude of consumers towards the difficulties with which producers are faced.

23. In this connexion, mention should be made of the statement made by the Polish Delegation to the Committee at its fortieth session, in March 1957. After giving an exposé of production plans until 1960 and estimated future indigenous demand for coal, the Delegation stated that any increases of exports from the present level would be unlikely. On the other hand, it was stated, Poland has unworked deposits which are relatively cheap and accessible and which could be exploited if the necessary capital were made available. Other countries were invited to consider the possibilities of providing the necessary funds and this question will again be debated at the forty-first session, in September 1957, within the framework of the above-mentioned report on long-term problems facing the coal industry.

Production Problems

24. The Committee examined the question of countries exchanging information on their efforts to improve coal production methods, and was in unanimous agreement on the usefulness of such an exchange.

25. A special meeting of experts on Coal Production Methods was held to prepare, for consideration by the Committee, appropriate methods of work in this field. The Committee adopted the major part of the recommendations made. These involve the exchange of bibliographical references on a great number of problems, direct contacts, and invitations to study some of these problems at first hand. In addition, an *ad hoc* meeting of experts devoted to the study of accelerated shaft-sinking will be held in the spring of 1958.

26. The Committee is studying different aspects of brown coal mining and processing, in view of the increasing importance of this type of solid fuel. A number of countries are beginning to develop their brown coal resources or are already to a great extent basing their industrial activities on this fuel and its derivatives.

27. Experts from participating countries were able in the course of a visit to Czechoslovakia to study open-cast and deep-mining brown coal extraction methods and in the course of a visit to the eastern zone of Germany to study methods of treating brown coal. These visits have shown the usefulness of exchanges of information and will facilitate the exchange of technical information on coal production methods mentioned above, as well as the work of the Utilization Working Party on the subject of low- and medium-temperature carbonization of coal.

Trade Problems

28. The Coal Trade Sub-Committee has met each quarter to review the situation for the following quarter, on the basis of information from participating countries concerning import requirements and quantities available for export. Discrepancies have been adjusted as far as possible between the importing and exporting countries, without proceeding to a formal allocation.

29. On the basis of the seventh and eighth Coal Market Reviews prepared by the secretariat, the Sub-

Committee has examined the current coal market situation and special problems affecting the market, such as production, consumption, stocks, international trade and intra-European trade and prices, etc. Special attention has been given to the existing difficult coke supply situation.

30. In view of the sudden improvement in the supply of coal and coke at the end of this winter it was decided to study, on the basis of existing national investigations, the influence of climatic conditions on fuel consumption, in particular in the domestic sector and in thermal power stations.

31. An *Ad hoc* Group of Experts examined a number of clauses usually encountered in the general conditions of sale for solid fuels. The Group decided that further study by governments of the usefulness and possibilities of drawing up special general conditions of sale would be necessary before it could report its definitive findings to the Coal Committee.

Solid Fuel Utilization

32. The Utilization Working Party, which continues to study the problem of widening the range of coal to be used for carbonization purposes, with the object of achieving a more rational utilization of European coal availabilities, submitted an interim report on this subject. A number of practical conclusions regarding this subject have been agreed upon and recommended to governments by the Coal Committee. Conclusions have also been reached on the subject of district heating, while study of low- and medium-temperature carbonization and of heat-recording meters is continuing. Suggestions have been made for extending the coverage of subjects taken up by the Working Party to include study of ways in which Europe's coal supplies could be used with maximum efficiency, either by direct combustion or by transformation into secondary forms of energy. These suggestions will be considered in detail at the next session of the Working Party.

Classification of Solid Fuels

33. The international classification system for hard coals by type, which was agreed upon in March 1956 and recommended to governments for practical use, has been finalized and published in printed form. The Committee expects that this system will be increasingly resorted to, but is well aware of the fact that some time must elapse before it is put into common use. Work on international classification systems for high-temperature hard-coal coke and brown coals and lignites has continued.

34. The importance of establishing a uniform world-wide coal classification system for both hard and brown coals has been emphasized by the Classification Working Party. Close co-operation is being maintained with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in this field.

Coal Statistics

35. The Working Party on Coal Statistics has not met during the period under review.

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 the possibilities of exchange of technical information, as indicated above.

37. In addition to the two collective visits mentioned above, a number of individual study tours have taken place; some of these have been assisted by contacts established within the framework of the Committee and by the secretariat.

COMMITTEE ON ELECTRIC POWER

MEETINGS HELD

Committee on Electric Power	
Fourteenth session	8-10 November 1956
Working Party on Electric Power	
Statistics	17-18 May 1956
Working Party for the Study of	
Rural Electrification	5-8 November 1956
Group of Experts for the study	
of Hydro-Electric Resources	
of Europe	2 and 8 November 1956
Meeting of specialists to study	
the prospects of reducing	
construction costs for hydro	
power stations and the effect	
of mechanization in that con-	
nexion	12-16 November 1956

OFFICERS

Committee on Electric Power (Fourteenth session)

Chairman : Mr. A. Rusck (Sweden)
later Mr. R. Hochreutiner (Switzerland)
Vice-Chairmen : Mr. S. Han (Yugoslavia)
Mr. M. Visentini (Italy)
Mr. L. Postler (Czechoslovakia)
later Mr. C. Mihaileanu (Romania)

Working Party on Electric Power Statistics (Third session)

Chairman : Mr. R. Gautheron (France)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. Z. Pavlicek (Czechoslovakia)

Working Party for the Study of Rural Electrification (Fourth session)

Chairman : Mr. N. Sazonov (U.S.S.R.)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. C. A. Cameron-Brown (United Kingdom)

Group of Experts for the Study of Hydro-Electric Resources of Europe
(Seventh session)

Chairman : Mr. D. Tonini (Italy)

Vice-Chairman : Mr. V. Jevdjevic (Yugoslavia)

Group of Experts for the Study of Legal Questions

Chairman : Mr. M. Visentini (Italy)

Meeting of specialists to study the prospects of reducing construction costs for hydro-power stations and the effect of mechanization in that connexion

Chairman : Mr. T. Nilsson (Sweden)

Vice-Chairman : Mr. O. Hobst (Czechoslovakia)

ACTIVITIES

Utilization of Europe's Electric Power Resources

38. 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 two meetings. At the second, it noted with satisfaction that the representatives of the electricity undertakings of Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and Yugoslavia had agreed to set up a study group to submit concrete proposals for the execution of the projects contained in the above-mentioned study and drawn up by "Youngelexport".

39. The Committee had directed the secretariat to conduct an enquiry into the possibilities of electric power exchanges between the countries of central and south-eastern Europe.² A preliminary version of this study has already brought to light a large number of problems which could be solved more easily through international action. The countries directly concerned have stated their readiness to send in any further information that may be needed, in order to enable the secretariat to circulate the results of the enquiry in 1957.

Rural Electrification

40. The Working Party for the Study of Rural Electrification examined a series of six reports which it approved and proposed for final publication (E/ECE/260-E/ECE/EP/178, Volume II). The main subjects of these reports are as follows :

Transmission and distribution

Use of the ground as a conductor

Utilization

Formulation of a system and methods for supplying power to electric tractors from stationery or seasonal networks

Examination of the rate of expansion of rural networks and agricultural installations

Formulation of a system for electrified spraying plant on the artificial rain principle

² Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, eastern zone of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Economic, administrative and financial questions

Methods of financing rural installations

Propaganda (sales promotion) methods at present applied in the different countries

41. The Working Party approved in particular the conclusions of a report entitled "Principles governing the link-up of low and medium-capacity hydro plants in local power networks, and the connexion of the latter to the main grids".

42. It 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 1957 session. The remaining eight reports will be prepared in provisional form for a later session. These reports are based on the combined experience of the various countries, which is communicated to the rapporteurs on the basis of outlines drawn up by them. To date, sixteen countries have agreed to appoint rapporteurs to carry out this programme of work, which is co-ordinated by the secretariat.

43. The Working Party instructed the secretariat to prepare an annual report on the rural electrification situation in Europe during the previous year. The plan adopted for the report concentrates attention on the economic problems in that field and on technical progress achieved. Discussion of this report will show what action can be taken at the international level.

Production of Electric Power by Nuclear Power Stations

44. The Committee again stressed that the application of nuclear energy for the generation of electric power in Europe confronted European countries with fundamental economic problems which demanded careful study. It 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. 62).

45. Having regard to the fact that the problem of the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes had been included in the agenda for the twelfth session of the Economic Commission for Europe and that the International Atomic Energy Agency had not yet defined its relations with the United Nations, the Committee decided to keep the question on the agenda for its next session. It also decided to include in that agenda consideration of a draft resolution submitted by the Delegation of the U.S.S.R. for the setting up of a working group for the exchange of information concerning the construction of atomic power stations and the periodical publication of a special bulletin dealing with matters concerning the construction of such power stations. It further invited the Executive Secretary to convene a special session of the Committee should circumstances warrant it.

Statistics

46. The Working Party on Electric Power Statistics held its third session during the period. It agreed upon the publication of an annual and a quarterly bulletin of statistics and determined their contents.

47. The first annual *Bulletin of European Electric Energy Statistics* and the first two quarterly bulletins for the second and third quarters of 1956 were subsequently published. These bulletins contain information supplied by virtually all European countries and the United States of America.

48. The Committee requested the Working Party to undertake an analysis of the statistical break-downs adopted for electric power consumption in the various countries in order to achieve some measure of uniformity in that field.

49. The Committee further directed the Working Party to examine the possibility of compiling a list of definitions of terms relating to power.

Hydro-Electric Resources of Europe

50. The work on the determination of the gross hydro-electric potential of Europe was continued during the period, and the Committee instructed the secretariat to prepare a European map on the basis of information to be received from the various countries.

51. The Committee also decided to take up the study of the methods of determining exploitable hydro-electric resources with a view to their calculation on a common basis. It further directed the secretariat to collect annual flow statistics for certain rivers with a view to studying regional simultaneity of dry years and wet years.

52. At its fourteenth session, the Committee approved the text of a recommendation concerning the continual measurement and the measurement at different depths of the temperature of rivers of common interest and the regular publication of the results of these measurements.

Electric Power Situation in Europe

53. The annual report analysing the main factors influencing the electric power situation in Europe during 1955 was examined by the Committee, which decided to issue it for general distribution (E/ECE/EP/186).

Exchange of Information in the Technical Field

54. A number of measures have been taken in pursuance of Commission resolution 4 (XI) on the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe.

55. A meeting of specialists was held to study the prospects of reducing construction costs for hydro-power stations and the effect of mechanization in that connexion. Forty-three reports, prepared by rapporteurs from fifteen countries, were submitted and discussed at that session.

56. This meeting of specialists requested the secretariat to draw up a bibliographical index of works published on hydro-electric plant construction, their titles to be accompanied by a brief abstract.

57. The meeting also considered that it would be worthwhile to pursue the study of some of the more specially economic aspects to which attention had been drawn during the session, and it appointed a drafting

committee to prepare, in co-operation with the secretariat, a suitable plan of work based on the proposals made during the session.

58. The Committee decided to include in its work programme, with due regard to the reservations of the United Kingdom and United States representatives with respect to heavy electrical equipment, certain problems on which an exchange of information should be undertaken. These are the interconnected operation of large networks, the technical and economic aspects of automatic and remote control, the development of power transmission networks, the operation of large capacity generators and transformers, high-voltage cables and heavy-power-consuming equipment. The Committee asked the secretariat, after consulting the countries concerned, to appoint rapporteurs to prepare a preliminary study on each of these problems in order to establish what action could be taken at the international level.

59. The Working Party for the Study of Rural Electrification directed the secretariat, after consulting the various countries and on the basis of the information thus collected, to put into operation a scheme of technical visits.

Relations with other International Bodies

60. In order to prevent any overlapping with other international bodies and to be able to draw their attention effectively to certain questions which are submitted to it although not falling within its competence, the Committee has maintained close contact with such bodies. It has also been kept informed of the measures taken by the United Nations to co-ordinate the work concerning hydraulic resources.

Economic Development of Southern Europe

61. The Committee took note, *inter alia*, of Commission resolution 7 (XI) concerning the economic development of southern Europe. The Committee unanimously decided to support Greece's request to UNTAA for studies on the hydro-electric development of the river Aliakmon and that part of the river Nestos which flows through Greece, on the ground that such works might be of international significance.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

MEETINGS HELD

Housing Committee

Twelfth session	16 May 1956
Thirteenth session	28 and 29 November and 1 December 1956

Working Party on Development of Housing Policies

Eighth session	14-16 May 1956
Ninth session	26 November 1956

Working Party on Housing and Building Statistics

Sixth session	14-16 May 1956
Seventh session	30 November and 1 December 1956

Working Party on Cost of Building

Eighth session	26 November 1956
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Ad hoc Working Party on Problems of Housing Development in Less Industrialized Countries
First session 27 November 1956

OFFICERS

Housing Committee

Chairman : Mr. Gorynski (Poland)

Vice-Chairman : Mr. Anonsen (Norway)

Working Party on Development of Housing Policies

Chairman : Mr. Bonnome (France)

Vice-Chairman : Mr. Cervenka (Czechoslovakia)

Working Party on Cost of Building

Chairman : Mr. de Vestel (Belgium)

Working Party on Housing and Building Statistics

Chairman : Mr. de Jonge (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairman : Mr. Visek (Austria)

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

Chairman : Mr. Paquay (Belgium)

Vice-Chairman : Mr. Maksimović (Yugoslavia)

ACTIVITIES

Economic Aspects of Housing Policy

62. The Committee held its annual discussion of European housing progress and policies based on the secretariat's provisional version of the annual Survey of the housing situation in Europe in the preceding year. The Committee reviewed the main developments, especially the level of and trends in building activity, recent changes in financial policy affecting housing, rent policies in certain countries and building prices and cost; it also considered certain long-term problems relating to private financing of housing and co-operative housing. The provisional report was subsequently revised and completed by the secretariat in the light of the Committee's discussion and issued for general distribution (European Housing Progress and Policies in 1955, E/ECE/259, August 1956).

63. The scope and methods of work for preparing the next annual Survey were considered by the Committee. It was agreed that Part I of that report should discuss the main housing trends and principal changes in housing policies in 1956, including those relating to rural housing.

64. The Committee discussed, on the basis of comprehensive reports prepared by rapporteurs, certain long-term problems relating to clearance of dwellings unfit for human habitation, on which it was decided that work should continue by an enlarged group of rapporteurs; the organization and methods of and training in housing management; and the formulation of house-building programmes, including the concepts and methodology

used in different countries. It was agreed that a discussion of the last two subjects should be given in Part II of the next Survey of the housing situation.

65. The Committee, taking note of the extensive work already done or which it has in hand in the field of housing finance, and of Council resolution 585 E (XX) on this subject which, *inter alia*, recommended the convening of regional meetings of experts on the financing of housing, decided that the greater part of the Committee's meeting in the autumn of 1957 should be set aside for a discussion of problems of housing finance. The main purpose of this work would be to set the different elements of financial policy in relation to housing within a single framework and to draw where possible conclusions and recommendations.

Relating to the Technical Aspects of Housing Policy with Particular Reference to Reducing the Cost of House Construction.

66. The Committee decided to undertake a systematic and comparative analysis of measures taken by governments to reduce or limit increases in the cost of house building. It is planned to devote the greater part of the Committee's session in the early summer of 1957 to a systematic discussion of various aspects of this problem, based on a comprehensive report which will be prepared by the rapporteurs and the secretariat.

67. An enquiry into the percentage break-down by main factors of the total cost of building dwellings of selected types and construction was undertaken by the Committee. The purpose of the project is to shed some light on differences, and the reasons for them, in house-building costs and productivity as between the various countries.

68. The Committee considered several questions on which work was being done or on which it is proposed work should be done by international non-governmental organizations, and particularly the International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation (CIB). Such questions include the effect of the height, width and shape of dwellings on building costs, and methods of surveying the housing needs of a family, on which progress reports were submitted by the CIB; thermal insulation of dwellings, a problem which was referred for action by the Coal Committee to the Housing Committee and on which in addition to completing a documentary enquiry specialized organizations will be consulted on how technical work on this subject could be carried out on an international level; and standardization and modular co-ordination, work on which in the next stage appeared largely a matter of technical collaboration and on which it was therefore agreed that governments and the specialized international organizations concerned should be invited to reflect further how all-European co-operation and eventually agreement in this field could be promoted. The Committee also invited a group of rapporteurs to work out detailed proposals for preparing, in collaboration with the International Union of Architects (UIA), a new report on an all-European basis on the utilization of space in current types of dwellings.

The Housing Problems of Less Industrialized Countries

69. At the request of the Governments of Turkey and Yugoslavia, a small mission of housing and building experts was organized in March 1956 to study the housing situation in these two countries on the spot. A comprehensive report by the Expert Housing Missions, whose recommendations were accepted by the governments concerned, was endorsed by the Housing Committee in May 1956 and circulated to governments in July 1956 (E/ECE/HOU/61). The Governments of Turkey and Yugoslavia have subsequently taken concrete steps to implement the recommendations of the Expert Missions, in particular with regard to creating a central housing agency and a national building research organization, including co-operative arrangements for technical aid by the interested more industrialized countries and through the Technical Assistance programme of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The Committee also considered two questions of practical co-operation between the southern European countries; one concerns the prospect of developing the production of building materials, components and equipment on the basis of a more national 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. The Committee set up an *Ad hoc* Working Party to deal with problems of housing development in less industrialized countries.

Housing and Building Statistics

70. The geographical coverage of the *Quarterly Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe* has been extended, and its presentation improved. Bibliographies on studies and on statistical methods relating to housing and building were published for the first time in 1956 as a supplement to the *Quarterly Bulletin*. Preparations were advanced to launch the first issue of an annual publication on housing and building statistics for Europe.

71. 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.

Technical Co-operation

72. The Committee examined the implications in the field of housing and building of Commission resolution 4 (XI) concerning the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe. It agreed that the CIB should be supported and strengthened as one of the principal all-European instruments for collaboration in purely technical matters. Nonetheless, it was emphasized that the Committee, as an inter-governmental body, was competent to take up any

questions in the housing field, whether economic, social or technical, which had implications for government policy. In practice, this meant that the conclusions to be drawn from some of the technical enquiries carried out by the CIB would require consideration by the Committee at an appropriate time. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of promoting in various forms the flow of information on housing and building on an effective reciprocal basis through the Committee, the CIB and other international specialized organs as well as on a bilateral basis. The Committee noted the progress already made in implementing the resolution in question, in particular in regard to the exchange of information and visits. Interested governments were invited to report proposals they might have in this respect with a view to further implementation of the resolution in writing to the secretariat. Invitations for group visits by members of the Housing Committee were received from Czechoslovakia to take place in 1958 and Austria in 1957.

Organizational Structure

73. The Committee held a full discussion on its organizational structure and methods of work. It decided to simplify its structure and abolish two of its working parties — namely, on development of housing policies and on cost of building. Emphasis was laid on the full use of expert rapporteurs made available by governments and on meetings of *ad hoc* groups on specific subjects, such as the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Problems of Housing Development in Less Industrialized Countries, which was established. It was agreed that the Committee itself was the proper forum for considering conclusions arising from the work of such groups, and generally all housing questions, both economic and technical.

INDUSTRY AND MATERIALS COMMITTEE

MEETINGS HELD

No meeting of the Committee was held during the period under review.

Ad hoc Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering

Twelfth session 3-8 September 1956
Thirteenth session 18-22 March 1957

Ad hoc Working Party on Agricultural Machinery

Second session 25-28 February 1957

OFFICERS

Ad hoc Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering

Chairman : Mr. G. de Sydow (Sweden)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. B. Jicinsky (Czechoslovakia)

Ad hoc Working Party on Agricultural Machinery

Chairman : Mr. R. Schwob (France)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. V. Kuznetsov (U.S.S.R.)

ACTIVITIES

Contract Practices in Engineering

74. During the past year, the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering established two sets of General Conditions for the Supply and Erection of Plant and Machinery for import and export, respectively numbered 188 A and 574 A, and which it is hoped will be published shortly. At its next session, the Working Party will consider the possibility of formulating special conditions limited to erection of plant and machinery alone.

Agricultural Machinery

75. The second session of the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery considered preliminary reports on, respectively, cereal-harvesting machinery, soil-preparing machinery and agricultural tractors, drawn up by three rapporteurs. After discussion of the reports the *Ad hoc* Working Party agreed on a number of practical steps to be taken with the view to their further elaboration.

76. The *Ad hoc* Working Party further considered the exchange of documentary information, publications and films, the issuance of a directory of international and national organizations in the field of agricultural machinery, questions of classification and standardization, and the prevention of accidents in the use of agricultural machinery.

77. The U.S.S.R. Government invited members of the *Ad hoc* Working Party to visit research institutes, industrial and agricultural exhibitions and plants manufacturing agricultural machinery in the U.S.S.R. in 1957. The Italian Delegation stated that members of the *Ad hoc* Working Party would be welcomed as visitors to tractor and implements factories on the occasion of the forthcoming international tractor show in Turin from 12 to 19 May. The Delegations of Czechoslovakia and France indicated that they would be glad to welcome visitors to agricultural machinery plants in their respective countries.

78. In view of the importance of developing trade in agricultural machinery and of the need to increase agricultural productivity, the *Ad hoc* Working Party asked the secretariat to submit to it from time to time a note summarizing the information furnished by governments on difficulties encountered in trade in agricultural machinery. The information forwarded to the secretariat would in any case be communicated at the same time to the Committee on the Development of Trade.

79. The *Ad hoc* Working Party requested the secretariat to continue to ensure liaison with the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture.

80. A programme of work was adopted for transmission to the twelfth session of the ECE.³

³ See E/ECE/279, project 05.2.1. See also the report of the proceedings of the *Ad hoc* Working Party's second session, E/ECE/265-E, Annex. The remainder of the Programme of Work of the Industry and Materials Committee is described under projects 05.1.1, 05.1.2 and 05.2.2.

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

MEETINGS HELD

Group of Customs Experts . . .	4-13 January 1956
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods . .	16-20 January 1956
Working Party on the International Road Transport Regime	6-11 February 1956
Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles	27 February to 3 March 1956
Working Party on the Prevention of Road Traffic Accidents	5-9 March 1956
Working Party on Fiscal Problems (Road Transport) . . .	12-15 March 1956
Working Party on the International Road Transport Regime	26-29 March 1956
Group of Customs Experts . . .	16-21 April 1956
Working Party on International Passenger Transport Services by Road	3 May 1956
Inland Transport Committee (<i>ad hoc</i> session)	11, 12, 16 and 19 May 1956
<i>Ad hoc</i> Working Party on the International Road Transport Contract	12-19 May 1956
<i>Ad hoc</i> Meeting to Study Inland Waterway Problems . . .	22-25 May 1956
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	28 May to 1 June 1956
Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs . .	12-15 June 1956
Working Party on Costs . . .	18-22 June 1956
Working Party on Tariffs . .	2-6 July 1956
Working Party on the International Road Transport Regime	20-31 August 1956
Group of Experts to Study Certain Technical Railway Questions	3-7 September 1956
Sub-Committee on Rail Transport	10-11 September 1956
Inland Transport Committee (<i>ad hoc</i> session)	12-15 September 1956
Working Party on International Passenger Transport Services by Road	17 September 1956
Sub-Committee on Road Transport	18-21 September 1956
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	8-12 October 1956
Working Party on Combined Transport Equipment . . .	22-26 October 1956
Group of Customs Experts . .	29 October to 3 November 1956
Working Party of Experts on Statistical Information . . .	5-9 November 1956

Group of Experts on the Standardization of Policing and Signalling Regulations (inland waterways) 13-16 November 1956

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods 26-30 November 1956

Inland Transport Committee . . 11-14 December 1956

Working Party on Tariffs 17-21 December 1956

Working Party on the International Road Transport Regime 7-11 January 1957

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods 14-18 January 1957

Group of Experts to Study the Standardization of Police Regulations and Signalling (inland waterways) 6-8 February 1957

Working Party on Legal Questions (roads) 13-15 February 1957

Working Party on the Prevention of Road Traffic Accidents 18-22 February 1957

Group of Customs Experts 4-9 March 1957

Working Party on River Law . . . 7-15 March 1957

Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (Road Transport) 25-29 March 1957

OFFICERS

Inland Transport Committee
(Fourteenth, fifteenth sessions)
Chairman : Mr. Z. Matyassy (Hungary)
Vice-Chairmen : Mr. K. Vonk (Netherlands)
 Mr. C. Mariamé (Belgium)

(Sixteenth session)
Chairman : Mr. Z. Matyassy (Hungary)
Vice-Chairmen : Mr. K. Vonk (Netherlands)
 Mr. C. Mariamé (Belgium)

Sub-Committee on Road Transport
(Fourteenth session)
Chairman : Mr. C. Mariamé (Belgium)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. S. Mateichuk (U.S.S.R.)

Sub-Committee on Rail Transport
(Tenth session)
Chairman : Mr. P. Ionescu (Romania)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. A. Cuttica (Italy)

Group of Customs Experts
(Seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth sessions)
Chairman : Mr. A. van Aken (Belgium)

Working Party on Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Fourth, fifth sessions)
Chairman : Mr. A. W. Clarke (United Kingdom)
Vice-Chairmen : Mr. A. Buzzi-Quattrini (Austria)
 Mr. J. Wojciechowski (Poland)

(Sixth session)
Chairman : Mr. A. W. Clarke (United Kingdom)
Vice-Chairmen : Mr. A. Buzzi-Quattrini (Austria)
 Mr. J. Fiser (Czechoslovakia)

Working Party on the International Road Transport Regime
(Tenth, eleventh, twelfth sessions)
Chairman : Mr. S. Acker (Denmark)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. C. Tosti (Italy)

(Thirteenth session)
Chairman : Mr. C. Tosti (Italy)

Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles
(Fourth and fifth sessions)
Chairman : Mr. G. Pocci (Italy)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. N. Ostrovsky (U.S.S.R.)

Working Party on the Prevention of Road Traffic Accidents
(Seventh session)
Chairman : Mrs. R. Liger (France)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. C. Pierzynski (Poland)

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

Working Party on Fiscal Questions
(Second session)
Chairman : Mr. O. B. H. Schoenewald (Netherlands)

Working Party on International Passenger Transport Services by Road
(Eleventh and twelfth sessions)
Chairman : Mr. J. Cor (France)

Ad hoc Working Party on International Road Transport Contract
(Second session)
Chairman : Mr. G. de Sydow (Sweden)

Ad hoc Meeting on Inland Waterway Problems
(Second session)
Chairman : Mr. H. E. Scheffer (Netherlands)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. J. Marymont (Poland)

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs
Chairman : Mr. A. Martin (Switzerland)
Vice-Chairmen : Mr. M. Balensi (France)
 Mr. Z. Zolcinsky (Poland)

Working Party on Transport Costs
(Seventh session)
Chairman : Mr. A. Brunet (France)

Working Party on Tariffs
(Seventh and eighth sessions)
Chairman : Mr. H. Janssen (Netherlands)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. K. Pierzynski (Poland)

Meeting of Experts on Technical Railway Questions
(First session)

Chairmen : Mr. M. Voronichev (U.S.S.R.)
Mr. J. Tuja and Mr. A. Parmantier (UIC)

Working Party on Combined Transport Equipment
(Sixth session)

Chairman : Mr. M. Balensi (France)

Working Party of Experts on Statistical Information
(Twelfth session)

Chairman : Mr. H. Kuiler (Netherlands)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. L. Frey (Switzerland)

Group of Experts on the Standardization of Policing and
Signalling Regulations on Inland Waterways
(First and second sessions)

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

Working Party on Legal Questions (roads)

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

Working Party on River Law
(First session)

Chairman : Mr. G. de Sydow (Sweden)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. Hlava (Czechoslovakia)

ACTIVITIES

*Discussions on the Committee's Report and Programme
of Work at the Eleventh Session of the Economic Com-
mission for Europe*

81. The Committee took note of the discussions on its report and programme of work at the Commission's eleventh session and also of resolutions 4 (XI), 7 (XI) and 8 (XI) adopted by the Commission. It took them into account in its work and in its programme of work for the following year.

Road Transport

82. The following conventions were signed in the course of 1956 and early in 1957 by several countries :

Convention on the Contract for the International
Carriage of Goods by Road

Convention on the Taxation of Road Vehicles for Pri-
vate Use in International Traffic

Customs Convention on the Importation for Private
Use of Aircraft and Pleasure Boats

Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation
of Commercial Road Vehicles

Customs Convention on Containers

Convention on the Taxation of Road Vehicles engaged
in International Passenger Transport

Convention on the Taxation of Road Vehicles engaged
in International Goods Transport

83. The Working Party on the International Road
Transport Regime is continuing work on a number of

annexes to the General Agreement of 17 March 1954 on Economic Regulations for International Road Transport and Set of Rules. Annexes II (Criteria adopted to determine whether vehicles fulfil the conditions of the Set of Rules) to the General Agreement and G (Control documents for passenger transport), J (Passenger transport other than transport for hire or reward) and F.2 (Tariffs for the international transport of goods) to the Set of Rules are in course of preparation. Annex I (Definitions) to the General Agreement was adopted by the Committee.

84. The study of the standardization of road signs and signals in Europe continues to occupy the Working Party on the Prevention of Road Traffic Accidents. On the recommendation of the Working Party, the Sub-Committee on Road Transport adopted two resolutions, one which will be shortly replaced by a formal Convention, concerning road markings and the other visibility of roadside traffic signs by night. Three new road signs were adopted for European use. The adoption of others is under study.

85. The Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles is studying technical problems affecting road safety and also the technical conditions to be fulfilled by vehicles engaged in international passenger and goods transport, over and above the requirements of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic. The Working Party submitted to the Sub-Committee a resolution, which was adopted, on the inspection of motor vehicles and recommended the adoption of certain measures to reduce the anomalies in the permissible maximum weights laid down in the various countries for the same type of heavy goods vehicle.

86. An agreement has been concluded between certain countries on the approval of headlights and headlight bulbs. The preparation of a general agreement on common regulations concerning certain categories of equipment and vehicle parts which are subject to compulsory approval is being studied.

87. Applications for licences to operate regular international passenger transport services are considered by the Working Party on International Passenger Transport Services by Road.

88. The Working Party on Legal Questions (Road Transport) agreed to extend the green card system — so far applicable only to countries with compulsory insurance against third party risks — to countries where no such insurance exists as yet.

89. The Sub-Committee on Road Transport repeated its recommendation to governments to accede to the European Agreement of 16 September 1950 on the maximum dimensions and weights of vehicles travelling on certain roads. It recommended each European government to recognize the national driving licences of all other countries subject to certain conditions.

90. After taking note of the Commission's resolution 7 (XI) concerning the economic development of southern Europe, the Sub-Committee on Road Transport recognized the importance for the development of touring in southern Europe of carrying through the project of a circular highway. It requested the four

countries concerned to keep in touch, with a view to the necessary co-ordination of action. It thought it desirable that the question of a foreign loan should be borne in mind in case any opportunities arose in that direction.

Rail Transport

91. A Group of Experts studied certain technical questions connected with the improvement of rail transport equipment. It decided to undertake the study of other technical problems of subsequent sessions.

92. One of the main questions engaging the attention of the Sub-Committee on rail transport is the concentration of international rail traffic on the most rational routes. The Sub-Committee decided that before taking a decision in the matter it would await the practical results of the measures which the railway administrations propose to apply.

Inland Water Transport

93. The Committee decided to set up as from 1957 a Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport and under that Sub-Committee a Working Party on River Law.

94. The Working Party on River Law began the study of a draft convention on the contract for the international transport of goods by inland waterways. It was instructed to prepare also two new conventions concerning the unification of certain rules concerning collisions and the registration of inland navigation vessels, using the texts of the two 1930 Conventions as a basis.

95. The preparation of other draft conventions concerning such matters as liens, mortgages and other rights *in rem* will also be undertaken subsequently.

96. A group of experts is drawing up regulations relating to signals on craft and is studying the unification of the rules of the road in the policing regulations. Proposals for signs and signalling systems on inland waterways proper have been submitted to governments for comment. The study on signals on craft and auditory signals will be started in 1957.

97. Studies of a legal nature (existing law concerning inland waterways of international concern), an economic topic (tolls) and a technical topic (most rational methods of mechanizing the loading and unloading of cargoes in river ports) are being undertaken and will be examined by the Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport.

Tariffs

98. As regards rail transport, the studies on the unification of the structure of national tariffs, a common transit tariff and a common international tariff for express parcels are being continued by the International Union of Railways (UIC), which reports regularly to the Working Party on Tariffs. A provisional agreement concerning tariff collaboration between the railway systems of the various countries has been concluded.

99. As regards road transport, the Working Party began the study of a draft model tariff for international road transport.

Co-ordination of Transport

100. The Committee devoted a special session to consideration of a secretariat study concerning the advantages and disadvantages of the various co-ordination methods and measures.

101. It decided to set up a group of experts to examine a general report by the secretariat on the apportionment of track cost for roads and inland waterways among the various categories concerned (users and others).

Costs

102. The revision of two studies submitted to the Committee at its sixteenth session concerning (a) burdens imposed on transport undertakings and benefits granted to them and (b) the determination of the economic and social cost of transport, was the main concern of the Working Party on Costs in 1956.

Combined Transport Equipment

103. The Working Party on Combined Transport Equipment is continuing to study the standardization of types of containers and pallets, the establishment of an international pallet pool, and terminology and definitions relating to combined transport equipment. The Committee adopted a resolution recommending the introduction in each country of uniform general rules to be applied for safety purposes in the construction of containers used in international traffic, and setting forth such rules.

Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

104. The Working Party gave a first reading to a draft European agreement on the international transport of perishable foodstuffs by land and continued the study of various problems concerning conditions of refrigerated transport.

105. The Committee adopted a resolution recommending countries which have not yet done so to apply the provisions of the Protocol on the standardization of wooden packaging for fruit and vegetables which has been accepted by nine countries.

Customs Questions

106. The Group of Customs Experts prepared the three draft customs conventions mentioned under paragraph 82 above.

107. It adopted and communicated to governments three resolutions concerning :

- (a) The temporary importation without payment of import duties and import taxes of the contents of tourist caravans,
- (b) The triptych for a single journey, and
- (c) The temporary importation without payment of import duties and import taxes of road vehicles hired for private use.

108. It began a first reading of the draft customs convention on the international transport, under customs seal, of goods by road.

109. The Group of Experts thought it advisable to simplify formalities for the temporary duty-free admission of cycles with auxiliary engines. Further, it felt that the importation of tourist vehicles should be simplified, and studied various methods for doing so.

110. A draft resolution was prepared concerning measures to be taken to prevent the misuse of vehicles which have been provisionally registered.

111. The Group of Experts studied the adaptation of the International Customs Declaration Form (TIF model) to provide for assembled loads (groupage) and the amendment of this Customs Declaration Form. It drew up a draft convention exempting railway administrations, subject to certain conditions, from payment of all duties and taxes on spare parts used abroad to repair standard wagons of owning administrations.

Transport of Dangerous Goods

112. The Committee decided to open the Agreement concerning the international transport of dangerous goods by road for signature after its final approval by the Working Party in 1957. In so doing, and bearing in mind the clauses in the Agreement which made the annexes very easy to amend, the Committee did not wish to hinder in any way the application of recommendations valid for the whole world and to all modes of transport, but it felt that these recommendations should be applied simultaneously both to road and to rail transport.

113. Two groups of experts — one dealing with explosives, and the other with inflammable liquids — have started drawing up an agreement on the transport of dangerous goods by inland waterways.

Statistics

114. The Working Party of Experts on Statistical Information continued its study concerning indices for measuring road traffic density. It studied the presentation of the results of the census of traffic on main international traffic arteries. After observing that, for the present, it was impossible to obtain complete statistics on the movement of goods in international traffic, the Working Party drew up a simplified questionnaire to replace the one originally prepared.

115. Detailed statistical returns have been published on road traffic accidents in Europe. It is the first time that a publication of this type has been issued.

116. The *Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe, 1955*, was published in December 1956. It contains detailed official information on a greater number of countries than hitherto.

Development of Contacts between the Countries of Eastern and Western Europe

117. In 1956, representatives of eastern and western countries took part in all the sessions of the Committee (two special sessions and one regular session) and of its sub-committees, and in almost all the sessions of its subsidiary bodies. Both eastern and western countries

also signed the seven conventions mentioned under paragraph 82 above, and accepted a number of resolutions adopted by the Committee.

118. There was an exchange of technical, legal and economic information at the sessions of the bodies dealing with rail, road and inland water transport. Detailed information was also exchanged concerning desirable conditions of transport for perishable foodstuffs, the transport of dangerous goods, the establishment of international tariffs, particularly transit tariffs, statistics and the drafting of standard rules to be applied for safety purposes in the construction of containers to be accepted in international traffic.

119. The Transport Division arranged study trips for experts from the Soviet Union and Poland specializing in the fields of rail, road and inland water transport.

COMMITTEE ON MANPOWER

120. 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 eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Commission. The ILO has kept the Commission regularly informed of its activities in the field of manpower. A report on manpower problems in Europe during the period under review has accordingly been prepared by the International Labour Office for the information of the Commission (E/ECE/266).

STEEL COMMITTEE

MEETINGS HELD

Steel Committee

Sixteenth session 25-27 April 1956
Seventeenth session 5-7 December 1956

Ad hoc Working Party on the

Technological Review 26 April 1956
5 and 6 December 1956

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

Fourth session 3 and 4 December 1956

Working Party on Steel Statistics

Fifth session 4 and 5 December 1956

OFFICERS

Steel Committee

Chairman : Mr. P. van der Rest (Belgium)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. W. Musialek (Poland)

Ad hoc Working Party on the Technological Review

Chairman : Mr. W. Musialek (Poland)

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

Chairman : Mr. F. Slajmer (Yugoslavia)
Vice-Chairman : Mr. L. Gollop (United Kingdom)

Working Party on Steel Statistics

Chairman: Mr. E. Ruist (Sweden)

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

ACTIVITIES

Short-term Trends and Problems in the European Steel Industry

121. The Committee discussed recent trends in the steel market based on a review of the first part of a provisional version of the annual market survey prepared by the secretariat. The principal trends in production and demand, trade and prices of steel during the course of the preceding year and the supply position of coke-oven coke were examined. 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 1955*, E/ECE/239, June 1956).

122. A provisional outline of the review of *The European Steel Market in 1956* was considered by the Committee in December 1956. The survey will contain a systematic discussion of the main features of the steel market in 1956 in countries of eastern and western Europe respectively, including indirect exports, raw materials and trends in the main sectors of demand for steel in 1956.

Long-term trends and problems in the European Steel Industry

123. The Committee considered future prospects in the steel market on the basis of an examination of the second part of the secretariat's 1955 market survey. The questions discussed related to the long-term perspectives, including problems of investment in the iron and steel industry, the prospective availability of scrap, the demand prospects in some major steel-consuming sectors and the trend of indirect exports.

124. The publication of the report on *Steel and its Alternatives* (E/ECE/258) in July 1956 marked the completion by the Committee of a systematic and successive examination of various aspects of the question of substitution between steel and other materials. With regard to the detailed examination of the main sectors of the steel industry, work is proceeding on a report on wire and wire products, a provisional version of which is expected to be ready for the Committee's session in June 1957; a revised report on *Railways and Steel* was discussed by the Committee in December 1956 and subsequently brought to the attention of the Inland Transport Committee for comment. The final report is expected to be issued for general circulation in the spring of 1957.

Technical Co-operation

125. A report on *Advances in Steel Technology in 1955* was released for general circulation in February 1956 (E/ECE/238, Vol. I and II). The review, which has an all-European coverage, contains signed articles by eminent experts from different countries. The Committee agreed on the content and form of the *Technological Review for 1956*, and made arrangements for the preparation of this report.

126. The Committee examined a provisional version of a *Directory of National Organizations in Europe and the United States and International Organizations concerned with Iron and Steel*, and agreed on the preparation of the final version for publication in 1957.

127. At the Committee's session in December 1956, the U.S.S.R. representative made a statement in which he referred to resolution 4 (XI) concerning the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe, and in particular to reciprocal exchanges of visits of steel specialists which had already been made and which he considered should be continued in future. He also suggested that periodical congresses of steel technicians might be held. The Committee considered that these suggestions and the secretariat's note on "Technical Co-operation" (STEEL/Working Paper No. 158) should be discussed at later sessions.

Statistics

128. The *Quarterly Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe* has continued to be published regularly. The coverage of statistics relating to steel deliveries has been further expanded. The Working Party on Steel Statistics discussed the possibility of modifications in the form of steel questionnaires. Those countries that did not as yet reply to the steel statistics questionnaires agreed to do so as from the beginning of 1958 on the modified forms of the questionnaire.

129. The Working Party, noting the considerable amount of data available in different countries on merchants' stocks, consumers' stocks and actual consumption of steel, agreed on the desirability of further work by the Conference to improve the availability and coverage of such statistics.

Iron and Steel Production Capacity

130. The *Ad hoc* Working Party on the Definition of Iron and Steel Production Capacity agreed that those who so wished should submit papers describing both the methods adopted for defining rolling mill capacity and the uses to which the resulting figures were put. Regarding methods of calculating blast and steel furnace capacity, it was agreed, in view of the variety of methods in use for calculating capacity, that countries should send in papers describing their methodologies and comment on the paper already contributed on the subject by the delegation of the U.S.S.R. The Steel Committee adopted the proposal of the Working Party that the definition already adopted for blast and steel furnace capacity, which could now be regarded as applicable on an all-European basis, should be put into practice; accordingly, countries were invited to supply regularly the appropriate statistical information for dissemination.

Methodology of Manning Tables

131. The Committee agreed to examine 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.

Problems of the Steel Industry of Southern Europe

132. Following resolution 7 (XI) of the ECE, and at the suggestion of the Yugoslav delegate, the Committee agreed that an item relating to problems of the steel industry of southern Europe should be put on the agenda of its next session.

TIMBER COMMITTEE

MEETINGS HELD

Timber Committee

Fourteenth Session 22-25 October 1956

Working Party on the Standardization of General Conditions of Sale for Timber

Third Session 1-6 October 1956

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

Second Session 12-16 November 1956

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

Ad Hoc Working Party on Tractor Testing 28 May-2 June 1956

Study Group on the Testing of Forest Machinery 1 June 1956

Study Group on the Handling and Transport of Timber in Mountainous Regions 12-15 September 1956

Study Group on the Application of Machinery to Forest Work 4-6 March 1957

Study Group on Vocational Training and Prevention of Accidents 11-13 March 1957

International Training Course for Forest Work Study Experts, Zurich, Switzerland 7-15 March 1957

OFFICERS

Timber Committee

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

Vice-Chairmen : Mr. J. O. Söderhjelm (Finland)
Mr. J. Kaczerginski (Poland)

Working Party on the Standardization of General Conditions of Sale for Timber

Chairman : Mr. H. Blétry (France)

Vice-Chairman : Mr. George Trojan (Czechoslovakia)

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

Chairman : Mr. J. Keller (Switzerland)

Vice-Chairmen : Mr. L. Funicello (Italy)
Mr. F. C. Hummel (United Kingdom)
Mr. V. Popov (U.S.S.R.)

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

Chairman : Mr. H. Winkelmann (Switzerland)

Vice-Chairmen : Mr. L. Kostron (Czechoslovakia)
M. H. Gläser (Federal Republic of Germany)

***Ad Hoc* Working Party on Tractor Testing**

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

Study Group on the Application of Machinery to Forest Work

Chairman : Mr. I. Samset (Norway)

Study Group on the Testing of Forest Machinery

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

Study Group on Working Techniques and Performance

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

Study Group on Vocational Training and Prevention of Accidents

Chairman : Mr. H. Frølund (Denmark)

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

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

Study Group on a Multilingual Glossary of Forest Work Science

Chairman : Mr. U. Sundberg (Sweden)

ACTIVITIES

Market Review

133. At its fourteenth session, the Timber Committee reviewed the course of the European market in sawn softwood, pitprops and pulpwood during 1956 and appraised prospects for 1957. The conclusions stemming from this analysis are contained in the Committee's Report of its fourteenth session (E/ECE/TIM/54, paras. 4 and 5).

134. The Committee noted the secretariat document *Enquiry on Raw Materials used for Wood-pulp Manufacture* (TIM/108), which showed that further progress had been made in utilizing broadleaved species, sawn-wood waste and other residues.

135. The Committee noted a summary of a statement prepared by the secretariat on future pulpwood supplies in the light of pulpwood products consumption. The rise in European pulp and paper consumption had exceed all expectations and seems likely to continue. Therefore, the continent's net trade balance in pulp and paper had fallen by more than half in the course of the last five years, implying a substantial reduction in net overseas earnings.

136. The Committee considered a report (TIM/113) on the secretariat's enquiry into European production and trade in sawn oak and beech. In view of the increasing importance of this market, the Committee requested that a regular appraisal of the market for broadleaved

sawnwood be undertaken by the secretariat. As an initial step, a study of the European market for these species is being undertaken.

Special Import/Export Problems

137. At the request of certain delegations, informal meetings to discuss special import/export problems amongst representatives of the countries directly interested were arranged. The Committee noted with satisfaction that some positive results had been reached by this means.

Long-term Trade Arrangements

138. The secretariat's explorations revealed that the requisite conditions for the conclusion of long-term trade arrangements did not seem to exist at the present time in the specific case investigated. The Committee agreed that the question of long-term trade arrangements be transferred to the third (non-priority) category of projects in the Committee's programme of work, but that it should be open to any participating government to request that this item be placed on the Committee's agenda at future sessions.

Timber Bulletin for Europe

139. The Committee agreed to the changes in the form and content of the *Timber Bulletin for Europe* proposed by the secretariat, which are intended to reduce the volume of the secretariat's work and speed publication.

Trends in the Utilization of Wood and its Products

140. The Committee considered the first draft of a secretariat study on *Trends in the Utilization of Wood and its Products in Housing* (TIM/107 (a)-(h)). It requested the secretariat to prepare a final version of the sector study on housing, and to give high priority to further sector studies, in the first instance wood in packaging; countries were asked to aid the secretariat by transmitting up-to-date information and statistical data on the subject.

General Conditions of Sale for Timber

141. The Committee took note of the report of the Working Party on the Standardization of General Conditions of Sale for Timber (TIM/116), observing in particular that the Working Party had drafted standard general conditions for the sale of exported and imported sawn softwood which, although not compulsory, were of great value.

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

142. 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/110). This report summarized the activities of the Joint Committee comprising working techniques, mechanization, mountain logging, vocational training, accident

prevention and terminology. Tribute was paid to the value for the scholarship scheme sponsored by the International Labour Office for the exchange of instructors for forest workers, and the Committee expressed the hope that it would prove possible to continue this scheme in 1957.

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

143. The Committee noted the report of the Joint Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics (TIM/109) and considered that the Working Party, while not intended to be a permanent body, should continue in existence until after it had completed consideration of the tasks assigned to it. Towards the end of 1956, the second session of the Joint Working Party was held and continued its work on the following main items: forestry production and investment statistics, felling forecasts, pulpwood and trade statistics. It also fixed the future work programme of the Working Party.

Commercial Grading of Sawn Softwood

144. The Committee was informed on the work done by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) through its Technical Committee 55, Resinous Lumber (Sizing, Defects). The secretariat was asked to keep in contact with ISO and to inform the Committee on progress made. In view of ISO's work in this field, this project was transferred to the third (non-priority) category of projects in the Committee's programme of work.

Development of Contacts between Countries of Eastern and Western Europe

145. In implementation of Commission resolutions 1 (X) and 4 (XI), visits and study tours such as the inspection of forest road and cable haulage systems in Savoy (France) and the inspection of the Continental factory for tractors and the Berliet Tractor Works at Lyon (France) were arranged in connexion with the work of the Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers and its subsidiary bodies. Under a scheme subsidized by the International Labour Office and sponsored by the Joint Committee, sixty-four experts from twelve countries were given the opportunity during the period under review to participate in national training courses for instructors and forest workers, at the invitation of nine host countries.

146. Further, the exchange of scientific and technical information was fostered by means of the dissemination of technico-economic studies undertaken in the main by experts participating in working parties and study groups. Lists of slides and films especially suitable for international exchange are being established, and technical film shows were organized in conjunction with the Commission's work. The supply of statistical information required for the Committee's work, as well as the coverage of the date, also improved.

147. The International FAO/ECE Consultation on Insulation Board, Hardboard and Particle Board referred to above can also be mentioned in this connexion as an example of a meeting of experts devoted to the discussion of questions of terminology and production.

COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE

MEETINGS HELD

- Committee on the Development of Trade
 - Fifth Session 15-26 October 1956
- Consultation on East-West Trade
 - Fourth Session 18-24 October 1956
- Consultation of Financial Experts
 - Second Session 23-28 April 1956
 - Third Session 18-20 October 1956
 - Fourth Session 2-3 May 1957
- Ad Hoc* Working Group on Arbitration
 - Third Session 8-12 October 1956
- Working Party on International Fairs
 - Second Session 4-8 June 1956

OFFICERS

- Committee on the Development of Trade
 - Chairman*: Mr. Alexander Wolynski (Poland)
 - Vice-Chairman*: Mr. Ake Malmaeus (Sweden)
- Consultation of Financial Experts
 - Chairman*: Mr. C. H. von Platen (Sweden)
- Ad hoc* Working Group on Arbitration
 - Chairman*: Mr. G. de Sydow (Sweden)
 - Vice-Chairman*: Mr. J. Trojan (Czechoslovakia)
- Working Party on International Fairs
 - Chairman*: Mr. A. Staehelin (Switzerland)
 - Vice-Chairman*: M. Z. Bantchev (Bulgaria)

ACTIVITIES

Intra-European Trade

(i) *Development of east-west trade*

148. The Committee reviewed the progress made during the past year in the development of east-west trade, and considered future possibilities for expansion. During this discussion, delegates made particular reference to a number of problems requiring attention if the upward trend in east-west trade was to continue, such as the elimination of restrictions on imports and exports, removal of administrative and other barriers, including those relating to travel facilities for business men, and the need for special efforts to promote trade in consumer goods and agricultural products.

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

(a) *Long-term trade arrangements*

149. On the basis of the discussion which took place at the fifth session, it appeared that there were no major changes since the fourth session in the attitudes of governments on this question. It will be recalled that at the Fourth Session a number of delegations had submitted lists of commodities in respect of which their countries would be prepared to negotiate long-term agreements or contracts and that such arrangements were to be discussed in bilateral talks between interested governments.

(b) *Multilateralization of payments*

150. On the basis of a report submitted by the Executive Secretary on his Consultation with Financial Experts (23-28 April 1956) and a further consultation held during the fifth session, the Committee discussed the possibility of introducing a multilateral compensation system while taking into consideration also proposals made by the United Kingdom delegation at the session for a different approach to the problem. At the conclusion of its discussions, the Committee adopted a procedure regarding further action under its auspices. On the basis of the Executive Secretary's Consultations with governments most recently at a special meeting held from 2 to 3 May 1957 in Geneva, a regular procedure for multilateral compensation of balances arising under bilateral agreements was put into effect. No date has yet been set for the meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Party to consider other practical measures for improving payments relations.

(c) *International fairs and shows*

151. At its fifth session, the Committee took note of the results achieved by the Working Party on International Fairs, and requested the Executive Secretary to draw the attention of governments thereto asking them to inform him whether, and to what extent they accepted the recommendations proposed regarding administrative facilities to be granted to general international sample fairs and to specialized international displays. A number of governments have responded to this request. The Committee also took note of the negotiations undertaken by the Executive Secretary with a view to reducing the rates for transport of passengers and goods to and from international fairs, expressing the hope that these negotiations would lead to generally acceptable results. It decided not to re-convene the Working Party on International Fairs, but to keep the relevant problems under review.

(d) *Arbitration*

152. The Committee commended the Working Group on Arbitration for the progress made by it in dealing with problems which may impede international commercial arbitration.

(e) *Standardization of general conditions of sale*

153. The Committee reviewed the work being done under the auspices of other ECE committees on the standardization of general sales conditions relating to cereals, citrus fruits, coal, engineering equipment, steel and timber.

(iii) *Work of other ECE Committees on problems of importance for intra-European trade*

154. After noting the work of other ECE Committees on problems of importance for intra-European trade and discussing the role of the Committee in this regard, it was agreed that the secretariat should keep the Committee fully informed of developments in other ECE committees, and particularly of their market studies related to this work.

(iv) *Problems and difficulties encountered by countries of southern Europe in commercial relations with other countries*

155. The Committee expressed the wish that governments of member States should give careful consideration to ways and means of facilitating to the greatest possible extent the intra-European trade of the under-developed countries of southern Europe in accordance with Commission resolution 7 (XI). The Committee considered it desirable that efforts to this end should be made by means of direct contacts between the countries concerned, and stated that any such country might submit reports at the Committee's subsequent sessions on action taken and the progress made. The Committee also decided that the item "Foreign Trade Problems of Southern European Countries" be added to its Work Programme.

Consultation on East-West Trade

156. In conjunction with the fifth session of the Committee, the Fourth Consultation of Experts on East-West Trade was held. A total of some 145 first-round talks were scheduled between interested experts. This schedule included not only talks on an east-west basis, but also between experts from countries in the same part of Europe. At the conclusion of the Consultation, the Executive Secretary made a summary and appraisal of the results concluding that the bilateral talks had again provided a useful opportunity for an examination of important trading problems and had in some cases already given concrete results in the form of agreements or settlements of outstanding problems. The Executive Secretary also informed the Committee that he planned to convene a Fifth Consultation on similar lines in conjunction with the Sixth Session of the Committee.

The Development of Contacts between Countries of Eastern and Western Europe

157. In the course of the Committee's fifth session, several delegates referred to measures taken by their governments to facilitate east-west commercial contacts and visits. Note was also taken of the statement by the Executive Secretary that he would, pursuant to resolution 4 (XI), communicate with governments in order to give effect to the recommendation regarding increased east-west contacts.

158. The Committee's work with regard to International Fairs and Shows and the exchange of information on techniques, organization and mechanization of retail and wholesale trade likewise are related to this problem.

159. As to exchanges of statistical information, especially referred to in Commission resolution I (X), several governments have placed at the Committee's disposal previously unpublished trade data which enabled the secretariat to compile more adequate trade statistics for use by the Committee.

B. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

160. During the period since the eleventh session of the Commission, specialized agencies of the United Nations, inter-governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations participated as heretofore in a wide range of the Commission's activities.

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

161. Relations of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat with the specialized agencies are based on article 12 of the Commission's Terms of Reference, resolution 125 (II) of the General Assembly and the relevant decisions and procedures of the Economic and Social Council.

International Labour Organisation

162. The secretariat has, as hitherto, kept in touch with the International Labour Office on questions in the field of manpower. A Report on Manpower Problems in Europe was transmitted by the ILO to the twelfth session of the Commission.

163. In the field of timber, co-operation with ILO was intensified. A considerable number of fellowships were awarded by ILO to enable forest workers from European countries to attend courses of instruction and training. For 1957, credits have been provided for the grant of 50 to 75 new fellowships as well as for the participation by the ILO in the organization of two training centres for forest workers. In the field of forest accident prevention, studies on forest accidents and forest accident statistics have been prepared by the ILO on the recommendation of the Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers. ILO also assisted in organizing a training course in time study techniques of forestry operations, held in Zurich.

164. In the field of industry and materials, the secretariat has consulted with the Office regarding ECE's work on the economic implications of automation in view of ILO's own work in this field. The secretariat has also collaborated with the office in studying the prevention of accidents in the handling of agricultural machinery.

165. As a result of the work of ECE's Special Group of Experts on the Economic Development of Southern Europe relating to labour and manpower problems which the ILO followed throughout, a project for the establishment of a regional centre for the training of instructors of vocational training for countries of southern Europe was commenced by ILO during the period under review.

166. In the field of transport, the Office continued to follow closely the work connected with the preparation of the European Agreement on the Transport of Dangerous Goods by road. It also participated actively in the study of problems relating to the prevention of shunting accidents.

167. In matters of statistics, the ILO is co-operating with the Conference of European Statisticians on the classification of persons by status and socio-professional groups, family living studies, international comparison of wages, wages and related elements of labour cost in European industry, cost-of-living indices and the occupational classification.

168. The ECE secretariat was represented at a number of ILO's industrial committees whilst representatives of the Office participated in meetings of several of ECE's subsidiary bodies.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

169. Close and continuing co-operation with FAO is ensured in the main by the Joint FAO/ECE Agriculture and Timber Divisions servicing the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems and Timber Committee, respectively.

170. Contact with FAO in matters of general economic research was maintained by means of a regular exchange of statistical and other relevant data.

171. The two Joint FAO/ECE bodies functioning in timber, viz. the FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers and the FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics, continued their activities during the period under review.

172. FAO participated, as before, in the work of the Conference of European Statisticians and, in particular, serviced a meeting of a Working Group on Agricultural Censuses of Surveys which was held at FAO's Headquarters in Rome. On its part, the Conference contributed to FAO's work in the field of sector accounts for agriculture and of agricultural prices.

173. FAO actively participated in the Executive Secretary's Consultation with Experts on Water Pollution in Europe.

174. The ECE secretariat is engaged in discussing with the secretariat of FAO, at the latter's request, the question of elaborating standard general conditions of sale for certain commodities of concern to FAO.

175. The two secretariats are exploring possibilities of undertaking a study of the problem of afforestation in countries of southern Europe.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

176. The Machine Tool Vocabulary — a project jointly undertaken with UNESCO — is now in the process of publication, and is expected to appear in the course of 1957.

177. At the invitation of the Conference of European Statisticians, UNESCO serviced a meeting of one of its working groups, viz. the Working Group on Statistics of Higher Education and Graduate Employment, held at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris.

178. An expert adviser appointed by UNESCO attended the third session of the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Arbitration. The ECE secretariat took part in the work undertaken by the International Association of Legal Science under the auspices of UNESCO, relating to legal aspects of economic co-operation between countries having different economic structures, and on comparative law and the international effects of nationalization. The ECE secretariat also participated in a meeting of social scientists and economists on peaceful co-operation convened by UNESCO in Geneva.

World Health Organization

179. The Executive Secretary's Consultation on Water Pollution in Europe was prepared and serviced jointly by the ECE secretariat and the secretariat of WHO's Regional Office for Europe.

180. The ECE secretariat was in touch with WHO's Regional Office for Europe on the question of road accidents to children and was represented at meetings convened by this Office on the subject. Consultations were also held from time to time with the Headquarters of WHO on various matters relating to road safety and road accident statistics.

181. WHO continued to co-operate with the Conference of European Statisticians regarding statistics on the causes of death.

182. The ECE secretariat has been in touch with this organization concerning work in the field of automation.

International Monetary Fund and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

183. The secretariat has maintained its contacts in matters of research with the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In particular, the Fund has provided the secretariat with Balance of Payments data. The secretariat has kept the Bank informed on questions bearing upon the financing of a number of projects of economic development stemming from the current activities of the committees.

World Meteorological Organization

184. The WMO continued to follow the work of the Electric Power Committee on hydro-electric potential.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

185. During the period covered by this Report the secretariat continued, through informal contacts on the working level, to keep itself informed on and be in touch with the activities of a number of inter-governmental bodies outside the United Nations structure, which operate in Europe in fields covered by the Commission.

186. Thus, the secretariat has maintained such informal contacts with the staff of the Organization of European Economic Co-operation on such matters as agriculture, coal, electric power, housing, steel, timber and trade as well as on general economic research and statistical matters. With the secretariat of the Council of Europe, the informal exchange of information particularly on questions of economic research was continued. Informal inter-secretariat relations with the staff of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community were carried on along established lines. Informal contacts were also maintained with the secretariat of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

187. Similar inter-secretariat relations were maintained with the secretariat of the Danube Commission located in Budapest.

188. The secretariat has also been in contact, as previously, with the European Conference of Ministers of Transport and its officials.

189. A number of other inter-governmental 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 technical questions — particularly in the field of inland transport — and in this manner rendered valuable assistance to the Commission.

190. Contact on the secretariat level with ICITO on matters of trade and commercial policy was continued.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

191. The active co-operation of a considerable number of non-governmental organizations of all categories covering the entire range of the committees' activities has become an established feature in ECE's work. Their substantive contributions to the carrying forward of work on a number of projects under consideration by the Commission and its subsidiary organs, particularly those requiring technical *expertise*, have developed further and have been of considerable assistance to the Commission.

192. The International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation (CIB), which works in close association with the Housing Committee, has extended its membership during the period under review and now provides full opportunities for all-European collaboration in its field.

C. Other activities of the Commission and the secretariat

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meetings held

Fourth Plenary Session 25-30 June 1956
Working Group on Statistics of
Higher Education and Gra-
duate Employment 14-18 May 1956

Working Group on Indicators
of Short-term Economic
Changes 22-26 May 1956
Working Group on Censuses of
Population and Housing . . 19-24 November 1956
Working Group on Agricultural
Censuses and Surveys. . . . 11-20 December 1956
Meeting on Electronic Data-
Processing Machines 21-24 January 1957
Working Group on General
Economic Censuses 25-29 March 1957

193. The fourth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians, which met during the period under review under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Campion (United Kingdom) and the Vice-Chairmanship of Mr. B. Bjerre (Norway), Mr. F. Closon (France) and Mr. F. Fajfr (Czechoslovakia), considered :

(a) The reports of its working groups on distribution statistics, statistics of fixed capital formation, indicators of short-term economic changes and statistics of higher education and graduate employment; and of its expert groups on classification of persons by status and statistics of deliveries, stocks and actual consumption of steel;

(b) Reports by the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned on work done in the field of agricultural statistics, statistics on labour and living conditions, and statistics of the causes of death;

(c) Progress reports by the secretariat on other items in the current work programme of the Conference;

(d) Reports by the secretariat on statistical activities carried out under the programme of the Committee on Agricultural Problems, the Coal Committee, the Committee on Electric Power, the Housing Committee, the Inland Transport Committee, the Steel Committee, and the Timber Committee; and

(e) Its programme of work.

194. The Conference approved the reports of its working groups and expert groups, and requested that further work should be done on all the subjects covered. The Conference agreed, *inter alia*, that, during the year 1956/57, the Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing (formerly the Working Group on Censuses of Population) and the Working Group on Indicators of Short-Term Economic Changes should be reconvened; that working groups on general economic censuses and on agricultural censuses and surveys respectively should be set up; that a group of rapporteurs should meet to prepare proposals for a socio-professional classification for consideration by the Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing; and that a group of rapporteurs should meet to prepare a report on the concept, definition and measurement of capital consumption. The Conference also agreed that an *ad hoc* meeting should be held on new data-processing electronic machines.

195. The Conference took note of the reports submitted by specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned on their statistical work in the fields referred to in paragraph 193 (b) above, and made

a number of suggestions for the further development of this work.

196. With regard to the statistical activities carried out 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.

197. The Conference adopted a programme of work which is set out in the report of its fourth plenary session (Conf.Eur.Stats/61), and summarized as project 01.2 in the Commission's programme of work for 1957/58 (see Part V of this Report).

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION ON INSULATION BOARD, HARDBOARD AND PARTICLE BOARD

198. An International Consultation on Insulation Board, Hardboard and Particle Board, convened by the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECE, was held in Geneva from 21 January to 5 February 1957. As indicated during the eleventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe, the decision to convene this consultation was based on the importance of these rapidly growing industries for economic development and for the improved utilization of forest resources in Europe and in overseas countries, particularly those where industrialization is being encouraged (E/ECE/SR.11/7). The Consultation was attended by 330 participants from 36 countries (of which 26 European). The documentation for the Consultation consisted of a series of secretariat papers on Product Description, Nomenclature and Definitions, World Consumption, Production and Trade, Raw Materials, Processes and Equipment, Economic Aspects of Production and Marketing, Properties, Applications and Uses, Research Needs to Enhance Future Developments, together with over 100 background papers prepared specially for the Consultation by experts.

199. It will be recalled that during the thirteenth session of the Timber Committee several delegations expressed their interest in the forthcoming Consultation and hoped that members of the Timber Committee would be able to participate both in the preparatory work and in the meeting itself, in view of the significance of this growing industry to their programmes of industrialization and forestry development. However, while considering that the work of the Consultation was a matter of interest to the countries participating in the work of the Timber Committee, the Committee did not wish to be bound by any conclusions which the Consultation might reach (E/ECE/TIM/51, page 13).

200. The account of the proceedings of the Consultation, issued as an interim report (FAO/ECE/BOARD CONS/REPORT), contains the advice of the experts participating in the Consultation to the secretariat on the revision and amendment of the secretariat papers prior to publication. These papers will be published in full, revised and amended in the light of the discussions at the Consultation, in the final report which will be issued later this year.

201. In the course of the Consultation, the economic and technical aspects of fibreboard and particle board industries were discussed and information thereon ex-

changed. The Consultation considered that, while the long-term future of these industries is assured, and their products are destined to make a growing contribution to rising living standards throughout the world, it is in the interests of all concerned that severe imbalances between production capacity and effective demand should not arise. This is particularly important in view of the current phase of rapid expansion (FAO/ECE/BOARD CONS/REPORT, p. 2).

202. Believing that the regular international exchange of economic information and statistics — particularly those relating to production, consumption, marketing, trade and capacity — would provide useful information to those responsible for planning production and marketing policies, the Consultation recommended the creation of appropriate international machinery and invited the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECE to explore this proposal with member governments. The Consultation pointed out that such machinery, once established, could also facilitate the interchange of technical information (FAO/ECE/BOARD CONS/REPORT, p. 2 - 3). As requested, the Executive Secretary brought this recommendation to the attention of the Commission for its consideration (see para. 402 below).

CONSULTATION WITH EXPERTS ON WATER POLLUTION IN EUROPE

203. The question of pollution of waters in Europe was placed on the agenda of the eleventh session of the Commission at the request of the Inland Transport Committee. The Committee had suggested that the Commission consider the advisability of the problem being studied in conjunction with the international organizations concerned, and especially with the World Health Organization.

204. After discussion at the eleventh session, the Commission agreed that the Executive Secretary should convene a consultation of experts on water pollution in Europe with a view to making proposals to the Commission at its twelfth session (E/2868, paras. 283 - 285).

205. The Consultation with experts on water pollution in Europe, convened by the Executive Secretary, was held from 12 to 15 February 1957. Experts from fifteen countries participated, as well as experts from the secretariats of WHO and FAO and four other international organizations concerned with water pollution. The experts, recognizing the complexity and, as a result of recent developments, the aggravation of the problem in Europe, agreed that it mainly concerns public health, industrial utilization of water, and fisheries and agriculture, and that the efforts made by various organizations for combating water pollution required co-ordination. Two proposals emerged as a result of the experts' deliberations:

(a) The establishment within ECE of an *Ad hoc* Working Party of experts designated by governments and serviced by the secretariats of ECE, WHO and FAO to co-ordinate and extend the dissemination of documentation on water pollution and on measures taken by the various countries, as well as to make recommendations to governments on the subject.

(b) Establishment of an *ad hoc* ECE/WHO/FAO inter-secretariat group which, in addition to being concerned with the promotion of documentation on water pollution along the same lines as in the first proposal, would also make proposals to the three organizations concerned on the programme of work to be carried out, and, if necessary, on the machinery needed for its implementation.

206. After the Consultation, the Executive Secretary submitted the above-mentioned proposals to the Director-General of FAO and the Director of WHO's Regional Office for Europe for comment, and brought them to the attention of the Commission for its consideration and decision (E/ECE/267).

GAS PROBLEMS IN EUROPE

207. At its eleventh session, the Commission decided to set up the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Gas Problems "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". The *Ad hoc* Working Party was also instructed "to report to the Commission at its twelfth session so that the results of its work can be reviewed" (resolution 2 (XI)).

208. The *Ad hoc* Working Party held two sessions, from 22 to 24 August 1956 and from 25 to 27 February 1957. As will be seen from its reports (E/ECE/269, Annex I and II), a number of problems in the field of the production, transport and utilization of gas, both natural and manufactured, were considered as of interest to the participating governments. In the light of the examination already made of these problems, the *Ad hoc* Working Party was of the opinion that useful results could be accomplished by further consideration of such questions on an international basis and that this work should be continued.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN EUROPE

209. The Executive Secretary brought Commission resolution 7 (XI) concerning the economic development of southern Europe to the attention of the governments in question in connexion with meetings of the various ECE committees. The following questions of special interest to these countries were considered by the committees during the period under review.

Inland Transport

210. At its fourteenth session, the Sub-Committee on Road Transport, an auxiliary of the Inland Transport Committee, recognized the importance for the development of touring in southern Europe of carrying through the project for a highway Venice - Rome - Brindisi - Patras - Athens - Belgrade - Venice, with a branch through Istanbul and Ankara to the Syrian frontier. It requested the countries concerned to keep in touch, with a view to the necessary co-ordination of action. The Sub-Committee also thought it desirable that the question of a foreign loan should be borne in mind in case any opportunities arose in this respect.

Trade

211. Problems and difficulties encountered by countries of southern Europe with other countries were discussed at the fifth session of the Committee on the Development of Trade. The committee expressed the wish that governments should give careful consideration to the ways and means of facilitating to the greatest possible extent the intra-European trade of the countries of southern Europe in accordance with Commission resolution 7 (XI). The question, "Foreign Trade Problems of Southern European Countries", was included in the Committee's Programme of Work (E/ECE/265-I, para. 9).

Electric Power

212. At its fourteenth session, the Committee on Electric Power unanimously decided to support the request by Greece to the UNTAA for studies on the hydro-electric development of the River Aliakmon and that part of the River Nestos which flows through Greece, in view of the potential international significance of such works. A request by Turkey in connexion with the country's needs for electric power equipment is under consideration (E/ECE/265-C, para. 27).

Steel

213. At its seventeenth session, the Steel Committee agreed that an item relating to the steel industries of southern Europe should be put on the agenda of the Committee's next session. In this connexion, the Government of Portugal asked to be supplied, with the framework of the Steel Committee, with economic and technical information on the problems encountered now or in the past by certain countries in setting up a steel industry. That request will be considered at the forthcoming session of the Steel Committee in June 1957.

Housing

214. At the first session of the Housing Committee's *Ad hoc* Working Party on Problems of Housing Development in Less Industrialized Countries, two proposals of potential interest to the countries of southern Europe were considered, involving co-operation between geographically contiguous countries with similar housing problems. The *Ad hoc* Working Party recommended that the interested countries consider the possibility of implementing these two proposals and agreed that rapporteurs should be nominated from Yugoslavia, Turkey and Greece who, in consultation with the secretariat, would collect the information required and explore the practicability of these proposals.

Forestry Policy and its Role in the Economic Development

215. The Expert Group having stressed the importance of forestry policy in the economic development of the countries of southern Europe, the secretariats of FAO and ECE are exploring possibilities of undertaking a special study of this problem.

INTER-REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

216. Continuing co-operation of a systematic character 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 covers practically all fields within the Commission's purview, thus reflecting the Commission's concern for the objective of economic development in less developed countries, and proceeds in close and continuing liaison with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. At the secretariat level, consultation by correspondence on matters of common concern is complemented, as far as feasible, by mutual visits of staff members. The periodic meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the three Regional Economic Commissions with the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary in charge of economic and social affairs provide an important means for the consideration of common problems.

Standard Conditions of Sale

217. The ECE secretariat is co-operating with the secretariat of ECLA, at the latter's request, with a view to extending to Latin America the standard general conditions of sale for certain commodities prepared under the auspices of ECE.

Coal

218. The Coal Committee has been kept informed of the work done by ECAFE in the field of coal. Consultation on the secretariat level took place in particular on problems of development of brown coal resources, classification of brown coals and lignites, and underground gasification of coal.

Electric Power

219. The Committee on Electric Power continued to follow the work of ECAFE's Sub-Committee on Electric Power. The ECE secretariat assisted the ECAFE secretariat and UNTAA in the organization of a study tour of ECAFE electric power experts to Europe which took place in August/September 1956. Consultations took place between the secretariats of ECAFE and ECE on a number of projects on ECAFE's work programme concerning electric power, in particular as regards estimates of gross hydro potential of the countries of the ECAFE region.

Housing

220. The ECE secretariat contributed reports on a number of economic and technical questions in the field of housing and building to the fourth session of ECAFE's Working Party on Housing and Building Materials. It also assisted in making arrangements for the participation of representatives from Asian countries in the United Nations' Seminar on Housing through Non-Profit Organizations, held in Denmark in the summer of 1956. At its thirteenth session, the attention of ECE's Housing Committee was drawn to the work of ECAFE and ECLA in fields of work of common concern.

Steel

221. The Steel Committee has followed the work of ECAFE and ECLA with regard to steel. The ECE

secretariat co-operated with the secretariat of ECAFE and with UNTAA in planning the itinerary and other arrangements of a visit of experts in iron and steel technology from ECAFE to Europe which is to take place during 1957.

Timber

222. The FAO/ECE Timber Division co-operated with the ECAFE secretariat in initiating a Timber Trends Study covering the ECAFE region, approved at the twenty-second session of the Economic and Social Council. Contact was also established with ECLA concerning the possibility of preparing a similar study covering the Latin American region.

Trade

223. The ECE secretariat has followed the work of ECAFE and ECLA in the field of trade and payments.

Inland Transport

224. At the request of ECAFE's secretariat, information was supplied by the ECE secretariat on a variety of subjects including technical problems relating to railway transport, transport co-ordination, questions relating to the transport of perishable foodstuffs and cost of transport.

Statistics

225. The secretariats of ECAFE and ECLA were kept informed of the work of the Conference of European Statisticians and its subsidiary bodies. In preparation of the establishment of a Conference of Asian Statisticians in the ECAFE region (whose first meeting has meanwhile been held), consultations took place between the two secretariats on questions involved in the organization of regional statistical programmes.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

Co-operation with UNTAA

226. During the period under review, the secretariat continued its close co-operation with the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations along established lines. In addition to co-operating on specific projects mentioned below, the secretariat furnished advice, at the request of UNTAA and through its European Office, on various aspects of Technical Assistance projects of an economic character concerning European countries, and assisted in the recruitment of Technical Assistance experts from, and the placement of Technical Assistance fellows in, Europe. Arrangements were made by the European Office of the TAA, at the request of the secretariat, for Technical Assistance experts and fellows whose assignments bear upon projects included in the work programme of the Committees to be briefed, before assuming their duties, by the ECE officials concerned. The secretariat has also assisted, upon request, in arranging seminars and organizing study tours in Europe of Technical Assistance groups from other regions.

227. The UNTAA/ECE In-Service Training Programme, the establishment of which was reported to the eleventh session of the Commission (see E/2868, para. 213)

and which offers training facilities with the ECE secretariat to suitably qualified young economists from certain European countries, has been continued in 1957. As part of the UNTAA Programme for 1957, fellowships were granted to economists from Bulgaria, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Portugal and Spain. These fellows are given opportunities for practical in-service training in one or more of the projects of the current work programme of the Research and Planning Division and, where appropriate, also of the other divisions of the secretariat.

228. During the period under review the secretariat has also co-operated with UNTAA on a number of specific projects. Thus, it participated in consultations on plans for carrying out the pilot project of a model village located in a tobacco-growing region of Greece, a project emanating from the activities of the Group of Experts on the Economic Development of Southern Europe. The secretariat assisted UNTAA in arrangements for studies to be carried out by UNTAA experts on problems of rural electrification in Greece, on the choice of villages to be attached to the general grid, and the electrification of two model villages. The secretariat also worked closely with UNTAA on a project concerning the development of hydro-electric resources on the rivers Aliakmon and Strymon in Greece. Requests from the Greek Government for Technical Assistance missions to deal with the above problems in the field of electric power have been supported by the Committee on Electric Power. The Committee on Co-ordination of "Youngelexport" put forward a request to UNTAA for a study of the problem of a submarine cable for the transmission of electric energy from Yugoslavia to Italy, and the secretariat has rendered advice to UNTAA in carrying out this project. At its fourth session, the Conference of European Statisticians supported a proposal by the Delegate of Greece that a series of seminars be organized with the co-operation of TAA on methods of implementing the recommendations of international statistical bodies with respect to European countries which have not yet been able to develop sufficiently their statistical systems. One such seminar, on industrial statistics (to be held in Athens), has been included in the UNTAA Programme for 1957 as a regional project, and the secretariat together with the Statistical Office of the United Nations are co-operating in making arrangements for the organization and servicing of this seminar. The secretariat is assisting UNTAA and the secretariat of ECAFE in the preparations for a study tour of ECAFE experts on iron and steel technology to Europe to take place in 1957. It has also advised the European Office of UNTAA on the question of organization and work programme of a seminar on the social aspects of housing to be held in France in 1957.

Other Activities pertaining to Technical Assistance

229. A number of projects on the Commission's work programme involved the international exchange of production experience and scientific-technical information and therefore partake of the character of technical assistance in the broad sense of the term. The results accomplished regarding work on these projects are often of value to the countries of the other regions. The study

tours of experts arranged in connexion with the work of the Committees also represent a form of technical assistance. Similarly, the work of the Housing Committee on Problems of Housing Development in Less Industrialized Countries should be mentioned in this connexion (see Project 06.1.2). In the course of this work, missions of government experts were arranged to Yugoslavia and Turkey, at the request of the governments concerned and in co-operation with UNTAA, with a view to advising these countries of ways and means of meeting their needs in the field of housing.

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

230. 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

231. 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 (see above, paras. 215-224) as well as with other appropriate units of the United Nations Secretariat.

232. In addition to the work described under sections B and C of Part I of this report, the secretariat of the Commission has implemented the decisions of the eleventh session of the Commission, and more particularly, has initiated action required under resolution 1 (XI) concerning energy problems in Europe, resolution 3 (XI) concerning the consideration within the Economic Commission for Europe of an all-European agreement on economic co-operation, resolution 4 (XI) concerning the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe, resolution 5 (XI) concerning regional co-operation in the economic aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as well as the decisions contained in the Report of the *Ad hoc* Working Party on the Industry and Materials Committee set up by the eleventh session of the Commission.

233. The secretariat has further discharged its normal functions — viz., to service 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 of an economic statistical, industrial and technological character. The Research and Planning Division and the technical divisions have continued 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, housing, steel, timber and transport. The publication of annual

and quarterly bulletins of European Electric Energy Statistics was commenced during the period under review.

234. In its work, the secretariat continued to be 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 tech-

nical investigations. Expert representatives of several inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations have rendered similar services.

235. 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 for 1957/58 (see Part V of this Report).

PART II

TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance, election of officers and opening statements

236. The twelfth session of the Commission was held from 29 April to 15 May 1957. 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. Iceland was not represented. Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Egypt, Japan, India, Israel and Syria were represented under the provision of paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference. The following specialized agencies sent representatives : the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the International Monetary Fund and the World Health Organization. The Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization and Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade also followed the Commission's proceedings. Representatives from the following non-governmental organizations attended the session : International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, International Organization of Employers, World Federation of Trade Unions, International Organization for Standardization, International Union for Inland Navigation and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. A full list of representatives is attached as Annex II to this report.

237. At its first meeting, the Commission heard an opening statement by the Chairman, Mr. Pierre A. Forthomme (Belgium),⁴ followed by statements by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Juliusz Katz-Suchy (Poland) and the Executive Secretary.⁵

238. The Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Commission at its fourth meeting.⁶

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

⁴ See E/ECE/286.

⁵ See E/ECE/287.

⁶ See E/ECE/285.

B. Agenda and Documentation

240. The Commission adopted the following provisional agenda (E/ECE/264, Rev.1) :

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 eleventh session and an additional note thereto by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/265, A-J).

4. Pollution of waters in Europe : report by the Executive Secretary on the Consultation with Experts (E/ECE/267).
5. Energy Problems in Europe : note by the Executive Secretary on action taken pursuant to resolution 1 (XI) (E/ECE/268).
6. Gas Problems in Europe : report by the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Gas Problems submitted pursuant to resolution 2 (XI) (E/ECE/269).
7. Proposals of the Soviet Union for further development of co-operation of European States, contained in the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. dated 16 March 1957 concerning plans for the establishment of Euratom and the "Common Market" ⁷ (E/ECE/280).
8. Considerations of an all-European Agreement on economic co-operation (E/ECE/270).
9. The development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe : report by the Executive Secretary on the results achieved pursuant to resolutions 1 (X) and 4 (XI) (E/ECE/271).

⁷ Proposed by, and added as item 7, upon the request of the Government of the U.S.S.R.

10. Regional co-operation in the economic aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy (E/ECE/272).
11. Inter-regional trade consultations: note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/273).
12. Economic development of southern Europe: note by the Executive Secretary on action taken pursuant to resolution 7 (XI) (E/ECE/274).
13. Other activities of the Commission and its secretariat: note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/275).
14. Resolutions of concern to the Commission adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-first and twenty-second sessions and by the General Assembly at its eleventh session: notes by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/276) (E/ECE/277).
15. Review of the economic situation in Europe
16. The Commission's programme of work for 1957/58 (E/ECE/279).
17. Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Europe to the twenty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council.
18. Any other business.

241. 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, pointing out that this issue was still unsettled and needed to be resolved. The German Democratic Republic was the sole country in Europe which did not participate in the Commission's annual sessions. In the interests of enhancing the Commission's authority, increasing its efficiency and rendering it all-European, it was imperative to solve the question of the representation of that country in ECE.

242. The German Democratic Republic was a sovereign European state occupying an increasingly important place in the European economy and having both diplomatic and economic relations with many European states; it collaborated in the work of the Commission's technical organs in a comprehensive and constructive manner, and thus it had given ample proof of its sincere desire to contribute to the solution of Europe's economic problems. The delegation of Czechoslovakia consequently considered that if the Commission invited the German Democratic Republic to attend plenary sessions of ECE in a consultative capacity under article 8 of its terms of reference, this would be of great value to the Commission's work. It would be the first step towards rectification of the present situation which was as unfair as it was anomalous, and the first step towards the solution of the question of the membership of the German Democratic Republic on a basis equal to that accorded to the Federal Republic of Germany. The delegation of Czechoslovakia requested that this statement be included in the summary record of the meeting and in the Commission's Annual Report to the twenty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council.

243. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany declared that his Government was opposed to any change in the present legal status of the eastern zone of Germany in the Commission. That status was governed by article 10 of the Commission's terms of

reference; that provision continued to reflect the *de facto* situation since despite certain administrative changes the eastern zone of Germany remained under control of a foreign power. He stated that the clear rejection in December 1955 by the Economic and Social Council of the proposal to admit this part of Germany to membership of the Commission, in view of the fact that that territory was not recognized as a sovereign state by the majority of states members of the United Nations, made it impossible to confer on it the status of a full member, or of a member with consultative status, or even that of an observer, at the Commission's plenary sessions. Any proposal to change its existing status would furthermore run counter to the principle that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was the only freely and legally constituted government, and hence the only one entitled to represent Germany in international affairs; nor was there any practical need to alter that status as the eastern zone of Germany was fully participating in ECE's technical activities to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. The request of the representative of Czechoslovakia involved political considerations and for that reason also led the Commission into extraneous matters.

244. In the course of the exchange of views which ensued on this question, the following delegations participated or, in accordance with an agreed procedure, submitted statements in writing: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian S.S.R., Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, Ukrainian S.S.R., Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Yugoslavia.

245. Of the above-mentioned delegations, those of Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian S.S.R., Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian S.S.R. and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics supported and enlarged upon the point of view of the representative of Czechoslovakia. In particular, the representative of the U.S.S.R. pointed out that the references of the opponents of participation by the German Democratic Republic to the provisions of point 10 of the Commission's terms of reference, which had for long been out of date and did not correspond to the actual situation, lacked both foundation and realism. He further pointed out that there were two Sovereign States on the territory of Germany — the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany — possessing in equal measure all legal rights to participation in international organizations, including the Economic Commission for Europe. Furthermore, participation by the two German States in the Commission's work on an equal footing would help to bring the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany closer together, and would in some measure contribute to the solution of the problem of the unification of Germany. He submitted that, by coming out in favour of participation in its work by both German States on an equal footing, the Commission could make its contribution to the cause of German unification.

246. The representatives of Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America supported and enlarged upon the point of view

of the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany. In particular, they stressed that no change in the situation which would have justified a departure from the previous position taken by their governments had occurred since the unequivocal decision adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its twentieth session and by the Commission at its eleventh session. It could not be contended that the eastern zone of Germany was a nation or constituted a state. They regretted that this question had again been raised and confirmed that the existing arrangements for the participation of the eastern zone of Germany in the Commission's technical work were acceptable.

247. The delegation of Yugoslavia, welcoming the considerable progress achieved in the course of the past few years towards the Commission's universality, considered the suggestion of the representative of Czechoslovakia a useful one, since the Commission only stood to gain if an adequate way were found which would enable eastern Germany to participate in ECE's work as fully as possible. In so doing, however, the delegation of Yugoslavia did not in any way wish to prejudge the political issue involved, but to find an expedient that would facilitate the work of the Commission.

248. The delegation of Finland declared that it had no desire to pronounce on the political aspects of the German question. Nothing that the question concerning the status of eastern Germany had been thoroughly discussed during the Commission's eleventh session, the delegation of Finland referred to its views expressed at that session⁸ which still reflected the opinion of the Government of Finland on the matter.

249. Following the discussion, it was agreed to have the statements made by the delegations reported in the record of the meeting⁹ and in the Commission's Annual Report to the twenty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES ON THEIR ACTIVITIES SINCE THE CLOSING DATE OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION AND AN ADDITIONAL NOTE TO THE REPORTS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (E/ECE/265, A-J) (ITEM 3 OF THE AGENDA)

*General statements*¹⁰

250. Before the Commission proceeded with the detailed consideration of the reports of the several committees, a number of delegations made general statements on what they regarded as salient features of the Commission's activities as well as on the direction along which ECE and its subsidiary organs should function and develop.

251. The representative of the United Kingdom, commenting on the opening statement by the Executive Secretary,¹¹ agreed that the Commission was essentially

a body designed for experts. Its work and that of its secretariat, including in particular its Research and Planning Division, though not given much prominence in the press, was well known and highly esteemed in the technical departments of national administrations, among business men and academic economists. The Commission's plenary sessions were not an end in themselves, their task being to take note of the activities of the committees, give them general guidance, and consider the various proposals for extended activities. The delegation of the United Kingdom had urged in the past that care should be taken lest the committee be overburdened. It was wiser to undertake only work which was reasonably sure to succeed. That did not mean, however, that the work of the Commission should necessarily be stabilized, for stabilization for its own sake might mean stagnation which could best be avoided by ensuring that the tasks undertaken were those which were likely to yield practical results.

252. In the view of the delegation of Yugoslavia, European economic co-operation through the instrument of the Commission should proceed along three basic lines. On the first — viz., the exchange of technical and economic experience in various sectors — possibilities were, despite tangible results achieved, far from exhausted: The Industry and Materials Committee was functioning only partially, and far greater use should be made of the opportunities afforded by the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, especially its regional projects. The second form of co-operation, consisting of efforts towards expansion of production of certain specific branches of the European economy, could be carried further, especially by the development of domestic power resources. The Yougelexport projects¹² pointed to the path which ought to be followed in other fields. In this connexion, the proposal made by the Polish Government concerning the possibility of joint investment in the coal industry and the prospects of development of the region of southern Europe — which possessed considerable unused economic resources — deserved examination and encouragement. The third approach to economic co-operation related to the promotion of intra-European trade which, despite some recent improvement, was still considerably below the pre-war level. Therefore, the Government of Yugoslavia attached great importance to the work of the Committee on the Development of Trade, especially to its efforts to overcome existing obstacles to co-operation in this field and inject some flexibility into the present rigid bilateral forms of intra-European payment relationships. The proposal of the U.S.S.R. concerning the preparation of an all-European agreement on economic co-operation deserved consideration and detailed discussion at the present session.

253. The representative of Czechoslovakia, recalling the tenth anniversary of the Commission, stated that the results of its first decennium of work showed that the Commission had played a constructive part in strengthening economic relations among countries of the region and with other parts of the world. In recent years, the activities of the Commission's subsidiary organs, dealing with problems of a technical, economic and trade nature,

⁸ See E/2868, para. 226.

⁹ See E/ECE/SR.12/2.

¹⁰ See E/ECE/SR/2 and 3.

¹¹ See E/ECE/287.

¹² See para. 38 above.

had acquired increasing importance, though a certain reorientation was still required by devoting more attention to the problems falling within the framework of the Industry and Materials Committee. As to specific projects which deserved special attention in the future work of ECE, the representative of Czechoslovakia referred to energy (including problems of gas), automation, plastics and artificial fibres. ECE's work in developing contacts through reciprocal visits of business circles and of scientific and technical experts and in other forms had been both pioneering and advantageous to all concerned, as well as an important means of promoting mutual trust and confidence. It was to be welcomed that experts of overseas countries had been able to take part in such visits. In this connexion, the representative of Czechoslovakia recalled the visit of the Committee on Agricultural Problems to Czechoslovakia in the summer of 1956, and extended an invitation to visit Slovakia in order to examine its economic development. This would be combined with the Machinery Fair to be held in Brno in September 1957, which is to be devoted, in the main, to the mechanization and the automation of production processes. Trade was a most important form of international co-operation and could contribute toward the settlement of political questions. The representative of Czechoslovakia stressed the importance of developing trade between Europe and the rest of the world, and to this end expand possibilities of consultation between the representatives of European and non-European countries with a view to encouraging commercial exchanges.

254. The representative of the U.S.S.R. said that the Commission, whose tenth anniversary coincided with the present session, had achieved some positive results in the promotion of economic relations between countries and in giving practical effect to the principles of peaceful co-existence and co-operation among States with different social systems. An increasingly important part in the Commission's activities was being played by its working organs, in which the exchange of production experience and scientific and technical information in the industrial, transport, agricultural and foreign trade sectors was being developed in the mutual interests of all countries. Practical contacts were being extended through study tours by specialists and in other ways. The Soviet Union representative was convinced that that useful work of developing contacts and mutually advantageous co-operation in all fields of economic, productive, scientific and technical activity would be extended with the object of developing the economy and of raising the standard of living of the peoples of the countries members of the Commission. To that end, the Soviet Union had introduced for discussion at the session a number of new proposals intended to strengthen and extend co-operation on an all-European basis.

255. The representative of Spain, recalling that his country had only recently begun to participate in the Commission's work, stated that it had sent its experts to a number of committees, and thus had manifested its desire to co-operate in ECE's practical activities. In the view of this delegation, more attention should be given to the technical and economic problems with which the Commission was competent to deal, whilst political matters should as far as possible be eschewed.

256. Representatives of two international non-governmental organizations in Category "A" status — viz., the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions and the World Federation of Trade Unions — were granted their request to present the views of their organizations on the work of the committees, and in particular commented on the work of the Commission which had a bearing on employment and manpower problems.¹³

257. The representative of Romania, considering that on balance the Commission's first ten years of work had been positive, announced that his delegation, jointly with the delegation of France, was submitting a draft resolution which, considering the desirability to publicize the Commission's achievements over the last ten years as widely as possible in the various countries participating in its work, requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps for the publication of a volume entitled "Ten Years of the Economic Commission for Europe". The representative of France supported this proposal.¹⁴

258. Having heard the general statements, the Commission went over to the consideration of the reports of the committees, which were prefaced by introductory statements by the respective officers, or by the secretariat.

*Committee on Agricultural Problems*¹⁵

259. Numerous delegations spoke on the report of this body, and all expressed approval of the past work and future programme. The review at each session of the Committee of the short- and medium-term market outlook for selected commodities had been found to be particularly valuable. Some delegations considered that these commodity reviews should continue on the present basis, but with full contribution of statistical data on production and trade by all countries together with forecasts, where possible. It was felt that this positive work could be rendered more valuable if the supply of statistical material from some countries, which had already appreciably improved, were made fuller in future. The proposal to prepare a compendium of the statistics supplied to the Committee at recent sessions was noted with satisfaction.

260. A number of delegations welcomed the suggestion that at future sessions of the Committee the statements on agricultural developments and policies made on behalf of the various countries should be presented in a more uniform way as regards the aspects to be covered and their order of presentation.

261. Support was expressed for the Committee's decision to prepare the ground for a study of the factors influencing the demand for certain foodstuffs. The participation of a sufficient number of countries in this work was recognized to be a necessary condition of its success.

262. A number of delegations stressed the value of the work being done on various technical problems of agricultural production, especially by the Working Party

¹³ See E/ECE/SR.12/2 and para. 441 below.

¹⁴ See paras. 436 and 437 below.

¹⁵ See E/ECE/SR.12/4.

on Mechanization of Agriculture. It was suggested by several speakers that work should be extended to additional technical problems, while others underlined the importance of the Committee's decision not to embark upon further studies until those now in hand were sufficiently far advanced and to prepare its programme of work only after a careful scrutiny of work being undertaken by other organizations.

263. The efforts in the field of standardization of perishable foodstuffs received favourable comment, and the hope was expressed that governments would accelerate their action progressively to bring their national regulations into line with the international recommendations.

264. The work on preparation of standard conditions of sale was found by many delegations to be a valuable aid to international trade, and one delegation (Italy) suggested that the Committee should consider the possibility of extending the work to other products.

265. Satisfaction was expressed with the activities connected with the exchange of visits, films and documentation, and some delegations suggested that these activities should be still further developed. The representative of Bulgaria mentioned his Government's invitation to the Committee to visit Bulgaria, and hoped arrangements would be made for the visit to take place in 1957.

266. The representative of Albania announced that his country would participate more fully in the Committee's work in future.

*Coal Committee*¹⁶

267. A large number of delegations from coal producing and importing countries expressed the appreciation of their governments for the way in which the Coal Committee and its subsidiary bodies were tackling the key tasks entrusted to them, ranging from coal production techniques, international trade and trading methods, to the rational utilization of coal and studies of brown-coal extraction, classification and use.

268. Representatives attested to the success of the Coal Trade Sub-Committee in assisting countries most affected by the difficult coal and coke supply situation that had prevailed in 1956 to secure essential quantities. In this connexion, it was suggested that further attention should be given to means of promoting trade, stabilizing conditions between buyers and sellers, and extending the range of coals that could be used for particular purposes.

269. Viewed against the background of the coal market and the general energy situation, particular importance was attached by the representatives who participated in the consideration of the Report of this Committee to the reorientation which had taken place during the year of part of the Committee's activities towards the long-term coal policies of European countries, and the seeking of ways and means of reducing the fuel deficit in Europe, taking into account the relative costs of investment and imports.

¹⁶ See E/ECE/SR.12/4.

270. It was noted with interest and approval that the Committee was planning to establish an over-all balance sheet of the intentions of producers and consumers of coal. The purpose of this exercise was, by examining the various elements of this balance-sheet and bringing out those considerations which were of general interest, to ensure through common effort an equilibrium in the coal market by increasing the output of coal, and the application of appropriate import and export policies. It was emphasized that the success of this important undertaking depended on the full co-operation of all participating countries.

271. In connexion with the need for increasing European coal output, several representatives welcomed the work which had been initiated in the Committee on exchanging experiences on coal production techniques through such means as reciprocal visits to mines, exchanges of bibliographical references and *ad hoc* meetings on specific problems.

*Committee on Electric Power*¹⁷

272. The delegations that took part in the discussions on the report of the Committee on Electric Power were unanimously of the opinion that the work now being done by that Committee and its subsidiary bodies was making a practical contribution to the solution of Europe's electric power problems.

273. In this connexion, mention was made in particular of the work accomplished in the field of rural electrification, studies on the prospects of reducing construction costs of hydro power plants, and special projects that have led undertakings of various countries to form companies for the joint construction of hydro-electric works.

274. The activities of the Working Party on Electric Power Statistics and the publication of quarterly and annual bulletins containing statistical data for all countries participating in the Commission's work were the subject of favourable comment.

275. The representative of Romania thought that the Committee might usefully devote attention to the problems arising more particularly in connexion with the construction of thermal plants.

276. Some delegations expressed the wish that the Committee increase its work on the solution of a number of technical problems so as to meet the need for co-operation amongst European countries in this particular field.

277. Some delegations thought that the Committee should avoid subjects that were too technical for study in the Committee, or which could more appropriately be studied elsewhere.

*Housing Committee*¹⁸

278. A large number of delegations took the floor to commend the constructive and practical work carried out by this committee. General satisfaction was expressed at the balance achieved in the work programme, which

¹⁷ See E/ECE/SR.12/6.

¹⁸ See E/ECE/SR.12/11 and 12.

enabled the Committee to concentrate on major problems of immediate concern to governments. As a corollary to this, most delegations welcomed the simplification of the Committee's structure, and the increased use being made of rapporteurs made available by governments, and of contributions from international non-governmental technical and professional bodies.

279. Commenting on the programme of future work, some delegations stressed the importance which their governments attached to the two major projects undertaken by the Committee this year — namely, the preparation of reports on the financing of housing and on government technical policies in relation to the cost of building. Several delegations also singled out as being of particular value to their governments the annual surveys of housing developments and policies and the work of the Statistical Working Party, including the regular publication of statistical bulletins in the field of housing and building. The representatives of several countries expressed the appreciation of their governments for the valuable help provided by the work of the Committee on problems of housing in the less industrialized countries which, it was noted, had been carried out throughout in consultation with the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration. One delegation remarked that technical assistance whereby advice is given to a host government by a visit of technical advisers is the business of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration. In line with ECOSOC allocations of responsibilities among UN agencies, this delegation opposed the assumption of such concrete technical assistance functions by ECE.

280. With regard to technical co-operation, the announcement that the International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation (CIB) had now a nearly all-European membership, was noted with satisfaction. It was generally considered that this development would not only facilitate all-European co-operation on the highly technical aspects of housing questions, but would also materially contribute to the work of the Housing Committee. Most of the delegations agreed that housing and building was a fertile field for an exchange of information and the sharing of experience by means of study trips. In this connexion a group visit is to be held this year in Austria and the following year in Czechoslovakia.

281. A number of delegations took the opportunity of the consideration of the Report of the Housing Committee to give an account of housing developments in their respective countries. The delegate of Portugal said that his Government is very interested in the work of this Committee, and will do its best to take an active part in its future activities.

*Industry and Materials Committee*¹⁹

282. Most delegations participated in a discussion of the work and of proposals for new work under the aegis of this Committee.

283. The achievements of the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering was highly com-

mended. Several delegations expressed satisfaction at the start made by the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery in implementing its programme of activities. Attention was drawn to the work in hand by rapporteurs from the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R. on economic aspects of automation, although it was pointed out that delay in submitting information by governments had somewhat retarded the timetable envisaged.

284. The representatives of several countries suggested that the time had come when work carried out within the framework of this Committee could usefully be expanded by the convening of meetings of experts on specific problems in the field of heavy engineering, on certain technical aspects of automation, on artificial and synthetic fibres, and on the elaboration of general conditions for the export of small metal goods. Several other delegations held the view that it would be prudent to await the results of the work in hand before considering undertaking new work within the framework of this Committee, and that the questions mentioned did not give rise to problems requiring inter-governmental action at the present stage.

285. It was agreed to take note of the report on work in progress under the aegis of this Committee and of the new proposals and suggestions put forward, in writing or orally in the course of the discussion. Attention was drawn to the criteria for considering proposals for new work established by the *Ad hoc* Working Party on the Industry and Materials Committee at the eleventh session of the Commission in connexion with proposals for new work which might be considered at the next session of the Commission. It was also recalled that previous resolutions adopted by the Commission on the subject of the Industry and Materials Committee, particularly resolutions 2 (X) and 6 (VII), make it possible for the Executive Secretary to take action, in consultation with interested governments, in the event of specific proposals being put forward which give promise of useful inter-governmental action.

*Inland Transport Committee*²⁰

286. Great appreciation was expressed by all delegations who took the floor during the examination of the Inland Transport Committee's report of the considerable work accomplished by that committee. The results achieved were, in the opinion of the speakers, practicable and of direct interest in the countries concerned. The large number of conventions signed in 1956 gave some indication of the Committee's activities.

287. Most aspects of the Committee's work were reviewed by various representatives, who stressed in particular the importance of the following questions: the preparation of the Convention for the International Transport of Goods by Road, of two conventions for the transport of dangerous goods — one on road and the other on the inland waterways — the drawing up of the Convention on an international inland navigation contract and on the transport of perishable foodstuffs, the work on the unification of road signals, on the prevention

¹⁹ See E/ECE/SR.12/3 and 4.

²⁰ See E/ECE/SR.12/7.

and statistics of road traffic accidents, on measures facilitating the expansion of tourism, on the standardization of police regulations including signalling on inland waterways, on the simplification of frontier formalities for goods conveyed by all modes of inland transport, on the studies relating to rail and road tariffs, on the rational routing of traffic, on the exchange of technical information, and studies of certain technical questions concerning rail and inland transport, and on the standardization of combined transport equipment.

288. It was pointed out that the setting up of the Sub-Committee on Inland Water Transport would facilitate the study and rapid solution of various inland water transport problems.

289. The hope was expressed by a number of representatives that completion of the work on Annex F 2, dealing with tariffs for the international transport of goods by road, to be attached to the General Agreement on economic regulations for international road transport, should lead to the speedy ratification of that agreement and its entry into force. It was also hoped that the agreement of the International Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road should be finished rapidly so that it can be signed in the course of 1957. In this connexion, it was stressed that it was desirable that a worldwide agreement should regulate the transport of dangerous goods, but that the conclusion of regional agreements should not be held up by the preparation of a worldwide one.

290. It was suggested that the Committee's activities on road transport should be extended to cover, among others, such questions as road construction and construction of tunnels and bridges, and matters relating to the checking of parts of vehicles.

291. Regret was expressed that the Committee, although pursuing the study of particular aspects of transport co-ordination, had discontinued its examination of problems of principle in this field. No synthesis, it was stated, had been made of the valuable material collected by the Committee on the subject. Certain representatives thought, however, that governments should be given time to study the data already gathered before the study of the co-ordination problem was resumed.

292. It was stated that the two conventions to facilitate the crossing of frontiers for passengers and for goods carried by rail signed in 1952 needed revision, especially as far as the TIF form is concerned.

293. The fact that the annual *Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe* now included data from a larger number of countries was welcomed. It was regretted, however, that the statistics supplied were not always sufficiently comparable and that certain countries did not attend the sessions of the Working Party of Experts on Statistical Information.

294. In the opinion of one delegate, the Committee, dealing as it does with a vast number of problems, should be able to convene more frequent sessions of its subsidiary bodies. If it was not possible to increase the budget of the Economic Commission for Europe or of language services of the European Office in order to meet such an intensification of work, care at least should be taken not to allow a reduction in the volume and rhythm of the work

of the Committee. Another delegation, however, stated that since the number of experts its government could send to international gatherings was limited, meetings should be less frequent but last in some cases longer, whilst some of the work could be carried on by correspondence. If such a procedure could be adopted, the secretariat should be able to dispose of more time to prepare and forward the necessary studies to the governments.

*Committee on Manpower*²¹

295. 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/265-J). The Executive Secretary, in introducing this note, expressed his satisfaction with the increasing co-operation in the field of manpower which was developing with the International Labour Organisation, and emphasized that manpower problems were given due attention in the secretariat's research work.

296. A report prepared by the International Labour Office on the work of the ILO in the manpower field in Europe during the year 1956 was circulated to the Committee for information.

297. The representative of the ILO made a brief statement in connexion with this report, in which he stated that the assistance which ILO was giving ECE in dealing with manpower aspects of its activities was to continue.

*Steel Committee*²²

298. A considerable number of delegations commented upon the annual report of the Steel Committee, and were unanimous in expressing the appreciation of their governments for the useful and practical work carried out in this committee. The annual *Steel Market Review* was instanced as a searching report and the sole one dealing with Europe as a whole. The increase in statistical information provided in the *Quarterly Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe* and in the reports was welcomed.

299. The Committee's programme of future work, especially that concerning long-term trends and problems in the steel industry, received favourable comment. The representative of Denmark announced in this connexion that his country would propose to the Committee that an analysis should be made of the difference between domestic prices and the prices charged for export in steel-producing countries, which he considered to be of particular importance to steel-importing countries.

300. With regard to the Committee's programme in the technological field, attention was drawn by a number of speakers to the annual *Technological Review* prepared by the Committee, and to recent visits arranged bilaterally, which they considered to be an effective means of sharing technical and production experience. Several delegations suggested that such exchanges should as far as possible be intensified between small groups of specialists on particular questions and by meetings of experts on specific technological questions.

²¹ See E/ECE/SR.12/6.

²² See E/ECE/SR.12/3.

301. All representatives who spoke on the report of this body paid tribute to the contribution which the Timber Committee made, through the periodical market reviews conducted at its regular meetings, towards promoting stability in the timber market and an ordered development of the timber trade. Referring to the esteem in which the *Timber Bulletin for Europe* is held in both government and trade circles, several delegates noted with satisfaction certain changes planned in this publication, designed to expedite the service to readers while yet effecting savings. The steady growth in the coverage and accuracy of the statistics presented each quarter was also favourably mentioned.

302. Noting that sawn hardwood was becoming of increasing importance in the European timber trade, several delegates expressed their gratification at the fact that a report on the market situation for sawn hardwood was under preparation and would be discussed at the fifteenth session of the Committee in the autumn of 1957; the hope was expressed that means would be found to ensure that this item figured regularly in the Committee's periodic reviews of the timber market situation. One delegation noted that a report on hardwood could not be expected to be as comprehensive, and therefore not as useful, as that on softwood. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that, in order to ensure its completeness and practical value, the report would be confined to two species, oak and beech.

303. Commenting on the Committee's decision to defer action for the time being on the question of long-term trade arrangements, the representative of Hungary hoped that an early opportunity would arise in the Committee of reverting to this question.

304. Many delegations expressed satisfaction at the successful outcome of the work on the establishment of general conditions of sale for sawn softwood, and urged that this work be followed up by efforts to establish general conditions of sale for sawn hardwood (oak and beech), pulpwood and pitprops. Certain delegations, however, suggested that further work in this field should await an appraisal of the practical experience gained with the standard sawn softwood contract forms.

305. The study on Trends in the Utilization of Wood and its Products in the Housing Sector was commended for the light it threw on timber consumption patterns and the indications it afforded for the more rational utilization of wood, and several representatives urged that this initial study be followed up by further sector studies.

306. The work of the FAO/ECE Joint Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics was favourably commented on by many delegations, and representatives of several countries which had not so far participated in this working party indicated that they had found its recommendations of practical value.

307. Considerable importance was attached by all delegations to the activities of the FAO/ECE Joint Committee on Forest Working Techniques and the Training of Forest Workers. In the opinion of many delegates, the

diverse range of problems already being successfully tackled by no means exhausted the potential contribution of this Committee to promoting the rational utilization of forest resources, raising productivity in forest operations and lowering the cost of forest products. Thus, it was urged that work be expedited on such problems as accident prevention, timber loading operations, forest road construction, and the preparation of a multilingual glossary. Delegates also welcomed the opportunities afforded for the exchange of technical information and experience in the course of reciprocal visits.

308. Delegates took note of the Chairman's announcement that the date for the second session of this joint committee, to be held in Moscow, had now been fixed for September 1957. From the discussion, it appeared that this arrangement would meet the convenience of the usual participants.

309. Interest was expressed in the study of the Mediterranean basin initiated by FAO, and several representatives from southern Europe (including Italy, Yugoslavia and Spain) voiced satisfaction that ECE was to be associated in this venture, which owed its origin to the study on southern Europe. (See also para. 397 below.)

310. Several delegations spoke in positive terms of the Committee's realistic approach to its tasks, and the representative of the United Kingdom commended the Committee for successfully adapting its work programme to comply with the terms of Council resolution 630 A I (XXII).

311. In conjunction with the consideration of the report of the Timber Committee, delegations commented on the results of the International Board Consultation. (See paras. 407 to 405 below.)

Committee on the Development of Trade ²⁴

312. All delegations which took part in the discussion of the report of this Committee considered that its work was valuable and had made a positive and tangible contribution to the development of intra-European trade in general, and East-West trade in particular. Some delegations thought that the Committee ought to devote more attention to overcoming the many obstacles that still stood in the way of an expansion of intra-European trade. In the opinion of several delegations, however, export controls imposed by governments in the interests of national security were not a proper subject for discussion by the Committee.

313. The Committee's efforts to improve and simplify trading techniques and practices, through its activities in the field of commercial arbitration, of international exhibitions and fairs and of the standardization of conditions of sale for different groups of important commodities, received favourable comment.

314. As to the Consultations of Experts on East-West trade, most delegations expressed the view that despite the general improvement of East-West trade and trading relations, these consultations continued to play a useful role. The representative of France, while point-

²³ See E/ECE/SR.12/5.

²⁴ See E/ECE/SR.12/8 and 12.

ing out that they were important, believed that their duration might well be shortened.

315. The representative of the United Kingdom suggested that the Committee on the Development of Trade should decide how much time to set aside for this purpose and might consider arranging the consultations only between pairs of countries which had expressed a wish to meet.

316. The delegation of the U.S.S.R. thought that the value of East-West trade consultations would be enhanced if they were attended by representatives of business circles and co-operative organizations. The delegation of the United Kingdom doubted whether such an arrangement would prove profitable, since, in western European countries, so many firms were interested in trade in each commodity that one could not expect a few representatives to be able to take part in serious negotiations.

317. A number of delegations took a favourable view of the work on long-term agreements and contracts carried on within the framework of the Committee's programme. In this context, the representative of Greece stated that the conclusion of long-term contracts between his country and east European countries would favour the expansion of trade. The representative of Romania suggested that the various working parties engaged on drawing up standard conditions of sale should also prepare standard terms for long-term contracts. The delegation of the United States of America declared that it did not consider the conclusion of long-term bilateral trade agreements between governments desirable.

318. Considerable and positive interest was evinced in the Committee's work in the field of the multilateralization of payments, and the hope was expressed that a start could soon be made with the scheme on multilateral compensation. The representation of the United Kingdom declared that, while his government favoured a different approach to multilateralism, it attached considerable importance to the Committee's concern for the improvement of payments arrangements in East-West trade. His Government was consequently looking forward to receiving from all member Governments the comments on — and, in due course, to the Executive Secretary's convening an *ad hoc* meeting to discuss — the proposal of the United Kingdom to allow the balances of west European currencies held by their eastern trading partners to be freely transferable throughout the European Payments Union.

319. The Executive Secretary, speaking after the conclusion of the consideration of the Committee's report ²⁵ stated that on the basis of his consultations with representatives of governments, most recently at a special meeting held during the session in Geneva, and in accordance with the Committee's recommendation adopted at its fourth session, he was able to announce that a regular procedure for multilateral compensation of balances arising under bilateral agreements was now to be put into effect. The first quarterly operation would take place on 1 July 1957, with the secretariat acting as the central point of contact between interested governments.

²⁵ See E/ECE/SR.12/17.

320. The representative of Greece drew attention to certain new difficulties which the present tendency to create larger economic entities might entail for the foreign trade not only of Greece, but also of other under-developed countries. He hoped, therefore, that in the spirit of Commission resolution 7 (XI) concerning the economic development of southern Europe, everything possible would be done to ensure that the development of foreign trade and the economic progress of the underdeveloped countries would not be hampered by such trends.

321. The representative of Poland — with reference to the statement made by the Secretary-General — suggested that it might be useful if the secretariat could make a preliminary study of the effect which the establishment of the "Common Market" would have on future trade relations between the countries immediately concerned and the other countries of Europe, for consideration at the next session of the Committee.

322. A number of delegations availed themselves of the examination of the Report to give an account of the development of foreign trade, and particularly East-West trade, of their respective countries.

POLLUTION OF WATERS IN EUROPE :
NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (E/ECE/267) ²⁶
(item 4 of the agenda)

323. In connexion with the consideration of this item, the Commission had before it the Executive Secretary's Note on the subject containing the proposals which emerged as a result of his Consultation with Experts on Water Pollution in Europe.

324. After discussion, which was introduced by the Executive Secretary and the Chairman of the Consultation, the delegations of the United States of America and France submitted a draft resolution concerning pollution of waters in Europe, to which the delegation of Poland moved an amendment. In moving his amendment the representative of Poland stated that his delegation was prepared to support the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of the United States of America and France as amended by the delegation of Poland, since it left the door open for the Executive Secretary to draw on the advice of experts in a manner similar to what had been done in connexion with the Executive Secretary's Consultation on this question in February 1957, and that his country's experts were at the disposal of the Executive Secretary for this purpose.

325. Before the vote was taken, the representatives of the Netherlands and the U.S.S.R. defined the attitude of their delegations towards the amended draft resolution.

326. The representative of the Netherlands stated that whilst the problem of water pollution was an important one, his delegation did not consider that the Commission should be called upon exclusively to undertake a study on the matter and to suggest remedial measures. Therefore his delegation did not favour the setting up of a special ECE body in this field. It was, however, able to

²⁶ See ECE/SR.12/8 and 21.

vote in favour of the amended draft resolution. He favoured the idea of supervision of ECOSOC embodied in the draft resolution, for which he was able to vote. However, he emphasized that matters of water pollution concerning particularly Europe should be dealt with by ECE in collaboration with other interested organizations.

327. The representative of the U.S.S.R. said that his delegation would vote for the resolution. However, that resolution mentioned the need for studying that problem mainly on the international level. In the light of that fact, the Soviet Union delegation considered that it would have been better if a special standing body in whose work all interested States members of the Commission could take part had been set up within ECE to deal with that important problem, which affected the interests of many European countries. Such a solution of the problem would best correspond to the interests of European States.

328. The Commission then unanimously adopted the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the United States of America and France as amended by the delegation of Poland as follows :

Resolution concerning pollution of waters in Europe

“ The Economic Commission for Europe,

“ *Recognizing* the interest of the countries participating in the work of the Commission in studying the problems of water pollution control,

“ *Recognizing further* the interest of countries outside the European Region in water problems, including pollution,

“ *Recognizing further* the interest of specialized agencies, most particularly WHO, FAO, and WMO, in water problems,

“ *Recognizing further* that the Secretary-General has established a panel of experts studying water problems at the present time,

“ *Taking into account* that the UN and the specialized agencies are pursuing the question of over-all co-ordination of work in the field of water problems within the framework of the UN Inter-Agency Committee,

“ A. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in co-operation with the WHO and FAO secretariats and drawing on the advice of experts as needed, to prepare a study to identify specific water pollution control problems in Europe, to make proposals on possible programmes of work which might usefully be carried on by international agencies concerned;

“ B. *Requests* the Executive Secretary (1) to transmit this study, if ready, to the next meeting of the UN Inter-Agency Group on Water Resources (meeting in autumn 1957) and, through the Secretary-General, to the next session of the UN Panel of Experts on Water Resources; and (2) to make a progress report to the next session of the Economic Commission for Europe;

“ C. *Recommends* the Economic and Social Council, when considering at its 25th session (in the spring of 1958) the report of the UN Inter-Agency Group on Water Resources, and the report of the UN Panel of Experts on Water Resources, to give particular attention to the problem of water pollution control with a view

to making specific recommendations regarding activities which might be undertaken on a co-ordinated basis by the UN, the interested specialized agencies, and the regional commission, as needed.”

ENERGY PROBLEMS IN EUROPE : NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (E/ECE/268 ²⁷)

(item 5 of the agenda)

329. In presenting his Note on Energy Problems in Europe (document E/ECE/268), the Executive Secretary emphasized the importance of an examination by governments of the over-all problem of energy in Europe. Thereupon, the secretariat brought up to date the report on the progress made in obtaining relevant information from participating governments and in secretariat preparations for the Review of the Energy Situation in Europe contained in the above-mentioned Note. In this connexion, it was pointed out that since the issue of the Note, a complete reply to the Outline/Questionnaire had been received from Spain, and supplementary information had been supplied by a large number of governments. The Commission took note of document E/ECE/268 and the additional information given by the secretariat.

GAS PROBLEMS IN EUROPE (E/ECE/269) ²⁸

(item 6 of the agenda)

330. The many delegations participating in the discussion attested to the interest of their governments in the constructive manner in which the *Ad hoc* Working Party set up by Commission resolution 2 (XI) had begun its work. Representatives drew attention to the importance attached to the studies being undertaken, especially concerning the rationalization and development of the gas industry. In this connexion, satisfaction was expressed with the progress being made on the reports on the creation and operation of flexible production units and on methods used for forecasting future gas demand, on the collection and dissemination of statistics, and on the report on natural gas resources and use. It was pointed out that natural gas is a relatively new and expanding source of energy, and can be expected to make in the years to come a significant contribution to energy supplies.

331. Several proposals for adding specific items to the work programme were made, and these will be brought to the attention of the *Ad hoc* Working Party. In view of the specialized character of many of the items included in the work programme, it was felt that the use of rapporteurs from different countries should — as in the past — be encouraged. The value of the contacts which had been established on the international level between gas experts of participating countries was emphasized, and in this connexion the several reciprocal visits that had been made in the course of the year were cited.

332. In concluding the discussion, during which a number of suggestions were made as to the future form of work in this field, the Commission endorsed the

²⁷ See E/ECE/SR.12/7.

²⁸ See E/ECE/SR.12/6.

opinion expressed by the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Gas Problems, as recorded in document E/ECE/269, that its work should be continued.

PROPOSAL OF THE SOVIET UNION FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATION OF EUROPEAN STATES (E/ECE/280 AND Add.1)²⁹ (item 7 of the agenda)

333. In his statement, the representative of the U.S.S.R. said that his country, staunchly upholding the principle of peaceful co-existence, was, and would continue to be, an advocate of broad and sustained economic co-operation on an all-European basis. The Soviet Union proposals for the development of economic co-operation on an all-European basis contained in the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. of 16 March 1957 concerning plans for the establishment of Euratom and the "Common Market" were a new step in that direction. The representative of the U.S.S.R. gave a detailed account of the above-mentioned proposals of the Soviet Union Government, which were aimed at the development of co-operation between all European countries in the following fields:

(a) In scientific research into the peaceful uses of atomic energy;

(b) In the construction of atomic power stations and the use of atomic energy for industrial, scientific and technical purposes, including questions relating to the supply of fissile materials;

(c) In the construction of large hydro power plants on interest to several countries, with the latter's consent and participation;

(d) In the development of Europe's fuel and power resources, with a view to easing the strain on the fuel situation of many European countries;

(e) In foreign trade, with a view to the conclusion amongst all interested European countries of agreements on measures to facilitate trade between them;

(f) On questions of the provision by States of mutual economic and financial assistance to promote their economic development.

The representative of the U.S.S.R. said that his country was prepared to take part in the consideration of any other proposals for developing all-European economic co-operation, and expressed regret that so far no proposals of that kind had been made in the Commission and the hope that some would be forthcoming at the present session.

334. In that connexion, he drew attention to the fact that the plan for the establishment by the western European countries of such exclusive economic organizations as the "Common Market" and "Euratom" ran counter to the aim of consolidating and developing economic co-operation on an all-European basis and referred to the dangerous economic and political consequences which the plans for establishing those two institutions would have for the peoples of Europe.

335. Although the plans for creating the "Common Market" and "Euratom" were possible with the agree-

ment of six countries only, the implementation of those plans would seriously affect the interests of many European countries.

336. At the root of the plans lay the perverse idea of continuing to counterpose western Europe against eastern Europe. Their implementation could not but lead to increased mistrust between peoples, and hence to a heightening of tension in Europe. It there was any gainer from that rift, it was certainly not the peoples of Europe.

337. In so far as the members of the "Common Market" and "Euratom" were members of the Atlantic bloc, the entire activity of those bodies would be subordinate to the aims of increasing the armaments industry potential of NATO, the aggressive nature of which was notorious.

338. The creation of "Euratom" would open the way for the emergence in the heart of Europe of a dangerous centre of disturbance, for the plan, if realized, would provide a means of using fissile materials for the production of atomic weapons, especially in western Germany. The implementation of the plans for setting up both bodies would also create new obstacles in the way of German re-unification, as the representatives of leading political parties in western Germany itself had bluntly pointed out.

339. The representatives of business circles in a number of countries who were interested in developing trade and other forms of co-operation with all European countries were aware that the "Common Market" could only do harm in that connexion.

340. The plans for its establishment were plans not for a free trade attack on protectionism, but for a struggle by monopolistic groups for a place in the market, since the several protectionist links in each of the six countries would be combined to form a single protectionist system, more powerful than before, embracing the "Common Market".

341. The creation of the "Common Market" would inevitably lead to a change in the relation of forces within that group, and the end result would be that the largest undertakings would increase their domination in it. Hence, in implementing those plans, the most powerful countries would be able to impose their conditions on the economically weaker European countries. With that kind of integration, the closing down and bankruptcy of industrial undertakings and small firms would inevitably be intensified, with a consequent increase in unemployment and adverse effects on standards of living.

342. The creation of the "Common Market" and "Euratom" could only result in limiting the possibilities of developing all European economic relations. The individual western European countries would be unable, as a result of the artificial economic divisions of Europe, to develop certain branches of their economy to an adequate level, despite the existence of the necessary conditions, natural resources, experience and direct desire for such development. At the same time, they would be deprived of the possibility of obtaining adequate supplies of raw materials, fuel, equipment and other requisites from their nearest neighbours, with whom they had

²⁹ See E/ECE/SR.12/9, 10 and 11.

traditionally conducted brisk trade and had economic relations.

343. Thus the creation of the "Common Market" and "Euratom" were in blatant contradiction with the idea of developing co-operation on an all-European basis — in contradiction, in other words, with the aims and tasks of the Economic Commission for Europe.

344. In the course of the exchange of views which ensued on this item of the agenda, the following countries participated: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, the Ukrainian S.S.R., the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yugoslavia.³⁰

345. Of the above-mentioned countries Albania, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Ukrainian S.S.R. supported and enlarged upon the proposals submitted by the representative of the Soviet Union, emphasizing the mutual advantages which could be derived by all European countries from the realization of the various projects mentioned.

346. The representative of Bulgaria stated that his country had already declared itself in favour of co-operation between all European countries. The Soviet Union proposals for such co-operation in the interests of all European countries, or similar forms of European co-operation, were essential to the development and strengthening of the spirit of mutual understanding that must inspire European countries for the sake of peace in Europe and throughout the world.

347. The representative of Czechoslovakia supported the proposals of the Soviet Union. He stressed at this occasion especially the fruitful co-operation between his country and the Soviet Union in the field of utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Czechoslovakia was of the opinion that the proposed so-called European Economic Community was in fact a closed group of countries which had adopted a policy of separation vis-à-vis other European countries and the rest of the world. The setting up of the so-called European Economic Community and "Euratom" would lead to adjustments benefiting the stronger undertakings to the detriment of the weaker, and the most highly industrialized countries to the detriment of those less developed.

348. The Hungarian delegate emphasized that the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement on the subjects raised by the Soviet proposals would provide a solid basis for the solution of the most serious and most important problems facing European economy. The paramount problem of the future was whether the countries of Europe, organized as they were at present in various sub-regional groupings, would remain opposed to one another or if all-European agreements, consolidating co-operation among all countries of Europe, could

be concluded. The Hungarian delegate expressed the opinion that the establishment of the "Common Market" would reinforce existing antagonisms. He urged the Commission to consider the six constructive proposals presented by the Soviet Union which contained direct methods for helping Europe to overcome its economic difficulties.

349. In supporting the Soviet Union proposals, the Polish representative stressed their importance for the development of European economic co-operation as well as for the maintenance of peace. He pointed in particular to the prospects of co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and in the utilization of hydro power and solid fuel resources. Such co-operation would help to solve the problem of the energy shortage in Europe, in which Poland was keenly interested.

350. Although well disposed to plans for closer collaboration at the regional or sub-regional level, he nevertheless could not regard the "Common Market" as a step towards an expansion of international trade. Such an exclusive community was likely to aggravate the split in the European economy and, in particular, to reduce the volume of East-West trade. Regarding the reference in the *Economic Survey of Europe in 1956* to the likelihood of greater concentration of western Germany's industries within the "Common Market", he stated that Poland could not remain indifferent to the possibility of western Germany's assuming a dominant position, as that country was demanding a return to the Germano-Polish frontiers of 1937. In conclusion, he expressed his conviction that fruitful co-operation between countries with different economic and social systems was possible and desirable, and appealed to the countries of western Europe to help to find reasonable solutions, saying that the delegation of Poland was ready to support any proposal taking account of the interests of all members of the Commission.

351. The Romanian representative felt there was a danger that politico-economic measures applied in a small number of countries would have repercussions in all the countries represented in the ECE. The European economy would be seriously impaired if economic separatism were to establish itself in Europe. The Economic Commission for Europe should, on the contrary, work to strengthen the ties of economic solidarity existing between European countries; if that were not done, economic difficulties would arise which would affect every country. It could be foreseen that the setting up of the "Common Market" would result in a series of changes to the advantage of the most powerful undertakings and to the detriment of the weakest, to the advantage of the most heavily industrialized countries and to the detriment of the least-developed. In support of that argument, the representative of Romania quoted statements by a number of personalities or organizations representative of industrial and economic circles in the countries signatories to the "Common Market" treaty. Measures designed to achieve self-sufficiency for the countries of western Europe would also result in a diminution of trade with the countries of eastern Europe. For the reasons stated, the Romanian Government opposed that policy, and associated itself with the constructive proposals made by the Soviet Union.

³⁰ Several representatives commented on this question also under items 3 — Work of the Committee of the Commission (See E/ECE/SR.12/2 to 8 and 11) — and 15 of the agenda — Review of the Economic Situation in Europe (see E/ECE/SR.12/15 to 20).

352. The representatives of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands refuted the political allegation against, and economic criticism of, the "Common Market" and "Euratom". They regretted that the Soviet proposals were apparently intended to serve predominantly political objectives, since they were incorporated in a diplomatic note which contained a series of unwarranted charges against the western European countries and in particular the six countries that had acceded to the "Euratom" and the "Common Market" Treaties. The two agreements in question which had been openly prepared and negotiated over a period of two years could certainly not be described as a sinister plot against the welfare of Europe and the world. On the contrary, whilst "Euratom" aimed at creating the necessary conditions for the peaceful application of atomic energy, the "Common Market" was designed to promote the harmonious and steady development of economic activity throughout the whole Community, to expand markets, to improve the standard of living in the member countries and to further the development of trade with other countries. The Treaties were open to accession by every European State willing to enter into the mutual commitments so that the establishment of the two Communities, far from dividing Europe, was in no way an obstacle to fruitful collaboration between east and west.

353. The representative of Denmark, observing that closer economic co-operation between smaller groups of countries was not an alternative, but complementary, to the economic co-operation taking place between larger groups of countries — for instance, within the framework of the Commission — referred to the efforts of the Scandinavian countries towards the establishment of a common Nordic market. He added that his Government endorsed the regional co-operation envisaged by the six countries members of the proposed "Common Market" and had embarked upon negotiations with a view to the establishment of a free trade area in connexion with that market.

354. The representative of Spain, without taking sides in the dispute, since his country did not belong to any of the western organizations mentioned, said that his delegation was favourable to what it considered to be the first step towards the economic integration of western Europe.

355. The representative of the United Kingdom wished to dispel any misunderstanding as regards his country's attitude to the "Common Market" and "Euratom". Her Majesty's Government were glad that the negotiations for a Customs Union had reached a successful conclusion. They also welcomed the development of co-operation between the six countries in atomic matters. He emphasized that even though his Government did not contemplate joining either "Euratom" or the "Common Market" directly, in view of the United Kingdom's interests and responsibilities in the Commonwealth, it hoped that his country would be in a position to be associated with the "Common Market" and with "Euratom" through the OEEC.

356. The representative of the United States of America agreed with the Community of Six that the

Soviet Statement of 16 March contributed nothing to European co-operation, but rather to an increase in tensions between the Soviet Union and western Europe. The Soviet statement was obviously designed to have an adverse influence on approval of these European treaties and as such was a flagrant attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign States. His Government welcomed the initiatives of the Six in attempting to develop a "Common Market" and an atomic community, and agreed with them that there was no purpose in discussing the proposals of 16 March. The representative of the United States of America stated that genuine international co-operation required mutual confidence, and that this confidence was clearly lacking on the part of the Soviet Union.

357. Speaking more particularly about the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union, the representatives of some western European countries drew attention to the fact that all that was feasible and practicable in the field of all-European co-operation was already being done in the committees of the Commission. These bodies constituted the most appropriate form for further consideration of the question raised.

358. The representative of Yugoslavia stated that the document containing the proposals concerning European economic co-operation constituted primarily a political appraisal by one government of the joint actions of six other governments. While his delegation fully respected the right of each government to express its views on any subject in which it was interested, it wondered whether it was always appropriate to do so in this Commission, whose duty was to promote European co-operation. Such a procedure was particularly doubtful when it was almost certain that it would provoke a reaction. But, at the same time, his delegation favoured the substance of some of the Soviet proposals. The representative of Yugoslavia did not feel, therefore, that a flat rejection of the Soviet proposals would be desirable, and emphasized that only those measures which were not based on the political exclusiveness of sub-regional organizations could produce lasting results.

359. Replying to the debate, the representative of the Soviet Union observed that representatives of most countries had not rejected the idea of all-European co-operation. He also declared that, in view of the feeling of many delegations that the study of the Soviet Union's proposal should be continued, his delegation introduced the following draft resolution :

"The Economic Commission for Europe,

"Recognizing the need for extending economic co-operation on an all-European basis with the object of further developing the economies of the countries of Europe and raising the living standards of their peoples,

"Considering that an extension of such co-operation would help to lessen international tension,

"Mindful of the fact that an intensification of all-European economic co-operation would make a valuable contribution to the cause of peaceful co-existence among countries with different social systems,

"Noting that the necessary conditions and prerequisites, including the existence of economic resources,

for the further development of economic co-operation between all European countries already exist,

“*Taking into account* the proposals put forward at the present session by the Government of the Soviet Union for the further development of economic co-operation between all European countries,

“*Deems it necessary* to continue its study of the following proposals :

“1. The proposal concerning co-operation on an all-European basis in scientific research into the peaceful uses of atomic energy through exchanges of scientific information on a basis of reciprocity between the two international scientific research centres in Europe — the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in the U.S.S.R. and the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland;

“2. The proposal concerning co-operation in planning and building atomic power stations and in the design and manufacture of equipment for them, by means, amongst other things, of exchanges of scientific and technical information on those subjects and the supply of appropriate equipment for atomic power stations together with the reciprocal supply, under predetermined conditions, of the requisite fissile materials, and co-operation in the use of radio-isotopes and irradiation equipment in scientific research, medicine, agriculture and industry;

“3. The proposal concerning co-operation in the construction of large hydro-power plants of interest to several countries, with the latter's consent and participation, through :

The exchange of experience, including scientific and technical data, in the design and construction of large power plants and ultra-long-distance transmission lines and in the design and production of complex power-plant equipment;

The supply of appropriate equipment for hydro-power plants;

The study of the possibility of working out, within the Commission, a plan for a common system of water transport for European States, with a view to the possible introduction of such a system in the future through the combined efforts of the countries concerned;

“4. The proposal concerning co-operation in the development of Europe's fuel and power resources by :

The preparation by interested countries of agreed measures to bring about a substantial increase in the extraction of coal, petroleum, natural gas, peat and oil shale and to develop the underground gasification of coal and the long-distance transport of gas, with a view to increasing availabilities of all types of fuel for export;

The establishment by the interested countries of large thermal power stations in countries possessing large fuel resources, and

The transmission of the electric power thus produced to countries short of fuel;

The joint construction of petroleum and gas pipe-lines and electric power transmission lines running through a number of countries;

“5. The proposal concerning the examination within the Commission of the question of further possibilities

of developing trade between all European countries, in particular by the study of existing trade agreements and treaties with a view to identifying the obstacles impeding the development of trade between European countries; and the formulation of suitable recommendations for the conclusion of agreements on measures to facilitate trade, including :

Agreements concerning the reduction of tariffs;

Agreements concerning the abolition of import quotas and other quantitative restrictions within a predetermined period;

Agreements concerning the removal of embargoes and restrictions of a non-economic nature;

“6. The proposal concerning the study of the needs in economic and financial aid of countries lacking such aid, and of the possibility of other States Members of ECE providing it; and the formulation of a long-term programme of mutual economic and financial aid which might be provided under conditions of genuine economic co-operation on an all-European basis,

“*Decides* to make a further study of these proposals in its Technical Committees and other subsidiary organs, and also, should need arise, at *ad hoc* meetings of government experts from States Members of the Commission, and to draw up measures for their implementation,

“*Instructs* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to consolidate the results of this study and to submit a report on it for consideration at a special session of the Commission at the end of 1957 or at the regular session in 1958.”

360. The representative of Greece expressed the view that this debate was not likely to serve the Commission's purposes, and therefore should not be prolonged. The representative of Belgium agreed that further debate on this point was useless.

361. The Executive Secretary, replying to a question put by the representative of Yugoslavia whether concrete proposals submitted in plenary meetings would be communicated to the appropriate subsidiary bodies of the Commission, explained that a document containing not only specific resolutions and the full summary records of the discussion concerning a particular committee, but also such parts of other resolutions, and summary records of other discussions, relevant to the activities of the committee or other subsidiary body of the Commission, was as an established practice prepared and submitted to the first meeting of that body; it was a regular item on the agenda of all such bodies.

362. In reply to a further question by the representative of Poland whether the work of the various committees would be mentioned in a report to the thirteenth session of the Commission, the Executive Secretary said that there seemed to be no need for the preparation of a special report since all information relevant to the work of the subsidiary bodies would be contained in their regular annual reports to the Commission.

363. The representative of the U.S.S.R. said that from the questions put by the representatives of Yugoslavia and Poland and the replies given by the Executive Secretary, he assumed that ECE would continue to study

the Soviet Union proposals and that they would subsequently be re-examined at the Commission's thirteenth session. On this understanding, the Soviet Union delegation would agree not to press for further discussion at the present session of the proposals submitted by it in connexion with item 7 of the agenda, on condition that the text of the draft resolution was incorporated in the Commission's annual report to the Economic and Social Council.

364. The representative of Belgium enquired whether he was right to assume that the report would embody a purely factual account to be used as objective documentation for the Economic and Social Council. The Chairman assured the Belgian representative that that was correct.

365. It was agreed to follow the procedure outlined by the Executive Secretary.

CONSIDERATION OF AN ALL-EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION ³¹ (E/ECE/270, PARTS I, II AND III) (item 8 of the agenda)

366. The consideration of this item of the agenda was based on the draft of an All-European Agreement on Economic Co-operation as submitted by the Soviet Union in accordance with Commission resolution 3 (XI), the different observations thereon by governments of states members of the Commission and the revision of the original draft undertaken by the Soviet Union in the light of these observations.

367. The representative of the Soviet Union stated that the purpose of his Government's proposal was to facilitate the implementation of concerted measures to ensure the economic development of all European countries in an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence. The U.S.S.R. draft agreement, revised in many respects to meet the views of other governments, consisted of four chapters: "General provisions", "Co-operation in trade relations and transport", "Scientific and technical co-operation and the exchange of advanced production experience" and "Signature, ratification and entry into force of the agreement" and was intended to serve as a basis for a business-like examination in the Commission of this important question. Such a discussion could also include the alternative approaches towards the question of an all-European agreement on economic co-operation suggested by the governments in their observations.³² In this manner, the maximum area of agreement could be reached.

368. Several delegations supported the desirability of concluding an All-European Agreement on Economic Co-operation. They referred in particular to the possibility of concluding a so-called frame-agreement to be rounded off later with more detailed annexes, and of elaborating a multilateral procedure for intergovernmental consultations on outstanding questions as being worthy of special study.

³¹ See E/ECE/SR.12/13 and 25.

³² See E/ECE/270, Part II, paras. 14 - 18.

369. The representative of Czechoslovakia submitted a draft resolution proposing to instruct the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the governments of States members of the Commission and in collaboration with the competent committees, to make a further study in that connexion both of the proposals already made and of any new ones which may be submitted later by individual countries concerning methods for solving the problems of all-European economic co-operation, to formulate suitable recommendations, and to decide to consider a report at its thirteenth session on the work done in this field. Several delegations expressed themselves in favour of the procedures proposed.

370. Other delegations, whilst welcoming the objective of the proposals made by the Government of the U.S.S.R., as well as the opportunity of a fruitful exchange of views, doubted whether the conclusion of a formal multilateral agreement would at present contribute anything to the economic co-operation between the countries of the region. A number of the proposals in the Soviet draft were, for one reason or another, unacceptable, or were — in their view — mere repetition of the principles underlying ECE's Terms of Reference. They considered that other matters contained in the draft were already being dealt with by the Commission's committees or subsidiary bodies, or else were within the purview of other international organizations.

371. These delegations thought that in so far as certain aspects of the Soviet proposal were of interest because of their practical value, they could be studied by the Commission's appropriate subsidiary bodies.

372. Subsequently, the delegation of Czechoslovakia submitted a revised version of its draft resolution. A draft resolution concerning the proposal for an all-European agreement on economic co-operation was also submitted on this question by the delegation of Belgium. Following a discussion on these two draft resolutions,³³ the revised draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Czechoslovakia was put to the vote, as a whole, a proposal having been rejected to vote on it in parts. This draft resolution was rejected by 16 votes ³⁴ to 10,³⁵ with 2 ³⁶ abstentions (see Annex 1).

373. The draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Belgium was thereupon put to the vote and adopted by 18 votes in favour,³⁷ with none against, and 10 abstentions.³⁸ The text of this resolution reads as follows :

³³ See E/ECE/SR.12/25.

³⁴ Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

³⁵ Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussia S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian S.S.R., U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia.

³⁶ Austria, Finland.

³⁷ Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yugoslavia.

³⁸ Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussia S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Ukrainian S.S.R., U.S.S.R.

Resolution concerning the proposal for an All-European Agreement on Economic Co-operation

"The Economic Commission for Europe,

"In pursuance of the principles enunciated in Chapter 9 of the Charter of the United Nations and in article 1 (a) of the Commission's terms of reference, in accordance with which the Commission shall 'initiate and participate in measures 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 the other countries of the world',

"Recalling the provisions of the Commission's resolutions 1 (X), 3 (XI) and 4 (XI).

"Having considered the proposal for an All-European Agreement on economic co-operation transmitted by the Government of the U.S.S.R. in accordance with resolution 3 (XI), the observations of member Governments on this proposal and additional documentation submitted by the Soviet delegation, all of which are contained in document E/ECE/270, Parts I, II and III, together with the discussions at the 12th session of the Commission,

"Notes that there is a difference of opinion on the feasibility of concluding a formal agreement as proposed by the U.S.S.R., in the prevailing circumstances,

"Having noted further that certain of the concrete proposals of the U.S.S.R. are already under active consideration within the Commission and in other United Nations organizations,

"Reaffirming its determination to continue efforts to promote economic relations and co-operation among all its members,

"Considers that the existing machinery of the Commission provides adequate means for the further examination of such of these concrete proposals as are not being examined elsewhere by bodies under the aegis of the United Nations and as are found to be within the terms of reference of the Commission;

"Invites governments wishing to make concrete proposals to submit them to the Executive Secretary for transmission to the relevant committees."

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE: REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE RESULTS ACHIEVED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTIONS 1 (X) AND 4 (XI) (E/ECE/271)³⁹ (item 9 of the agenda)

374. All delegations which participated in the discussion of the report submitted by the Executive Secretary on this question recognized the usefulness and general importance of the contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe covered by the two resolutions in question, welcomed the appreciable progress achieved in terms of volume, extent and variety of such contacts, both within the framework of the Commission and other-

wise, and agreed that the continuance by ECE of such work on the basis of reciprocity was generally desirable.

375. Several of the delegates who contributed to the discussion on this item gave information on the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe in their respective countries in different fields.

376. Special mention was made of the value of the study trips of the committees, the exchange of scientific and technical information, and of special meetings on the economic repercussions of technical problems. Much remained to be done in the field of tourism, and some delegations referred to the desirability of more individual tourism. Nevertheless, apart from the activities of ECE's Inland Transport Committee designed to facilitate the movement of tourists, this work could be undertaken by appropriate non-governmental organizations.

377. Two delegations expressed some doubts about the suggestion made in the Executive Secretary's report concerning the establishment of special professional bodies with all-European participation outside the framework of ECE. They felt that no new professional bodies should be set up unless there was a real need for them. Another delegation felt that this question should be studied carefully by experts in each particular case.

378. Certain representatives thought that the work of the committee in developing contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe could be further improved. This could be achieved by the committees establishing definite and systematic yearly plans of action in this field. One delegation stated that such contracts should include not only the exchange of visits, but also the free exchange of communications and ideas.

379. Eventually, the Commission unanimously adopted the following draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the Ukrainian S.S.R., as amended by the delegation of France:

Resolution concerning the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe

"The Economic Commission for Europe,

"Noting with satisfaction the development of effective contacts between European countries which has occurred between its eleventh and twelfth sessions in accordance with resolution 4 (XI),

"Invites its Committees to consider each year, at their first sessions, the possibilities for the further development of contacts, including study tours, on questions within their respective terms of reference."

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY (E/ECE/272)⁴⁰ (item 10 of the agenda)

380. The consideration of this item of the agenda was based on Commission resolution 5 (XI), which established the procedure to be followed in connexion with the proposal submitted by the delegation of the Soviet Union at the eleventh session on the establishment within the Economic Commission for Europe of an organ dealing

³⁹ See E/ECE/SR.12/13, 14 and 24.

⁴⁰ See E/ECE/SR.12/14, 25 and 26.

with the problem of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Accordingly, the governments of countries members of the Commission had been invited to communicate their views on that proposal to the Executive Secretary, and the Commission had decided to place the question on the agenda of its twelfth session.

381. The representative of the U.S.S.R. emphasized that his Government's proposal to organize all-European regional co-operation on the economic aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy within the framework of ECE was designed to supplement, and assure close co-operation with, the work to be undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Commenting on the views communicated by governments on the proposal of the U.S.S.R., he observed that the usefulness of such co-operation was generally recognized. But whilst some countries were in favour of the Soviet proposal, the majority of the countries of western Europe considered that for the Commission to embark upon this work before the International Atomic Energy Agency had gained some practical experience would entail the risk of duplication, and in any event be premature. These arguments were not convincing, since neither the Agency nor, for that matter, the study on certain problems of atomic energy being undertaken in pursuance of Council resolution 597 (XXI), embraced all aspects of the subject.

382. The argument that the implementation of the proposal of the U.S.S.R. would lead to the dissipation of sources equally lacked conviction, in view of the fact that a number of western European countries were in the process of establishing their own exclusive institutions in the field of the utilization of atomic energy.

383. Several delegations spoke in support of the proposal submitted by the delegation of the U.S.S.R. Whilst favouring the setting up of the International Atomic Energy Agency, they believed that European countries, because of the prevailing fuel shortage, had problems to solve that were peculiar to the region.

384. The representative of Yugoslavia stated that his delegation would welcome the establishment of an *Ad hoc* Working Party to study the most appropriate form of all-European co-operation in this field, which would be highly desirable.

385. Other delegations, while fully subscribing to the importance of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, reaffirmed their considered opinion that work on atomic energy initiated within the Commission would, in existing circumstances, divert effort from, and complicate, the work of international collaboration already under way in this field. It stood to reason that some of the Commission's existing activities might impinge upon the field of nuclear energy and that such bodies as, for example, the Committee on Electric Power, should take account of this new source of energy. But for the Commission, as a subordinate body of the United Nations, to embark on such work in advance of an agreement between the Agency and the United Nations would entail the risk, at best, of duplicating work which might in due course fall to the Agency; and the attempt to extend the sub-regional organizations functioning in Europe in the domain of atomic energy to

the European plane was hardly likely to bear fruit, since the existence of these bodies stemmed from the political conditions prevailing in Europe.

386. The representative of France expressed the view that the Executive Secretary should communicate to the Preparatory Commission for the International Atomic Energy Agency any conclusions emerging from the discussions at the Commission's present session on international co-operation on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

387. The representative of Poland submitted a draft resolution proposing that the consideration of the proposal of the U.S.S.R. be deferred until the thirteenth session, and that meanwhile, contact be established with the International Atomic Energy Agency with a view to reaching agreement on the forms of co-operation between the Agency and the Commission.

388. After discussion,⁴¹ the delegation of Poland submitted the following amended draft resolution :

Resolution concerning co-operation in the economic aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

"The Economic Commission for Europe,

"Considering the exchanges of views which have taken place between States Members of the Commission in connexion with the Soviet Union delegation's proposals for the establishment within the Commission of an organ dealing with the problem of peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

"Taking account of the desire expressed by a number of States to consider, before reaching a decision on the question, the results of the work of the International Atomic Agency and the outcome of the discussions which are to take place at the XXIVth session of ECOSOC on the report on the various possibilities of using nuclear energy,

"Decides to postpone further consideration of the proposals submitted by the Soviet Union delegation at its eleventh session on the establishment within the Commission of "an organ dealing with the problems of peaceful uses of nuclear energy";

"Recommends that at the thirteenth session of the Commission the Executive Secretary should inform the Commission 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 ECE."

389. This draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

INTER-REGIONAL TRADE CONSULTATIONS⁴² (E/ECE/273)
(item 11 of the agenda)

390. At the beginning of the consideration of this item, the Executive Secretary recalled that resolution 579 B (XX) of the Economic and Social Council laid down the procedure to be followed for inter-regional trade consultations when at least two of the regional economic commissions had expressed a desire that they should be held. At its eleventh session, the Commission

⁴¹ See E/ECE/SR.12/14, 25 and 26.

⁴² See E/ECE/SR.12/12.

had reaffirmed its attitude in regard to such consultations. So far, no positive response on this matter had been received from either of the other regional economic commissions.

391. Certain delegations recalled that ECLA had yet to express its view on the question, whilst several members of ECAFE were in favour of such consultations. These delegations referred to article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference by virtue of which interested members of ECLA and ECAFE might take part in ECE's Consultations of Experts on East-West Trade to be held in the autumn of 1957, just as members of ECE were — under analogous provisions — participating in the activities in the field of trade of the other two regional economic commissions. ECE should welcome such participation.

392. Certain other delegations, however, pointed out that the suggestion for individual participation by members of ECAFE and ECLA in trade consultations to be held under the auspices of the Committee on the Development of Trade before the other two commissions had taken a decision in principle on the matter would, in their view, be tantamount to circumventing Council resolution 579 B (XX).

393. The representative of Czechoslovakia emphasized that any country not a member of ECE should be in a position to avail itself of the provisions of article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference.⁴³

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN EUROPE: NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON ACTION TAKEN PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 7 (XI) (E/ECE/274) ⁴⁴ (item 12 of the agenda)

394. The representative of Yugoslavia stated that the Note by the Executive Secretary on the item under discussion showed that a number of questions relating to the economic development of southern Europe had been considered by the committees during the period under review. Such activities should be considered in the light of three main problems affecting the area in question: first, the problem of infra-structure investment; secondly, the problem of developing the energy potential, raw materials and manpower resources and, thirdly, the problem of the economic relationships between developed and insufficiently developed countries.

395. Viewed against this background, outside assistance to such countries was indispensable in the interest of Europe as a whole. ECE was in an especially favourable position to contribute to the solution of such problems.

396. Referring to his country's current prospects in the energy field, the representative of Yugoslavia expressed the view that the Commission's subsidiary bodies engaged in studying energy problems were the best placed to guide their work in that direction.

⁴³ Article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference reads as follows: "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."

⁴⁴ See E/ECE/SR.12/16.

397. The representative of Italy gave an account of the projects relating to the technical and economic co-operation among countries of southern Europe which his country had initiated, or with which it is currently associated in the fields of agriculture, industry and transport as well as of technical assistance and forestry. Concerning the latter, he stated that the Italian delegation attached special importance to the joint study undertaken by the secretariats of FAO and ECE for the implementation of a programme of reafforestation in the countries of the Mediterranean basin, and wished to see the study implemented without delay.

398. The representative of Greece expressed his delegation's appreciation of the co-operative spirit displayed by the members of the committees during the discussion of questions of particular interest to Greece, and in this connexion referred to the consideration in the Committee on Electric Power and the Committee on the Development of Trade respectively of the study of plans for the hydro-electric development of the Aliakmon and Nestos rivers and to problems of Greece's foreign trade. Citing his country's efforts in the investment field, he raised anew the still acute question of external financing which was required if further progress was to be made in the economic development of his country. He also expressed the hope that measures would be taken to prevent an accentuation of his country's problems by the creation of larger economic entities.

399. The representative of Turkey observed that in his delegation's opinion the problems raised by the report of the Group of Experts on the Economic Development of Southern Europe (E/ECE/233 and Add.1) should, in accordance with Commission resolution 7 (XI), remain on the agenda of the appropriate committees.

400. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany said that in the view of his delegation the study of the problems mentioned in the statements made by the representatives of the countries concerned should, in view of their ever increasing importance, be continued.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS SECRETARIAT: NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (E/ECE/275) (item 13 of the agenda)

(a) *Work of the Conference of European Statisticians* ⁴⁵

401. With regard to the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, the Commission heard a statement by the secretariat, followed by statements by a number of delegations, commending the value derived by the Central Statistical Administrations of their countries from the labours of the Conference.

(b) *FAO/ECE International Consultation on Insulation Board, Hardboard and Particle Board* ⁴⁶

402. The achievements and the utility of the International Board Consultation, convened jointly in January 1957 in Geneva by the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECE, were emphasized by many delegations, and several representatives urged positive action by ECE and FAO in response to the Consulta-

⁴⁵ See ECE/SR.12/7.

⁴⁶ See E/ECE/SR.12/5.

tion's recommendation that permanent machinery be created to provide facilities for the regular interchange of information statistics on the economic and technical aspects of these relatively new and rapidly growing forest products industries.

403. Other delegations, however, entertained some reservations about the form which such machinery should take, and stressed FAO's primary interest in this matter, especially having regard to its world-wide implications. One delegation, for example, took the view that the technical aspects of the problems should be the sole responsibility of FAO. Two other delegations considered that the organization of further consultations, which might well be desirable, was a matter for the industry concerned; it was not appropriate to the Timber Committee, and was indeed unsuitable for intergovernmental action.

404. The Director of the Timber Division pointed out that while certain aspects of the problem could conceivably be more appropriately pursued as between representatives of industries, it was the view of the secretariat that there were some aspects which could only be satisfactorily dealt with intergovernmentally.

405. Since the final report of the Consultation has not yet been published, it was felt that action on the recommendation should be deferred pending publication of the final report and consideration of the matter by FAO.

(c) *Co-operation with ECAFE and ECLA on matters of common concern*⁴⁷

406. The representative of Czechoslovakia stated that his Government attached considerable importance to such co-operation, and was regularly represented at sessions of ECAFE and ECLA. He also felt that opportunities should be provided to invite countries of the two regions covered by the other regional economic commissions to participate in study visits arranged within the framework of the ECE committees.

407. The representative of the United States of America emphasized the advantages accruing from direct co-operation between the regional economic commissions. He stressed that these relations should always be carried out within the framework of the over-all responsibility by the Economic and Social Council for world-wide economic co-operation and in conformity with the terms of reference of the respective regional bodies.

(d) *Activities bearing upon Technical Assistance*

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

(e) *Relations with specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations*⁴⁸

409. The representative of the International Organization for Standardization was given the floor to make a statement on the co-operative relations of that body with ECE on matters of common concern. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction with ISO's contribution to the work of the Commission.

⁴⁷ See E/ECE/SR.12/14.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

(f) *Relations under article 10 of the Commission's terms of reference*⁴⁹

410. The representative of Czechoslovakia reiterated the substance of the statement concerning the desirability of the representation of the German Democratic Republic in the Commission made in greater detail on an earlier occasion in the proceedings of the session.⁵⁰ The representative of the U.S.S.R. supported this declaration.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONCERN TO THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (E/ECE/277)⁵¹ (item 14 of the agenda)

411. The Note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/277) drawing the Commission's attention to other resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council as well as by the General Assembly during the period since the closure of the eleventh session of the Commission which have a bearing on ECE was examined without comment.

RESOLUTION 630 A.1 (XXII) OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL. GENERAL REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND CO-ORDINATION OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AS A WHOLE (E/ECE/276)⁵² (item 14 of the agenda)

412. The Executive Secretary, introducing the discussion, referred to his Note on the subject (E/ECE/276) and to the relevant parts of his opening statement (E/ECE/287). He emphasized the special responsibilities incumbent upon the secretariat with respect to the co-ordination of activities and concentration on major tasks, and expressed appreciation for the backing by governments of the secretariat's efforts to promote economy and efficiency in the Commission's work. He stressed the importance of Council resolution 630 A.1 (XXII) as a guide and further incentive in the efforts governments and the secretariat have been making and will continue to make in this regard.

413. The representative of the Netherlands recalled the importance of Council resolution 630 A.1 (XXII) and of the review already undertaken by the committees of their respective work programmes in the light of this resolution. He was grateful to the Executive Secretary for the suggestions made in paragraph 22 of his Note which his delegation was, in general, prepared to accept, though concerning the suggestion contained in point (vi) of that paragraph, his delegation entertained some doubts about the wisdom of making the elimination suggested by the Executive Secretary of the project on transport terminology. He also cautioned the Commission as regards its activities in the field of technology lest the equilibrium in its programme of work be disturbed. He emphasized, furthermore, the importance of relating the Commission's work to the other organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and agreed

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ See paras. 241 and 242, above.

⁵¹ See E/ECE/SR.12/14.

⁵² See E/ECE/SR.12/22, 23 and 24.

with the account of the role of the secretariat, as given in paragraph 12 of the Executive Secretary's Note.

414. The representative of the United Kingdom said that the increasing width of the Commission's work brought with it a danger of an undue dispersion of effort, and Council resolution 630 A.1 (XXII) was therefore important to bear in mind in this connexion. The Commission enjoyed a sound reputation for avoiding activities that were unimportant, and he particularly welcomed the care with which the work programmes had been examined by the committees and streamlined in the light of the Council resolution under consideration.

415. He emphasized that, subject to the general direction of the Commission, the committees should remain responsible for their programmes of work; that the scrutiny of the programme should be a continuous process; that a careful eye should be kept on budgetary and manpower implications; that there should be recognition of the limitations inherent in inter-governmental action in a body of such wide and differing membership; and that due discretion should be exercised in choosing fields appropriate for technical exchanges.

416. Concerning the Executive Secretary's views on technological exchanges (paragraph 27 in the Note), he agreed that the Commission's time should not be taken up with such exchanges as could appropriately be carried out either directly or in specialized bodies.

417. As regards the specific suggestions made by the Executive Secretary in paragraph 22 of his Note, he agreed with them in general and made a number of detailed comments, which are listed in E/ECE/SR.12/14.

418. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany expressed general agreement with the suggestions contained in paragraph 22 of the Note by the Executive Secretary, but stressed his disagreement with the Executive Secretary's suggestion for the deletion of the Inland Transport Committee project 07.3.1.

419. The delegate of the United States of America supported the statements made by the previous speakers. He emphasized the importance of Council resolution 630 A.1 (XXII), and was gratified by the good record of the Commission over the past years, in particular as regards the stabilization of the number of meetings. He also endorsed the usefulness of the system of rapporteurs. In addition to the resolution under consideration, he wished to draw the attention of the Commission to Council resolution 557 B.1 (XVIII), in accordance with which prior approval by the Council must be sought in case of all requests for new studies or other projects which would require additional budgetary provisions or substantial changes in the work programmes. He considered that the Note of the Executive Secretary presented a very useful analysis of the problems of co-ordination and concentration, and supported fully the suggestions contained in paragraph 22, which he proposed should be drawn to the attention of the committee concerned. However, he stated that his Government had reservations on some suggestions summarized in paragraphs 24 to 28 of the Executive Secretary's Note.

420. The representative of the U.S.S.R. recalled the aims of Council resolution 630 A.1 (XXII), and said that

the Note by the Executive Secretary testified to the fact that the Commission had done the necessary work in the direction laid down in that resolution, including the drawing up of its work programme for 1957/58. He approved the action taken by the secretariat and by the Committee of the Commission in pursuance of that resolution.

421. The delegation of the Soviet Union considered that the references in the resolution to further concentration on major problems in the economic field implied no limitation of the Commission's activity. The Soviet Union representative agreed with the Executive Secretary's view that no major changes were at present needed in the direction of the Commission's work, understanding that what was referred to was the further development of co-operation on an all-European basis. His understanding was also based on the consideration that the range of questions considered by the Commission could not be immutable, inasmuch as the rapid advance of science and technology would inevitably raise new and important economic problems with which the Commission would have to deal on the basis of broad co-operation between all European States.

422. The representative of Czechoslovakia expressed his agreement in particular with the conclusions in paragraph 32 of the Note by the Executive Secretary. The main problem in Europe was that of peaceful co-operation, and it was certainly most important to concentrate the activities of the Commission on all that may promote this aim. His Government would do its best to promote relevant activities in this field. Council resolution 630 A.1 (XXII) should not be used as a brake on such efforts.

423. The representative of Turkey considered the Executive Secretary's Note an excellent document, with which he agreed in general terms, and in particular with the constructive suggestions contained in points (i) to (v) of paragraph 22. Concerning the suggestion under (vi) of the same paragraph, he would join with the majority should they wish to delete the project on transport terminology. On the other hand, he felt that paragraph 26 was perhaps too categorical, especially its last sentence, which stated that "the Commission and the Committees are the only forums for governmental discussion" of trade, and that they "can therefore perform a unique function", since there were other international organizations dealing with trade questions on a sub-regional basis apart from bilateral talks between governments.

424. The representative of Romania wished to emphasize that Council resolution 630 A.1 (XXII) should not be used in a limitative sense. He supported the Executive Secretary's conclusions as expressed in paragraph 32 of his Note.

425. At the conclusion of the debate on this item the Chairman summarized the general consensus as follows:

The Commission expressed satisfaction with the work carried out by its organs in reviewing their programmes during the past year in the light of Council resolution 630 A.1 (XXII). It wished to assure the Council that it is and will remain mindful of the need

for continuous efforts toward concentration of its activities on major economic problems and on co-ordination of these efforts, and requested its organs constantly to bear in mind Council resolution 630 A.1 (XXII) when formulating their future programmes of work.

The Commission expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by governments and the secretariat to achieve co-ordination and concentration. It also drew the attention of its organs to the Note of the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/276), in particular to the suggestions made therein relevant to their work, and invited them to consider these suggestions in the light of the discussion of this item. Finally, the Commission wished to bring to the attention of the Council together with the above account of the points made in the discussion the Note of the Executive Secretary, which is appended to this Report.⁵³

REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN EUROPE (item 15 of the agenda)

426. In its review of the economic situation in Europe, the Commission had as a background document for its discussion the *Economic Survey of Europe in 1956* (E/ECE/278), 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.12/15 to 20.

THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1957/58 (E/ECE/279)⁵⁴ (item 16 of the agenda)

427. The Executive Secretary introduced briefly the discussion by referring to documents E/ECE/279 and relevant Conference Room Documents concerning projects included in the Commission's programme of work for 1956/57, which have been deleted or merged in the draft programme of work for 1957/58, as well as on the financial implications of the trilingual edition of the *Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe*.

428. The representative of the U.S.S.R. stated that the work programme for 1957/58 corresponded, in his view, to the purposes of the Commission. He also stated that it was his understanding that, in accordance with regular practice, the attention of the committee would be called to points made under other items of the agenda relevant to their work.

429. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed his delegation's general approval of the work programme, and commended the committees on the work they have carried out with the assistance of the secretariat. In addition to the remarks made by his delegation earlier as regards the work programme of the Working Party on Agricultural Machinery and the East-West Trade Consultations, as well as the work programme in the fields of gas, automation, and heavy electrical equipment, he made a number of specific points which are contained in summary record E/ECE/SR.12/22.

⁵³ See Annex I.

⁵⁴ See E/ECE/SR.12/22 and 23.

430. The Chairman noted that the delegation of Romania had proposed to add certain projects to the programme. He stated that this material would no doubt be borne in mind when the committees came to review their respective programmes of work in conformity with the Commission's pertinent decisions.

431. The delegation of the United States of America stated that, while it did not want to oppose the procedure outlined above, it wished to express reservations about such an arrangement whereby proposals to be discussed by interested ECE subsidiary bodies are submitted first to the Commission and to the Economic and Social Council which can take no action on them.

432. Having considered and approved its programme of work for 1957/58 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, the Commission unanimously adopted the following draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Commission :

Resolution concerning the Commission's programme of work for 1957/58

" *The Economic Commission for Europe,*

" *Having examined* the reports of the Committees on their activities and the programme of work of the Commission for 1957/58,

" *Noting* that in the course of the twelfth 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 twelfth session;

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

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (item 18 of the agenda)

*Statement by the Chairman on May Day*⁵⁵

433. At its fourth meeting, the Chairman made a statement on the significance of May Day.

*Statement by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization*⁵⁶

434. At its fifth meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the Director-General of FAO which stressed, *inter alia*, the importance and value of the co-operative arrangements between FAO and ECE in the fields of agriculture and timber.

*Statement by the Chairman on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Economic Commission for Europe*⁵⁷

435. At its seventh meeting (which coincided with the date on which ten years ago ECE's first session opened),

⁵⁵ See E/ECE/SR.12/4.

⁵⁶ See E/ECE/SR.12/5.

⁵⁷ See E/ECE/SR.12/7.

the Commission heard a statement by the Chairman on the significance of this anniversary. The Chairman coupled this statement with an appreciation of the contribution of the Executive Secretary in guiding the work of the Commission during that period.

*Resolution concerning the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Economic Commission for Europe*⁵⁸

436. In introducing the consideration of this draft resolution submitted by the delegations of France and Romania,⁵⁸ the Executive Secretary referred to his previous statement⁵⁹ in which he had announced the issuance of a symposium of articles prepared by himself and senior members of his staff on the work of the Commission. He suggested that the best way of meeting the desiderata of the draft resolution would be to revise this symposium and to issue it in mimeographed form in one language, if possible in time for the twenty-fourth (summer) session of the Economic and Social Council; thereafter, the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat might consider the possibility of its ultimate publication in a suitable form of a volume on the work of the Economic Commission for Europe during ten years.

437. After discussion, in which the delegations of France, Romania, the Netherlands and Turkey participated, and in which they expressed their support in general terms of the Executive Secretary's interpretation of the resolution, the draft resolution was unanimously adopted as follows :

Resolution concerning the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Economic Commission for Europe

" *The Economic Commission for Europe,*

" *Emphasizing* the importance to economic co-operation throughout Europe of the work of the Commission,

" *Considering* it desirable that the Commission's achievements over the last ten years should be publicized as widely as possible in the various countries participating in its work,

" *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps for the publication of a volume entitled 'Ten Years of the Economic Commission for Europe'."

*Resolution concerning the granting of equal treatment to the three working languages of the Commission*⁶⁰

438. The Executive Secretary, commenting on the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Belgium, Bulgaria, France and Romania on the granting of equal treatment to the three working languages of the Commission, reviewed the difficulties with which the Secretariat was confronted of issuing in good time for meetings held by ECE all the relevant documentation in the three working languages of the Commission. He emphasized that this was not the fault of the European Office of the United Nations, and appealed to governments to ensure, through the appropriate organs of the United Nations, that the necessary resources be made available to the

European Office for the more adequate servicing of the Commission's work. He referred not only to translation services, but also to the need to increase the availability of interpretation and other conference facilities.

439. The Director of the European Office cited the increase in servicing requirements over recent years, and pointed to the difficulties in obtaining interpreters, translators and other specialized staff even if the necessary funds were available. The solution was to be found in having sufficient additional resources to cope with the margin of translation that could not now be handled effectively, and budgetary provision would have to be sought to meet the Commission's requirements.

440. After discussion, the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Belgium, Bulgaria, France and Romania was adopted unanimously as follows :

Resolution concerning the granting of equal treatment to the three working languages of the Commission

" *The Economic Commission for Europe,*

" *Considering* the need for improving the functioning of the Commission and its subsidiary organs :

" *Bearing in mind* its resolution 9 (VII),

" *Invites* the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to ensure equal treatment for the three working languages of the Commission and the distribution of ECE documents in the three working languages well in advance of the meeting concerned;

" *Requests* that appropriate representations be made to the competent authorities of the United Nations, so that they may take the necessary steps to meet the Commission's requirements in this respect."

Requests for hearings from non-governmental organizations

441. Requests were received from the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions and the World Federation of Trade Unions for permission to present the views of these organizations to the Commission on the work of the committees of the Commission (item 3 of the agenda);⁶¹ from the International Organization for Standardization for permission to present the views of that Organization on the item dealing with relations with specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (item 13 of the agenda);⁶² and from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the World Federation of Trade Unions for permission to present the views of these organizations to the Commission during the discussion on the review of the economic situation in Europe (item 15 of the agenda).⁶³

*Concluding statement by the Executive Secretary*⁶⁴

442. The Executive Secretary, in his concluding statement, reminded the Commission that when they had concluded their present session, its subsidiary organs, the permanent representatives and the secretariat would be

⁵⁸ See E/ECE/SR.12/2.

⁵⁹ See para. 257 above.

⁶⁰ See E/ECE/SR.12/22.

⁶¹ See E/ECE/SR.12/2 and para. 256 above.

⁶² See E/ECE/SR.12/14 and para. 409 above.

⁶³ See E/ECE/SR.12/17 and 18.

⁶⁴ See E/ECE/SR.12/26.

left to carry on the regular work throughout the year. He expressed the hope that, as was the tradition in the past, this practical work on an expert level would be carried out without procedural discussions, political arguments or votes.

443. A number of delegations having expressed their appreciation to the Executive Secretary for his past work and best wishes for his future, the Commission unanimously adopted the proposal of the delegate of the United Kingdom for a vote of thanks to its first Executive Secretary.

Date and place of the next session ⁶⁵

444. 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 thirteenth session of the Commission, and to advise governments of the date in due time. It was understood that the thirteenth session would be held at the seat of the European Office of the United Nations.

PART III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Resolution 1 (XII)

Resolution concerning pollution of waters in Europe

[For the text of this resolution, see above, para. 328.]

Resolution 2 (XII)

Resolution concerning the proposal for an All-European Agreement on Economic Co-operation

[For the text of this resolution, see above, para. 373.]

Resolution 3 (XII)

Resolution concerning the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe

[For the text of this resolution, see above, para. 379.]

Resolution 4 (XII)

Resolution concerning co-operation in the economic aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

[For the text of this resolution, see above, para. 388.]

Resolution 5 (XII)

Resolution concerning the Commission's programme of work for 1957/1958

[For the text of this resolution, see above, para. 432.]

Resolution 6 (XII)

Resolution concerning the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Economic Commission for Europe

[For the text of this resolution, see above, para. 437.]

Resolution 7 (XII)

Resolution concerning the granting of equal treatment to the three working languages of the Commission

[For the text of this resolution, see above, para. 440.]

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

Takes note of the Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Europe for the period 22 April 1956 to 15 May 1957, of the views expressed during the discussion, and the resolutions adopted during the twelfth session of the Commission as well as of the programme of work and priorities contained in the Report.

⁶⁵ See E/ECE/SR.12/23.

PART V

THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1957/58

Introduction ⁶⁶

445. The Commission's programme of work for 1957/58, as considered and approved at the twelfth session of the Commission,⁶⁷ is incorporated as Part V of the Commission's present report to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-fourth session.

Programme of work for 1957/58

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

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

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

- (a) Priority projects (or functions) of a continuing nature;
- (b) Priority projects (or functions) of an *ad hoc* nature;
- (c) Other projects (or functions).

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.

⁶⁶ In accordance with paragraph 432 of the present report, the Executive Secretary has made certain adjustments in the final text of the Commission's programme of work for 1957/58 in the light of the relevant decisions of the Commission. This applies to projects 01.2.3 and 01.2.4.

⁶⁷ See above, paragraphs 427 to 432.

01. — GENERAL PROJECTS ⁶⁸

01.1. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF A CONTINUING NATURE

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 in February, 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 April, July and October.

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 procedures 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.

⁶⁸ 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).

The programme of the Conference for 1956/57⁶⁹ includes (a) meetings of working groups on population and housing censuses, agricultural censuses and surveys (with FAO), general economic censuses, data-processing electronic machines and indicators of short-term economic changes; (b) meetings of groups of rapporteurs on the classification of persons by socio-professional groups at censuses of population, and on the statistical treatment of capital consumption; (c) the preparation of reports by national rapporteurs on co-ordination between population, agricultural and other censuses, statistics of income and savings, seasonal adjustments to statistical series, and differences between systems of national accounts; (d) joint work at the European level on international comparisons of wages (with ILO) and agricultural prices (with FAO); (e) the preparation of a glossary of statistical terms.

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

In addition to the close co-operation between the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations and the ECE secretariat on such aspects as the formulation of country and regional projects, the selection and briefing of experts and fellows and similar work undertaken at the request of the TAA, a number of Technical Assistance projects have been developed by interested governments through the ECE committees. In such cases, the requests to the TAA for assistance are formulated on the basis of prior consideration of the specific problem in the Commission's subsidiary body concerned. Examples of this type of arrangement are the work being done on the development of hydro-electric resources of certain countries (04.1.4); rural electrification (04.1.5); and development problems of southern Europe (01.2.1).

01.2. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF AN *ad hoc* NATURE

01.2.1. *Development problems of southern Europe*⁷⁰

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. In accordance with a recommendation of the Expert Group, a study of the problem of afforestation of the countries concerned is being explored jointly by the secretariats of FAO and ECE.

⁶⁹ The Programme of Work for the Conference of European Statisticians was adopted by the Conference at its fourth session (Conf. Eur. Stats/61, para. 92).

⁷⁰ Authority : Commission resolution 7 (XI).

01.2.2. *Energy problems in Europe*⁷¹

Having noted the suggestion of the Executive Secretary that on the basis of an annual Review of the Energy Situation in Europe prepared by the secretariat, periodical special meetings on energy problems might be held to consider such major policy questions in the field of energy in Europe as involve the interrelationship between the various forms of energy, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to call on participating governments to provide the information necessary for the preparation of this review; to prepare and distribute the review when the necessary information on an all-European basis has been provided; and to convene a special Meeting of Government Experts on Energy Problems to consider, on the basis of this review, energy problems in Europe which might usefully be examined in the framework of the Commission.

01.2.3. *Gas problems in Europe*⁷²

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. The following problems have been identified and are under examination by the *Ad hoc* Working Party :

- (a) Improvement of the flexibility in the supply and demand of gas;
- (b) Methods used and factors taken into account in preparing forecasts for future gas demand;
- (c) Problems related to production, transport, distribution and utilization of natural gas;
- (d) Legal problems involved in the long-distance transmission of gas by international gas pipelines;
- (e) Exchange of technical information;
- (f) Improvement and dissemination of statistics on gas.

01.2.4. *Pollution of waters in Europe*⁷³

The Executive Secretary, in co-operation with the FAO and WHO secretariats, and drawing on the advice of experts as needed, is preparing a study with a view to identifying specific water pollution control problems in Europe and to making proposals on possible programmes of work which might usefully be carried on by the international agencies concerned. The Executive Secretary is (1) to transmit this study, if ready, to the next meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Water Resources and, through the Secretary-General, to the next session of the United Nations Panel of Experts on Water Resources; and (2) to make a progress report on the subject to the thirteenth session of the Commission.

⁷¹ Commission resolution 1 (XI).

⁷² Authority : Twelfth session of the Commission (See para 331 above).

⁷³ Authority : Commission resolution 1 (XII).

02. — AGRICULTURE ⁷⁴

(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.)

02.1. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF A CONTINUING NATURE

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 the 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-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 1960.

(d) The Committee has under consideration a project for a study of the *factors affecting the demand* in the various countries for the main agricultural products, with a view to forecasting its probable trend. For the time being, attention will be confined to milk and milk products. At its eighth session the Committee decided that the secretariat should ask governments whether they would be willing to participate in the work of a group of experts

on this subject. A decision as to further work will be taken at the next session of the Committee.

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 study, on the basis of an analysis of national regulations, the extent to which these provisions and minimum requirements are in fact being observed in European trade. 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* groups of experts to establish standard conditions of sale for selected agricultural products — in the first place, for cereals and citrus fruit. Final texts of a series of maritime sales contracts will be drawn up after governments have discussed the draft texts with the circles concerned. Experts have also reached agreement on standard conditions of sale for citrus fruit and these will be communicated to governments for comment. It has been decided to proceed to the study of standard conditions of sale for potatoes as soon as possible.

⁷⁴ The Programme of Work for 1957/58 in the field of agriculture was adopted by the Committee on Agricultural Problems at its eighth session (E/ECE/AGRI/35, para. 33).

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*

In pursuance of point (iii) of the programme laid down for the Committee on Agricultural Problems in Commission resolution 6 (IX), and in pursuance of Commission resolutions 1 (X) and 4 (XI), 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*. Five reports on different technical topics have already been approved for distribution and work will continue on a number of other topics. No definite limit has been set on the number of topics eventually to be studied by the Working Party, and it is likely that it will continue in future to prepare reports on significant aspects of mechanization of agriculture which it considers are 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, will prepare draft reports for submission to experts from interested countries who will meet in study sessions. The topics at present scheduled for treatment in this way are (i) experience in new methods of planting vineyards and (ii) new techniques for the conservation and improvement of soil fertility. Later, the Committee will take up the study of a third topic—namely, chemical means and equipment for controlling weeds and plant diseases. In addition, the secretariat will assemble information on chemical means of improving animal fodder.

(c) 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. Another list will deal specifically with films relating to mechanization of agriculture. Films of technical or general agricultural interest are shown during sessions of the Committee and its working parties.

(d) *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.

(e) 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.

(f) 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. In particular, a further list of publications dealing with agricultural mechanization will be circulated to members of the working party concerned, as a supplement to the previous list.

02.2. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF AN *ad hoc* NATURE

02.2.1. *Situation and outlook for horse-breeding in Europe*

In pursuance of the decision of the Committee on Agricultural Problems at its seventh session (E/ECE/AGRI/32, paragraphs 35 and 36), an analysis will be made of the main features of the decline in horse numbers which has taken place in certain European countries. A questionnaire has been addressed to governments.

03. — COAL ⁷⁵

03.1 PRIORITY PROJECTS OF A CONTINUING NATURE

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 regarding future coal production and trade is being drawn up; particular attention is being given to the conditions under which a more significant increase of production could be obtained by producers, and to the assistance that consumers could give in this respect.

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. In 1957, special attention will be given to developments in the use of different forms of energy in thermal power production and the consequences for the coal market.

03.1.2. *Production problems*

(a) 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.

(b) In order to promote exchange of experience on coal production methods, a special meeting of experts is to consider lists of specific subjects submitted by interested countries; to determine on which of the subjects documentation made available appears to be adequate; and to propose to the Committee what other subjects should be examined further, as well as their order of priority and the methods of work most appropriate for each.

03.1.3. *Trade problems* ⁷⁶

(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

⁷⁵ The Programme of Work of the Coal Committee for 1957/58 adopted by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session (E/ECE/COAL/115, para. 17).

⁷⁶ See also 03.2.2.

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 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.

03.1.4. *Solid fuel utilization*

The examination of 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, has reached an advanced stage. The Utilization Working Party will give further consideration in 1957 to low- and medium-temperature carbonization and to heat-recording meters. Suggestions for extending the coverage of subjects taken up by the Working Party to include the study of ways in which Europe's coal supplies could be used with maximum efficiency, either through direct combustion or by transformation into secondary forms of energy, will be considered in detail.

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. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF AN *ad hoc* NATURE

03.2.1. *Coal classification*

The Classification Working Party, after having accomplished its work on the classification of hard coal, will proceed to consider the classification of brown coal and lignites on the one hand, and hard coal coke on the other, with the aim of possible agreement on an international classification of both these fuels.

03.2.2. *General conditions of sale for solid fuels*

An *ad hoc* group of experts has been instructed to study the usefulness and feasibility of drawing up general conditions of sale for solid fuels, and to submit a report to the Committee for consideration at the session to be held in September 1957.

03.3. OTHER PROJECTS

03.3.1. *Pitwood supplies*

The pitwood situation is kept under review, and the anticipated situation for the following calendar year is analysed annually.

04. — ELECTRIC POWER⁷⁷

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. 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 or 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) An inquiry is being made into the possibilities of electric power transfers between the countries of central and south-eastern Europe.

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.

⁷⁷ The programme of work of the Committee on Electric Power was drawn up in accordance with the Committee's decision taken at its fourteenth session (E/ECE/EP/184, para. 12).

Under the present programme, twenty 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 eight 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.

Analysis of statistical break-downs used for electric power consumption.

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

04.2. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF AN *ad hoc* NATURE

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 information in the technical field*

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.

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; the operation of large-capacity generators and transformers, high-voltage cables and heavy-power-consuming equipment.

05. — ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS ⁷⁸

05.1. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF A CONTINUING NATURE

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

The *General Survey of the European Engineering Industry* has been followed by studies of sectors of the industry as requested by the Committee. The general state of supply and demand for engineering products is 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*⁷⁹

This project is designed to facilitate international trade in engineering products through unification of contract practices. The sets of general conditions for the supply of plant and machinery for export have been agreed by an *ad hoc* working party — the first in 1953, the second in 1955 — and are being utilized on an increasing scale in commercial practice. Work on the drafting of general conditions for the supply and erection of plant and machinery is expected to be finished in 1957, and work will then commence on drafting general conditions for erection alone. Revision of the general conditions for the supply of plant and machinery for export is expected to begin in 1958, taking into account the practical experience gained since 1953.

05.2. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF AN *ad hoc* NATURE

05.2.1. *Agricultural machinery*⁸⁰

The work programme agreed upon at the first session of the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery, held in January 1956, and subsequently adjusted in the light of progress made at the second session held in February 1957, covers exchange of technical information on agricultural machinery, through reciprocal exchange of literature, including bibliographical material, by encouraging direct contacts between national research institutes (in this connexion, a directory of international and national organizations concerned with agricultural machinery is being prepared), and in other ways as outlined in Commission resolution 4 (XI); analysis on the basis of information supplied by governments of obstacles to trade in agricultural machinery; and 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. With regard to the last point, preliminary reports prepared by government rapporteurs were discussed at the second session of the *Ad hoc* Working Party, and will now be completed in the light of detailed data to be submitted by governments. Specific problems which arise out of these reports or in other ways — e.g., classification of agricultural machinery, standardization of agricultural machinery (including standardization of

⁷⁸ Authority: Industry and Materials Committee (E/ECE/IM/43 and E/ECE/IM/55, para. 14) and Commission resolution 2 (X).

⁷⁹ Authority: Industry and Materials Committee (E/ECE/IM/55, para. 13).

⁸⁰ Authority: Commission resolution 2 (X).

testing methods), prevention of accidents due to agricultural machinery and European road safety for agricultural machinery — are examined by the *Ad hoc* Working Party, and referred wherever appropriate to other competent bodies, such as the International Organization for Standardization.

05.2.2. *Automation*⁸¹

In accordance with the decision of the Commission on this question, two governmental rapporteurs — from the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R. — 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 will be prepared 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 BUILDING⁸²

06.1. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF A CONTINUING NATURE

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 developments 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 1956. 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) housing management, including the organization and techniques of maintenance; (b) formulation of house-building programmes, especially the concepts and methodology used in different countries.

06.1.2. *Housing problems of less industrialized countries*

The object of the project is to assist governments of the less industrialized countries to develop and expedite their housing programmes. Action is proceeding, in co-operation with TAA as necessary, along three main lines: First, the Committee has agreed to sending small expert missions to less industrialized countries which request them, for the purpose of studying the housing situation on the spot. Secondly, in the two countries visited by expert housing missions in 1956 — namely, Turkey and Yugoslavia — the governments are taking concrete steps to implement the recommendations, in particular with regard to creating a central housing agency

and a national building research organization. Thirdly, questions of practical collaboration between the southern European countries are being examined; one being 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. An *Ad hoc* Working Party has been established to deal with these problems.

06.1.3. *Industrialization of house-building*

A comprehensive enquiry is being carried out by rapporteurs and the secretariat on governments' technical 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 of 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 and mechanization, standardization and modular co-ordination 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 *Bulletin 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. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF AN *ad hoc* NATURE

06.2.1. *Financing of house-building programmes*

The next stage of the Committee's work in the field of housing finance is to attempt, with the aid of rapporteurs, to set the different elements of financial policy in relation to housing within a single framework and, where possible, to draw conclusions. A greater part of the Committee's session in the autumn of 1957 will be set aside for discussion of these problems.

06.2.2. *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

⁸¹ Authority: Commission's decision at eleventh session (E/2868, para. 260, point 5).

⁸² The Programme of Work of the Housing Committee for 1957/1958 was adopted by the Committee at its thirteenth session (E/ECE/HOU/64, para. 23).

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.

06.2.3. *Utilization of space in current types of dwellings*

The report circulated in 1951 on "The Utilization of Space in Current Types of Dwellings in Fourteen European Countries 1948/1949" is to be brought up to date on an all-European basis by rapporteurs working in close conjunction with the UIA.

07. — INLAND TRANSPORT ⁸³

07.1. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF A CONTINUING NATURE

07.1.1. *General policy*

One of the ITC's functions is to promote an agreement between European countries on long-term inland transport policy, study the co-ordination of the various modes of transport, and put forward recommendations on the subject. Studies in this field relate in particular to the apportionment of road and inland waterway track cost among the various categories concerned (users and others) and to certain problems relating to costs.

07.1.2. *Measures to facilitate international trade*

Tariff measures

A working party studies problems relating to the co-ordination of national railway tariffs, the establishment of international railway tariffs, and the establishment of a model tariff for international road transport.

Rational routing for rail traffic

The effect of measures adopted by railways for the purpose of concentrating international traffic on the best equipped and most economical routes is carefully observed.

Economic regulations for international road transport

The General Agreement signed in 1954 has not yet entered into force. A number of annexes to it are being drawn up.

International road transport licensing system

Article 5 provides for the possibility of an agreement on the question of principle and on the procedure to be followed with regard to this licensing system.

International bus services

A special working party is studying the annual programme of international passenger transport services by road.

Contracts for carriage and international legal status of forwarding agents

A draft convention on a contract for inland water transport similar to the draft drawn up for the carriage

of goods by road is being prepared. The ITC proposes to study the question of a combined transport contract at a later date. The question of the legal status of forwarding agents is being studied by the organizations concerned. They will report to the ITC.

Customs, financial and fiscal matters

A draft customs convention on the international transport of goods by road is under discussion. Various questions relating to customs seals, the co-ordination of the functions and office hours of customs offices on both sides of a frontier, customs forms and simplification of the formalities for the temporary admission of private cars without payment of import duties and import taxes are being studied continuously.

A study of tolls in inland navigation has also been undertaken.

Water transport regulations

The ITC has begun to study the following problems (see also under 07.2.2) :

Preparation of two conventions, one for the unification of certain rules concerning collisions in inland navigation, and the other on the registration of inland navigation vessels; these conventions will probably be ready in 1958.

Preparation of conventions relating to privileges, mortgages and other rights in rem, limitation of carrier's liability, seizure in cases of contested ownership and seizure by distress. These texts will probably be ready in 1959.

Unification of various regulations relating to inland waterways and, in particular, unification of the provisions of policing regulations including those relating to signalling systems. Work on these problems should be finished by 1959.

Standardization of ships' papers and of the certificates issued for boilers and other technical equipment. Work on this problem should be finished by 1959.

Unification of the identification and registration marks of vessels used in inland navigation.

07.1.3. *Traffic safety*

The ITC continues to concentrate on the measures to be adopted in order to reduce road traffic accidents. This problem has technical aspects (road building and improvement, road signs and signals; vehicle construction, equipment and maintenance), physiological aspects (fitness of drivers) and psychological aspects (behaviour of drivers and users). The ITC has also taken up the questions of automatic coupling on railways, and the prevention of shunting accidents.

07.1.4. *Transport statistics*

The ITC is endeavouring to establish and develop certain internationally comparable transport statistics. It is seeking, in particular, to fill the gaps in the statistics on the movement of goods in international traffic and on road traffic.

⁸³ The Programme of Work of the Inland Transport Committee was adopted by the Committee at its sixteenth session (E/ECE/Trans/497, para. 81).

07.1.5. *Interpretation, implementation and adjustment of agreements relating to European transport*

The ITC is regularly called upon to interpret, implement and adjust to changing circumstances and technical developments, the numerous agreements relating to European transport whose interpretation, implementation or adjustment have not been entrusted to any international organization other than ECE. The chronological list of such of those agreements as were concluded under the auspices of the ITC is appended to this programme.

07.1.6. *Technical questions*

The ITC is studying the renewal, standardization and utilization of rolling stock, and also certain technical problems relating to the improvement of rail transport equipment. Technical studies and practical applications are carried out, according to circumstances, on the recommendation of the ITC, either by governments with the assistance of the secretariat, or — more generally — by the UIC, or by the meeting of experts appointed by the UIC and experts of railway administrations which are not members of the UIC, but whose countries take part in the work of the ECE. The ITC has also undertaken the study of the rationalization and mechanization of loading and unloading operations in river ports.

07.2. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF AN *ad hoc* NATURE

07.2.1. *Transport of perishable foodstuffs*

Preparation of a general agreement or recommendations on the international transport of perishable foodstuffs covering such subjects as transport equipment.

Revision of the Protocol on Packaging. This work is proceeding concurrently with that undertaken by the Committee on Agricultural Problems concerning the standardization of products. The work should be finished in 1957.

07.2.2. *Transport and handling of dangerous goods and related operations*

Drafting of two European agreements on the international transport of dangerous goods by road and inland waterway, and, if deemed appropriate, preparation of general rules for the handling of dangerous goods, having regard to the studies being carried out in this field at the world level and for all modes of transport. The road transport agreement is likely to be ready for signature in 1957, after which the question will be classified under 07.1.5. Study of the other questions will be continued in 1958 and 1959.

07.2.3. *Equipment used for combined transport and mechanization of handling operations*

Work on the standardization and efficient use of combined-transport equipment; legal questions and conditions of carriage (tariffs); questions relating to the mechanization of handling operations (pallets, loading trays, fork-lift trucks, etc.).

07.3. OTHER PROJECTS

07.3.1. *Terminology*

To ensure uniformity in the terminology and definitions used by its subsidiary bodies, the ITC asked them to prepare draft lists of technical terms and definitions applicable to their particular fields of activity. A consolidated list of terms applicable to transport will be prepared at a later stage.

08. — STEEL ⁸⁴

08.1. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF A CONTINUING NATURE

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 discusses 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 considers what action might be taken to deal with problems thus revealed and analysed. The major emphasis is at present on (a) the main features of the steel market of western European countries in 1956; (b) developments in the steel market of eastern European countries, including plans and their fulfilment, productivity and internal trade; (c) trends in the main sectors of demand for steel in 1956; and (d) indirect steel exports.

08.1.2. *Long-term trends and problems in the European steel industry*

After a systematic examination of various aspects of the question of substitution between steel and other materials, and after a series of detailed enquiries into the main sectors of the steel industry, the Committee began to follow up developments in these fields within a wider framework. The Committee is considering, in particular, the evolution of steel-making capacity, both in Europe and overseas; requirements and potential output of steel-making raw materials, including the likely evolution of the pattern of trade in raw materials, particularly in view of the increasing shortage of certain materials, especially scrap; and the growth of demand for steel in Europe and overseas, including problems of inter-European trade and trade between Europe and overseas. These problems will be considered together in a somewhat longer-term perspective. The purpose is to examine what measures of intra-European co-operation and inter-regional co-operation might ease the problems inherent in meeting the levels of demand that can reasonably be anticipated; and secondly, to examine the measures that would help Europe to adapt itself to the probable long-term changes in the world steel market.

08.1.3 *Technical co-operation*

The Committee endeavours to promote co-operation on technical problems relating to steel. A Technolo-

⁸⁴ The Programme of Work of the Steel Committee for 1957/58 was adopted by the Committee at its seventeenth session (E/ECE/Steel/109, para. 17).

gical Review is prepared annually on an all-European basis, and exchanges of visits of experts and information on a reciprocal basis are encouraged.

08.1.4. *Statistics*

The Committee promotes the collection and improvement of steel statistics, and advises the secretariat on the preparation and issue of a quarterly bulletin providing detailed European statistics on a comparable basis. The Working Party on Steel Statistics is engaged in a thorough review of the regular questionnaires, and is paying particular attention to the improvement of statistics of deliveries, stocks and actual consumption.

08.2. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF AN *ad hoc* NATURE

08.2.1. *Methodology of manning tables*

The Committee is considering 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.

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 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 the exchange of information on methods of calculating iron- and steel-making capacity.

09. — TIMBER ⁸⁵

(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. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF A CONTINUING NATURE

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

⁸⁵ The Programme of Work of the Timber Committee for 1957/58 was adopted by the Committee at its fourteenth session (E/ECE/TIM/54, para. 15).

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).

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.

In 1957, selected countries will be invited to prepare case studies concerning the collection, transportation and utilization of forestry and sawmill waste. No other work is contemplated on this project during the coming year.

The further implementation of this project will be re-examined in 1957 in the light of specific proposals to be prepared by member countries, taking into account the secretariat resources then available.

09.2. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF AN *ad hoc* NATURE

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, 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. 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 ⁸⁶

10.1 PRIORITY PROJECTS OF A CONTINUING NATURE

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.

10.1.2. *Consultations of experts on intra-European, especially east-west, trade*

The fifth annual Consultation of Experts on East-West Trade, in the form approved by the Committee, is scheduled to take place as part of the Sixth Session of the Committee.

10.1.3. *Interregional trade*

The Committee keeps under review the possibilities of expansion of interregional trade, including possible interregional trade consultations in the light of ECOSOC resolution 579 (XX) B.

10.2. PRIORITY PROJECTS OF AN *ad hoc* NATURE

10.2.1. *Improvement of payments arrangements*

Arrangements for putting into force the Joint Declaration on Multilateral Compensation for subscription by central banks, drafted pursuant to the recommendation adopted by the Committee at its fourth session, are being made. The Committee is also exploring means of further improving east-west payments relations by enlarging the degree of multilateralization whilst taking into account the effect on 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*

The Committee, at its fifth session, referred to governments a series of recommendations drawn up by its working party on this subject, and is keeping this question under review at the annual sessions.

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.

Financial implications, 1957/58

448. It was anticipated that the Programme of Work, as adopted at the twelfth session of the Commission, could be undertaken within the limits of the regular budget, with the exception of project 08.1.4 as it related to the revised form of publication proposed for the quarterly *Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe*. This publication had been recommended for printing as a trilingual bulletin (in place of the present bilingual edition) to include all three working languages of the Commission. The estimated additional cost of this enlargement would be \$3,900 in the first year, reflecting the initial cost of setting up the new format, and \$2,100 in subsequent years. (See also E/ECE/288.)

⁸⁶ The Programme of Work of the Committee on the Development of Trade for 1957/58 was adopted by the Committee at its fifth session.

ANNEX

PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE 1956/57 PROGRAMME OF WORK WHICH HAVE BEEN DELETED, MERGED OR ADDED IN THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1957/58

Projects deleted

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>02. — Agriculture</i></p> <p>02.1.3. Long-term trade arrangements</p> <p>02.1.5. Lists of exhibitions, fairs and similar events having an agricultural interest</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>03. — Coal</i></p> <p>03.3.1. Studies of consumption trends in particular countries</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>04. — Electric power</i></p> <p>04.3.1 Organization of electric power services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>06. — Housing and building</i></p> <p>06.2.6. Concrete in house construction</p> <p>06.2.7. Substitution between building materials</p> <p>06.3.1. Housing needs of a family</p> <p>06.3.3. Building codes and regulations</p> <p>06.3.4. Town and country planning</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>07. — Transport</i></p> <p>07.1.1. (in part) General policy : Study of methods of co-ordination</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>08. — Steel</i></p> <p>08.2.3. Directory of organizations concerned with iron and steel</p>
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Projects merged

02. — AGRICULTURE

1956/57 PROGRAMME	1957/58 PROGRAMME
02.1.1. Review of situation and short-term trade outlook for selected agricultural products	02.1.1. Review of market situation and outlook
02.1.2. Longer-term trends and forecasts	
02.3.1. Prices of agricultural products, fertilizers, etc.	
02.3.2. Output and expenses of agriculture in European countries	
02.2.1. Studies on quality standards of perishable foodstuffs	02.1.2. Studies and measures to facilitate the import and export of agricultural commodities by European countries
02.2.2. Standard conditions of sale	
02.2.3. Structural problems of long-term contracts	
02.1.4. Exchange of films	02.1.3. Exchange of technical information and experience
02.2.4. Mechanization of agriculture	
02.2.5. Exchange of information on technical problems	

03. — COAL

03.1.3. Consumption of solid fuels by consuming sectors	03.1.1. Long-term problems facing governments in regard to the development of the coal industry and trade in Europe
03.2.2. Coal in relation to other forms of energy	

04. — ELECTRIC POWER

04.1.2. Electric power situation during previous year	04.1.1. Analysis of the electric power situation in Europe
04.2.1. Exports of electric power from Yugoslavia	
04.2.3. Prospects of electric power exchanges between countries of central and south-eastern Europe	
	04.1.2. The development of transfers of electric power across frontiers

- 04.2.4. Influence of mechanization on the construction cost of }
hydro-electric power stations
- 04.2.3. Exchange of information in the technical field

06. — *HOUSING*

- 06.2.1. Analysis of the European housing situation }
06.2.2. Formulation of house-building programmes } 06.1.1. Survey of housing progress and policies
06.2.3. Housing management }
06.2.4. Slum-clearance policies } 06.2.2. Problems of existing housing stock
06.2.5. Cost of building }
06.2.8. Contract practices } 06.1.3. Industrialization of house-building

09. — *TIMBER*

- 09.1.3. Establishment of timber-price series }
09.1.1. Review of timber market for Europe, including timber statistics

10. — *TRADE*

- 10.1.2. Long-term trade arrangements }
10.1.1. Review of developments in intra-European, especially east-west, trade

Projects added02. — *Agriculture*

- 02.2.1. Situation and outlook for horse-breeding in Europe

03. — *Coal*

- 03.1.1. Long-term problems facing governments in regard to the development of the coal industry and trade in Europe
03.1.2. Production problems

04. — *Electric power*

- 04.2.3. Exchange of information in the technical field

08. — *Steel*

- 08.2.1. Methodology of manning tables

10. — *Trade*

- 10.2.4. Foreign trade problems of southern European countries
10.3.2. Exchange of information regarding organization, techniques and mechanization of retail and wholesale trade

ANNEX I¹

GENERAL REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND CO-ORDINATION OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES

NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Introduction

1. Under resolution 630 A.1 (XXII), adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 951st plenary meeting on 9 August 1956, the regional economic commissions and the functional commissions

were requested "to pay special attention to further concentration of their activities on major economic, social and human rights problems, as may be appropriate, and to the more efficient co-ordination of the said activities and to include a special section thereon in their next reports to the Council". A parallel recommendation was made to the specialized agencies.

¹ See para. 425 above.

2. Also, in this resolution, the Economic and Social Council, while commending the Secretary-General for the action already taken to streamline the work of the United Nations in these fields, asked him to transmit a further report, *inter alia*, "on the work programmes of the regional economic Commissions and the functional Commissions".

3. The Council decided that its Co-ordination Committee would meet one week before the opening of its twenty-fourth session (in July 1957) in order to consider the report of the Secretary-General referred to above, and the relevant sections of the reports of the regional economic commissions, functional commissions and specialized agencies, and in order to prepare recommendations to the Council thereon for consideration at the same session.

4. It will also be recalled that over the past several years the Economic and Social Council has adopted a number of resolutions regarding concentration of effort, priorities and co-ordination of work programmes in the economic and social and human rights fields. At previous session, the attention of this Commission has been drawn to the most important of these resolutions — i.e., 324 (XI), 362 B (XII), 402 B (XIII), 451 A (XIV), 497 C (XVI), 553 (XVIII) and 590 (XX), and the Commission has taken them into account in reviewing its work programmes.

5. The present note is submitted to the twelfth session of the Commission by the Executive Secretary in order to assist it in the consideration of the resolution referred to in paragraph 1 above. It is divided into four parts: Part I (paras. 6-13) describes the efforts of the Commission and the secretariat in the direction of co-ordination and concentration of activities; Part II (para. 14) summarizes the action taken by the Committees in the light of the Council's resolution 630 A.1 (XXII); Part III (paras. 15-17) gives an analytical classification of projects in the draft Programme of Work for 1957/58; Part IV (paras. 18-32) discusses further co-ordination and concentration.

PART I

Efforts by the Commission and the secretariat to achieve co-ordination and concentration

6. The Commission and its subsidiary bodies form a complex of organs at the disposal of the governments of the region through which they may reach agreement on matters of common concern. As a subordinate body to the Economic and Social Council, which has drawn up the terms of reference of the Commission and which reviews its work periodically, the Commission works within a world-wide framework, and refers to its parent body questions of more than regional concern. It is necessary to bear in mind the fact that when in this note reference is made to the Commission and the committees, it is to the authorized representatives of sovereign governments acting within the framework of the Commission, and using this organ of the United Nations to achieve purposes they wish to seek in common.

7. Concentration and co-ordination have in fact been constant aims of the Commission, and its structure and procedures have been so devised as to facilitate the attainment of these aims. Annually, both at the committee and at the commission levels, the regular practice has been to review all work projects and programmes and to consider with particular care any proposals for new undertakings. Each committee, in accordance with a specific directive of the Commission, makes a regular yearly reappraisal of its work programme, including the work of its own subsidiary bodies, eliminating projects considered to be no longer of general interest, and attaching to each project an up-to-date priority evaluation in accordance with the categories defined by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 324 (XI) Annex. At its annual sessions, the Commission not only has before it for consideration its draft programme of work

for the forthcoming year based upon this prior review by governmental experts, but also devotes about half of its time to a detailed examination of the work of each of its subsidiary bodies. Following these discussions, it has been the practice for the Commission to take decisions emphasizing certain aspects of the work of the committees which in its view require further concentration or co-ordination of effort, as well as to draw up a resolution concerning the programme of work which brings to the attention of the committees the points made at the annual session inviting the committees to consider these points when adjusting their work programmes.

8. Both the Commission and the committees carefully co-ordinate their work at every stage with the programmes and activities of other international organs and organizations, in the first instance with those of its parent body, the Economic and Social Council, and also with the other regional economic commissions, the functional Commissions of the Council and the specialized agencies, as well as with appropriate inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies engaged in work related to that undertaken in the Commission. All relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council are considered by the Commission and brought to the attention of the committees. Co-operation with other international organizations is facilitated by the active participation of their representatives or members of their staffs in the meetings of the committees and sub-groups of the Commission. An annual review is made by the Commission of relations with outside organizations (the review for 1956-1957 is contained in document E/ECE/275), and each committee makes special efforts not only to inform other interested bodies of its activities, but also, so far as possible, to co-operate and share its work with them so as to avoid duplication and jointly to achieve the greatest possible economy. In regard to co-operation with specialized agencies, care is taken to follow a procedure similar to that specified in rule 80 of the Council's rules regarding consultation on proposals of common interest.

9. Mindful of the need to focus its efforts on major problems, the Commission has adopted a number of special resolutions referring to certain aspects of the responsibilities under its Terms of Reference, which governments wished to emphasize. Thus, at its eleventh session, in March-April 1956, the Commission, in resolution 4 (XI), instructed its committees "to continue to devote special attention in their work to the exchange, on a reciprocal basis, of production experience, scientific-technical and statistical information, and the development of mutually advantageous trade"; it suggested that committees should devote a special section of their annual reports to results achieved in this respect, and requested the Executive Secretary to submit to the twelfth session a full report thereon. (See document E/ECE/271.) At its tenth session, in March 1955, the Commission, in resolution 1 (X), had stressed the need for an expansion of the exchange of technical information and experience between the countries taking part in the Commission's work, and recommended to the committees that "parallel to their consideration of economic problems they devote more attention to the exchange on a reciprocal basis, of production experience and scientific technical and statistical information". It will be recalled in this connexion that paragraph 1 (b) of the Terms of Reference provides that the Commission should "make or sponsor such investigations and studies of technological problems of and developments within member countries of the Commission and within Europe generally as the Commission deems appropriate"; and that paragraph 1 (c) provides that the Commission "shall undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate". At its ninth session, in March 1954, in adopting its work programme for 1954/55, the Commission had expressed the desire, while incorporating in its programme of work "subjects related to the development and to the strengthening of economic relations between all countries of Europe", to exclude from it "any subjects which are of no immediate significance for the Commission's activities". These

and other similar decisions of the Commission have been brought to the attention of the committees, which have taken them into account when formulating their work programmes.

10. Co-ordination and concentration of the work of the regional Commissions and of the United Nations as a whole is also carried out through joint programmes in a number of fields chosen for combined operations on a world-wide scale. Thus, the requests made by the Economic and Social Council for a concerted approach in the direction of industrialization (resolutions 597 A (XXI) and 618 (XXII)) and water resource utilization (resolution 599 (XXI)) have been followed by the intensification of work related to these objectives undertaken by the committees concerned, in co-operation with other regional Commissions and other bodies in the United Nations family. In the fields of agriculture and timber, intensive co-ordination has been achieved by virtue of the joint work programme carried out by ECE and FAO. Under the arrangements made between the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Director-General of FAO, the FAO secretariat has stationed in Geneva professional staff servicing the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems and the ECE Timber Committee, thus facilitating full co-ordination of their activities and a concentration of each organization on work for which it is especially qualified. The Manpower Committee has been kept dormant, and the ILO has been called upon to undertake work in this field reporting annually to the Commission. As regards improvement of statistics, close and continuing co-operation is maintained between the work of the Statistical Commission and the work done by the Conference of European Statisticians and also between the Conference and the specialized agencies and other international organizations in Europe; this co-operation is helping to bring about effective co-ordination and concentration in a field where standardized practices are particularly important.

11. Concentration of efforts and resources and co-ordination have also been primary objectives for the secretariat in planning and carrying out the work requested by the Commission and its subsidiary organs. In recent years, the tasks which the Commission has asked it to perform have been steadily increasing, while the personnel of the secretariat and the budget have both been reduced. This development has been in line with the policy of the Executive Secretary, and reference may be made in particular to his opening speech at the eleventh session (document E/ECE/242), wherein he expressed the view that the secretariat of an international organization should be a hard-pressed staff, since "essentially and ultimately the work which needs to be done is work by the governments themselves" with the goal being "a maximum of practical results with a minimum of secretariat assistance". It has therefore been a constant preoccupation of the Executive Secretary to focus the limited resources available on work of primary importance for all-European economic co-operation along the lines agreed upon by governments. In so doing, the Executive Secretary has borne in mind the consideration and principles to which the Secretary-General referred in his report, *Review of the Organization and Work of the Secretariat in the Economic and Social Field* (document E/2598) of 13 May 1954, and in particular has been continuously asking the questions whether specific activities entrusted to the secretariat are within its proper sphere of competence and how the resources of the secretariat should be distributed so as to accomplish its tasks most efficiently. In convening meetings, the Executive Secretary, following the principle that no meeting is better than a bad meeting, has taken care to ensure that they are held only if and when they can be properly prepared in co-operation with interested governments, and appear likely to bring positive results in the near future. When new projects have been proposed in the subsidiary organs of the Commission, or when these bodies have been making their annual re-appraisals of their work programmes, the secretariat has always considered it its duty to advise the government representatives on the feasibility of particular projects and the most economical use of resources. In the atmosphere of confidence

which has characterized the work in all the organs of the Commission, suggestions from the secretariat of a substantive as well as procedural character, with the aim of helping governmental representatives in the Committees achieve economy through co-ordination and concentration of effort, have been appreciated, and have for the most part been adopted.

12. In a broader setting, the secretariat of the ECE, being an integral part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, is in a position to help governments co-ordinate the work of the Commission with that of its parent body, the Economic and Social Council, as well as with other organs of the United Nations. In addition to the close day-by-day contacts which are maintained with other units of the United Nations Secretariat, the periodic meetings of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, with the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary in charge of Economic and Social Affairs, provide a valuable means for concentration of effort and co-ordination on the part of the secretariat. Co-ordination and concentration of the work of the regional economic commissions and other United Nations bodies through joint programmes are, in fact, main objectives of these meetings at which the secretariat's future work plans are considered in detail. Special attention has been given to the possibility of more closely tying in the programmes of the regional commissions with those undertaken on a world-wide level — as, for example, in the fields of industrialization and water resource development. Intensified programmes in the fields of mineral resource development and energy are also under active consideration.

13. Thus, the Commission and the committees, assisted by the secretariat, have sought, each at its own level, to concentrate their work on major issues, and to co-ordinate it with the activities of the United Nations as a whole.

PART II

Action taken by Committees in the light of resolution 630 A.1 (XXII)

14. In order to assist in the further co-ordination and concentration of the work programme, the Executive Secretary has felt it appropriate to bring resolution 630 A.1 (XXII) to the attention of each committee which has met since its adoption by the Council in August 1956 without waiting for this resolution to be considered by the Commission itself. The governmental representatives in the committees, having taken this resolution into account, and having before them also suggestions by the secretariat for co-ordination and concentration, have made a number of changes in the committees' work programmes consolidating, transferring or eliminating projects while adding others deemed to be of importance. As a result of the measures taken by the committees and the secretariat, the draft programme of work for 1957/58 (see document E/ECE/279) shows the following main changes as compared with 1956/57.²

01.2.1. *Development problems of southern Europe.* The phase of the work carried out by a special Group of Experts has terminated following the submission to the Commission of the report of the Group; work on certain issues is being pursued as a regular part of the programmes of the subsidiary organs of the Commission (especially the Committees on Agricultural Problems, Housing, Inland Transport, Steel and Development of Trade), while follow-up action with regard to land use and afforestation is being taken over by FAO (see document E/ECE/274).

² Project numbers referred to herein are those used in the 1956/57 Programme of Work as contained in document E/2868.

01.2.2. *Energy problems.* As the submission by governments of the information required has been inadequate, the Executive Secretary decided not to convene the Special Meeting of Experts on Energy Problems authorized by the Commission at its eleventh session. This meeting was originally intended to take place before the Commission's twelfth session; it will now have to be held later, and will not be convened until adequate preparations have been made. (See document E/ECE/268.)

01.2.3. *Gas problems.* On the basis of the Commission's decision at its eleventh session, an *Ad hoc* Working Party has been set up on this question. It selected a number of major problems in the field of production, transport and utilization of gas considered as of interest to the participating governments and examined them in two sessions held in 1956 - 1957. The Working Party expressed the opinion that "useful results could be accomplished by further consideration of such questions on an international basis and that this work should be continued". (See document E/ECE/269.)

01.2.4. *Pollution of waters.* On the basis of the Commission's request at its eleventh session, a consultation on this question was held in February 1957. The Consultation drew up a list of problems considered of major importance on which international co-operation was deemed particularly desirable. The experts agreed that the problem mainly concerned public health, industrial utilization of water, fisheries and agriculture, and that efforts made by various organizations in this field required co-ordination. A decision is to be taken at the twelfth session on future activities in this field. (See document E/ECE/257.)

02. *Agriculture*

At its eighth session, in January 1957, the Committee consolidated its work programme so that it now comprises three priority projects of a continuing nature and one priority project of an *ad hoc* nature.

03. *Coal*

At its thirty-ninth session, in December 1956, the Committee eliminated the study of consumption trends in particular countries from the work programme; only one project (03.3.1. Pitwood supplies) remains in the non-priority category. The Working Party on Coal Classification has completed an agreement on the classification of hard coal — an agreement which is in fact now being applied in commercial practice. Its work aiming at an agreement on an international classification of brown coal and lignites as well as coke is expected to be terminated in 1958. The special studies on consumption of hard fuels by consuming sectors have been postponed, and the Committee is now concentrating on coal policy problems of particular urgency as regards production, trade and economy in use.

04. *Electric power*

At its fourteenth session, in November 1956, the Committee revised its work programme. It deleted project 04.3.1 on electric power organizations, and eliminated or postponed work on seasonal variations in hydro-potential, the preparation of maps of run-off and rainfall and on water temperatures. No projects remain in the non-priority category. The work on the Yougelexport project has now progressed to the point where it has been possible to set up outside the Committee's framework a syndicate of interested power companies from the four countries concerned. The work on rural electrification involving the preparation of reports by governmental rapporteurs has made substantial progress and 16 of the 36 reports planned have been agreed upon; after the remaining reports have been completed, the Committee plans to deal with this problem on the basis of an annual survey of developments of particular economic significance. Among the projects being given added emphasis by the Committee are the publication on an all-European basis of quarterly and annual bulletins of electric power statistics,

an enquiry into the possibilities of electric power exchanges between countries of central and south-eastern Europe, and the exchange of technical information designed to promote the development and help increase the productivity of electric power operations.

05. *Engineering and industrial materials*

The Industry and Materials Committee has not met since 1949, and there are no plans at present for re-convening it. Work on the problem of automation has been added to the programme of the Industry and Materials Committee on the basis of a decision by the Commission at its eleventh session, and is being pursued in the first instance by rapporteurs named by the governments of the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R. Project 05.1.1 — Review of trends of production, demand and trade in engineering products — is carried out mainly on the basis of studies included in the general economic research of the secretariat, and published as necessary in the annual *Economic Survey* and quarterly *Economic Bulletin for Europe*. Furthermore, problems of the engineering industries are discussed regularly in reports examined by the Steel Committee, in view of the importance of these activities from the point of view of steel demand.

06. *Housing and building*

At its thirteenth session, in November/December 1956, the Housing Committee examined thoroughly its activities and, as a result, a much more concentrated programme has been adopted for 1957/58. Apart from the regular review of housing progress and policies and the work on statistics, to both of which the Committee attaches great importance, work is now being concentrated primarily on two questions — the industrialization of house building with a view to reducing the real cost of building, and the financing of housing. All non-priority projects have been eliminated.

07. *Inland transport*

It will be recalled that at its twelfth session, in November 1954, the Committee had made a basic revision of its work programme in order to concentrate its efforts on questions of major importance. At its sixteenth session, in December 1956, the Committee adopted its work programme for 1957/58 with the aim of further concentration in the light of the progress made during the past three years. The Committee decided to discontinue the study of questions of principle concerning transport co-ordination (project 07.1.1) and it eliminated under project 07.1.2 studies on tariff discrimination, requesting the International Union of Railways to continue the work on this question guided by the conclusions reached in the Committee's study. In order to lighten the meeting schedule for 1957, the Committee decided not to convene during this year its Working Parties on Fiscal Charges and on Combined Transport Equipment.

08. *Steel*

At its seventeenth session, in December 1956, the Steel Committee thoroughly reviewed its activities in the light of the fact that some major pieces of work which had occupied its attention during recent years had been completed or almost completed, in particular the comprehensive reports on sectors of the steel industry, the work on substitution between steel and other materials, the agreement reached on a common definition of iron and steel making capacity, and the directory of national organizations in Europe and the United States and international organizations concerned with iron and steel. In the programme adopted for 1957/58, the Committee is now concentrating its attention principally on an examination of current market trends and problems, and on an analysis within a

wider framework of long-term trends and problems confronting the European steel industry, with particular reference to investment, raw materials and trade.

09. *Timber*

At its fourteenth session, in October 1956, the Committee adopted a work programme for 1957/58 designed to achieve the concentration of effort through re-classification of most of the Committee's projects. More national utilization of wood has been moved to the priority category. On the other hand, long-term timber trends, general conditions of sale for timber and timber grading have been put in the non-priority category, and the quarterly *Timber Bulletin for Europe* has been simplified and shortened. Work on the general conditions of sale for sawn softwood prepared under the auspices of a special working party has been completed and the introduction of these clauses in international trade has begun. Timber grading has been referred to the International Standardization Organization, a non-governmental body.

10. *Development of trade*

At its fifth session, in October 1956, the Committee adopted its Work Programme for 1956/57. It decided to delete as a special project work on long-term trade arrangements, and to include this subject in its regular annual review of developments in intra-European trade. Similarly, the Committee has moved to non-priority status the work on trade fairs and technical shows; a series of recommendations on this subject having been drawn up and referred to governments, the Committee has decided not to re-convene the Working Party.

PART III

Analytical classification of projects in draft Programme of Work

15. To assist the Commission in considering Council resolution 630 A.1 (XXII), the secretariat has prepared an analytical classification of projects in the draft Programme of Work for 1957/58, grouping them according to objective. The appendix to the present note contains this classification.

16. On the basis of this classification, the draft programme of the Commission can be regarded as being concentrated upon the following major economic problems confronting its participating governments :

- (1) Analysis of economic and social trends and policies;
- (2) Development of economically less-developed countries;
- (3) Development of resources and expansion of output and productivity in key economic sectors;
- (4) Expansion of international trade and investment;
- (5) Improvement of transport and communications;
- (6) Improvement of statistical coverage and co-operation.

17. It may be seen that the projects in the draft programme of work are not a series of unrelated or piecemeal activities, but represent together a broad scale effort by governments on an all-European basis to arrange international co-operation on issues of primary concern to the United Nations as a whole. In fact, it has been a distinctive feature of the Commission's practice over the past ten years to proceed gradually and pragmatically, to deal with the main problems by seeking agreement on specific points which are elements of the big issues and on which practical results in a reasonably near future can be attained. Within the framework of the Commission, the participating governments have constantly sought

to avoid dealing with issues on a high level of generality where, in fact, agreement is often impossible or of little significance. In this way, the Commission has been able, despite the deep rifts dividing the continent, to help governments make real though modest progress toward the solution of a large number of practical problems which, taken together, make up the major economic issues.

PART IV

Further co-ordination and concentration

18. In formulating its own recommendations to the Committees, and in drawing up the part of its report to the Economic and Social Council dealing with resolution A.1 (XXII), the Commission may now wish to have before it the views of the Executive Secretary on the possibility of further concentration and co-ordination.

19. It will be recalled that, without awaiting consideration by the Commission itself of ECOSOC resolution 630 A.1 (XXII), the committees which have met since August 1956 have had their attention called to that resolution and have, in fact, revised their work programmes in the light thereof with particular reference to the objective of further co-ordination and concentration on major issues.

20. In the opinion of the Executive Secretary, the committees' present work programmes as they have emerged from this and earlier revisions represent a satisfactory co-ordination and concentration of effort on major issues; nevertheless, there is, in his view, some room for further improvement. Indeed, there is a constant need for continued efforts toward these goals, the more so as the development of events calls continually for re-appraisal of the major issues to which attention can best be devoted on an international level.

21. As regards the inclusion of particular projects and their priority rating, the Executive Secretary sees at present no need for substantial changes. Some of the committees have included in their work programmes projects which are of a non-priority nature but this is done mainly in order to indicate and place on record that the subject remains of concern to the Committee even though work on it is not being pressed. Some projects in the priority category envisage work by outside agencies, but it is felt that their deletion would not be advisable since the committees wish to watch over the matter under consideration, particularly as regards the broader economic policy aspects; they therefore wish to receive reports regularly from these outside agencies on the progress made. Thus, for instance, the Inland Transport Committee, being the only over-all European regional organ for inter-governmental co-operation in this field, not only brings together governmental representatives but also representatives of international associations of carriers, users, equipment manufacturers and other interested groups whose activities in this important sector the participating governments wish to co-ordinate and concentrate.

22. With these important qualifications in mind, the governments represented in the committees might in the year to come wish to consider the following suggestions relating to the activities of the committees, in particular :

(i) Sessions of the Committee on Agricultural Problems might be held at annual rather than six-monthly intervals; this would increase the importance of prompt submission by governments of their trade and production forecasts.

(ii) The Working Party on Agricultural Machinery (under the auspices of the Industry and Materials Committee) and the Working Party on the Mechanization of Agriculture (under the Committee on Agricultural Problems) are operating on parallel lines considering what is essentially the same complex of problems though viewed from the standpoints of producers and users of equipment; consideration might be given in due course to the desirability of combining

the efforts of these working parties in an appropriate form jointly to consider all aspects of the problem.

(iii) The project of the Conference of European Statisticians on the preparation of a glossary of technical statistical terms might be given non-priority status, and arrangements worked out to make it the direct responsibility of the International Statistical Institute.

(iv) The project of the Coal Committee on the pitwood supply situation (03.3.1) might be deleted, as the problem is for the time being not of major concern.

(v) Project 05.1.1 (Review of trends of production, demand and trade in engineering products) could be deleted as it is part of the work done by the secretariat in keeping under review and analysing economic developments and problems (01.1.1), and also necessarily forms part of projects 08.1.1 and 08.1.2 in the programme of the Steel Committee.

(vi) The project of the Inland Transport Committee on Terminology (07.1.5), although handled so as to require a minimum of work on the part of governments and the secretariat, might be deleted from the work programme on the ground that it is of relatively minor importance.

23. Apart from the question of reconsideration of particular projects and activities, a greater concentration of effort on certain major issues in the light of recent developments should, in the opinion of the Executive Secretary, be considered by the governments participating in the committees.

24. *Energy.* The energy situation of Europe has now reached a critical stage. Intensified work is required on the part of the Electric Power Committee, the Coal Committee and (if the Commission decides to continue its activities) of the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Gas. These bodies should focus their work on helping to co-ordinate investment policies and aims, to increase production, to eliminate waste in use and to improve productivity in their respective fields. They should, in particular, give increasing and highest priority to work aimed at resource development. Thus the Electric Power Committee and the Coal Committee should seek to bring to early fruition practical schemes for more rapid development of energy resources, particularly in central and southern Europe. The work of the Electric Power Committee relating to water potentials should also be hastened so as to be of maximum value as part of the co-ordinated effort which is being made on a world-wide level under the Council's resolution on water resources. The secretariat has already devoted considerable attention to research on energy problems, and intends to give special emphasis to further analysis of the above aspects of the problems, co-operating closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the secretariats of the other regional economic commissions. As regards work on the economic aspects of electric power production from nuclear energy sources, care should be taken that any action in this field is carefully co-ordinated with that taken in a wider sphere by the United Nations. This problem cannot, of course, be ignored when analysing the energy balance and the economic situation and prospects of Europe; thus, the Electric Power Committee has repeatedly stated that it wishes to continue to keep itself informed of developments in this field. In considering its possible role the Committee has, however, shown full awareness of the need for a co-ordination and concentration of efforts on a problem which, while of vital regional concern, is also being dealt with on a world-wide level.

25. *Expansion in other key sectors.* The need for expansion of output and productivity in other key sectors of the European economy such as agriculture, steel, timber and housing should also be given special emphasis as a major objective. Projects already in the work programme, such as mechanization of farm operations, the expansion of steel making capacity, the better utilization of wood residues and the industrialization of house building and automation, deserve particular attention. It should also be kept in mind that

much of this work can be of value in the application of Council resolution 597 A (XXI) on industrialization and productivity.

26. *Expansion of trade.* The expansion of international trade has increasingly become a major aim for all of the committees, and not only for the Committee on the Development of Trade. Recent developments in intra-European trade and Europe's trade with other regions make it important that this trend should continue. The Commission and the committees are the only forums for governmental discussion of these problems on an all-European basis and can therefore perform a unique function.

27. *Exchange of technological information.* On the basis of the Commission's Terms of Reference and of resolutions adopted at the ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions, the committees have been giving increasing attention to the exchange of information on technological or technical problems. The Executive Secretary believes that this is a healthy trend, and that the Commission has made and can continue to make an important contribution in this way to economic progress in Europe. It should be borne in mind, however, that the resources at the disposal of the Commission are so limited, and the problems which could be explored so numerous, that it is essential to adopt the most economical methods of work. Although the committees have carefully defined and restricted the items on which technological information is exchanged under their auspices the Executive Secretary believes that continual vigilance is necessary on this question. In fact, the committees have been careful to utilize to the full facilities available in other organizations and to concentrate their own work on major technological problems of economic importance. In the field of housing, a non-governmental agency (the International Council for Building Research and Documentation) has been established with the sponsorship of the Committee; and the Committee, having delegated to it certain technical work, periodically reviews the results achieved. While the possibility of similar arrangements in other fields should be explored, the creation of such new organizations outside the United Nations is not necessarily a satisfactory solution in all instances. It may well be that in certain cases such work needs to be carried on by a committee during an incubation or trial period pending exploration of the possibility of creating an outside body. As far as the exchange of technological information under the auspices of the committees is concerned, much of it is as a matter of fact done in direct contacts among experts. The experts have the opportunity of exchanging information during the sessions and on such study tours or visits as may be organized. These are followed up by correspondence between meetings. In so far as the committees themselves remain directly responsible for technological exchanges, use has been made of the method of work through governmental rapporteurs. This technique which has proven particularly economical and efficient should be further expanded. While the secretariat should, of course, continue to act as intermediary in the exchange of technological information, it should not be asked to undertake technological research or act merely as a translation and publication bureau for technical studies which could better be disseminated in other ways. An important further consideration which should always govern the committees' work in the exchange of technological information is that this is of great interest to economically less developed countries in Europe and outside Europe, and that it is important wherever possible not only to obtain the participation of these countries, but also to choose for these exchanges topics of particular interest for their development. Also, judiciously administered, technological exchanges are in fact a valuable and relatively inexpensive complement to the United Nations programmes of technical assistance. Yet, precisely because of the great size of the problem and the many opportunities for useful co-operation, the Commission and the committees should from time to time review the experience gained in such exchanges so as to ensure that they are conducted in the most efficient ways and are given proper emphasis in relation to the ECE programme as a whole.

28. *Development of economically less developed countries.* It will be recalled that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have stressed the primary importance for the United Nations as a whole of the development of economically less developed countries and the need to promote industrialization and productivity in such countries; and also that the Secretary-General has stated that he proposes "to make this aim the guiding principle in the elaboration of the programmes and projects within the Secretariat, directly concerned with or necessary for the achievement of that objective". (Report to the Council, document E/2598.) Although the European region as a whole may be considered to be relatively highly developed, a number of European countries are making intensive efforts to promote their economic development and the Commission has given special attention to their problems. Following the study made by the secretariat on the Development Problems in southern European countries which formed part of the annual Economic Survey for 1953, and the completion of the work of the Special Group of Experts, set up by the Commission at the ninth session, which reported on its activities at the eleventh session, further action is being taken in the committees and by the secretariat, and a special item on this problem has been placed on the provisional agenda for the twelfth session.³ As has been pointed out above (paragraph 27), the work done under the auspices of the committees in the exchange of technological information can also be of importance for the economic development of countries outside as well as inside Europe. In the opinion of the Executive Secretary, the Commission should not only continue to give special attention to this problem but should also consider means of increasing the contribution which European countries are making through the United Nations to the economic development of the less-developed countries. While — as the Executive Secretary has frequently stated — the primary responsibility must rest on the countries seeking assistance in their economic development to utilize the facilities offered by the Commission more actively for this purpose, the Commission itself should, taking into account the emphasis given to this problem by the Council and the Assembly, explore how European governments can increase their aid to the economically less developed countries in Europe and in other regions.

29. As to the structure of the Commission and its committees, the Executive Secretary believes that care should be taken before setting up new committees or other bodies to make sure that they are fully justified and that they are designed to make a real contribution to the practical solution of major problems confronting the European economy. For example, while the Commission has indicated its belief that the problem of energy should be considered as a whole by experts specially convened for this purpose, it is undoubtedly necessary before such action is taken to ascertain that adequate statistical and other data have been made available for advance consideration. In this same spirit, and bearing in mind that the resources of governments and of the secretariat are limited, the Commission must make sure before any decision is taken to set up new bodies — for instance, to deal with the problem of water pollution in Europe — that the preparations are adequate, that all interested agencies are co-operating, and that the questions chosen for consideration are of a major character. Indeed, for this same reason, when committees annually examine their work programmes and review the work of their sub-organs, they should resolutely consider anew each year whether to maintain or discontinue the subordinate bodies to which they have entrusted particular tasks, avoiding situations where the work may become an end in itself and fail to achieve practical results within a reasonable time.

30. The present committee structure has been evolved and adjusted to changing needs and circumstances. Its represents a care-

³ See the Note by the Executive Secretary on Item No. 11, document E/ECE/274; the projects listed in Category II of the draft Programme of Work for 1957/58 (document E/ECE/279) and the reports of the Committees on Electric Power, Housing, Steel, Timber, Development of Trade and Transport (document E/ECE/265).

fully established balance agreed to by participating governments. Committees have been set up and have operated on the basis of full agreement as to the definite purposes they should serve; the terms of reference given to the committees have always been unanimously agreed. In the process of structural adjustment, certain committees have during certain periods not been convened when the Executive Secretary has considered that no useful work could be done by them. His actions in this regard have been upheld by the Commission without exception. At the present time, the Industry and Materials Committee is dormant, though some work under its auspices is going on as called for by the Commission. The Manpower Committee has not met since April 1948 and from the beginning its work was delegated to the ILO. The Executive Secretary does not, however, believe that it would be wise to abolish these committees. This would not, in fact, result in any reduction of the work and would tend to upset the balanced agreement reached between participating governments.

31. In the comments made above, the Executive Secretary has not referred to the research work of the secretariat. This is carried out on the sole responsibility of the secretariat, taking into account, of course, the requirements of the Commission and the committees, and the kind of economic analyses important for their programmes. The Executive Secretary firmly believes that the research work done under the auspices of the Commission is one of its fundamental pillars, providing a basis for the consideration by governments, both individually and as members of the Commission, of important problems of economic policy and being a necessary support to the Commission and the committees in the conduct of their work. He would refer in this connexion not only to the regular analysis of economic developments in Europe and the attention given to the development problems of the less developed countries and regions in Europe, but also to such special studies as those made concerning the problems of European agriculture, European transport problems, the energy problem (on which more intensive work is now going on), and the fostering of international statistical co-operation on an all-European basis. The Executive Secretary is convinced that the high scientific quality of this work should not be lowered and that any reduction, limitation or dilution of its standards, purview or scope would be against the interest of the Commission and of the governments participating in its activities. The Executive Secretary has been gratified over the years by the appreciation shown by governments for the research work done under the auspices of the Commission. He sees no reason to believe that the views to this effect which governments have frequently expressed on this subject have been altered and trusts that they want this work to be continued in the same manner as in the past.

32. It is the considered judgment of the Executive Secretary that no major changes are at present needed in the emphasis and direction of the work of the Commission in order to ensure further concentration and co-ordination of effort. The Executive Secretary believes that the method of annual reappraisal of work programmes by governmental representatives in working parties, committees and the Commission has proved to be an effective means for these purposes. Over the past ten years, satisfactory procedures and working practices have been developed which guarantee an appropriate regard for wider perspectives and at the same time for the interests of economy. The necessity to emphasize the importance of co-ordination and concentration ought not to be taken to mean that the Commission should be reduced or indeed even stabilized in scope and significance. The fact that the past few years have brought a considerable increase in the activities of the Commission is surely no grounds for regret, but should be welcomed as indicating tangible progress. More and not less co-operation is required among the governments of the region, and the continued expansion of the strength and effectiveness of the Commission as an instrument for this purpose must always be the primary aim.

APPENDIX

Projects in draft Programme of Work for ECE 1957/58 classified according to objective

NOTE. — Projects marked with an asterisk are mainly carried out under the supervision of the committees by special bodies outside the United Nations structure.

I. *Analysis of Economic and Social Trends and Policies*

- 01.1.1. Continuing review and analysis of European economic developments and problems
- 04.1.1. Analysis of the electric power situation in Europe
- 05.1.1. Review of trends of production, demand and trade in engineering products
- 06.1.1. Survey of housing progress and policies

II. *Development of Economically Less Developed Countries*

- 01.1.3. Co-operation in the technical assistance programme
- 01.2.1. Development problems of southern Europe
- 06.1.2. Housing problems of less industrialized countries
- 10.2.4. Foreign trade problems of southern European countries

III. *Development of Resources and Expansion of Output and Productivity in Key Economic Sectors*

- 01.2.2. Energy problems in Europe
- 01.2.3. Gas problems in Europe
- 01.2.4. Pollution of waters in Europe
- 02.1.3. Exchange of technical information and experience [Agriculture]
- 02.2.1. Situation and outlook for horse-breeding in Europe
- 03.1.1. Long-term problems facing governments in regard to the development of the coal industry and trade in Europe
- 03.1.2. Production problems [Coal]
- 03.1.4. Solid fuel utilization
- 03.3.1. Pitwood supplies
- 04.1.2. The development of transfers of electric power across frontiers
- 04.1.3. The hydro-electric development of waterways of common interest
- 04.1.4. Rural electrification
- 04.2.1. Hydro-electric resources of European countries
- 04.2.2. Production of electric power by nuclear power stations
- 04.2.3. Exchange of information in the technical field [Electric Power]
- 05.2.1. Agriculture machinery
- 05.2.2. Automation
- 06.1.3. Industrialization of house-building
- 06.2.1. Financing of house-building programmes
- 06.2.2. Problems of existing housing stock
- 06.2.3* Utilization of space in current types of dwellings
- 08.1.2. Long-term trends and problems in the European steel industry
- 08.1.3. Technical co-operation [Steel]
- 08.2.1. Methodology of manning tables [Steel]

- 08.2.3. Iron and steel capacity

- 09.1.3. Increased efficiency in forestry operations

- 09.1.4. Studies on the more rational utilization of wood

- 09.2.2. Study on trends in the utilization of wood and its products

- 09.3.3* Timber grading

IV. *Expansion of International Trade and Investment*

- 02.1.1. Review of market situation and outlook [Agriculture]
- 02.1.2. Studies and measures to facilitate the import and export of agricultural commodities by European countries [International quality standards, general conditions of sale for cereals, citrus fruits, potatoes, etc.]
- 03.1.3. Trade problems [Coal]
- 03.2.1. Coal classification
- 03.2.2. General conditions of sale for solid fuels
- 05.1.2. The unification of contract practices in engineering
- 08.1.1. Short-term trends and problems in the European steel industry
- 08.2.2. Standardization of general conditions of sale for selected commodities [Steel]
- 09.1.1. Review of timber market for Europe including timber statistics
- 09.1.2. Special import/export problems [Timber]
- 09.3.1. Long-term timber trends, forecasts and trade arrangements
- 09.3.2. General conditions of sale for timber
- 10.1.1. Review of developments in intra-European, especially East-West, trade
- 10.1.2. Consultations of experts on intra-European, especially East-West, trade
- 10.1.3. Inter-regional trade
- 10.2.1. Improvement of payments arrangements
- 10.2.2. Arbitration
- 10.2.3. Standardization of general conditions of sale for selected commodities
- 10.3.1. Trade fairs and technical shows
- 10.3.2. Exchange of information regarding organization, techniques and mechanization of retail and wholesale trade

V. *Improvement of Transport and Communications*

- 07.1.1. General policy [Transport]
- 07.1.2. [Transport] Measures to facilitate international trade
- 07.1.3. Traffic safety
- 07.1.5. Interpretation, implementation and adjustment of agreement relating to European transports
- 07.1.6.* Technical questions [Transport]
- 07.2.1. Transport of perishable foodstuffs
- 07.2.2. Transport and handling of dangerous goods and related operations
- 07.2.3. Equipment used for combined transport and mechanization of handling operations
- 07.3.1. Terminology

VI. *Improvement of Statistical Coverage and Co-operation*

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.

03.1.5. Statistics [Coal]

04.1.5. Statistics [Electric power]

06.1.4. Collection and publication of housing and building statistics

07.1.4. Transport statistics

08.1.4. Statistics [Steel]

09.2.1. Minimum programme for European forest and forest products statistics

ANNEX II

DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED TO, BUT NOT ACCEPTED BY, THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWELFTH SESSION

Czechoslovakia : draft resolution concerning an all-European Agreement on Economic Co-operation within the framework of ECE

The Economic Commission for Europe,

In pursuance of the principles enunciated in Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations and in article 1 (a) of the Commission's terms of reference, in accordance with which the Commission shall "initiate and participate in measures 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 the other countries of the world",

Recalling its resolutions I (X), 3 (XI), and 4 (XI),

Having considered the proposal for an all-European Agreement on economic co-operation submitted by the Government of the U.S.S.R. in accordance with resolution 3 (XI), and the observations of member Governments on this proposal and the memorandum of the U.S.S.R. contained in document E/ECE/270, Parts I, II and III,

Recognizing the usefulness of the discussion at the present session on the further development of an all-European economic co-operation,

Confirming its determination to continue its efforts to promote economic relations and co-operation among Countries Members,

Noting that the majority of Countries Members of the Commission favour the idea of developing economic co-operation on an all-European basis and that many of them support the aims of all-European co-operation as set forth in the Soviet draft Agreement,

Considering that in their observations (document E/ECE/270, Part I) the Governments of a number of countries have suggested other methods of solving the problems of all-European economic co-operation,

1. *Instructs the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Governments of Countries Members of the Commission, and in collaboration with the competent Committees, to make a further study both of the proposals already made and of any new ones which may be submitted later by individual countries concerning methods of solving the problems of all-European economic co-operation,*

2. *Decides to consider at its thirteenth session a report on the work provided for in paragraph 1 above.*

ANNEX III

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES AT THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Albania

M. Mufti Sejko, Commercial Counsellor, Albanian Embassy, Prague; Head of the Delegation

M. Meleq Babani, Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Austria

Mr. Bruno Kreisky, Secretary of State, Federal Chancellery, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Heinz Standenat, Counsellor of Legation, Federal Chancellery, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mrs. Johanna Monschein, Counsellor of Legation, Federal Chancellery, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Representative of Austria to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. Hans Kloss, Federal Ministry of Finance

Mr. Preglau, Head of Section, Federal Chancellery

Mr. Ferdinand Hain, Austrian National Bank

Mr. Kalheinz Westmark, Federal Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Friedrich Wondré, Federal Chamber of Labour

Mr. Rudolf Karall, Central Board of the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture

Miss Margarita Pilz, Federal Chancellery, Department of Foreign Affairs; Secretary

Belgium

Mr. Pierre A. Forthomme, Ambassador of Belgium to Switzerland; Head of the Delegation

Mr. J. Etienne, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the European Office of the United Nations; Alternate Head of the Delegation

Mr. Ch. Walhin, *Chargé de mission*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Mr. Robert Faniel, Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs. Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium to the European Office of the United Nations; Secretary

Bulgaria

Mr. Eugène G. Kamenov, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Bulgaria to France; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Stoyan Velitchkov, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Todor D. Stoyanov, Member, Permanent Delegation to the Economic Commission for Europe

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

Mr. F. L. Kokhonov, Minister of Finance; Head of the Delegation

Mr. N. G. Mikhailov-Gritsev, Director of "Belunivermag"

Mr. B. V. Kudryavtsev, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. V. S. Kolbassine, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Interpreter.

Czechoslovakia

Mr. Karel Kurka, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Robert Schmelz, Director of the Institute for Economic Research, Ministry of Foreign Trade; Alternate Head of the Delegation

Members of Delegation

Mr. Zdeněk Augenthaler, Head of Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Přibyslav Pavlik, Permanent Delegate of Czechoslovakia

Mr. Karel Švec, Head of Division, Ministry of Foreign Trade

Mr. Jan Mužík, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Josef Adámek, Ministry of Foreign Trade

Mr. Drahoš Schejbal, Head of Department, State Planning Office

Mr. Jan Marcek, Chairman of the Slovak Union of Consumer Co-operatives

Mr. Ivan Šroněk, Permanent Mission of Czechoslovakia to the European Office of the United Nations; Secretary-General of the Delegation

Miss Dagmar Karlová, Secretary

Miss Valentina Jamborová, Secretary

Miss Blanka Ctiburková, Secretary

Denmark

Mr. Jens Otto Krag, Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour, Head of the Delegation

Mr. Henning Maegaard Nielsen, Deputy Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Poul Bjørn Olsen, Head of Section, Economic Secretariat

Mr. Finn Gundelach, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. Hans Jespersen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Miss Ruth Krøger, Secretary

Federal Republic of Germany

Professor Dr. Alfred Müller-Armack, Head of Division, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Head of the Delegation

Mr. Victor von Zahn-Stranik, Senior Counsellor of Legation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Alternate Head of the Delegation

Mr. Martin Meyer-Burckhardt, Head of Department, Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Carl August Zapp, Counsellor of Embassy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Walther Steidle, Counsellor of Ministry, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mr. Knut H. Winter, Principal Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mr. Fritz Pfeiffer, Principal Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mrs. Dr. H. M. Wallroth, Counsellor of Legation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Gerhard Scherer, Counsellor, Ministry of Transport

Mr. Harro H. Reichardt, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mr. Walter Göller, Counsellor, Ministry of Transport

Miss Gerda Burre, Interpreter

Miss Maria Conrad, Secretary

Mr. Rudolf Thierfelder, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the international organizations at Geneva

Mr. Karl Barte, Deputy Permanent Representative

Mr. Herman Berie, Adviser

Finland

Mr. Veikko Makkonen, Deputy Chief, Commercial Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation

Mrs. Torsten Tikanvaara, Permanent Representative of Finland to the international organizations at Geneva

Mr. Reino Honkaranta, Consul, Secretary to the Finnish Trade Mission at Cologne

Mr. Eero Asp, Secretary of the Bank of Finland

Miss Liisa Hagelberg, Secretary

France

Mr. André Philip, Former Minister, member of the Economic Council; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Georges Boris, Conseiller d'Etat; Alternate Head of the Delegation

Mr. E. de Curton, Permanent Representative of France to the European Office of the United Nations

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

Mr. Corson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. R. Establie, Deputy Permanent Representative

Mr. E. d'Harcourt, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. J. C. Richard, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. R. Schwob, Inspector-General, Ministry of Industry and Trade
Mr. M. du Vignaux, Director-General of Woods and Forests,
Ministry of Agriculture

Greece

H.E. Mr. G. Coustas, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of
Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head
of the Delegation
Mr. G. Bensis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the inter-
national organizations at Geneva; Alternate Head of the
Delegation
Mrs. A. Pangalou, Chief of Section, Ministry of Co-ordination,
Athens
Mr. N. Kryazides, Official of the Bank of Greece

Hungary

Mr. Jenő Bacsoni, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade; Head
of the Delegation
Mr. Jozsef Marjai, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipo-
tentiary of the Hungarian People's Republic to Switzerland;
Alternate Head of the Delegation
Mr. Janos Szita, Permanent Representative of the Hungarian
People's Republic to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Jozsef Buzas, President, Hungarian Chamber of Commerce
Mrs. Julia Zala, Directress, Central Statistical Office
Mr. Erno Hars, Chief of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
Secretary to the Delegation

Ireland

Mr. H. J. McCann, Assistant Secretary, Department of External
Affairs; Head of the Delegation (part of the time)
H.E. Mrs. Josephine McNeill, Irish Minister to Switzerland;
Head of the Delegation (part of the time)
Mr. T. O'Sullivan, Secretary, Irish Legation, Berne

Italy

H.E. Mr. Vittorio Badini Confalonieri, Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation
Mr. Tommaso Notarangeli, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Alter-
nate Head of the Delegation

Experts

Mr. Dante Negretti, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Francesco Accardo, Office of the President of the Council of
Ministers
Mr. Guido Ricci, National Touring Board
Mr. Giovanni Calderale, Treasury
Mr. Silvano Palumbo, Treasury
Mr. Roberto Gualtieri, Ministry of Industry and Trade
Mr. Vito Francaviglia, Ministry of Foreign Trade
Mr. Italo Jannuccelli, Ministry of Foreign Trade
Mr. Ennio Delia Nesta, Ministry of Foreign Trade
Mr. Aldo Ramadoro, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Mr. Ugo Pesce, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Mr. Giacomo Pittoni, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Mr. Antonio Ferone, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Mr. Vittorio Fiorillo, Ministry of Finance
Mr. Mario Valdivieso, Ministry of Transport
Mr. Aldo Morganti, Ministry of Transport
Mr. Michele De Pascale, Office of the High Commissioner for
Food
Mr. Mario Lariccia, Office of the High Commissioner for Food
Mr. Alfredo Vernucci, Italian Exchange Office
Mr. Alessandro Molinari, Director-General of "SVIMEZ"

Members of the Permanent Delegation of Italy to the Economic Commission for Europe

H.E. Mr. Marcello del Drago, Ambassador, Permanent Repre-
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Mr. Lionello Cozzi, Commercial Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign
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Economic Commission for Europe
Mr. Reginaldo V. Munafo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Assistant
to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the Econo-
mic Commission for Europe

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Mr. Pierre Elvinger, Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
Alternate Head of the Delegation
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to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Albert Duhr, Secretary of Legation
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Mr. F. H. Gerritzen, General Directorate of Foreign Economic
Relations
Mr. O. H. B. Schoenewald, Attaché for Transport Questions,
Permanent Delegation of the Netherlands to the European
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Mr. Henrik Andreas Broch, Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary; Alternate Head of the Delegation
Mr. Johan Cappelen, Counsellor of Legation, Permanent Repre-
sentative of Norway to the European Office of the United
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Mr. Per Gulowsen, Chief of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Erik Ribbu, Chief of Section, Ministry of Trade
Mr. Per Sivle Tveite, Chief of Section, Ministry of Trade
Mr. Leiv Magnus Vidvei, Chief of Section, Bank of Norway
Mr. Knut Sverre, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mrs. Karin-Lise Braenden, Member of the Permanent Delegation of Norway to the European Office of the United Nations and other international organizations at Geneva; Secretary

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Mr. Oskar Lange, President, Economic Council; Head of the Delegation
Mr. Adam Meller-Conrad, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Polish People's Republic to the European Office of the United Nations
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Dr. Julieuzy Gorynski, Director, Institute of Housing Construction
Mr. Jerzy Jurkiewicz, Counsellor of Embassy, Permanent Representative of the Polish People's Republic to the Economic Commission for Europe
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Mr. Andrzej Horoszkiewicz, Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Trade; Adviser
Mr. Jerzy Zdanowicz, Institute of International Affairs; Adviser
Mr. Włodzimierz Wieczorek, Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Adviser and Secretary to the Delegation
Mrs. Maria Tkacz, Secretary

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Mr. Fernando de Alcambar Pereira, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Economic Commission for Europe
Mr. Arménio Fonseca Lopes, Deputy Secretary-General, Bank of Portugal, representing the Ministry of Finance
Mr. José Fernando Trindade Martinez, Adviser, Economic Co-ordination Commission, representing the Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr. Pedro Madeira de Andrade, Legation Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Secretary

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Mr. Valentin Steriopol, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade; Head of the Delegation
Mr. Bazil Serban, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Alternate Head of the Delegation
Mr. Stefan Gal, Permanent Representative of the Romanian People's Republic to the Economic Commission for Europe
Mr. Simion Daniel, Lecturer at the Institute of Economic Science and Planning, Bucharest
Mr. Vasile Bucur, Economist
Mr. Valerian Stan, Chief of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Stefan Nastasescu, Secretary to the Delegation

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H.E. Don José Antonio de Sangróniz, Marqués de Desio, Ambassador of Spain; Head of the Delegation
Mr. José Manuel Aniel-Quiroga, Director, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Luis García de Llera, Consul-General of Spain at Geneva; Permanent Representative of Spain to the international organizations at Geneva

Mr. Eduardo Junco-Azcoitia, Counsellor for Foreign Economic Affairs, Embassy of Spain, Berne

Mr. Juan Manuel Castro-Rial, Vice-Director, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Rafael Gasset y Dorado, Embassy Secretary, Vice-Consul of Spain at Geneva

Mr. Guillermo Cebrián Montán, Foreign Economic Affairs Attaché, Embassy of Spain, Berne

Mr. Ramón Cantos-Figuerola, Representative of Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Juan Martí-Basterreches, Inspector of Finance, Ministry of Finance

Mr. Javier Molina-Fajardo, Industrial Engineer, Ministry of Industry

Mr. Manuel García-Miranda y Rivas, Embassy Secretary, Permanent Delegation of Spain to the international organizations at Geneva

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Mrs. Karin Kock, Director-in-Chief, Central Bureau of Statistics; Head of the Delegation

Baron C. H. von Platen, Chief of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Alternate Head of the Delegation

Mr. P. B. Kollberg, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. L. Kalderén, First Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Mr. A. Fältheim, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Miss Alvring, Secretary

Miss I. Nordin, Secretary

Switzerland

Mr. Friedrich Bauer, Deputy Director, Trade Division, Federal Department of Public Economy; Head of the Delegation

Mr. Anton J. Kilchmann, Principal Chief of Section, Trade Division, Federal Department of Public Economy; Alternate Head of the Delegation

Mr. C. A. Wetterwald, 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. T. Carim, Director-General, Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation

Mr. C. S. Hayta, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the European Office of the United Nations; Alternate Head of the Delegation

Mr. S. Inan, Director-General, Central Statistical Office; Member of the Delegation

Mr. I. Akant, Director of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; member of the Delegation

Mr. M. Öktem, Adviser on Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Trade; member of the Delegation

Mr. N. Karacahisarli, Agricultural Adviser, International Economic Co-operation Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; member of the Delegation

Mr. Ö. Özkanç, Deputy Director-General of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

Mr. Ö. Çınar, Comptroller-in-Chief, Treasury, Ministry of Finance
Miss N. Doria, Secretary

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

Mr. G. L. Sakhnovsky, Ministry of Trade of the Ukrainian SSR; Head of the Delegation

Mr. A. S. Koroed, Deputy-Director, Institute of Economics, Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR

Mr. V. V. Lempitsky, Head of Technical Department, Ministry of Metallurgy of the Ukrainian SSR

Mr. A. I. Mashkov, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. N. P. Khotenko, Head of Department, Agricultural Academy of the Ukrainian SSR

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Mr. A. V. Zakharov, Deputy Foreign Minister; Head of the Delegation

Mr. A. S. Chistyakov, Permanent Representative of the USSR to the European Office of the United Nations

Mr. T. P. Bobyrev, Deputy Chief, General Directorate of Economic Relations

Mr. M. V. Lavrichenko, Deputy Chief, Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. B. V. Proskuriakov, Director, Hydrotechnical Research Institute

Mr. V. V. Mordvinov, Deputy Chief, Department of Trade with Western Countries, Ministry of Foreign Trade

Mr. V. S. Alkhimov, Deputy-Director, Market Research Institute, Ministry of Foreign Trade

Mr. A. V. Kirsanov, Chief of Section, Institute of World Economy and International Relations, USSR Academy of Sciences

Mr. G. S. Batrushevitch, USSR Permanent Delegation; Adviser

Mr. B. G. Boldirev, USSR Permanent Delegation; Adviser

Mr. V. L. Borissov, USSR Permanent Delegation; Adviser

Mr. K. M. Savitski, USSR Permanent Delegation; Adviser

Mr. V. N. Timofeev, Adviser, Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Secretary to the Delegation

Mr. V. I. Smirnov, First Secretary, Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. N. I. Ivanov, Chief, Department of Economy of European countries, General Directorate of Economic Relations

Mr. V. V. Snegirev, Assistant Deputy Chief of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Mr. Y. Y. Kotkovskii, Senior Research Assistant, Institute of World Economy and International Relations, USSR Academy of Sciences

Mr. S. D. Shaverdyan, Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Y. I. Buzykin, Chief Translator, Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. V. P. Rebrov, USSR Permanent Delegation; Expert

Mr. B. V. Serguienko, USSR Permanent Delegation; Expert-Consultant

United Kingdom

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Gosford, O.B.E., Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Head of the Delegation

Mr. D. A. H. Wright, C.M.G., Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office; Alternate Head of the Delegation

Mr. J. C. Wardrop, Head of the United Kingdom Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations; Second Alternate Head of the Delegation

Mr. G. F. Rodgers, Foreign Office

Mr. D. N. Byrne, Board of Trade

Mr. W. M. Scammell, Treasury

Mr. N. A. Pinch, Board of Trade

Mr. C. H. Wake, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr. J. D. W. Janes, Ministry of Power

Mr. F. C. D. Sargeant, Foreign Office; Secretary to the Delegation

Mr. R. J. Stratton, Foreign Office; Private Secretary to the Head of the Delegation

Major A. G. Barnard, Foreign Office; Conference Officer

United States of America

The Hon. Stanley C. Allyn, Representative of the United States

*Mr. Robert S. Oelman, Special Assistant to the US Representative

Principal advisers

Mr. George A. Tesoro, US Resident Delegation, Geneva

Mr. Laurence C. Vass, United States Embassy, Bonn, Germany

Advisers

Mr. Neal A. Chism, Office of International Economic and Social Affairs, Department of State, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Frederick W. Flott, Jr., United States Embassy, Bonn, Germany

*Mr. Mac Goodman, US Mission to European regional organizations, Paris, France

Mrs. Ruth H. Kupinsky, Office of European Regional Affairs, Department of State, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Frederick B. Payne, Director, Office of Economic Affairs, US Mission to European regional organizations, Paris

Mr. Joe A. Robinson, US Resident Delegation and Consulate General, Geneva

*Mr. Frederick D. Vreeland, US Resident Delegation and Consulate General, Geneva

Yugoslavia

Mr. Vladimir Velebit, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Head of Delegation

Mr. Gustav Vlahov, Permanent Representative of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia to the European Office of the United Nations; Alternate Head of the Delegation

Mr. Vjekoslav Cvrle, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Rados Stamenkovic, Professor at the University of Belgrade

Mr. Mladen Sekicki, Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Branko Komatina, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Milutin Tapavicki, Member of the Permanent Delegation
Mr. Zvonimir Petnicki, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

COUNTRIES ATTENDING UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF
PARAGRAPH 11 OF THE COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

Argentina

Mr. Raúl C. Migone, Permanent Representative of Argentina to
the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Adolfo P. Lacú Adviser, Permanent Delegation of
Argentina to the European Office of the United Nations

Australia

Mr. Gordon Jockel, Permanent Representative of Australia to
the European Office of the United Nations
Miss J. F. Crichton, Third Secretary, Permanent Delegation of
Australia to the European Office of the United Nations

Brazil

Mr. Antonio Patriota, Member, Permanent Delegation of Brazil
to the European Office of the United Nations

Canada

Mr. R. Harry Jay, Adviser to the Permanent Representative of
Canada to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. C. E. Bourbonniere, Adviser to the Permanent Representative
of Canada to the European Office of the United Nations

Cuba

H.E. Mr. J. Enrique Camejo-Argudin, Envoy Extraordinary and
Minister Plenipotentiary, Head of the Permanent Delegation
of Cuba to the European Office of the United Nations

Egypt

M. Ali Samir Safouat, Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Delegation
of Egypt to the European Office of the United Nations

Japan

H.E. Mr. Ichiro Kawasaki, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary, Head of the Permanent Delegation of Japan
to the international organizations at Geneva
Mr. Masatada Tachibana, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

India

Mr. Madhao Vinayak Deo, First Secretary (Commercial), Consu-
late General of India, Geneva; Permanent Delegation of India
to the European Office of the United Nations

Israel

Mr. M. Kahany, Permanent Representative of Israel to the Euro-
pean Office of the United Nations

Syria

Mr. Zoher Kabbani, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Repre-
sentative of Syria to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Moukhtar El Wakil, Adviser, Permanent Delegation of Syria
to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. André Baladi, Attaché, Permanent Delegation of Syria to the
European Office of the United Nations

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Food and Agriculture Organization

Mr. Marcel Leloup, Director, Forestry Division; Representative

International Labour Organisation

Mr. F. Blanchard, Assistant Director-General; Representative
Mr. E. J. Riches, Economic Adviser; Alternate
Mr. R. Lyman, Chief, Manpower Division; Alternate
Mr. G. Loulischer, Manpower Division; Adviser
Mr. H. Zoetewij, Economic Division; Adviser
Mr. J. Burtle, Economic Division; Adviser

International Monetary Fund

Mr. Jean-Paul Salle, Deputy Director, European Office of the
Fund; Representative

*Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization and
contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade*

Mr. J. Royer, Deputy Executive Secretary; Representative

World Health Organization

Dr. P. van de Calseyde, Director, Regional Office for Europe;
Representative
Dr. J. Cottrell, Deputy Director, Regional Office for Europe;
Alternate
Mr. R. Pavanello, Officer in charge of Environmental Sanitation,
Regional Office for Europe

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Category A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

Mr. Herman Patteet, Geneva Office
Mr. Erich Göttlicher, Office of European Regional Organization

International Federation of Christian Trade Unions

Mr. Roger Reynaud, Secretary
Mr. Jean Berthon, Secretary
Mr. Georges Eggermann, Permanent Representative of the
IFCTU at Geneva

International Organization of Employers

Mr. Joseph Vanek, Permanent Representative of the IOE at
Geneva

World Federation of Trade Unions

Mr. Tom Drinkwater, Permanent Representative of the WFTU
to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Giuseppe Boglietti, Permanent Representative of the WFTU
to the European Office of the United Nations

Category B

International Organization for Standardization

Mr. R. Marechal, Assistant General Secretary

International Union for Inland Navigation

Mr. R. Otten-Sooser, Permanent Representative to the inter-
national organizations at Geneva

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Miss Gertrude Baer, International Permanent Consultant

ANNEX IV

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION

(as amended by the Economic and Social Council at its thirteenth, seventeenth and twentieth sessions)

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, 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.

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.

ANNEX V

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMISSION

(as adopted on 14 July 1947 and amended at the eleventh session)

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 alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

CHAPTER IV. OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. In that case, or if the Vice-Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Commission shall elect another Vice-Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

CHAPTER V. SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its sub-commissions, other subsidiary bodies and Committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its sub-commissions, any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

CHAPTER VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 23

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 24

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 25

During the discussion of any matter a representative may raise a point of order. In this case the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against the motion.

Rule 27

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 28

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 29

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 30

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 31

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 32

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 33

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

CHAPTER VII. VOTING

Rule 34

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 35

Decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 36

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the government of that country.

Rule 37

The Commission shall normally vote by show of hands. If any representative requests a roll call, a roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 38

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 39

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

CHAPTER VIII. LANGUAGES

Rule 40

English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 41

Speeches made in any of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

CHAPTER IX. RECORDS

Rule 42

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat not later than forty-eight hours after the circulation of any summary record of any changes they wish to have made.

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 organizations 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 of any subsidiary bodies, once a year and shall make interim reports at each regular session of the Council.

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.

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.