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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Annual report to the Economic and Social Council covering the period from 19 March 1952 to 18 March 1953

INTRODUCTION

Scope and status of the report

1. This annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe is presented for the consideration of the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe which instruct it 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 seventh session on 18 March 1952 up to the end of its eighth session on 18 March 1953.¹ The report was approved by the Commission at its 25th plenary meeting on 18 March 1953.

PART I. GENERAL

A. Relations with specialized agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations

2. During the period between the seventh and eighth sessions, specialized agencies of the United Nations, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations continued to participate in a wide range, principally technical in character, of the Commission's activities.

(a) SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

3. The co-operation of the Commission's technical organs and of the Secretariat with the specialized agencies, in particular with those mentioned hereunder, was continued in the light of resolution 125 (II) of the General Assembly calling for the development of "more effective co-ordination in the economic field . . . among the United Nations and the specialized agencies", as well as of resolutions of the Economic and Social Council concerning co-ordination of its work with that of the specialized agencies, more particularly resolution 451 (XIV): "Co-ordination of the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies". Salient developments under this heading are summarized below:

Food and Agriculture Organization

4. Continuing close co-operation with FAO has been maintained through the joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Divisions servicing the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems and the Timber Committee respectively. The FAO and ECE secretariats regularly exchange statistics and other material on agricultural production. They have co-operated on the "Studies of Trade" between Europe and Latin America and between Europe and the ECAFE region, whereby the FAO secretariat has contributed analyses

of selected agricultural commodities entering into that trade. The Timber Committee met together with the European Forestry Commission of the FAO to discuss the draft of the "Study of European Timber Trends", a major common research project now completed, for which FAO assumed a large share of responsibility. FAO has also actively participated in the organization and financing of the Technical Study Group on Rural Electrification, arranged in conjunction with the Committee on Electric Power and the Technical Assistance Administration.

International Labour Organisation

5. During the period under review, co-operation was principally focussed on housing and building, inland transport, steel and timber. The International Labour Office is at present preparing a report on factors affecting productivity in the construction industry, for discussion at the fourth session of the ILO Building, Civil Engineering and Public Works Committee. This subject is closely related to the reduction of building costs, which is under examination by the ECE Housing Sub-Committee. With regard to transport, the Working Parties on the Co-ordination of Transport and on

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 ninth, eleventh, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Economic and Social Council (documents E/1328, E/1674, E/2002 and E/2187).

the Development and Improvement of Transport of Passengers and Goods by Road have taken the principles relating to the conditions of employment of the various categories of transport workers established by ILO as a basis for their work in this domain. The ILO has participated in meetings concerned with the transport of dangerous goods and showed a special concern for the provisions relating to packaging and labelling of goods of that description. As regards timber, close secretariat co-operation was maintained in connexion with the study on the training of wood workers.

World Health Organization

6. The World Health Organization was represented at meetings of the Working Party on the Prevention of Road Traffic Accidents, where it has participated in the consideration of the problem of visual acuity and other physiological and mental standards required for drivers. The organization has also taken part in the work on the transport of dangerous goods and has followed the work of the Housing Sub-Committee.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

7. The secretariat has continued to work together with a UNESCO dictionary specialist on the compilation of a "Pilot Machine Tool Glossary", a project carried forward under the auspices of the Industry and Materials Committee. The ECE secretariat is also making a contribution to UNESCO's studies on the "Techniques of International Conferences".

Other specialized agencies

8. Secretariat collaboration in the field of research has continued with the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In particular, the Research and Planning Division obtained valuable assistance from the Fund in the form of balance-of-payments material. Contact on a secretariat level was also maintained with ICITO with regard to questions of trade and commercial policy. ICAO was consulted on matters of transport statistics to avoid possible duplication in the development of statistical series.

(b) INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

9. The secretariat has continued its informal relations on a technical level with the secretariat of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), as explained by the Executive Secretary in the course of the seventh session of the Commission (see E/ECE/SR.7/25). Informal contacts at the secretariat level exist likewise between the ECE and the Council of Europe. Further, the secretariat has been informally in touch with the staff of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community.

10. A number of other inter-governmental organizations, viz., the Central Office for International Railway Transport, the Central Commission on the Navigation of the Rhine, the International Institute of Refrigeration, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, have been closely associated with the work of the Inland Transport Committee. They have frequently assumed responsibility for certain special studies for the Committee and thus made a tangible contribution to its technical work. The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law has also

taken part in the Commission's work on the unification of contract practices in engineering carried out under the auspices of the Industry and Materials Committee.

(c) NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

11. Relations with non-governmental organizations of all categories have been further strengthened. In addition to being represented at certain meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary organs and following the work of the ECE in a general way, a considerable number of them have increasingly taken an active interest in, and contributed especially to, the work of the Transport Committee, the Industry and Materials Committee and its Housing Sub-Committee. Following the recommendation of the Inland Transport Committee that inland waterway carriers form an international organization, the International Union for Inland Navigation was set up in November 1952, and has applied to the Economic and Social Council for consultative status as a non-governmental organization.

B. Relations with the Allied Control Authorities in Germany

12. Relations with the Allied Control Authorities in Germany, which are being maintained in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Commission's terms of reference, have remained unchanged during the period under review.

13. The secretariat's Liaison Office in the Western Zones was closed on 31 March 1952 consequent upon the decision of the General Assembly, at its sixth session, to terminate the budgetary appropriation under this item. The necessary liaison functions are now being maintained by the Office of the Executive Secretary, from Geneva.

C. Co-operation with ECAFE and ECLA

14. The secretariat has continued to follow closely the work of the other regional economic commissions, has exchanged documentation, and kept in touch with them by correspondence on problems of common interest.

(a) ECAFE

Second ECAFE Conference on Trade Promotion

15. The secretariat assisted the secretariat of ECAFE in its preparations for the Second Conference on Trade Promotion, held in Manila (Philippines) from 23 February to 4 March 1953. A provisional version of a study on Europe's trade with Asia and the Far East, prepared jointly by the secretariats of the two regional commissions and of FAO, was issued for use at the Conference. In addition, the ECE secretariat supplied papers on capital goods availabilities in Europe, for distribution as part of the Conference documentation. The ECE secretariat also forwarded, to interested European governments, information received from ECAFE on specific capital goods requirements in the ECAFE area.

Inter-regional co-operation related to the work of technical committees

16. Certain material has been provided by the ECE secretariat for the meeting of the ECAFE Inter-

Secretariat Working Party on Housing and Building Materials, held in New Delhi in November 1952, as a result of which a programme of activities in housing and building has been instituted. The two secretariats are consulting on ways and means of increasing co-operation in this field.

17. At the request of ECAFE, information on the general state of supply and demand for engineering products has been transmitted to its secretariat. Special attention has been given to heavy electric power plant in view of its importance in the economic development plan of the ECAFE region.

18. A number of documents setting out the requirements for steel products of several countries of the ECAFE region has been circulated to interested ECE governments; their replies and comments thereon were transmitted to ECAFE.

19. The secretariat further took up with the governments concerned cases where special difficulties arose in the supply to some ECAFE countries of certain steel products and of equipment and machinery for the production of iron and steel.

20. The ECE secretariat also co-operated in the organization of the ECAFE/TAA Railway Study Tour (see paragraph 25).

(b) ECLA

21. During 1952 the main text and the commodity appendices of the Study on Trade between Europe and Latin America, prepared jointly by the secretariats of ECLA, FAO and ECE, have been revised.

22. The Director of the Industry Divisions attended the meetings of the first Expert Working Group on the Iron and Steel Industry of Latin America held in Bogota, Colombia, in October and November 1952, under the auspices of the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations and the sponsorship of ECLA.

D. Co-operation in the field of the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme

23. Close contacts are maintained between the Technical Assistance Administration and the secretariat of the Commission. Secretariat staff are currently requested, by TAA, to comment on specific aspects of the Technical Assistance Programme; advise on recruitment of experts and placement of fellows; and give assistance to TAA experts and fellows passing through Geneva. In addition to these general activities, the ECE has participated in the following specific projects:

(a) RURAL ELECTRIFICATION TECHNICAL STUDY GROUP

24. At the fifth session of the Commission (May 1950), the delegation of Yugoslavia suggested that a comprehensive study be made of the problem of rural electrification so that less-developed countries interested in this subject might benefit from the experience accumulated in more-developed countries. This suggestion was subsequently endorsed by the Committee on Electric Power, and co-sponsored and financed by

TAA and FAO, as a Technical Assistance project. A description of this project is given in the report on the Committee on Electric Power under part II.C of this document (paragraphs 65-68).

(b) ECAFE RAILWAY OPERATION STUDY GROUP

25. A group of railway experts from the ECAFE region, jointly sponsored by ECAFE and TAA, visited Europe to study signalling and safety devices on lines (mainly single track) carrying heavy traffic. The Transport Division of the ECE secretariat organized the tour in co-operation with the International Union of Railways and national railway administrations. The group, apart from observing installations, visited various European training centres for signalling operations and telecommunications, as well as several factories manufacturing signalling equipment.

(c) STUDY AND TRAINING GROUP ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

26. At the invitation of TAA, the ECE secretariat participated in preliminary discussions on a project for a study and training group in the field of housing, with special emphasis on aided self-help and co-operative methods. Countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region and in the wet and dry zones of Africa would participate in the project, to be located in North Africa. The proposal is under consideration by TAA.

E. Work of the secretariat

27. The secretariat of the Commission, forming an integral part of the Department of Economic 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.

28. In addition to the work described under sections A, C and D of part I of this report, the secretariat of the Commission has discharged its normal and continuing tasks, 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, in accordance with established practice, furnished the requisite material, in the form both of routine documentation and of various studies and analyses of an economic 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 for Europe* (which in 1953 appeared under the title: *Economic Survey of Europe since the War—A Reappraisal of Problems and Prospects*), the quarterly *Economic Bulletin for Europe*, and a number of specialized statistical bulletins, covering the fields of coal, steel, timber and transport.

29. In its work, the secretariat has been greatly aided by the services rendered by government experts who, as delegates to the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and in many cases as rapporteurs, assumed a major responsibility for carrying out a number of technical investigations.

30. Apart from the joint inter-regional trade studies (see above under paragraphs 15 and 21), the sec-

retariat continued to be engaged on work on special studies embracing particular commodities (such as timber and steel), and involving a basic analysis of production, consumption and market trends. Undertaken against the background of the general economic survey work of the secretariat, these special enquiries may, in due course, lend themselves as a guide to possible action by governments on an international level.

31. An inventory of the more important work planned, in progress, and completed by the secretariat of the Commission, is contained in the work programme (see part VI of this report) and in the current issue of the *Catalogue of Economic and Social Projects*, published, at the request of the Economic and Social Council, by the Department of Economic Affairs of the United Nations, at Headquarters.

PART II. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION²

A. Committee on Agricultural Problems

(a) LIST OF MEETINGS HELD

Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Products: 20-23 February 1952; 24-26 September 1952.

(b) ACTIVITIES

32. No meetings of the Committee on Agricultural Problems were held during the period under review and operational activities were confined to the preparation of standards for perishable foodstuffs moving in intra-European trade. This work was carried out by the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs, which met twice during the year and submitted definitive recommendations to governments regarding:

The general provisions to be applied in Europe for the commercial standardization and quality control of fresh fruit and vegetables moving in international traffic;

The standardization of apples, pears and citrus fruit.

33. Draft standards have been prepared for eggs, seed and ware potatoes, apricots, peaches, plums, grapes, tomatoes and salad, and work has been expanded to cover early potatoes, poultry and fisheries products.

34. Close liaison was maintained with subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee working on the standardization of packages and it is intended to organize joint meetings in the near future to consider if draft conventions could be prepared covering all the aspects of the Commission's work undertaken in the field of standardization of perishable foodstuffs. Governments have been invited to give consideration to this matter.

35. The secretariat's work was mainly concerned with the preparation of basic reports on "Prices of Agricultural Products and Fertilizers in 1951/53"; and "Output and Expenses of Agriculture in Fourteen European Countries". In addition, the Secretariat of the Agriculture Division continued to assist in the agricultural aspects of the work initiated by other divisions, particularly the Research and Planning Division, and in the Commission's work in the field of intra-European trade.

B. Coal Committee

(a) LIST OF MEETINGS HELD

Coal Committee

30 May 1952

29 August 1952

28 November 1952

24 February 1953

Coal Trade Sub-Committee

8 May 1952

29-30 May 1952

16 June 1952

7 August 1952

27 August 1952

15 September 1952

7 November 1952

13 February 1953

14 March 1953

Sub-Committee on Economic and Technical Problems

28 May 1952

26 August 1952

27 November 1952

23 February 1953

Utilization Working Party

1-2 April 1952

7-8 October 1952

Classification Working Party

22-23 July 1952

16-17 December 1952

Statistical Working Party

21-23 January 1953

Ad Hoc Working Party on the Organization of the Work of the Coal Committee

28 August 1952

16 September 1952

6 November 1952

(b) ACTIVITIES

Coal Committee

36. The Coal Committee, having transferred the task of distribution to the Coal Trade Sub-Committee at the beginning of 1952, decided in May to carry out a review of its policy and objectives, and set up an *ad hoc* Working Party for this purpose.

37. After three sessions, during which special consideration was given to the document "Factors causing Disorganization in the European Coal Market", prepared by the Secretariat at the Committee's request, this Working Party singled out the three following

² The following is a summary of the work of the ECE committees during the period under review. A fuller statement of their activities is contained in the reports presented for the consideration of the eighth session of the Commission (document E/ECE/153). These include also a general survey of the field covered by each committee as well as an account of the committees' organizational structure.

objectives, which were subsequently adopted by the Committee:

(a) To ensure that European needs in solid fuel, both as to quantity and quality, are satisfied as economically as possible;

(b) To promote the rational use of fuels;

(c) To render the coal market as stable as possible.

38. For the achievement of the first objective, the Committee stressed the importance of following production as well as consumption trends, this being essential for any continuing work in the field of production and consumption with a view to their mutual adjustment. It was furthermore considered to be equally necessary to take into consideration not only the relative prices of the various qualities of coal but also the relation between those prices and the prices of other forms of energy.

39. In considering the second objective, the Committee made a distinction between problems on which abundant technical data are available but which require action on the economic policy level, and those, on the other hand, which call for detailed technical investigation before action of any kind can be taken. In addition, the Committee stressed the need for examining the means of co-ordinating on the international level the present work and documentation of the various countries in the field of fuel utilization.

40. As regards to the third objective, the Coal Committee considered that it should go into the problem of market fluctuations in order to ascertain what measures should be taken to reduce them, possibly by the application of a reasonable stock-piling policy.

41. The Committee, when considering the action to be taken with a view to the achievement of the three objectives mentioned above, conclude that no changes were called for in its present terms of reference or in the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies.

42. The Committee later decided that more comprehensive quarterly reviews should be made of the coal market, including details on stocks and prices, and that annual reviews dealing with the longer-term aspects of the same subjects should also be made.

43. The Committee has also decided to take over the work hitherto carried out by the Sub-Committee on Economic and Technical Problems, which is abolished. It therefore reversed its previous decision to meet only once a year and will instead continue to meet several times a year, possibly every quarter.

Coal Trade Sub-Committee

44. The Coal Trade Sub-Committee has reviewed the European solid fuel position each quarter and made recommendations for the equitable allocation of declared export availabilities.

45. The Sub-Committee, having noted the changes in the coal situation during 1952, re-examined the problem of availabilities and demand from a qualitative standpoint and calculated the qualitative unbalance which has led to the existence of a surplus of industrial coals and a shortage of coking coals and anthracite. In addition, the Sub-Committee followed the changes in the level of stocks.

Sub-Committee on Economic and Technical Problems

Annual coal and coke forecasts

46. The secretariat prepared forecasts of hard coal and coke production, imports, exports and consumption for the coming year with a view to establishing a European balance-sheet of supply and demand in 1953.

Solid fuel consumption trends

47. Continuing its enquiries into coal consumption in Europe and its probable trend, the Sub-Committee took note of a preliminary study, prepared by the secretariat, on hard coal and coke consumption trends in the Occupation Zones of Western Germany.

Study of coal prices

48. At the request of the Sub-Committee, experts of four producing countries examined the structure of price schedules, the formation of which normally varies as between one country and another. A report is in course of preparation.

Statistics

49. At the beginning of 1952, the *Monthly Bulletin of Coal Statistics* was converted into a quarterly bulletin giving a fuller series of figures with datum years going back to 1936.

50. Recognizing the diversity of the definitions used in the various countries for coal statistics, the Sub-Committee decided to convene a meeting of the Statistical Working Party to make a preliminary review of those definitions, and then to explore the possibility of making the statistics more easily comparable.

51. The Working Party on Coal Statistics dealt mainly with definitions of hard coal production and employment in the mines; it analysed the differences between existing definitions and in some cases made proposals for improving comparability. Further data on trade and consumption statistics are to be collected for consideration at subsequent meetings.

Production Working Party

52. The pitwood supply position having become satisfactory, it was considered unnecessary to convene the Production Working Party to discuss the matter. The secretariat confined itself to circulating the first of the annual reports on the pitwood situation requested by the Working Party.

Utilization Working Party

53. The Utilization Working Party completed its work on fuel advisory services and facilities for the education and training of boilerhouse staff, and made certain recommendations to governments.

54. At its meeting in October, the Working Party turned its attention to the question of control instrumentation, which has been found to effect a substantial saving in fuel consumption, but which is still too little used.

55. At the request of the Working Party, the secretariat has compiled a "Directory of National Bodies interested in questions concerning Solid Fuel Utilization", in order to encourage the exchange of technical information not only among members of the Committee but also, and more especially, among the organizations listed in it.

Classification Working Party

56. At the Working Party's first session, general agreement between the experts marked the culmination of three years' efforts to work out an international scientific system of hard coal classification. The report on the system of classification, drawn up and adopted by the Working Party at its last session, has been submitted for consideration and approval to governments.

57. The experts have now turned their attention to the question of hard coal classification by size, and have also tentatively considered how the scientific classification could be applied for commercial purposes.

58. Finally, the Classification Working Party has embarked on the study of an international classification system for brown coals and lignites. It decided to proceed in the first place to exchanges of samples, and an *ad hoc* working party, consisting of experts of European countries possessing extensive brown coal resources, has been set up for the purpose of analysing these samples.

C. Committee on Electric Power

(a) LIST OF MEETINGS HELD

Committee on Electric Power (ninth session)
23-24 June 1952

Group of Experts set up to examine the secretariat study on "Transfers of Electric Power across European Frontiers"
23 June 1952

Group of Experts on the Collection of Information on Electric Supply Installations Put into Service, under Construction and Planned
24 June 1952

Group of Experts set up to Study the Comparative Construction Costs of Hydro Power Plants
24 June 1952

Group of Experts for the Study of Legal Questions
24 June 1952
20 November 1952

Group of Experts for the Study of the Gross Hydro-electric Potential of Europe
19 November 1952

Liaison Group
29 April 1952
18 September 1952
26 January 1953

Technical Study Group on Rural Electrification (FAO-TAA-ECE)
27 October-21 November 1952

(b) ACTIVITIES

General

59. The variability of electric power consumption among the different European countries, the diversity of the natural sources of production and the uneven nature of their development often bring out the need for facilitating the work undertaken by different countries, in order to enable them to meet the constantly increasing demand under the most favourable conditions. The Committee on Electric Power has endeavoured to con-

tribute to the achievement of this aim, in accordance with its terms of reference.

Documentation

Prospects opened up by technical advances in electric power production

60. The secretariat has published a study co-ordinating the results achieved by research in the various countries on methods of increasing the efficiency of existing plant and on means of obtaining electric power from natural sources as yet untapped. The first part describes the advances in design of thermal power stations, gas turbines, and hydro-electric plants and improvements in power transmission. The second part deals with the influence of new methods of utilizing solar, terrestrial and atomic energy.

Some technical aspects of the transmission of electric power

61. The secretariat has made a technical study on the question of the transfers of electric power across frontiers, considering in turn the general characteristics of electric power transmission, transmission costs and their influence on transfers. A description is given of existing power transmission lines, their capacity and the traffic they carry.

Gross hydro-electric potential of Europe

62. The secretariat has continued work on a study designed to determine, by a uniform method, the theoretical gross hydro-electric potential of Europe. This study will give figures established on a common basis for all European countries and will enable comparisons to be made between this theoretical potential, the technical potential and the economic potential.

The electric power situation in 1951

63. The majority of countries publish an annual account of their operating results for the previous year. The secretariat has undertaken the task of analysing these national reports and deducing from them the trends in electric power consumption, production, exchanges, plant construction and prices during 1951.

Statistics

64. The secretariat has continued to use the annual electric power production and consumption statistics published by the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electric Power (UNIPED).

Other activities of the Committee

Rural electrification

65. The problem of rural electrification was first brought before the Economic Commission for Europe at its fifth session, when it was decided to refer the subject to the Committee on Electric Power for study.

66. A plan was drawn up, on which the study was to be based, containing sections relating to production; to transmission and distribution; to fields of application; and to economic, administrative and financial questions. This plan was sent to the participating countries, who were asked to prepare a report on that basis concerning the characteristics of the problem in their own territories. Reports were subsequently received by the secretariat from fourteen countries.

67. The United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and the Food and Agriculture Organiza-

agreed to provide funds for the commissioning of experts, who stayed in Geneva for two months, for the organization of a study group; two conferences were serviced by the ECE secretariat and the head of the Electric Power Section was made director of the project.

68. The experts analysed the country reports received by the secretariat, and prepared a detailed study of the various sections of the plan. This study takes account not only of the material contained in the reports but also of the discussion held in the course of the Study Group. The Group met from 27 October to 21 November, and was attended by about thirty representatives from sixteen European countries, including a number of under-industrialized countries. Contact had been made with the other regional commissions and arrangements were made for them to send representatives from under-developed countries to their regions. A representative from Costa Rica took part in the Group's work. The Indian representative appointed for this purpose was prevented, at the last minute, from attending. The question of rural electrification is to be re-examined periodically by a working party of experts.

Legal questions

69. The difficulties arising out of the hydro-electric development of rivers which serve as frontiers between two States, were the subject of a recommendation by the Committee. Since then a number of bilateral agreements have been concluded. Consideration of this question will be resumed later when sufficient agreements have been communicated to the secretariat.

70. The Committee has continued work on the problems arising out of the hydro-electric development of rivers which flow successively through two or more States across their frontiers. The Committee felt that, in this case, it was premature to study the provisions of a general convention or even to prejudge at this juncture the possibility of making recommendations on the problem as a whole. However, the Group of Experts for the Study of Legal Questions proposed to the Committee that it should be recognized as in keeping with international courtesy and in the interests of the harmonious hydro-electric development of successive rivers in Europe, that a State proposing to embark, within its own territory, on projects likely to have serious repercussions on the territory of other States, whether upstream or downstream, should first communicate to the States concerned such information as would enlighten them on the nature of these repercussions.

71. The Committee also confirmed its instructions to the secretariat to assist governments requesting its services with a view to facilitating negotiations arising out of such development schemes. During the past year the secretariat has performed such functions, at the request of the Governments of Austria and Yugoslavia, in connexion with the difficulties resulting from the hydro-electric development and harnessing of the Drava.

Transfers of electric power across European frontiers

72. In its study on the transfers of electric power across frontiers (see paragraph 61) the secretariat

has analysed the factors which tend to lead to such transfers and the factors which tend to impede them.

73. It appears that a very clear distinction must be drawn between "guaranteed supplies" and "exchanges". The former are characterized by their continuity and regularity, which makes the importing country dependent to some extent on the exporting country. They only occur when an area has sufficient natural resources to enable it to export such power for the fairly lengthy period which is required for amortization of the capital cost of constructing a transmission line. "Exchanges", on the other hand, are the product of seasonal differences between areas in neighbouring countries; they do not give rise to the same dependency ties between States engaged in them, nor do they require the erection of special transmission lines.

74. With regard to Yugoslavia, which is one of these areas, the Committee has decided to make a detailed study of its export possibilities, and the secretariat is at present acting as intermediary between Yugoslavia and those of its neighbours which can absorb such exports.

75. Lastly there is the question of "exchanges", the volume of which is tending to increase. The recent establishment of the *Union pour la coordination de la production et du transport de l'électricité*, which provides producers and distributors in the various countries with an opportunity to meet each other at frequent and regular intervals, will make it easier to find out the possibilities of traffic and select the most suitable exchanges.

76. Further problems which have been submitted to the Committee, of which some are still pending, include:

Comparative construction costs of hydro power plants;

Electric power production in back-pressure plants;

The desirability of drawing up a standard form of contract to facilitate the settlement of legal disputes likely to arise in connexion with international exchanges of electric power.

77. The Committee has continued to turn its attention only to those aspects of these problems in respect of which inter-governmental action might serve the interested parties or in respect of which it could act as an intermediary between the governments concerned, either directly or through its secretariat. The Committee has been at pains to maintain close relations with other interested international bodies, to avoid any duplication or overlapping. This collaboration has been mainly with UNIPEDE.

D. Industry and Materials Committee

(a) LIST OF MEETINGS HELD

Ad hoc Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering

19-24 May 1952

8-14 December 1952

2-4 February 1953

Housing Sub-Committee (sixth session)

1-4 September 1952

Working Party on Housing and Building Statistics

2-3 February 1953

Classification Working Party

56. At the Working Party's first session, general agreement between the experts marked the culmination of three years' efforts to work out an international scientific system of hard coal classification. The report on the system of classification, drawn up and adopted by the Working Party at its last session, has been submitted for consideration and approval to governments.

57. The experts have now turned their attention to the question of hard coal classification by size, and have also tentatively considered how the scientific classification could be applied for commercial purposes.

58. Finally, the Classification Working Party has embarked on the study of an international classification system for brown coals and lignites. It decided to proceed in the first place to exchanges of samples, and an *ad hoc* working party, consisting of experts of European countries possessing extensive brown coal resources, has been set up for the purpose of analysing these samples.

C. Committee on Electric Power

(a) LIST OF MEETINGS HELD

Committee on Electric Power (ninth session)
23-24 June 1952

Group of Experts set up to examine the secretariat study on "Transfers of Electric Power across European Frontiers"
23 June 1952

Group of Experts on the Collection of Information on Electric Supply Installations Put into Service, under Construction and Planned
24 June 1952

Group of Experts set up to Study the Comparative Construction Costs of Hydro Power Plants
24 June 1952

Group of Experts for the Study of Legal Questions
24 June 1952
20 November 1952

Group of Experts for the Study of the Gross Hydro-electric Potential of Europe
19 November 1952

Liaison Group
29 April 1952
18 September 1952
26 January 1953

Technical Study Group on Rural Electrification (FAO-TAA-ECE)
27 October-21 November 1952

(b) ACTIVITIES

General

59. The variability of electric power consumption among the different European countries, the diversity of the natural sources of production and the uneven nature of their development often bring out the need for facilitating the work undertaken by different countries, in order to enable them to meet the constantly increasing demand under the most favourable conditions. The Committee on Electric Power has endeavoured to con-

tribute to the achievement of this aim, in accordance with its terms of reference.

Documentation

Prospects opened up by technical advances in electric power production

60. The secretariat has published a study co-ordinating the results achieved by research in the various countries on methods of increasing the efficiency of existing plant and on means of obtaining electric power from natural sources as yet untapped. The first part describes the advances in design of thermal power stations, gas turbines, and hydro-electric plants and improvements in power transmission. The second part deals with the influence of new methods of utilizing solar, terrestrial and atomic energy.

Some technical aspects of the transmission of electric power

61. The secretariat has made a technical study on the question of the transfers of electric power across frontiers, considering in turn the general characteristics of electric power transmission, transmission costs and their influence on transfers. A description is given of existing power transmission lines, their capacity and the traffic they carry.

Gross hydro-electric potential of Europe

62. The secretariat has continued work on a study designed to determine, by a uniform method, the theoretical gross hydro-electric potential of Europe. This study will give figures established on a common basis for all European countries and will enable comparisons to be made between this theoretical potential, the technical potential and the economic potential.

The electric power situation in 1951

63. The majority of countries publish an annual account of their operating results for the previous year. The secretariat has undertaken the task of analysing these national reports and deducing from them the trends in electric power consumption, production, exchanges, plant construction and prices during 1951.

Statistics

64. The secretariat has continued to use the annual electric power production and consumption statistics published by the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electric Power (UNIPED).

Other activities of the Committee

Rural electrification

65. The problem of rural electrification was first brought before the Economic Commission for Europe at its fifth session, when it was decided to refer the subject to the Committee on Electric Power for study.

66. A plan was drawn up, on which the study was to be based, containing sections relating to production; to transmission and distribution; to fields of application; and to economic, administrative and financial questions. This plan was sent to the participating countries, who were asked to prepare a report on that basis concerning the characteristics of the problem in their own territories. Reports were subsequently received by the secretariat from fourteen countries.

67. The United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and the Food and Agriculture Organization

tion agreed to provide funds for the commissioning of four experts, who stayed in Geneva for two months, and for the organization of a study group; two conferences were serviced by the ECE secretariat and the Head of the Electric Power Section was made director of the project.

68. The experts analysed the country reports received by the secretariat, and prepared a detailed study on the various sections of the plan. This study takes account not only of the material contained in the reports but also of the discussion held in the course of the Study Group. The Group met from 27 October to 21 November, and was attended by about thirty representatives from sixteen European countries, including a number of under-industrialized countries. Contact had been made with the other regional commissions and arrangements were made for them to send representatives from under-developed countries in their regions. A representative from Costa Rica took part in the Group's work. The Indian representative appointed for this purpose was prevented, at the last minute, from attending. The question of rural electrification is to be re-examined periodically by a working party of experts.

Legal questions

69. The difficulties arising out of the hydro-electric development of rivers which serve as frontiers between two States, were the subject of a recommendation by the Committee. Since then a number of bilateral agreements have been concluded. Consideration of this question will be resumed later when sufficient agreements have been communicated to the secretariat.

70. The Committee has continued work on the problems arising out of the hydro-electric development of rivers which flow successively through two or more States across their frontiers. The Committee felt that, in this case, it was premature to study the provisions of a general convention or even to prejudge at this juncture the possibility of making recommendations on the problem as a whole. However, the Group of Experts for the Study of Legal Questions proposed to the Committee that it should be recognized as in keeping with international courtesy and in the interests of the harmonious hydro-electric development of successive rivers in Europe, that a State proposing to embark, within its own territory, on projects likely to have serious repercussions on the territory of other States, whether upstream or downstream, should first communicate to the States concerned such information as would enlighten them on the nature of these repercussions.

71. The Committee also confirmed its instructions to the secretariat to assist governments requesting its services with a view to facilitating negotiations arising out of such development schemes. During the past year the secretariat has performed such functions, at the request of the Governments of Austria and Yugoslavia, in connexion with the difficulties resulting from the hydro-electric development and harnessing of the Drava.

Transfers of electric power across European frontiers

72. In its study on the transfers of electric power across frontiers (see paragraph 61) the secretariat

has analysed the factors which tend to lead to such transfers and the factors which tend to impede them.

73. It appears that a very clear distinction must be drawn between "guaranteed supplies" and "exchanges". The former are characterized by their continuity and regularity, which makes the importing country dependent to some extent on the exporting country. They only occur when an area has sufficient natural resources to enable it to export such power for the fairly lengthy period which is required for amortization of the capital cost of constructing a transmission line. "Exchanges", on the other hand, are the product of seasonal differences between areas in neighbouring countries; they do not give rise to the same dependency ties between States engaged in them, nor do they require the erection of special transmission lines.

74. With regard to Yugoslavia, which is one of these areas, the Committee has decided to make a detailed study of its export possibilities, and the secretariat is at present acting as intermediary between Yugoslavia and those of its neighbours which can absorb such exports.

75. Lastly there is the question of "exchanges", the volume of which is tending to increase. The recent establishment of the *Union pour la coordination de la production et du transport de l'électricité*, which provides producers and distributors in the various countries with an opportunity to meet each other at frequent and regular intervals, will make it easier to find out the possibilities of traffic and select the most suitable exchanges.

76. Further problems which have been submitted to the Committee, of which some are still pending, include:

Comparative construction costs of hydro power plants;

Electric power production in back-pressure plants;
The desirability of drawing up a standard form of contract to facilitate the settlement of legal disputes likely to arise in connexion with international exchanges of electric power.

77. The Committee has continued to turn its attention only to those aspects of these problems in respect of which inter-governmental action might serve the interested parties or in respect of which it could act as an intermediary between the governments concerned, either directly or through its secretariat. The Committee has been at pains to maintain close relations with other interested international bodies, to avoid any duplication or overlapping. This collaboration has been mainly with UNIPÉDE.

D. Industry and Materials Committee

(a) LIST OF MEETINGS HELD

Ad hoc Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering

19-24 May 1952

8-14 December 1952

2-4 February 1953

Housing Sub-Committee (sixth session)

1-4 September 1952

Working Party on Housing and Building Statistics

2-3 February 1953

Working Party on Cost of Building (previously known as the Working Party on Technical Problems)
28-29 January 1952

Ad hoc Meeting of officers of the Housing Sub-Committee
26-27 November 1952

Building Research Organizing Committee
28-29 March 1952 (held in Paris)

(b) ACTIVITIES

Engineering products and industrial materials
Contract practices in engineering

78. The *ad hoc* Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering held several meetings to prepare general conditions for the supply of plant and machinery for export, to be used on a permissive basis by sellers and buyers of engineering equipment. These texts are adapted to modern conditions of international trade and to suit concrete cases rather than to meet general legal considerations. The following clauses were approved: formation of the contract; drawings and descriptive documents; packing; inspection and tests; passing of risk; delivery; payment; guarantee; reliefs; limitation of damages; rights at termination; arbitration and Law applicable; supplementary clause on price revision. The texts are being printed and are available for use.

Special clauses relating to erection are to be considered later.

Studies of sectors of the industry

79. The secretariat continued its studies of sectors of the industry in consultation with government experts. During the period under review the principal fields covered have been automobiles and ship-building, in connexion with the "*Flat Steel Products Study*", undertaken primarily for the Steel Committee.

Pilot machinery-tool glossary

80. Definitions and drawings for 1,000 concepts in English and French are in the course of completion for a pilot machine-tool glossary. The glossary is to be published after checking by experts of the International Standardization Organization.

Housing and building

Building research

81. The Building Research Organizing Committee has completed the following tasks assigned to it by the Housing Sub-Committee:

(a) The definition of the scope and nature of international collaboration in building research; (b) collaboration on a pilot scale in specific fields mainly as a means of drawing lessons on the practical methods of international collaboration in building research; (c) the examination of activities of existing international organizations in collaboration on building research; (d) preparation of recommendations to the Housing Sub-Committee on the type of arrangements required for systematic international collaboration on a permanent basis. The solution, which appeared to the Organizing Committee to offer the greatest degree of integration of efforts in the two fields of building research and documentation, was the amalgamation, into a single organization, of the International Council for Building Documentation (CIDB), which was already

established following a recommendation of the Housing Sub-Committee, with the organization envisaged for international collaboration in building research.

82. The Housing Sub-Committee accepted the recommendations of the Organizing Committee and instructed its officers, in conjunction with the Executive Secretary, and in consultation with the representatives of interested governments and organizations, to take the necessary steps to organize international co-operation in building research on the general lines proposed. Preparations are now going forward to bring the new arrangements into force by the middle of 1953.

Economic studies

83. The study of "Methods and Techniques of Financing Housing in Europe", based on monographs from thirteen countries, prepared by rapporteurs appointed by the Sub-Committee, was revised and issued for general distribution. In a resolution, the Housing Sub-Committee drew the attention of governments to the completed study and in particular to a number of points discussed in the report concerning the provision of finance for housing at low interest rates and the increasing responsibility of government institutions in the financing of housing.

84. The Housing Sub-Committee decided that current developments with regard to financing and investment in the field of housing should be treated in an annual report on housing policies pursued and results achieved, to be prepared as a basis for an annual review by the Sub-Committee.

85. A preliminary report on "European Rent Policies" was examined by the Sub-Committee, and it was decided to continue the study on the basis of an analytical outline, which was adopted.

Housing and building statistics

86. An *ad hoc* Working Party on Housing and Building Statistics was convened, as requested by the Housing Sub-Committee, at the beginning of February 1953. The secretariat is preparing a quarterly bulletin, setting out, in a systematic form, the statistics available, country by country. The Working Party will next study various definitions with a view to improving the precision and comparability of European housing and building statistics.

Cost of building

87. The general study on "Measures to Reduce the Cost of Building" was revised following a detailed examination, at successive stages, by the Working Party on Technical Problems, by the Housing Sub-Committee and by the latter's officers and rapporteurs. The final report, which is expected to be issued by the middle of 1953, also contains practical recommendations concerning measures capable of yielding immediate or short-term results in this domain. In a resolution drawing attention to the completed study, the Housing Sub-Committee suggested that the report should be examined in each country by representatives of the government and the industry jointly in the light of the particular problems and experiences in the country and that the results of such studies and action taken should be regularly communicated to the ECE secretariat for transmission to other governments.

88. Rapporteurs drawn from the governments and international organizations represented in the Housing

Sub-Committee have undertaken a considerable volume of work in the study of special aspects of the cost of house building.

Town and country planning

89. The Housing Sub-Committee reaffirmed its interest and competence in the field of town and country planning, a matter to which the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had, *inter alia*, drawn the attention of the regional economic commissions. The Sub-Committee invited the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning to prepare a report on the results of its forthcoming Congress, with particular stress on points where inter-governmental action was considered useful.

Future work

90. After a review of the activities of its subsidiary organs and of the work in progress, the Housing Sub-Committee decided that its programme for the coming year fell into the following three main groups:

(a) Completion through its officers and the Executive Secretary of appropriate organizational arrangements for permanent international collaboration in building research;

(b) Questions of general economic policy in relation to housing: a study of European rent policies; the collection and publication of housing and building statistics; and an annual survey of the European housing situation;

(c) Continuation of the study of measures to reduce the cost of building and various institutional and technical studies related thereto.

E. Inland Transport Committee

(a) LIST OF MEETINGS HELD

Inland Transport Committee (eighth session)

15-19 July 1952

Sub-Committee on Rail Transport

8-10 July 1952

Sub-Committee on Road Transport

3-6 June 1952

Working Party on Prevention of Road Traffic Accidents

23-26 September 1952

Sub-Group on Physiological and Mental Standards for Drivers

17-19 February 1953

Working Party on the Development and Improvement of Transport of Passengers and Goods by Road

26-30 May 1952

Sub-Group on International Passenger Transport Services by Road

4-6 June 1952

29 Sept.-1 Oct. 1952

Working Party on Legal Questions (Road Transport)

26-30 May 1952

Ad Hoc Working Party of Customs Experts (Road Transport)

11-12 June 1952

24-28 November 1952

Working Party on Construction of Vehicles (Road)

10-13 February 1953

Joint Working Party on Safety at Level Crossings

26-29 January 1953

Working Party on Containers

28 April-3 May 1952

Sub-Group of Customs Experts (Containers)

28-29 April, 1 May, 9, 10, 14 June 1952

Working Party on Tariffs

12-15 May 1952

8-10 December 1952

Sub-Group on Rail Transport (Tariffs)

13-14 May 1952

3-5 December 1952

Sub-Group on Inland Waterway Transport (Tariffs)

13-14 November 1952

13-15 January 1953

Working Party on Transport Costs and Accountancy

5-9 May 1952

12-15 November 1952

Sub-Group on Rail Transport (Transport Costs and Accountancy)

6-8 May 1952

6-11 November 1952

Sub-Group on Road Transport (Transport Costs and Accountancy)

6-8 May 1952

6-11 November 1952

Sub-Group on Inland Waterway Transport (Transport Costs and Accountancy)

7-8 May 1952

12-13 November 1952

Working Party of Experts on Statistical Information

16-20 June 1952

Ad Hoc Study Group on the Role of Transport in the National Economy

1-3 April 1952

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

19-23 May 1952

Working Party on Co-ordination of Transport

22-26 April 1952

23-27 June 1952

2-4 March 1953

Joint Meeting of Working Party on Co-ordination of Transport and of Working Party on Transport Costs and Accountancy

23-28 February 1953

Joint Meetings of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Working Parties on Co-ordination of Transport, Transport Costs and Accountancy and Statistical Information

28 Oct.-1 Nov. 1952

Joint Meeting of Experts of the Sub-Committee on Safety of the Committee of Experts on annex I to the CIM and of the Working Parties on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
24-26 September 1952

(b) ACTIVITIES

91. In accordance with the decisions which it adopted during its seventh session and reiterated at its eighth session, the Inland Transport Committee's main attention continued to be centred on questions related to the formulation of a general transport policy. Such questions include those concerning investments, tariffs, costs, co-ordination of transport, international comparability of transport statistics and also the drawing up of a general agreement and standard set of rules for road transport.

Problems common to several modes of transport

Co-ordination of transport

92. During the period under review the Working Party on the Co-ordination of Transport was chiefly concerned with an examination of the social and economic burdens imposed on transport undertakings and advantages granted to them. The Working Party reached a number of conclusions as to whether or not certain obligations should be borne by transport undertakings. The Working Party also studied the implications of freedom of choice of means of transport by users, and of the freedom of operating transport on own account. It made various recommendations in respect of consultations between carriers and transport users.

Investments

93. At the request of the Committee, the secretariat is assembling and collating documentation on the relevant development programmes in the field of transport contemplated in the various countries. A preliminary study thereon is expected to be available in the spring of 1953.

94. The Committee drew the attention of governments to the importance of using the same system of electrification in zones of heavy traffic for international services between neighbouring countries and requested the International Union of Railways (UIC) to indicate the main international lines most advantageous from the economic standpoint which should be equipped so as to ensure the fullest possible efficiency of future electrification schemes.

95. With regard to the international financing of a network of main international road traffic arteries, a first draft statute for a European Road Investment Fund which would undertake the financing of the main traffic arteries of certain countries whose roads form an interconnected whole is under preparation by the secretariat in collaboration with the International Road Federation (IRF).

Transport costs and accountancy

96. The Working Party discussed the principles and methods to be applied for the calculation of the financial charges and, in particular, those resulting from investments. It accepted certain principles, which will have to be adjusted subsequently for each mode of transport, and has held joint meetings with the Working Party on the Co-ordination of Transport, in order to study the question of track cost.

97. Railway administrations can now begin calculating whether particular tariffs result in gains or losses. With regard to roads and inland waterways, it is possible to establish theoretical costs according to various hypotheses.

98. The Working Party is continuing to study these problems with a view to harmonizing the points of view expressed by the sub-groups dealing with the different modes of transport.

Tariffs

99. The Working Party on Tariffs continued to study tariff problems for rail, road and inland water transport at the international level. The Working Party agreed that its final object was to provide for international tariffs, in respect of roads and inland waterways transport, for which no tariffs exist at present. It recommended the general adoption for these two means of transport of published and stable tariffs which would allow some measure of flexibility in their application and agreed to examine the possibility of introducing control measures for the application of tariffs. The Working Party also discussed international goods tariffs for combined transport (rail/road, rail/waterway, etc.).

100. The Working Party took up the study of rail tariff discriminations and instructed the secretariat to prepare a report on the question covering all three modes of transport on the basis of information to be supplied by the governments.

101. At the Working Party's request, the International Union of Railways (UIC) is making a comprehensive study of the general problem of tariff standardization, and has already reached certain results as regards the presentation of tariffs and the reduction of various transport charges.

102. The study of international tariffs independent of internal tariffs is, in its first stage, restricted to less-than-wagon-load traffic. The principles for establishing these tariffs have been worked out by the UIC, and the Working Party recommended that the UIC draft be introduced by the railway administrations in the course of 1953. The UIC was subsequently asked to extend this study to wagon load transport of perishable foodstuffs.

103. The Sub-Group on Road Transport went into the possibility of establishing international goods tariffs applicable both to regular and to occasional services based on bilateral agreements between countries as well as international tariffs for regular passenger transport services.

104. The Sub-Group on Inland Water Transport began the study of a report on the question of setting up combined rail-waterway tariffs in international traffic.

Competition between ports

105. The general problem of competition between ports was referred by the Inland Transport Committee to the Executive Secretary, who is invited to keep in touch with the governments concerned and call a meeting of experts should a situation arise which offers prospects of fruitful negotiations.

Transfer of currency

106. The possibility of granting to road and inland waterway carriers facilities similar to those accorded

to railway administrations for settling financial claims between them is under study.

Statistics

107. The Working Party of Experts on Statistical Information, at its seventh session, examined a report of an *ad hoc* study group on the role played by the transport industry in the national economy of the various countries. The Committee agreed that the study of this problem should be pursued.

108. With regard to statistics on the movement of goods in international traffic, the Committee recommended that governments do their utmost to supply such statistics. Such data would provide information as to whether the most suitable routes were being followed.

109. The publication of the *Quarterly Bulletin of Transport Statistics* was continued and the *Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for 1951* was issued in December 1952.

Transport of perishable foodstuffs

110. The Working Party on Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs, in carrying forward its work on the standardization of packaging, noted the measures taken by certain governments with respect to the carrying out of the recommendations concerning various fruit and vegetable packings. In this work close contact has been maintained with the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs of the Committee on Agricultural Problems. The Working Party continued the work undertaken with a view to ensuring the most desirable conditions of transport for perishable foodstuffs.

Containers

111. The Working Party on Containers continued its work on the drafting of an international customs agreement on containers.

Dangerous goods

112. At its ninth session, the attention of the Inland Transport Committee was drawn to the discussion concerning the activities of the Working Parties on the Transport of Dangerous Goods which took place during the seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe, and the Committee approved the statement on the subject made by its Chairman on that occasion.

113. A joint meeting on the transport of dangerous goods, under the auspices of the Central Office for International Rail Transport and the Economic Commission for Europe, studied, *inter alia*, the question of packaging and labelling. With regard to labelling, progress was made towards harmonizing the various proposals made by the international organizations concerned.

Railways

114. The Sub-Committee on Rail Transport, at its seventh session, noted the improvements in the timetable of certain rail journeys resulting from the recommendations of its Group of Experts on the Simplification of Frontier Formalities. It expected further reductions following the signing of the two international conventions to facilitate the crossing of frontiers for passengers, baggage and goods carried by rail.

115. The Sub-Committee was informed that the pool of wagons administered by the French railways and the western German authorities had yielded satisfactory results. It expressed the hope that the existing wagon pool might be extended to as many railway administrations as possible. Since March 1953, ten railway administrations have been carrying out the directives and have signed an agreement on the joint utilization of a wagon pool of 160,000 wagons.

116. The Sub-Committee passed a resolution on facilities to be accorded to privately-owned wagons crossing frontiers by rail, and recommended governments to adopt certain measures in order to implement the resolution. It adopted a resolution urging governments to re-establish or grant certain facilities for the transfer of transport charges. Work on utilization of rolling stock and on modernization of facilities in long-distance passenger trains was carried forward.

117. The Joint Working Party on Safety at Level Crossings pursued its studies aimed at the prevention of accidents at level crossings.

Roads

Development and improvement of international road transport

118. The Working Party on the Development and Improvement of Transport of Passengers and Goods by Road and the Working Party on Legal Questions examined, at a joint meeting, a text of a general international agreement and of a standard set of rules which aim at improving the standards for international road transport by the introduction of certain regulations for passengers and goods, certain technical questions being dealt with in annexes to those rules. This is to make possible the putting into force of the proposed rules at an early date and the adoption of a more flexible procedure for revising the technical clauses. A new draft general agreement and standard set of rules will be examined by the Working Party in the spring of 1953, and the agreement is likely to come into force during 1953.

International bus lines

119. The terms of reference of the Sub-Group on International Passenger Transport Services by Road were extended to enable a co-ordinated programme of international passenger transport services by road to be established before each tourist season. This Sub-Group, during two sessions, drew up a programme for tourist services in 1952 and 1953 and took note of the "conditions of conveyance" of passengers on which agreement had been reached between the road and rail organizations concerned. The study of certain technical and commercial problems, such as tariffs, combined tickets, and transfer of currency is being continued.

Prevention of road traffic accidents

120. The Working Party on the Prevention of Road Accidents is continuing its studies on:

(a) The possibility for a reduction of accidents, including those resulting from the construction and equipment of vehicles;

(b) International propaganda campaigns; methods of educating the public, in particular school children,

and the publication of a model international safety manual;

(c) A statute for the establishment of a European centre which would deal with traffic engineering.

Compulsory insurance and third party risks

121. The study on the principles of civil liability and compulsory insurance of motorists against third party risks which might form the basis of an international agreement was continued by the Working Party on Legal Questions.

122. A scheme for the introduction of an international insurance certificate for the purpose of third party risks was approved by governments participating in the work of the Working Party on Legal Questions. It entered into force in several countries as from January 1953.

Application of Customs conventions

123. Problems connected with the Agreement providing for the Provisional Application of the three Draft International Customs Conventions were dealt with by the Working Party of Customs Experts.

124. Experience in customs control to date and also the need to take into account improved techniques in vehicle construction and equipment made it necessary to amend certain technical provisions of the Draft Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods by Road and of the Agreement regarding the provisional application of the three Draft Customs Conventions by means of an Additional Protocol. This Additional Protocol was signed by five countries in November 1952.

Road transport contract

125. Work on the drawing up of a road transport contract by the Working Party on Legal Questions is continuing. Such a contract is to regulate conditions of transport as between the carrier and the user.

F. Manpower Committee

126. The Committee on Manpower established a programme of work which, on the decision of governments, was taken over by the ILO in April 1948. The Committee remained inactive between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Commission. The secretariat has kept in touch with the work of the ILO, and has circulated a document prepared by the International Labour Office giving information as to its activities in this field.

G. Steel Committee

(a) LIST OF MEETINGS HELD

Steel Committee (tenth session)

19-21 January 1953

(b) ACTIVITIES

Flat steel products

127. The secretariat prepared a comprehensive study entitled "Flat Steel Products: A Study of Production and Consumption Trends", reviewing past production and consumption trends in Europe and in the United States. The over-all trend of consumption and the

competitive position of the industry have been examined and particular attention has been paid to the automobile industry, the shipbuilding industry, containers and direct exports of flat products. The report is to be revised and completed in the light of comments made, with a view to early publication.

Exports

128. The secretariat prepared a comprehensive study on "European Steel Exports and Steel Demand in non-European Countries", divided into two main parts. The first part analyses the importance of international trade in steel products, makes a general assessment of the competitive position of Europe on the world market, and concludes with an appraisal of the possible level of European exports in 1956 and 1960.

129. The second part of the study contains an analysis of steel production, export, import and consumption in the main steel-consuming countries outside Europe (including the USSR and the United States), together with a general survey of the steel-making raw material position and steel-making facilities in these countries. The report is to be revised and completed in the light of comments made, with a view to early publication.

Inter-regional co-operation

130. Co-operation was maintained with the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and action was taken, where appropriate, to facilitate the supply of steel to countries of the ECAFE region.

131. The Director of the Industry Division attended the meetings of the first Expert Working Group on the Iron and Steel Industry of Latin America, held in Bogota, Columbia, in October and November 1952 (see paragraph 22).

132. The Committee decided that the mutual interest of European countries and less-developed countries overseas in steel matters was such that inter-regional exchange of information should be regarded as one of the most important aspects of the Committee's work and should be strengthened by all possible means.

Statistics

133. The contents of the *Quarterly Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe*, which was first published in December 1950, were further extended and now include comparable detailed statistics for most European countries.

Raw materials

134. The Committee reviewed the supply situation of these materials during its tenth session. The Committee endorsed a proposal that the secretariat should make a study of the reservoir of capital scrap in Europe which could be expected to be forthcoming during the next decade.

European steel trends

135. The secretariat prepared a document reviewing steel production and consumption trends in Europe in 1952.

Technology

136. A document entitled "Recent Developments and Trends in Iron and Steel Technology" was issued

in July 1952 and a continuing study of technological developments is being carried out.

Tubes

137. The Committee endorsed a proposal that the secretariat should make a study of the tube sector of the steel industry, dealing with trends of production and consumption by selected end using industries.

H. Timber Committee

(a) LIST OF MEETINGS HELD

Timber Committee

Ninth Session

2- 6 May 1952

Tenth Session

14-20 October 1952

(b) ACTIVITIES

Market review

Sawn softwood

138. The Committee, at its ninth session, noted that, since the end of 1951, the European timber market had undergone a complete change due to a sharp decline in the intensive demand for all timber assortments.

139. As far as European sawn softwood was concerned, the prospective demand from Europe, the Middle East and other overseas countries was estimated by the Committee at 2.8 to 3 million standards for 1952, representing a reduction of 500 to 650 thousand standards below actual imports in 1951. Export prospects as reported by the major European producing countries had also been substantially revised downward, especially in the case of Sweden and Finland with a reduction of 400 thousand standards in all. No reduction in shipments below last August's plans had been reported from Canada and the United States.

140. The Committee noted that the contemplated reduction in exports was in line with the drop in import requirements and that available supplies now appeared to correspond closely to the imports anticipated. It therefore considered that there was no likelihood of either any major shortage or surplus in 1952.

141. At its tenth session the Committee noted that the stagnation which characterized the sawn softwood market at the end of 1951 had been relieved in the latter half of May and through the month of June consequent upon a decline in f. o. b. prices varying from 25 per cent to 30 per cent. By the beginning of July the downward price trend had been checked and buying had been resumed. By the end of September a considerable amount of business had been done and the Committee's provisional estimates for the year 1952 essentially confirmed the forecasts made at its meeting in May. It seemed likely that exports from European countries would reach 2.1 million standards (including some 150 thousand standards from the USSR) whilst imports would come close to 2.9 million standards. With about 700 thousand standards expected from North America and Brazil, the small apparent deficit was considered to be within the margin of error of the estimates.

142. In the course of its discussion of the market situation the Committee put it on record that violent

fluctuations in prices were contrary to the interests of exporters and importers alike.

143. With regard to the probable development of the sawn softwood market in 1953, it was considered that prices had returned to a level which offered the possibility of stabilization. Total import requirements for 1953 were estimated at between 3.05 and 3.25 million standards, while export availabilities were expected to reach, at the maximum, 2.85 million standards, leaving an apparent deficit of about 200 to 400 thousand standards. In the opinion of the Committee the apparent deficit for 1953 gave no cause for alarm and it was thought that additional quantities might be forthcoming provided demand was sufficiently strong.

Pit-props

144. The situation of import requirements and export availabilities for 1952, as estimated by the Committee at its ninth session, proved to be considerably better as compared with the prognosis made at the Committee's eighth session in August 1951 when it was feared that the situation in this respect might become rather critical. It was recognized that this change was mainly due to stimulation of European supplies by the high price level and by early contracting for delivery in 1952, as had been strongly recommended by the Timber Committee and the Coal Committee in August 1951.

145. The estimated figures for 1952 showed a deficit of less than 3 per cent of requirements. As these figures included provision for replenishment of stocks and as there were prospects of some additional supplies, it was considered that no difficulty should arise in obtaining supplies for 1952 and that pit-prop stocks were likely to improve.

146. At its tenth session the Timber Committee noted that the decline in demand for pulpwood, which had become apparent since the beginning of 1952, had led to a marked easing of the situation. Since spring 1952 stocks of pit-props had shown a continuous rise. The apparent deficit of requirements for 1952 was estimated at less than 1 per cent. For 1953 a deficit of less than 4 per cent of requirements emerged from the Committee's estimates. This was not regarded as giving any cause for anxiety and the supply situation was on the whole considered satisfactory.

Pulpwood

147. At its ninth session, the Committee noted the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and of the seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe concerning the production and distribution of newsprint and printing paper. Delegates were unanimous in stressing the improvement in the over-all supply situation for wood pulp and its various products, which had taken place since the previous autumn, and concluded that for the short term the relation between supply and requirements for various pulp products appeared sufficiently satisfactory to warrant no further action by the Committee at that stage.

148. At its tenth session, the Committee recorded that the pulpwood supply situation had further improved since May 1952. The high prices paid in the course of the 1951-52 season had encouraged an unusually large production and a considerable stock

accumulation at most mills. This increase in pulpwood supplies had coincided with the falling market for pulp and paper.

149. The estimated deficit of 1.4 million cubic metres, shown in May, had by October decreased to 650 thousand cubic metres, corresponding to only 1.7 per cent of requirements. In view of the high level of stocks it was believed that this apparent deficit was likely to be easily covered.

150. The estimation for 1953 showed an apparent deficit of 1.5 million cubic metres between import requirements and export availabilities, or some 4 per cent of the total 1953 requirements. In comparison with the estimates made in May which at that time indicated a deficit to the extent of 7½ per cent, the situation had thus undergone a marked improvement. Bearing in mind the cautions estimates and the likelihood of further stock decreases in 1953, the supply situation for this year could be considered satisfactory.

Study of European timber trends

151. At its ninth session, the Committee received from the secretariat a progress report summarizing the contents of the Study dealing with trends in European timber consumption, production and trade respectively.

152. At its tenth session, the Timber Committee met, together with the European Forestry Commission of FAO, to discuss the draft of the Study which had previously been distributed. The joint session recommended that, prior to publication, the Study be revised in the light of the comments and criticisms made during the meeting and taking into account any observations subsequently submitted by governments and experts. It further recommended the establishment of a working party composed of eminent experts in the fields of forest policy, timber production, woodworking industry and the timber trade to consider proposals for future action so that the secretariat could make recommendations for submission to member governments well in advance of the next joint session.

Technical questions

153. At the ninth session, the following progress reports were presented by the secretariat and noted by the Committee:

- (a) Timber price statistics and indices;
- (b) Research on new methods for utilization of wood waste;
- (c) Logging techniques;
- (d) Other projects (definition of principles of the grading of commercial timber, study of problems in

connexion with the use of wood in packaging, including performance tests, and the training of wood-working technicians).

154. Due to the high priority given to the "Timber Trends Study" by the Committee, work on technical problems initiated in the seventh and eighth sessions had to be given a somewhat lower priority. It is expected, however, that this work will be accelerated in 1953.

I. Committee on the Development of Trade

155. No meeting of the Committee on the Development of Trade was held during the period under review, but work on trade was continued in various ways. Thus, in pursuance of the resolution concerning east-west trade, adopted at the seventh session of the Commission, the Executive Secretary explored, with governments, the possibilities of calling a consultation of trade experts. A record of the Executive Secretary's action in implementing this resolution is contained in his *Additional Note to the Reports of the Committees* submitted to the eighth session (E/ECE/153-H, Rev. 1).

156. In accordance with the understanding reached at the "Consultation on Preparations for an *ad hoc* Meeting on Trade" held in August 1951 (E/ECE/134), the Executive Secretary continued to obtain from governments information on the progress made by them in reaching trade agreements involving in particular grains and forestry products, on the one hand, against counterpart goods on the other.

157. The Research and Planning Division of the secretariat prepared a detailed note on recent developments in intra-European trade, published in volume 4, No. 3, of the *Economic Bulletin for Europe* under the title: "*Developments in Trade between Eastern and Western Europe from 1950 to mid-1952*".

158. The secretariat was instrumental in bringing together, and arranging for, bilateral trade negotiations, with the consent of the governments concerned, between the representatives of the Greek and Polish Chambers of Commerce. These talks took place in the period from 1 September to 22 October 1952 in Geneva; the ECE secretariat serviced the meetings and was at the disposal of the negotiating parties whenever necessary. On 22 October, a one-year trade agreement was signed for the exchange of goods totalling about \$4 million in value each way.

PART III. EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and officers

159. The eighth session of the Commission was held from 3 to 18 March 1953. It was attended by representatives from the following countries: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukrainian SSR, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United

Kingdom, United States of America, and Yugoslavia. Iceland, Ireland and Portugal were not represented. Australia was represented by an observer attending under the provision of paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference. The following specialized agencies sent representatives: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organisation, International Monetary Fund, Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization, and World Health Organization. Repre-

sentatives from the following non-governmental organizations attended the session: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of United Nations Associations, Catholic International Union for Social Service, International Organization for Standardization, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. A full list of delegates and observers is attached as appendix II to this report.

160. At its first meeting the Commission heard an opening statement by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/159).

161. The Commission elected Mr. Josef Ullrich (Czechoslovakia) as Chairman, and Mr. Zenophon Zolotas (Greece) as Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

B. Agenda and documentation^a

162. The following agenda was adopted (E/ECE/152):

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Reports from the Committees of the Commission on their activities since the closing date of their reports to the seventh session; and additional note to the reports of the Committees by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/153)
4. Other activities of the Commission and its secretariat—note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/154)
5. Decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly bearing upon the Economic Commission for Europe—note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/155)
6. The Commission's programme of work for 1953/1954 (E/ECE/156)
7. Review of the Economic Situation in Europe
8. Report of the Economic Commission for Europe to the Economic and Social Council
9. Any other business

C. Account of proceedings of the session

- (a) CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION ON THEIR ACTIVITIES SINCE THE CLOSING DATE OF THEIR REPORTS TO THE SEVENTH SESSION AND AN ADDITIONAL NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (E/ECE/153A-H) (item 3 of the agenda)

General statements

163. In the course of a general exchange of views on the work of the Commission and its committees,^a during which special reference was made to the opening statement by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/

^a The documents which served as basis of the Commission's deliberations at this session are indicated in parentheses. In addition to the basic documentation a series of working papers was issued prior to and in the course of the proceedings of the session.

^a See E/ECE/SR.8/2.

159), some of the eastern European delegations emphasized the subsidiary character of the Commission's technical committees and other auxiliary bodies whose composition might change according to the work in hand and the measure of interest of governments in relation thereto. It was the plenary session of the Commission which, in the opinion of these delegations, represented the primary and most important part of the Commission's activities, and constituted its focal point. It was also to be regretted that certain committees, to which these delegations attached particular importance, were not being convened. A number of West European delegations, who commended the activities of the technical committees in view of their practical value to governments, felt that whilst the Commission, as distinct from the committees and as the parent organization, necessarily predominates, the committees were making important contributions towards the creation of a pattern of constructive inter-governmental action in Europe. In the course of this general discussion reference was also made to the desirability of concentration of effort, and of the gradual expansion of the technique of fundamental studies with a view to bringing out the medium-term and long-term policy issues which lend themselves to international action in the economic sphere.

164. Thereupon the Commission proceeded to a consideration of the reports of its committees which were prefaced by introductory statements made by their respective Chairmen, or by the secretariat.

Committee on Agricultural Problems

165. In the course of the discussion^a of this report, representatives of a number of eastern European countries considered the continuing inactivity of this important Committee abnormal and unjustifiable, and urged therefore that the Committee be reconvened to address itself to the tasks for the realization of which it had been established. They asserted that one of the major tasks entrusted to the Committee, *viz*, to elaborate practical measures designed to improve the situation of small and medium farmers, had assumed special significance in the light of the worsening position of this sector of the rural population in the western European countries, caused by the adverse effects of further increases of expenditure on armaments. These representatives also traced the progress of agriculture in their countries.

166. Representatives of a number of western European countries denied statements that the situation of the farmers in that part of Europe had deteriorated. They stressed that the welfare of the farming populations was a constant preoccupation of their governments, and gave information on the progress of agriculture in their countries.

167. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR submitted a draft resolution (see appendix I, point 1) which was supported by a number of delegations of eastern European countries. This draft resolution called for the convening of a session of the Committee in 1953. It was rejected by 11 votes to 5. The following draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Denmark was adopted by 12 in favour, none against and five abstaining (see also part IV).

^a See E/ECE/SR.8/7, 8, 9 and 24.

"The Economic Commission for Europe,

"Having examined the report of the Committee on Agricultural Problems in relation to the information contained in the 'Economic Survey of Europe since the War',

"Considering that certain adjustments in the policies of European countries with regard to agricultural production and trade in agricultural products might materially contribute to the improvement of the economy of Europe and to the welfare of its farmers;

"Invites the Executive Secretary in co-operation with FAO to prepare in the light of the Commission's terms of reference a statement of the problems involved, together with proposals for possible action, for submission to governments for their consideration with a view to ascertaining whether the convening of the Committee on Agricultural Problems before the next session of the Commission would serve a useful purpose."

168. The Executive Secretary stated that, in endeavouring to implement this decision of the Commission, he would take into due account the views of all representatives on the work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems expressed during the discussion.

Coal Committee.

169. During the examination of the report of this Committee^a a number of delegations testified to the benefit derived by their governments from the Committee's work and the Committee's wholesome influence on the continent's coal economy in its commercial and technical aspects. There was also a general consensus with regard to the particular importance of the Committee which stemmed from the all-European nature of its membership. Special mention was made of the document analysing "Factors Causing Disorganization in the European Coal Market", and of the advantages which would be derived from the commercial application of the scientific international classification of hard coal, one of the tasks undertaken and completed by the Committee. Certain east European delegations considered that the Committee had failed to carry out the instructions given by the Commission to the Committee at its sixth session, *viz*, to work out practical recommendations for increasing European coal production with a view to achieving European self-sufficiency in coal and reducing the dependence of the countries of western Europe on supplies of coal from extra-European sources. This appraisal was not shared by delegations of western Europe who were of the opinion that in this respect there had been a steady, if gradual, improvement in the European coal situation. Whilst there was general agreement about the desirability of reducing imports of United States coal into Europe, some delegations felt that there was no compelling need for the Committee to attempt to do more in this connexion than it was doing already.

170. After discussion, the following draft resolution concerning the report of the Coal Committee submitted by the delegation of Sweden was adopted (see also part IV):

^a See E/ECE/SR.8/2, 3 and 12.

"The Economic Commission for Europe

"Having heard the Report of the Coal Committee

"Calls on the Committee

"(1) To continue directing its efforts towards the application of paragraph 1:2 of the terms of reference of the Coal Committee approved by the sixth session of the Economic Commission for Europe with a view to restoring European self-sufficiency in solid fuel and putting an end to dependence on extra-European sources of supply; and

"(2) To give special attention during 1953 to the formulation of practical recommendations to that end;

"Invites to this effect the Governments who are not taking part in the work of the Coal Committee to co-operate fully with the Committee."

Committee on Electric Power

171. The discussion of the report of this Committee^a ranged over the varied field of the work performed by it. Thus all representatives who spoke commented on the benefits derived by their countries from the Committee's studies whose findings gave useful indications of how national energy resources could be utilized in a rational manner and facilitated further development in the use of electric power in Europe. Mention was also made of the Committee's action in promoting exports of electric power as an example of practical inter-governmental co-operation in this field. The Technical Study Group on Rural Electrification (FAO-TAA-ECE) was regarded as having made a tangible contribution to the economic development of under-developed countries. In this manner, it was stated, the Committee had shown its ability to combine theoretical research with practical action and had acquired a recognized status in Europe.

172. The representative of Czechoslovakia referred to the Committee as a useful forum for discussion of power problems and to the notable contribution which some of its studies made towards further development in the use of electric power in Europe. Speaking on the general power situation in Europe, he argued that whilst the planned development of electric power production in Eastern Europe was proceeding steadily despite the holding up of deliveries of heavy electrical equipment from certain west European countries, electric power production in western Europe was slowing down as a result of the falling off in the level of economic activity in those countries.

173. The representative of France did not consider such comparisons either appropriate or corroborated by the facts.

174. The representative of the United Kingdom, commenting favourably on the past and current work of the Committee, intimated that his Government intended to resume its participation in the Committee's meetings in view of the United Kingdom's revived interest in electric power developments on the continent.

Industry and Materials Committee

175. During the consideration of the Report of the Industry and Materials Committee^a the repre-

^a See E/ECE/SR.8/5.

^b See E/ECE/SR.8/4.

sentative of France stated that, whilst his delegation did not consider it appropriate to convene the Committee during the coming year, it felt that its activities should be continued in the first place by the secretariat working in conjunction with government experts. According to the opinion of his delegation the future activities of the Committee should principally be oriented towards work that would contribute to the development of international trade.

176. The representative of Belgium commended the Committee on its work designed to standardize contract practices in engineering and hoped that this project would be carried forward and extended.

177. The Commission also considered the report of the Housing Sub-Committee.⁹

Inland Transport Committee

178. In discussing the report of this Committee¹⁰ a number of representatives stressed the great importance of the work of this body. In the opinion of the delegation of the Netherlands, the Committee was the most effective European organization active in the transport field. The representative of Greece, whilst welcoming the decision of the Committee to give priority to the question of the establishment of a general transport policy in Europe, was of the opinion that the headway made in this direction was not altogether adequate, and that the intensification of the work in this domain consequently deserved every encouragement. The delegation of France expressed the hope that the Committee would press on with the economic studies designed to bring out the principles which governments could bear in mind when adopting decisions to ensure the balanced development of transport.

179. The representative of Czechoslovakia stated that the Committee had failed to direct all its efforts towards finding a solution to the principal problems of European transport and had ignored most of the proposals submitted by Czechoslovakia. Despite previous criticisms, work on the preparation of regulations for the transport of dangerous goods of a military character had not yet been eliminated from the Committee's programme. On this point the representative of the Netherlands observed that the problem of the transport of dangerous goods had been taken up by the Committee because no strict regulation for the transport of goods of this description existed in the case of road or inland waterway transport. It was his understanding that the transport of goods of a purely military character under the control or on the responsibility of the armed forces was explicitly excluded from the scope of the proposed agreement.

180. Some delegations, commenting on the organizational aspect of the activities of the Inland Transport Committee felt that it would increase its usefulness by curtailing its activities and concentrating on what was essential to the coordination of European transport.

181. The Chairman of the Committee observed that it was open to each delegation to request the inclusion or deletion of any particular item in connexion with the agenda. This, however, required participation of the governments concerned.

Committee on Manpower

182. The consideration of the situation of this Committee was based on the Additional Note of the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/153-H) and his prefatory statement (E/ECE/SR.8/9). In the latter, the Executive Secretary recalled that the Sub-Committee on Manpower had been set up by the Industry and Materials Committee in November 1947, at the suggestion of the secretariat, for the specific purpose of considering the possibility of overcoming obstacles to labour mobility between countries. This programme of work by the governments participating in the Committee was subsequently referred to ILO for action. A progress report on the work accomplished during the period under review by that specified agency of the United Nations had been circulated (ECE/8/Working Paper No. 1).

183. In the course of the discussion which ensued,¹¹ the representative of the USSR stated that it was an abnormal situation that the Committee on Manpower remained inactive and had not been convened a single time despite the constant deterioration in the position of workers in western European countries in connexion with the militarization of the economy of those countries, the lowering of real wages and the growth of unemployment in those countries. The representative of the USSR submitted a draft resolution concerning the work of the Commission in which it was proposed to convene a session of the Committee in September 1953. This draft resolution was supported by a number of delegations of eastern European countries.

184. When speaking in support of this resolution the delegations concerned expressed the view that ILO approached the questions of vocational training and retraining mainly from the employers' point of view and had failed to pay attention to those economic problems the solution of which would assist in combating unemployment. Hence, they thought that the continued complete inactivity of the Committee was totally abnormal. These delegations further stated that whilst living standards in western Europe were on the downgrade those in eastern Europe showed continuing and marked improvement.

185. The representatives of the countries of Western Europe who participated in this exchange of views denied that living standards of the working population in western European countries were deteriorating and expressed doubts about the position of the workers in eastern European countries according to the statements made by delegations of those countries. They argued that standards of living of the workers in their countries were rising and were moreover safeguarded by a firmly established trade union wage-bargaining machinery, measures of monetary stabilization and miscellaneous social security provisions.

186. The representative of ILO stated that the organization's report on its work in the manpower field in Europe during 1952 (referred to above) had a limited objective and dealt with purely technical problems. If the Commission thought fit to ask for additional studies of wider scope from ILO, the latter would comply with its wishes and would also welcome

⁹ See E/ECE/SR.8/5.

¹⁰ See E/ECE/SR.8/7.

¹¹ See E/ECE/SR.8/9, 10, 11, 12 and 24.

any suggestion for the preparation of a more detailed study of certain particular points, since ILO's own constitution was sufficiently large to embrace the question of manpower in its wider aspects.

187. The draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the USSR was rejected by 11 to 5 votes (see appendix I, point 2).

Steel Committee

188. In the course of the examination of the report of this Committee¹² representatives who participated in the discussion expressed their appreciation of the fundamental research work undertaken by the secretariat for the Committee. They agreed that the special value of these studies resided in their impartial and detached nature which did not necessarily commit governments, whilst at the same time leaving open the possibility of the operational implementation by governments of certain of its findings.

189. The delegation of Belgium expressed its satisfaction with the way in which inter-regional co-operation, which it had constantly advocated, had been carried forward in the field covered by the Committee's activities.

Timber Committee

190. In considering the Report of this Committee¹³ representatives expressed their gratification at the achievements of this body during the period under review and, in this connexion, mentioned in particular the value to governments of the periodic reviews of the market situation for sawnwood and forest products undertaken by the Committee as well as of the quarterly *Timber Bulletin* containing timber statistics and market reports. The "Timber Trends Study", now completed, likewise deserved the highest commendation as a basis for further discussions on fundamental developmental problems of this important sector of Europe's economy. Furthermore, it was felt that the Committee could make a substantive contribution to the development of intra-European trade. The delegation of the United Kingdom, supported by several other delegations, proposed the deletion from the work programme of the Committee of the project concerning the possible establishment of an international timber documentation centre. This was accepted by the Executive Secretary.

191. The delegation of the USSR said that Soviet experts would be in a position to participate in the working of the forthcoming regular session of the Committee to be convened in the autumn of 1953 to study the timber trends over the coming years and the desirability of concluding long-term and mutually advantageous trade agreements.

Committee on the Development of Trade

192. On the basis of the Additional Note of the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/153-H REV. 1., section I) which gave a full account of his explorations in implementing the resolution on east-west trade, unanimously adopted at the seventh session of the Commission, representatives of governments gave their opinions on the Executive Secretary's suggestion that a consultation of trade experts be held on 13 April

1953. In making this suggestion, the Executive Secretary had likewise proposed a procedure and an agenda for such a gathering. Representatives who took part in the discussion under this item¹⁴ reiterated their concern for, and interest in, the development of mutually fruitful commercial relations between countries of eastern and western Europe.

193. The representative of Yugoslavia intimated that his Government would not take part in the proposed meeting in view of their doubts as to its practical usefulness.

194. Eventually the Commission adopted, with one abstention, the following draft resolution submitted by the delegation of France (see also part IV):

"The Economic Commission for Europe

"Approves the proposals made by the Executive Secretary regarding the consultation of trade experts and

"Invites him to convene on 13 April next, and to organize, a consultation of the nature and according to the procedure described in his aide-memoire of 4 February 1953."

- (b) CONSIDERATION OF THE NOTE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS SECRETARIAT (E/ECE/154) (item 4 of the agenda)

Voting rights of European nations not Members of the United Nations

195. In the course of the examination of this section,¹⁵ the delegation of Bulgaria submitted a draft resolution concerning the granting of voting rights to European nations not Members of the United Nations, taking part in the work of the Commission. This draft resolution was supported by a number of delegations including some delegations not Members of the United Nations, whilst some other delegations opposed it.

196. After discussion¹⁶ this draft resolution was rejected by 10 votes to 5 with 2 abstentions (see appendix I, point 3).

Full implementation of rule 40 of the Commission's rules of procedure

197. The Executive Secretary, reporting the action he had taken in pursuance of the decision taken at the seventh session of the Commission on the subject, said that the situation had in fact improved.¹⁷

Integrated economic development and commercial agreements

198. With reference to this section, the representative of Yugoslavia, supported by the representative of Greece, pointed out that the question of Europe's relations with the under-developed countries and the possible effect on the European economy of an accelerated development of the under-developed countries should be borne in mind in connexion with the whole of the Commission's work.¹⁸ They stated that they would raise this matter in another context (see paragraph 206).

¹² See E/ECE/SR.8/7 and 12.

¹³ See E/ECE/SR.8/12.

¹⁴ See E/ECE/SR.8/24.

¹⁵ See E/ECE/SR.8/12.

¹⁶ See E/ECE/SR.8/12.

¹⁷ See E/ECE/SR.8/3 and 4.

¹⁸ See E/ECE/SR.8/4.

Co-operation with the other regional commissions

199. The representatives of the United Kingdom and of the United States of America considered that inter-regional co-operation had been eminently useful but thought that in future, in order to avoid overlapping, it was necessary that, before launching activities on problems having world-wide implications, the regional commissions should, if there was any doubt, first consult the Economic and Social Council.

200. The Executive Secretary explained that the two broad aims of co-operation with the sister commissions were to avoid overlapping and to make information in the possession of any one of the commissions generally available. Much of the work in the field of inter-regional co-operation was technical in character, and as such specifically focused on regional problems. Whilst there were cases where inter-regional co-operation was a first step in the fashioning of global arrangements, the inter-regional and global approaches were quite distinct, each of them having within the framework of the United Nations appropriate machinery for implementation.

Co-operation in the field of the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme

201. During the consideration¹⁹ of this section in the Note of the Executive Secretary, the representative of Turkey expressed his satisfaction with the close relations which the secretariat maintained with the Technical Assistance Administration, for such collaboration could only facilitate the Commission's work.

Relations with specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

202. In connexion with the consideration of this section, the representative of the USSR, supported by a number of other delegations, took exception to the continuance, by the secretariat of ECE, of contacts with the secretariat of the OEEC, with that of the Council of Europe and with the staff of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community. He said that the purposes of these organizations had nothing in common with those of the United Nations in general, and the ECE in particular, and that the contacts of the ECE secretariat with such organizations could not but have adverse influence on the Commission's work. He considered that the aim of these bodies was the remilitarization of western Europe, in which the building up of the military potential of western Germany through the European Coal and Steel Community played an essential part. He added that the Executive Secretary had not been empowered by the Commission to take such steps. The representative of France denied that the aims of the organization under reference were to promote the militarization of Europe, to create an arsenal of war and to encourage aggression. He considered that the OEEC had helped to restore the civilian economy of Europe; the Council of Europe was intended to facilitate economic integration. The aims of the European Coal and Steel Community were eminently peaceful.

203. The representatives of Greece and Turkey agreed with the representative of France. They also

felt that they would have considered it equally in order for the secretariat to establish contact with inter-governmental organizations functioning in the eastern part of Europe and also concerned with economic integration.

204. The Executive Secretary, commenting on the exchange of views, remarked that it was not for him to pass judgment on the political complexion of the inter-governmental organizations in question or the political repercussions of their activity. The Commission as such had no formal relations with those organizations. As far as the informal relations of the secretariat in this field were concerned, he referred to his statement made in connexion with a similar discussion during the Commission's seventh session (E/ECE/SR.7/25) and recapitulated the principles which guide the secretariat in this respect. The Commission was a technical agency of the United Nations and it was essential to its proper functioning to keep itself informed of the activities of, and to keep in touch with, other inter-governmental bodies working in the same field. After the discussion the Executive Secretary concluded that, on the one hand, he felt it his duty to continue the informal contacts for the reasons which he had explained, but on the other hand he was especially conscious of the need for proceeding as hitherto with due caution, being mindful of the implications of the divided state of Europe. He also added that he would be exploring the possibilities of establishing similar informal contacts with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

Relations with the Allied Control Authorities in Germany

205. The account of these relations during the period under review was examined without comment.

(c) CONSIDERATION OF THE NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE DECISIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEARING UPON THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (E/ECE/155) (item 5 of the agenda)

206. In connexion with the examination of this item by the Commission,²⁰ and in the light of certain findings of the Survey, the delegations of Greece, Italy, Turkey and Yugoslavia submitted the following draft resolution concerning the economic development of the less developed countries in southern Europe, which was adopted (see also part IV):

"The Economic Commission for Europe,

"Recalling the discussion at the eighth session of the Commission concerning the need for further economic and social development of under-developed countries,

"Considering that the economic development of the less developed countries in Europe, particularly in Southern Europe, could not only promote the welfare of the peoples living in those countries but also contribute to a general improvement in European economic conditions,

"Invites the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe

¹⁹ See E/ECE/SR.8/12 (pp. 11-12); 13 (pp. 13-15); 14 (pp. 18-19 and 25-27); 17 (pp. 27-28); 18 (pp. 31 and 44); 20 (pp. 25-26); 24 (pp. 11-12); 25 (pp. 3-4) for the statements of certain delegations on this point.

²⁰ See E/ECE/SR.8/12.

"(1) To prepare a study of the present possibilities of expanding and accelerating the economic development of the less-developed countries in Southern Europe,

"(2) To consult with interested governments concerning the possibilities of further action."

(d) THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1953/1954 (E/ECE/156) (item 6 of the agenda)

207. In the course of the discussion on this item²¹ representatives expressed the view that certain projects could be transferred from the category of priority projects to a category of lesser urgency, some others merged and others still eliminated altogether.

208. By way of a general reflection, the representative of the USSR observed that the secretariat should concentrate on such studies and research as would contribute to peaceful economic development, the improvement of living conditions throughout Europe, and to the strengthening of trade relations.

209. The representative of the United States welcomed the information on costs that was annexed, for the first time, to the Commission's programme of work.

210. The Executive Secretary, after pointing out that apart from the projects listed in document E/ECE/156 under the heading "General" which referred to work done by the secretariat on behalf of, and on the authority of, the Commission as such, and in consideration of its responsibility as an integral part of the Department of Economic Affairs of the United Nations at Headquarters, the remaining parts of the programme related directly to the activities of individual committees and had consequently been submitted to them for prior consideration and approval.

211. Having concluded the consideration of the reports of its Committees, and its programme of work for 1953/1954, the Commission adopted the following draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Commission (see also part IV):

"The Economic Commission for Europe,

"Having examined the reports of the Committees on their activities and the Programme of Work of the Committees and Secretariat for 1953-1954

"Invites the Committees and the Executive Secretary when reviewing the Work Programme and priorities to take due account of the decisions of the Commission, of the views expressed by the representatives participating in the discussions at the Eighth Session and the changing economic situation."

(e) REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN EUROPE

(item 7 of the agenda)

212. In its review of the economic situation in Europe, the Commission used as a background document for its discussion the "Economic Survey of Europe since the War" (E/ECE/157) 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.8/14-18 and 20-23.

(f) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(item 9 of the agenda)

Requests for hearings from non-governmental organizations

213. Requests were received from the representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions for permission to present the views of that organization to the Commission during the discussion of items 3 (Report of the Housing Sub-Committee) and 7 (Review of the Economic Situation in Europe) of the agenda; and from the representative of the World Federation of Trade Unions for permission to present the views of that organization to the Commission during the discussion of items 3 (Report on the Committee on Manpower) and 7 (Review of the Economic Situation in Europe) of the agenda. These requests were granted. A request was also received from the representative of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom for permission to present a statement on General Assembly resolution 626 (VII). As that particular resolution called for no action by the Commission and had been communicated to it for background information only, it was agreed that the statement should be submitted in writing and circulated for the information of the delegations to the Commission.

Death of Generalissimo Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR

214. The sixth meeting of the Commission was devoted to paying homage to the memory of the late J. V. Stalin. Speeches were delivered by the Commission's Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Executive Secretary, the Director of the European Office of the United Nations and the representative of the USSR.

215. A minute's silence was observed in honour of J. V. Stalin.²²

Death of Mr. Klement Gottwald, President of the Republic of Czechoslovakia

216. The nineteenth meeting of the Commission was devoted to paying homage to the memory of the late President Gottwald. Speeches were delivered by the Commission's Vice-Chairman, the representative of the USSR, the Executive Secretary, the Director of the European Office of the United Nations and the Commission's Chairman speaking in his capacity as representative of Czechoslovakia.

217. A minute's silence was observed in honour of K. Gottwald.²³

Date and place of next session

218. The Commission decided to leave to the Executive Secretary the responsibility, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and in the light of the arrangements of the Economic and Social Council, of determining the proposed date of the ninth session of the Commission and to advise governments of this date in due time. It was understood that the ninth session would be held at the seat of the European Office of the United Nations, and that the "Survey of the Economic Situation in Europe" would be circulated in due time before the opening of the session.

²² See E/ECE/SR.8/6.

²³ See E/ECE/SR.8/19.

²¹ See E/ECE/SR.8/13 and 24.

PART IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Resolution I

Resolution concerning the work of the Committee on agricultural problems

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Having examined the report of the Committee on Agricultural Problems in relation to the information contained in the "Economic Survey of Europe since the War";

Considering that certain adjustments in the policies of European countries with regard to agricultural production and trade in agricultural products might materially contribute to the improvement of the economy of Europe and to the welfare of its farmers;

Invites the Executive Secretary in co-operation with FAO to prepare in the light of the Commission's terms of reference a statement of the problems involved, together with proposals for possible action, for submission to governments for their consideration with a view to ascertaining whether the convening of the Committee on Agricultural Problems before the next session of the Commission would serve a useful purpose.

Resolution II

Resolution concerning the work of the Coal Committee

The Economic Commission for Europe

Having heard the report of the Coal Committee

Calls on the Committee

(1) To continue directing its efforts towards the application of paragraph 1:2 of the terms of reference of the Coal Committee approved by the sixth session of the Economic Commission for Europe with a view to restoring European self-sufficiency in solid fuel and putting an end to dependence on extra-European sources of supply; and

(2) To give special attention during 1953 to the formulation of practical recommendations to that end;

Invites to this effect the governments who are not taking part in the work of the Coal Committee to co-operate fully with the Committee.

Resolution III

Resolution concerning a consultation of trade experts

The Economic Commission for Europe

Approves the proposals made by the Executive

Secretary regarding the consultation of trade experts and

Invites him to convene on 13 April next, and to organize, a consultation of the nature and according to the procedure described in his aide-memoire of 4 February 1953.

Resolution IV

Resolution concerning the economic development of the less-developed countries in southern Europe

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling the discussion at the eighth session of the Commission concerning the need for further economic and social development of under-developed countries,

Considering that the economic development of the less-developed countries in Europe, particularly in southern Europe, could not only promote the welfare of the peoples living in those countries but also contribute to a general improvement in European economic conditions,

Invites the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe

(1) To prepare a study of the present possibilities of expanding and accelerating the economic development of the less-developed countries in southern Europe,

(2) To consult with interested governments concerning the possibilities of further action.

Resolution V

Resolution concerning the work of the ECE Committees and the programme of work for 1953/1954

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Having examined the reports of the Committees on their activities and the programme of work of the Committees and secretariat for 1953-54,

Invites the Committees and the Executive Secretary when reviewing the work programme and priorities to take due account of the decisions of the Commission, of the views expressed by the representatives participating in the discussions at the eighth session and the changing economic situation.

PART V. DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR THE COUNCIL'S ACTION ON 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 between the 19th March 1952 and the 18th March 1953 and of the views expressed during the discussions at the Eighth Session of the Commission.

Editorial Note

At its session the Commission considered its work programme for 1953-1954. For this purpose the Commission had before it document E/ECE/156 with Add.1 and Corr.1. On that document the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the work programme had been drawn up in the light of the decisions and considerations of the Economic and Social Council on this matter while bearing in mind the established practices and working arrangements of the ECE. Under these practices and arrangements, it was the Commission which lay down the terms of reference of the Committees and kept their operation and work under periodic review, whilst the Committees were expected to, and in fact did, determine and continuously review their particular work programmes within the setting of their terms of reference and in conformity with the relevant decisions of the Commission. Accordingly, apart from the projects listed under the heading "General", which principally referred to work performed by the secretariat on behalf and on the authority of the Commission as such, the remaining portions of the programme related directly to the activities of the Committees and had consequently been submitted to them for prior consideration and approval. Obvious exceptions to this procedure, however, existed in the cases of those Committees which had not met since the seventh session of the Commission.

The Commission considered the work programme specifically at its thirteenth meeting;²¹ furthermore various considerations arose under other items on the agenda affecting the work programme. At its twenty-fourth meeting the Commission adopted a resolution²² relating to the work programme for 1953/1954 which "invites the Committees and the Executive Secretary, when reviewing the work programme and priorities, to take due account of the relevant decisions of the Commission, of the views expressed by the representatives participating in the discussions at the Eighth Session and the changing economic situation".

In the light of this resolution and the relevant decisions of the Commission²³, the Executive Secretary has made certain adjustments and additions in the work programme in those areas where, as explained above, the work programme had not been specifically established by the Committees.

The work programme and priorities of the Commission for 1953/1954 is set out below:

Work Programme and Priorities—1953/1954

The work programme of the Commission has been 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

It has not been found practicable or realistic to attempt to make a differentiation of priority as between these broad subjects.

Within these broad groups, projects or functions have been divided into the categories suggested by the Co-ordination Committee:

- 1—Priority projects of a continuing nature
- 2—Priority projects of an *ad hoc* nature
- 3—Other projects

Within category 3, projects have wherever possible been listed in order of importance.

01. General projects

(Under General projects, an indication is given of the division or other organizational unit primarily responsible for the item. The other broad subjects indicate by their titles this primary responsibility, and no special indication is given except in particular cases).

01.1. Priority projects of a continuing nature

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

Primary responsibility: Research and Planning Division.

Authority: Terms of reference of the Commission; annual sessions of the Commission. Description: From the secretariat point of view, this function is performed by the preparation and publication of the annual economic surveys and the quarterly economic bulletins. Under a recently revised schedule the survey is to appear in January, and the quarterly bulletins to appear thereafter in April, July and October.

01.1.2. Improvement and dissemination of basic economic data through:

Collection and digest of statistics of European countries in the secretariat's own studies and other publications:

Co-operation with national statistical agencies and other bodies in increasing availability and comparability of statistics

Primary responsibility: Research and Planning Division (in co-operation with other divisions in their particular fields of interest and, more generally, with the Statistical Office at Headquarters).

Authority: Terms of reference of the Commission; decisions of the various ECE committees and their sub-bodies; various resolutions of the Statistical Commission.

²¹ See E/ECE/SR.8/13.

²² Resolution No. V.

²³ Resolutions I and IV on the work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems and the Economic Development of the Less Developed Countries in Southern Europe, respectively, call for two major high priority studies by the secretariat. These have now been added to the work programme as projects 01.2.1 and 02.2.1.

Description: Although these functions are closely related with project 01.1.1. and are the foundation of much of the other work of the secretariat, they are also functions in their own right. Particular aspects of the function are, *inter alia*, work on the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) in special collaboration with the Department of Economic Affairs at Headquarters, collaboration with the Department of Economic Affairs in the meetings of the European Statisticians, and assistance to the Technical Divisions of ECE in the improvement of statistics in their respective fields.

01.1.3. *Development of inter-regional trade*

Primary responsibility: Research and Planning Division, Industry Division.

Authority: The present work in this area is under authority of resolution 5 of the seventh session of the Commission.

Description: The development of trade between Europe and Asia and the Far East, and between Europe and Latin America is a continuing function of the Commission with particular reference to various Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolutions on economic development.

The present activities in this area are described under projects 01.2.1 and 01.2.2 below, and under appropriate references under the broad subjects "Engineering and Industrial Materials" and "Steel". ECE has undertaken to prepare for the use of the other two regional commissions special quarterly compilations of Europe's trade with those regions. The original impetus for this work was furnished by an ECLA decision and details for its operation, including its extension to ECAFE, developed by the secretariats of the three Commissions.

01.1.4. *Development of intra-European trade*

Primary responsibility: Office of the Executive Secretary.

Authority: Terms of reference of the Commission.

Description: The development of intra-European trade as an element of the economic development of Europe is a continuing function of the Commission under its terms of reference. Development of trade is the aim of much of the research work done as well as the work of the technical committees and therefore affects all areas of the secretariat. The specific problem of east-west trade, the present work on which is under the authority of resolution 7 of the seventh session of the Commission, is the direct responsibility of the office of the Executive Secretary.

01.1.5. *Co-operation in the Technical Assistance Programme through; inter alia:*

Assistance to governments in formulation of requests, etc.

Assistance to the TAA in recruitment of experts.

Assistance to the TAA in the purchase of equipment.

Assistance to the TAA through placement and development of study programmes for stipendists and fellows.

Primary responsibility: Industry Division, although this is a function in which the collaboration of all divisions is particularly marked.

Authority: Seventh session of the Commission and provisions of ECOSOC resolutions on Technical Assistance.

Description: The activities of the ECE secretariat in this field are undertaken on specific requests of the Technical Assistance Administration.

01.2. *Priority projects of an ad hoc nature*

01.2.1. *A study of economic development in southern Europe*

Primary responsibility: Research and Planning Division.

Authority: Eighth session of the Commission, resolution 1.

Description: A study of the present possibilities of expanding and accelerating the economic development of the less-developed countries in southern Europe. This study was specifically requested by the eighth session of the Commission. It is anticipated that this study will be ready for the next session of the Commission in March 1954. The Executive Secretary has also been invited to consult with interested governments concerning the possibilities of further action in this field.

01.2.2. *Development of trade—between Europe and Asia and the Far East (with ECAFE and FAO)*

Primary responsibility: For ECE, the Research and Planning Division.

Authority: For ECE, the seventh session of the Commission, resolution 5.

Description: The comprehensive study described under this heading in the 1952/53 work programme has been completed in a provisional form which is intended, it is understood, for distribution prior to the Manila Trade Promotion Conference to be held in February/March 1953. Further work will be required on the preparation of a final edition. The extent of this work will depend to a large degree on governments' comments on the provisional edition and therefore neither the exact description of the future work on this project nor the duration of such work can be given at this time.

01.2.3. *Development of trade—between Europe and Latin America (with ECLA and FAO)*

Primary responsibility: For ECE, the Research and Planning Division.

Authority: For ECE, the seventh session of the Commission, resolution 5.

Description: The comprehensive study described under this heading in the 1952/53 work programme has been completed and will be printed early in 1953. It is not possible at that stage to estimate the scope or duration of future work in this area, but the secretariat would expect to give priority to such work as might be deemed useful by the governments.

01.2.4. *A study on long-run tendencies in the European economy*

Primary responsibility: Research and Planning Division.

Authority: Terms of reference of the Commission.

Description: This study has been undertaken under the personal direction of Prof. Svennilson, Stockholm, with a view to analysing the long-run factors underlying current economic developments and prospects in Europe. It is anticipated that the study will be published by June 1953.

01.3. *Other projects*

01.3.1. *A study of the factors affecting international price formations*

Primary responsibility: Research and Planning Division.

Authority: Fifth session of the Commission, resolution 2 (E/1674).

Description: Work on this new field of research was planned to begin in 1951. More urgent demands on staff have required that it be deferred.

01.3.2. *A study of the deterioration of the European capital market*

Primary responsibility: Research and Planning Division.

Authority: Fifth session of the Commission, resolution 3 (E/1674).

Description: This study, as the one shown under 01.3.1 above, was planned for 1951, but has had to be deferred.

01.3.3. *A study on the energy resources of Europe and their use*

Primary responsibility: Research and Planning Division with particular collaboration of the Industry Division.

Authority: Sixth session of the Commission (E/2002, paragraph 150).

Description: The original object of the study was to provide a comprehensive analysis of the whole complex of energy problems as a

basis for more specific projects undertaken with regard to coal, electric power, and other forms of energy. One phase has been completed, and a volume of *Selected European Energy Statistics* was presented to the Commission at its 1951 session. Although a comprehensive study continues to be considered useful, it appears that budgetary limitations will not permit its being undertaken. Certain aspects of the energy question do require more urgent study, however, and projects for these studies are included under the specific fields in which they fall.

02. *Agriculture*

02.1. *Priority projects of a continuing nature*

02.1.1. *Co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization in certain economic aspects in the field of agriculture*

Authority: Seventh session of the Commission.

Description: These general functions are related both to project 01.1.1 above and certain FAO projects of a continuing nature, agriculture as a subject, coming within the purview of FAO. The Commission's work in agriculture has been mainly concerned with the possibility of stimulating east-west trade in cereals, which comes under the general project "Development of Trade"; other projects are shown below. In view of the common interest of ECE and FAO in the field of agriculture, the professional staff engaged on ECE work is provided by FAO.

02.1.2. *Assistance to small and medium farmers*

Authority: Seventh session of the Commission.

Description: Under this project, papers have been distributed to governments on:

Organization of Extension Services and the Promotion of Application of Modern Techniques in Agriculture.

The various policies adopted in Europe in regard to small and medium farmers.

Measures taken in various European countries to assist small and medium farmers with Agricultural Credit.

The Status of the Tenant Farmers and Sharecroppers in Europe.

Farm Equipment.

Governments have been requested to make suggestions on the papers. Although some replies have been received, none has contained constructive suggestions for international action in these fields. Further action depends upon views of the governments.

02.1.3. *Survey of the relationship between prices of major crops and those of agricultural requisites*

Authority: Seventh session of the Commission.

Description: This annual study is designed to deal with the relationship between the prices of coarse grains and those of principal livestock products; the relationship between the prices of the different types of fertilizers and those of different vegetable crops.

In as many European countries as the available information will permit.

A new study covering changes in prices during the crop year 1952/53 will be published in the summer of 1953.

02.1.4. *Studies of costs of agricultural production and agricultural income*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Committee on Agricultural Problems.

Description: The enlargement of the agricultural market in Europe depends largely on the solution of such problems as differences in cost of production and assurances of fair income to producers. This study is designed to analyse the factors underlying these problems. This first edition of this study has been published in January 1953 and will be followed with annual revisions with a view to developing the analysis further.

02.2. *Priority projects of an ad hoc nature*

02.2.1. *Statement on major policy problems in agricultural production and trade in agricultural products in Europe*

Authority: Eighth session of the Commission, resolution 1.

Description: As directed by the Commission, this is also to include proposals for possible action by governments and will be submitted to them for consideration with a view to ascertaining whether the convening of the Committee on Agricultural Problems before the next session of the Commission would serve a useful purpose.

02.2.2. *Studies on quality standards for perishable foodstuffs*

Authority: Committee on Agricultural Problems, first session.

Description: Work on this project proceeds in phases as standards are developed for particular commodities. The first phase, completed in February 1952, covered fruits and vegetables, and potatoes. Progress has been achieved in respect of eggs, and work has now been started regarding fisheries products and poultry. Recommendations have been submitted to governments with a view to exploring the possibility of drafting international conventions.

02.3. *Other projects*

02.3.1. *Study on agricultural investments*

02.3.2. *Study on trade in principal agricultural products*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Committee on Agricultural Problems.

Description: These studies are closely related to the questions involved in project 02.1.4, the particular aspects involved being basic in any question of enlargement of the European agricultural market.

03. *Coal*

03.1. *Priority projects of a continuing nature*

03.1.1. *Review of the coal market and distribution of export availabilities*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Coal Committee, and the programme of work approved by the Committee at its twenty-sixth session (E/ECE/COAL/84)

Description: On the basis of information supplied by governments, as well as forecasts and studies prepared by the secretariat, the European market in solid fuels is kept under continuous review and special aspects of the problem are considered for inter-governmental action as required. The information needed from governments for this work is to be made more complete particularly with respect to stocking and prices as they affect the international market. A quarterly review is to be prepared by the secretariat covering (a) production (b) consumption (c) stocks (d) international trade and prices and in particular analysing recent developments and probable future trends. Similar annual reviews are to be prepared, focussed on probable longer-term trends (one to five years ahead). On the basis of the facts disclosed by this review of the market, probable surpluses and deficits are determined with the objective, if necessary, of achieving agreement among governments in advance of each quarter on an equitable distribution of solid fuels available for export.

03.1.2. *Solid fuel utilization*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Coal Committee; and the programme of work (E/ECE/COAL/84).

Description: In order to promote the rational use of solid fuel a number of technical problems, which involve policy decisions, are under examination, such as the improvement of the existing coal-burning equipment; the extension of the use of control instruments; the development of combined heat and power production; methods of coke production; and improvements in the training of boilerhouse personnel. Furthermore, on the basis of information prepared by the secretariat on the work of the national organizations for the promotion of rational fuel consumption, the possibility of organizing international co-operation in research and documentation in this field, perhaps through the setting-up of an international institute for this purpose, is under examination.

03.1.3. *Co-operation with ECAGE and ECLA*
Authority: Terms of reference of the Commission; and resolution 5 (E/ECE/150) adopted at the seventh session of the Commission concerning integrated economic development.

Description: ECAGE and ECLA having expressed an interest in improving their regional coal economies through the application of measures similar to those worked out in the ECE Coal Committee, close co-operation is being maintained with them on problems of particular concern to the countries of their regions, mainly regarding improvements in the utilization and the classification of solid fuels.

03.1.4. *Statistics*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Coal Committee; and the programme of work (E/ECE/COAL/84).

Description: A *Quarterly Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe* and *Monthly Summary of Coal Statistics* are issued. Continuous work is proceeding in order to improve European coal statistics by rendering them more comparable and complete.

Priority projects of an ad hoc nature

03.2.1. *Coal Classification*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Coal Committee; and the programme of work (E/ECE/COAL/84).

Description: On the basis of an agreement reached in 1952 by experts on the scientific level, an international classification system for hard coal has been proposed to governments for adoption. A similar project for a system of classification of lignites is under way.

03.2.2. *Application of coal classification for commercial purposes*

Authority: Programme of work (E/ECE/COAL/84); and E/ECE/COAL/SR.26/1 and COAL/ETP/88.

Description: The scientific international classification system for hard coals is to be examined with a view to adapting it for commercial purposes.

03.2.3. *Coal in relation to other forms of energy*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Coal Committee; and the programme of work (E/ECE/COAL/84).

Description: A study on the substitution possibilities between coal and other forms of energy is being planned. This would take into account suitability, price and availability. In view of the wideness of this field the study would be undertaken in sections and the first part would deal, in particular, with the relationships of coal and oil.

03.2.4. *Coal prices*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Coal Committee; and the programme of work (E/ECE/COAL/84).

Description: Price problems of particular interest to the international coal trade will be examined; this will in part be pursuant to work previously undertaken, such as studies on the cost of coal to the consumer.

03.2.5. *Reduction of reliance on extra-European sources*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Coal Committee as approved at the sixth session of the Commission (E/ECE/130, appendix I); and the programme of work (E/ECE/COAL/84).

Description: The continued need to import certain qualities of coal, particularly coking coal, from overseas and the possibilities of reducing these imports are given constant attention throughout the work of the Committee, especially in its work on (a) surveillance of the market and distribution, (b) coal production programmes and forecasts of trade and consumption and (c) utilization.

03.3. *Other projects*

03.3.1. *Studies of consumption trends in particular countries*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Coal Committee.

Description: Secretariat studies have been completed on coal consumption trends in Belgium, Italy and France, and a study of trends in the Western Zones of Germany is expected to be completed early in 1953. It is considered that these studies will serve as a model for similar studies to be undertaken by governments themselves in co-operation with the secretariat.

03.3.2. *Pitwood supplies*

Authority: Coal Committee (E/ECE/COAL/64).

Description: Annual reports on the pitwood situation are presented by the secretariat for consideration of the Coal Committee.

04. *Electric power*

04.1. *Priority projects of a continuing nature*

04.1.1. *The electric power outlook in Europe*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Electric Power Committee.

Description: Study of the trends of the various factors involved. In 1953/54 an analysis will be made of consumption trends.

04.1.2. *The electric power situation during the previous year*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Electric Power Committee.

Description: This study, carried out for the first time in 1952, will, in future, be made every year. It consists of an economic analysis of the situation during the previous year (consumption, production, transfers across frontiers, investments) and of statistical information.

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

Authority: Decision of the Electric Power Committee at its eighth session (E/ECE/EP/118).

Description: Study of the legal or administrative difficulties which tend to hamper such transfers, and drafting by the Group of Experts of resolutions addressed to governments;

Organization of negotiations under the auspices of the secretariat to facilitate the conclusion of agreements of such transfers between governments requesting such assistance.

04.1.4. *The development of hydro-electric resources of common interest*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Electric Power Committee; decision of the Electric Power Committee at its second session (E/ECE/EP/58).

Description: Study of the legal or administrative difficulties which tend to hamper such development on contiguous or successive waterways and drafting by the Group of Experts of resolutions addressed to governments.

Organization of negotiations under the auspices of the secretariat to facilitate the conclusion of agreements on such development between governments requesting such assistance, and attempt to evolve general principles to govern such negotiations in concrete cases.

04.2. *Priority projects of an ad hoc nature*

04.2.1. *Study on rural electrification (with FAO and TAA)*

Authority: Decision of the Electric Power Committee at its seventh session (E/ECE/EP/SR.7/2).

Description: Following the work carried out during 1952 in co-operation with the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and the Food and Agriculture Organization, two reports were prepared for publication at the end of February 1953. These will contain certain proposals, such as the setting-up of a group of experts, to meet once yearly and the establishment of a research co-ordination centre. The proposals are to be considered by the Committee at its next session in May or June 1953.

04.2.2. *Export of electric power from Yugoslavia*

Authority: Decision of the Electric Power Committee at its seventh session (W/EP.6/21).

Description: The object is to study the economic, technical and financial data relating to such exportation to determine if further developments in this field are practicable.

04.2.3. *Potential hydro-electric resources of European countries*

Authority: Decision of the Electric Power Committee at its sixth session (E/ECE/EP/SR.6/2).

Description: The object is to determine the distribution of water power potential in Europe, the same criteria and definitions being applied in all cases to assess gross, technical, and economic possibilities. The results of this work will be published in 1953.

04.2.4. *The hydro-electric development of the Drava*

Authority: Decision of the Electric Power Committee at its seventh session (E/ECE/EP/SR.7/2).

Description: Two meetings between representatives of Austria and Yugoslavia have already been held under the auspices of the secretariat with a view to drawing up a protocol which would enable the water power of the Drava to be developed and systematically utilized. The negotiations continue.

04.3. *Other projects*

04.3.1. *Electric power generation in back-pressure plants*

Authority: Decision of the Electric Power Committee at its ninth session (E/ECE/EP/SR.9/1 and 2).

Description: An investigation is in progress to determine: (a) if the possibility of installing back-pressure turbines has recently been made the object of systematic studies; (b) the economic advantages of such installations.

04.3.2. *Standard form of contract for electric power exchanges*

Authority: Decision of the Electric Power Committee at its ninth session (E/ECE/EP/SR.9/1 and 2).

Description: A study already in progress to ascertain the advisability of drawing up a standard form of contract designed to facilitate the solution of any legal disputes arising out of international exchanges of electric power.

05. *Engineering and industrial materials*

05.1. *Priority projects of a continuing nature*

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

Authority: Industry and Materials Committee (E/ECE/IM/43 and E/ECE/IM/55, paragraph 14).

Description: The "General Survey of the European Engineering Industry" has been followed up with a comprehensive study on the "European Tractor Industry in the Setting of the World Market", circulated in February 1952. The general state of supply and demand for engineering products is being kept constantly under review. The automobile industry, the shipbuilding industry, and various sectors of the engineering industry producing machinery and durable consumer goods have been analyzed in the Study on Steel Flat Products (see project 08.2.1).

05.1.2. *The unification of contract practices*

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

Description: The work on this project is designed to facilitate international trade in engineering products through unified contract practices. Agreement on several uniform permissible clauses has been reached. These clauses are only a part of a sales contract. The contract on erection may be considered at a later date.

05.1.3. *Promotion of trade in capital goods between Europe and overseas areas (with ECLA and ECAFE)*

Authority: Industry and Materials Committee (E/ECE/IM/55, paragraphs 4 and 5).

Description: The basic study work in this field at this stage is being completed under projects 01.2.1 and 01.2.2, to which contributions have been made. Further work depends on consideration of these studies by the governments concerned. At the request of ECAFE and in connexion with project 05.1.1, information on the general state of supply and demand for engineering products is being passed at regular intervals to ECAFE. Special attention is being given to heavy electric power plant in view of its considerable importance in the economic development plans of the ECAFE region.

05.3 *Other projects*

05.3.1. *Development of a machine tool glossary (with UNESCO)*

Authority: Seventh session of the Commission.

Description: Definitions and drawings for 1,000 concepts are in the way of being completed and will be sent for checking to experts of the International Standardization Organization early in 1953. As soon as the checking is completed the concepts will be assembled in a glossary. It is hoped to complete this stage of the work in 1953.

06. *Housing and building*

(Note: The projects under this heading are carried out as a part of a co-ordinated programme under the Social Commission and in collaboration with the Headquarters Department of Social Affairs. The Industry Division working under the direction of the

Housing Sub-Committee of the Industry and Materials Committee, is primarily responsible for the ECE secretariat in this field).

06.1. *Priority projects of a continuing nature*

06.1.1. *Survey of housing policies*

Authority: Housing Sub-Committee (E/ECE/IM/HOU/42, para. 7).

Description: The object of this annual survey is to review the main current developments in the field of housing as a basis for an annual examination by the Sub-Committee of housing policies pursued and results achieved. Further study on building and housing investment, which was in hand by the Working Party on Programmes and Resources, and on financing of housing and building, on which a report was completed and issued for general distribution (E/ECE/IM/HOU/38), will be continued within the framework of the annual survey. (These two studies were previously carried as separate projects.)

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

Authority: Housing Sub-Committee (E/ECE/IM/HOU/42, appendix A).

Description: Information received from fourteen countries so far is now being collated in a systematic form with the object of establishing the form of an annual publication on housing and building statistics. This is a continuing project, the ultimate aim being to improve the availability and comparability of housing statistics. An *ad hoc* Working Party will be convened at the beginning of February 1953, as requested by the Sub-Committee to discuss this work.

06.1.3. *Reduction of the cost of building*

Authority: Housing Sub-Committee (IM/HOU/WP.2/20, E/ECE/IM/HOU/37 and 42, appendix B).

Description: The objective is to try to point the way to the provision of more favourable conditions for the further development of the building industry. The general study on "Measures to reduce the cost of building" was revised following a detailed examination at successive stages by the Working Party on Technical Problems, by the Housing Sub-Committee and by the officers and rapporteurs of the Sub-Committee. The final report will be issued for general distribution in the course of 1953. A series of specific enquiries arising out of the general study, mainly institutional or technical in character, and referred to below, are in hand by rapporteurs drawn from governments and international organizations represented in the Sub-Committee. Preliminary reports on some of these subjects are expected to be examined by *ad hoc* groups of experts or at the next meeting of the Working Party on Cost of Building in May 1953:

Productivity studies: A critical analysis of reports on investigations carried out by different countries on the measurement of productivity of the building industry. The work is being undertaken partly by a rapporteur and partly by the secretariat.

Development of model building codes and regulations: Work in this field, to be carried out by expert rapporteurs, deals with the revision and unification of building codes and regulations and the development of model codes, with a view to facilitating the introduction of new building materials and techniques.

Contract practices: The cost of building is considerably affected by the methods of awarding contracts and placing orders. Work in this field, to be done by expert rapporteurs, deals with an examination of present contract practices and the drawing up of recommendations for their improvement.

Strength, stability and safety factors: With the increasing use of statistical quality control methods, the principles of strength and stability calculations require reconsideration with a view to realizing large potential saving of building materials. Studies on loads and overloads, reinforced concrete and steel construction are being pursued by rapporteurs.

More rational use of building materials: The aim of this project is to collect and present information on recent developments of new or alternative building materials. A part of this work also relates to technical and administrative measures taken in various countries to facilitate a more rational use of building materials. It is being carried out mainly by a rapporteur.

Study of the lifetime of a house: This is a technical and economic study of the lifetime of a house and of its principal components, designed to analyse the relation of the initial building costs to subsequent expenses for maintenance and alteration. The work is being done by rapporteurs.

The role of the architect and engineer: The trend towards industrialization of house-building also affects the part to be played by the architect and engineer. The study being prepared by rapporteurs, attempts to define the responsibility of each and, in particular, collaboration between these two.

Trends in mechanization: This study will survey present trends in the mechanization of house-building, with particular regard to methods of assisting medium and small sized firms through schemes such as plant-hire stations, co-operatively owned equipment, etc. The work is being done by rapporteurs.

Role of labour: The study, for which a rapporteur from the International Labour Office has assumed responsibility, will attempt to set out the conditions which affect labour

in efforts to raise the productivity of labour in the building industry.

Definition of the housing needs of a family: The aim of this study is to determine what constitutes the housing needs of a family based on national surveys of family life and use made of dwellings. This work is being done by rapporteurs.

Scale and continuity of demand: A study of the influence of the scale and continuity of demand for housing on the cost of building.

06.2. *Priority projects of an ad hoc nature*

06.2.1. *International collaboration in building research*

Authority: Housing Sub-Committee (E/ECE/IM/HOU/37 and 42).

Description: The object of this work is to prepare the way for the bringing into force of new international arrangements for systematic collaboration between national building research organization. The work thus far was done by a small organizing committee which submitted its final report to the September 1952 session of the Housing Sub-Committee (E/ECE/IM/HOU/39). The organizing committee recommended the integration of efforts in the field of building research and documentation and the amalgamation into a single organization of the International Council for Building Documentation (CIDB), which was already established following a recommendation of the Housing Sub-Committee, and the organization envisaged for international collaboration in building research. These recommendations were accepted by the Sub-Committee and the officers and the Executive Secretary were instructed to take the necessary steps along on general lines proposed. It is hoped that the new arrangements will be put in hand by the middle of 1953.

06.2.2. *Study on rent policies*

Authority: Housing Sub-Committee (IM/HOU/WP.1/14 and E/ECE/IM/HOU/42, appendix A).

Description: An essential part of this enquiry is to analyse the problem of how to reduce the disparity between rents of old and new houses and provide adequate repairs and maintenance of the existing dwelling stock. A preliminary report was considered by the Housing Sub-Committee at the September 1952 session. It was decided to continue the study on the basis of an analytical outline which was adopted. A draft report is expected to be submitted to a meeting of the Working Party on Programmes and Resources in May 1953.

06.3. *Other projects*

06.3.1. *Town and country planning*

Description: Work under this heading, closely co-ordinated with the Social Com-

mission's programme in this field, is anticipated for the latter half of 1953, but the amount of work which can be done will depend on staff resources and assistance which can be given by rapporteurs, as well as on progress made in projects listed under "priority projects".

07. Inland transport

07.1. *Priority projects of a continuing nature*

07.1.1. *General transport matters—interpretation and implementation of agreements*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC).

Description: The ITC being a "form for the discussion among governments of subjects of common interest in the field of inland transport", a great variety of problems are constantly brought up before it and before its subsidiary bodies. Moreover, the work of the Committee includes such matters as the interpretation and implementation of agreements concluded under its auspices (e.g., Agreements on the Lifting of Restrictions on the Freedom of the Road, on the provisional Application of the Draft International Customs Conventions on Touring, on Commercial Road Vehicles and on the International Transport of Goods by Road, etc.) The solution of some of these questions involves important studies.

07.1.2. *Collection of the views of organizations in the field of international inland transport*

Authority: Terms of reference of the ITC.
Description: Some twenty-eight specialized agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations take part in the work of the ITC. It is incumbent upon the secretariat to follow the work of these organizations, to collect their views on matters studied by the ITC and to ensure that satisfactory liaison be maintained with the Committee.

07.1.3. *Transport costs and accountancy*

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: At its July 1951 session, the ITC considered the problems raised by a general transport policy and decided to set up a working party to study transport costs and accountancy for all means of transport, the solution of this problem being an essential basis for co-ordinating transport.

07.1.4. *Tariff problems*

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: In July 1951, the ITC after having gone into the problems raised by a general transport policy, set up a working party to study all tariff problems at international level for all means of surface transport (rail, road, waterway), with a view to co-ordinating transport.

07.1.5. *Transport statistics*

Authority: Terms of reference of the ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: Development of statistics:

- Of road transport in: (i) national traffic;
- (ii) national traffic;

On the movement of goods in international traffic (all means of transport);

On such sectors of the transport industry as may be required by the ITC (investments, importance of transport in the general economy, etc.).

Collection, compilation and distribution of statistics for all means of inland transport (publication of quarterly and annual bulletins).

07.1.6. *Co-ordination of transport*

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: Study of economic principles to be adopted in respect of co-ordination of transport. Study on the organization of the various branches of the transport industry (rail, road, inland waterway transport).

Study on the needs of users, particularly in respect of the quality of service, freedom of choice and freedom of operating transport on own account. Study on conditions of employment in the transport industry (in co-operation with ILO). The plan is to continue and intensify the studies in progress with a view to submitting to the ITC the necessary basic information for formulating a general transport policy.

07.1.7. *Transport investment*

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: The co-ordination of investments cannot be divorced from the co-ordination of transport at the international level. In implementing a general transport policy, the ITC will need to ascertain the soundest and most rational investments to be made. Examples of necessary studies are the cost and benefits to be derived from the electrification of railways, the building of main roads and waterway arteries.

Renewal: The renewal of railway rolling stock calls also for large investments. The ITC and its subsidiary bodies are studying the problem in order to draw up for each country a programme of renewals spread over several years and to allow for the regular allocation of orders.

07.1.8. *Main international traffic arteries*

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: A working party is endeavouring to solve the problems arising out of the Declaration on the Construction of Main International Traffic Arteries and in particular the co-ordinating of national construction programmes as well as problems relating to financing programmes, either on a national basis or on an international basis. The statutes of an international road fund

to finance the construction of international road traffic arteries are under preparation.

- 07.1.9. *Transport of perishable foodstuffs*
Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).
Description: *Standardization of packaging:* Determination of the desirable minimum standards with a view to ensuring the most rational use of transport equipment and to facilitating handling operations.
Conditions of transport: Temperature, stowing methods, type of equipment to be used, etc.
Transport equipment: Investigation as to the best types of special equipment and the methods of testing it.
- 07.1.10. *Transport and handling of dangerous goods and related operations*
Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).
Description: Drawing up and supervising the implementation of a European agreement on international transport of dangerous goods by road and preparation of general rules for the handling of dangerous goods at trans-shipment points, and for their transport by inland waterways.
- 07.1.11. *Development and improvement of transport of passengers and goods by road (future régime of road transport)*
Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).
Description: In order to develop road transport within a general organization of international transport, the ITC has decided to establish a rational régime for international road transport in Europe to be embodied in an international agreement and a *cahier des charges-type* which should replace the provisional Agreements on the Lifting of Restrictions on the Freedom of the Road, 1947. A special Sub-Group is entrusted with the task of drawing up an agreement on a co-ordinated programme of international tourist services by road.
- 07.1.12. *Prevention of road accidents*
Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).
Description: Problems in respect of prevention of road accidents, which entail at least 15,000 deaths a year in Europe and considerable economic losses, cannot be dealt with if basic data are not available on the circumstances of accidents. These data are being compiled, so as to enable the competent working party to deal with technical problems in regard to the construction of vehicle, road construction and road markings. Certain problems of an educational character are also under consideration.
- 07.1.13. *Utilization of rolling stock*
Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).
Description: This work involves the development of arrangements to cut down the empty

runs of rolling stock in international traffic. A European wagon pool has been set up and its extension has been recommended for consideration.

- 07.1.14. *Modernization of facilities for railway passengers*
Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).
Description: The UIC has been asked to study certain aspects of rail travel connected with the comfort of passengers, such as lighting, sanitary conditions, and accommodation for night travel, and shall report to the ITC.
- 07.1.15. *Automatic coupling*
Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).
Description: The problem involved here is the development of the use of automatic coupling equipment with a view to minimizing accidents in coupling operations and speeding up the shunting operations. A major obstacle is the cost of the change-over to this equipment.
- 07.1.16. *Safety at level crossings*
Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).
Description: The main task in this field is the classification of level-crossings, the arrangements to be recommended for each category of level-crossings, the financing of the elimination of certain level-crossings and the improvement of others, so as to reduce the number of accidents arising out of the present unsatisfactory conditions.
- 07.1.17. *Road transport contract*
Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).
Description: The competent Working Party is studying, in conjunction with several international organizations, an international draft convention on a "road transport contract" in view of the fact that, for international road transport, no international rules exist on contractual obligations.
- 07.1.18. *Inland navigation transport contract*
Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).
Description: A first draft covering inland navigation is being prepared by an expert committee of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, the International Chamber of Commerce and the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine, for consideration by the ITC.
- 07.1.19. *Liability of the carrier and combined Transport contract*
Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).
Description: A Sub-Group of the Working Party on Co-ordination of Transport was set up at the eighth session of the ITC to reconsider the main economic or legal problems arising in connection with carriers liability

and to facilitate the establishment of a combined transport contract.

07.2. *Priority projects of an ad hoc nature*

Transport containers

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: Work on terminology and definition; minimum technical conditions for customs control, for the technical co-ordination of this equipment and for its rational use; and legal questions and conditions of carriage (tariffs). An agreement on containers is under preparation, and it is anticipated that this work will be completed in 1954.

Frontier formalities

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Acceptance of uniform customs seals. This matter is under consideration.

It is anticipated that this work can be completed by 1954.

Insurance of foreign motorists against third party risks

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: The competent Working Party has completed a scheme whereby the recognition internationally of national certificates of insurance against third party risks in foreign countries will be secured.

It is anticipated that this work will be completed in 1953.

07.3. *Other projects*

Standardization of rolling stock

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: As a result of the impetus given by the ITC and of the efforts of the International Union of Railways (UIC), the complete standardization of various types of wagon is making satisfactory progress. Prototypes of standard European wagons have been constructed. The standardization of rolling stock in Europe, which will take several years, will permit railway networks to effect considerable savings, as mass production of a limited number of wagon types will lower the cost price of this material. Further work could be done in this field.

Fiscal problems relating to road transport

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: A Working Party has been set up by the ITC to prepare a draft convention for the circulation of commercial vehicles (passengers and goods) in international traffic which should solve the intricate fiscal problems still creating certain difficulties in international transport by road.

07.3.3. *Tourism*

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: Apart from the practical steps to be taken in respect of motor-coach services (see 07.1.11 above), the ITC has decided to take all necessary steps for the development of tourist travel in Europe.

07.3.4. *Compulsory insurance of motorists*

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: Compulsory insurance of motorists against third party risks on uniform principles throughout Europe is a problem under consideration.

07.3.5. *Unification of waterways regulations*

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317)

Description: The unification of the various waterways regulations (e.g., police regulations) in force on the main international rivers and the canal systems connecting them should be considered.

07.3.6. *Modernization and standardization of waterways' and ports' equipment; and mechanization of handling operations in ports*

Authority: ITC (E/ECE/TRANS/317).

Description: The aim of the studies undertaken is to reduce the cost of equipment, to facilitate and to expedite loading and unloading operations.

08. *Steel*

08.1. *Priority projects of a continuing nature*

08.1.1. *Steel production and consumption trends in Europe*

Authority: E/ECE/STEEL/48.

Description: An annual report on major trends in production, consumption and trade in steel and steel-making raw materials in the preceding year is prepared for the Committee's consideration.

08.1.2. *Trends in steel technology*

Authority: E/ECE/STEEL/48.

Description: An annual report on recent technological developments, based on documents prepared by national technical institutions and individual experts is submitted to the Committee for its consideration.

08.1.3. *Inter-regional co-operation*

Authority: E/ECE/STEEL/SR.9.

Description: Co-operation with ECLA and ECAFE on such matters as: (a) the supply of European steel to those regions; (b) the development of their steel industries; and (c) steel statistics.

08.1.4. *Statistics*

Authority: E/ECE/STEEL/48 and 65.

Description: The collection of steel statistics and the preparation and issue of a quarterly

bulletin providing detailed European steel statistics on a comparable basis.

Priority projects of an ad hoc nature

Flat steel products

Authority: E/ECE/STEEL/73—Report of the January 1953 meeting of the Steel Committee.

Description: Consideration with a view to agreeing on recommendations to governments of the conclusions contained in the study on flat steel products and following-up developments in this field.

To be considered at the September 1953 Steel Committee meeting.

European steel exports and steel demand in non-European countries

Authority: E/ECE/STEEL/73.

Description: Consideration with a view to agreeing on recommendations to governments of the conclusions of the study on European steel exports and steel demand in non-European countries and follow-up of current developments in this field.

To be considered at the September 1953 Steel Committee meeting.

Scrap

Authority: E/ECE/STEEL/SR.9.

Description: (a) continuing review of the scrap market; (b) a study of likely availabilities of capital and old scrap in future years designed to determine the probable reservoirs in Europe of this important source of scrap. Draft of (b) to be presented to the September 1953 meeting of the Steel Committee.

Tubes

Authority: E/ECE/STEEL/73.

Description: A study of the tube sector of the steel industry dealing with trends of production and consumption by selected end-using industries, against the background of world developments and with particular reference to trends in less developed countries. Study to be completed by summer 1954.

Competitive metals and materials

Authority: E/ECE/STEEL/73.

Description: a sector of a comprehensive study of metals and materials competitive with steel, confined initially to aluminium and involving consideration of the relative availabilities, physical properties and characteristics, costs (including initial costs, maintenance costs and costs of processing) and prices of steel and aluminium. Study to be completed by summer 1954.

08.3. *Other projects*

Note: This work programme having been established by the January 1953 session of the Steel Committee, and closely gauged to available personnel, all projects other than those of priority character, were dropped.

09. *Timber*

(Note: The work programme of the ECE in the field of timber is developed and carried out jointly with FAO, the latter organization providing the professional staff engaged in the work).

09.1. *Priority projects of a continuing nature*

09.1.1. *Quarterly review of the timber market*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Timber Committee; Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/35, 39 and 44).

Description: This review is made by the collection of country market reports, and information from official and unofficial sources and publications compiled and edited by the ECE. The review is published quarterly with the timber statistics. The Timber Committee has recommended that the coverage of the reviews be extended to cover pulpwood and other small-sized roundwood.

09.1.2. *Collection and compilation of timber statistics*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Timber Committee (E/ECE/114/Rev. 1 appendix 1).

Description: The timber statistics are published quarterly.

09.1.3. *Establishment of timber price series of European countries*

Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/39, para. 10).

Description: The price series are, in the first instance, to be established from 1927 or as far back as possible, and will be continued and published quarterly in the *Timber Statistics Bulletin*.

09.1.4. *Studies in the more rational utilization of wood*

Authority: Terms of reference of the Timber Committee; Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/39, para. 6).

Description: This work includes, *inter alia*: Research on new methods of utilization of waste from logging operations and forest industries.

Establishment of principles of commercial grading of timber.

Research on further utilization of low grade timber.

Standardization of wooden cases.

- 09.1.5. *Assistance in exchange of technical information and practices in timber and wood-working industries*
 Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/39).
 Description: This work includes, *inter alia*: promotion of exchanges of trainees within the timber industries; promotion of exchange of technicians.
- 09.1.6. *Studies on Logging Techniques and Wood-Workers' Training (with FAO and ILO)*
 Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/35, para. 5, and 39 para. 8).
 Description: The joint project on logging techniques is new work. It covers the whole field of increased productivity of the work in the forests, including mechanization, and is being carried out by FAO. The study on training of forest workers is being undertaken jointly with FAO and ILO.
- 09.2.2. *Collection and elaboration of European timber price statistics*
 Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/39).
 Description: This is a research project with a view to establishing guiding principles for the collection and setting up of timber price indices. To be completed in 1953.
- 09.2.3. *Study on systematic improvement of national timber statistics*
 Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/39).
 Description: The aim of this study is to render national statistics internationally comparable and to try to eliminate deficiencies as far as possible. To be completed in 1953.
- 09.3. *Other projects*
- 09.3.1. *Standardization of the grading of softwood and hardwood*
 Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/35).
 Description: This item can only be undertaken after the principles of commercial grading have been established (see 09.1.4.).
- 09.3.2. *Studies on certain aspects of timber production techniques*
 Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/35).
 Description: These projects are of necessity "long-term" depending on the possibilities of co-operation with experts in the various fields and available secretariat resources.
- 09.1.5. *Assistance in exchange of technical information and practices in timber and wood-working industries*
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I. Draft resolutions proposed to, but not accepted by, the eighth session of the Commission

POINT 1

Draft resolution on the work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems submitted by the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR

The Economic Commission for Europe.

Instructs the Executive Secretary:

(a) To prepare documentation, for consideration by the Committee on Agricultural Problems, on the questions of helping the small and medium farmer to obtain cheap agricultural credit and to acquire agricultural implements, seed and fertilizers, and of organizing for his benefit repair facilities for farm equipment and advisory services on problems connected with the improvement of yields, the expansion of stockfarming and the campaign against agricultural pests;

(b) To convene a session of the Committee on Agricultural Problems during 1953 to consider and draft recommendations on questions intended to help improve the position of the small and medium farmer.

POINT 2

Draft resolution on the work of the Committee on Manpower submitted by the delegation of the USSR

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Noting the abnormality of a situation where the Committee on Manpower has not held a single session during its whole period of existence despite the continuing deterioration in the position of the workers in the Western European countries, the decline in real wages and the rise in unemployment, due to the militarisation of those countries' economy,

Resolves:

To set the Committee the task of considering and preparing recommendations designed to assist in bringing about an improvement in the position of workers and employees, and an increase in their real wages, and the adoption of measures to reduce unemployment in the western European countries:

To instruct the Executive Secretary of the ECE to prepare, in collaboration with the trade union organizations in the European countries, a report on the adverse effect of the militarization of the economy of the Western European countries on the position of the workers—the reduction of real wages, the increase in the volume of unemployment, etc.,—and to formulate recommendations in respect of measures designed to improve the position of the workers and reduce unemployment;

To convene a session of the Committee on Manpower in September 1953 for the purpose of considering the Executive Secretary's report.

POINT 3

Draft resolution concerning voting rights of European nations not Members of the United Nations submitted by the delegation of Bulgaria

The Economic Commission for Europe

Desirous of fulfilling the tasks entrusted to it and developing and strengthening economic relations between the various countries in Europe,

Considering that all the States at present taking part in the work of the Commission should enjoy the same rights,

Requests the Economic and Social Council to reconsider its decision on the subject and to grant voting rights in the

Economic Commission for Europe to those European States not Members of the United Nations which at present take part in the work of the Commission in an advisory capacity and have asked to be given voting rights.

II. List of representatives and observers at the eighth session of the Commission

Albania

Mr. Behar Shtylla, Minister Plenipotentiary to Italy;
Head of the Delegation
Mr. Oilaver Pinderi, Member of the Delegation
Mr. Myrteza Shameti, Member of the Delegation

Austria

Mr. Carl Wildmann, Minister to Switzerland
Mrs. J. Monschein, Permanent Delegate to ECE

Belgium

M. Jean Querton, Consul-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
M. Robert Faniel, Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Middle Classes
M. Jean Leroy, Adviser, Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations
M. F. Blondeel, Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations

Bulgaria

Mr. Trifonov Milouchev, Commercial Representative at Berlin; Head of the Delegation
Mr. Metodi Simeonov Popov, Commercial Representative to Switzerland
Mr. Boris Atanassov Tsvetkov, Second Legation Secretary, Switzerland

Byelorussian SSR

Mr. A. A. Tchishov, Representative
Mr. B. V. Kudriavtsev, Expert
Mr. G. G. Tchernushchenko, Secretary-Interpreter

Czechoslovakia

Mr. Josef Ullrich, Representative, Head of the Delegation
Mr. Jaroslav Pscolka, Alternate Representative
Mr. Rudolf Kozusník, Alternate Representative
Mr. Jaroslav Ledl, Alternate Representative

Denmark

Mr. Gunnar Seidenfaden, Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Tyge Dahlgaard, Assistant Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. H. E. Kastoft, Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations
Miss Ida Jensen, Secretary to the Delegation

Finland

Mr. Olli J. Vallila, Permanent Delegate to ECE

France

M. André Philip, Former Minister; Head of the Delegation
M. Pierre Charpentier, Minister Plenipotentiary; Director-General, Economic and Financial Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Alternate Head of the Delegation
M. Georges Boris, *Counseiller d'Etat*; *Chargé de Mission*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Alternate Head of the Delegation
M. Olivier Wormser, Head of the Economic Co-operation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Representative
M. Gruson, Head of the Economic and Financial Research Department, Ministry of Finance
M. Bernard Toussaint, Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations
M. J. P. Brunet, Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Mlle. A. Lissac, Deputy Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations
M. P. Legatte, *Chargé de Mission*, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece

Mr. Xenophon Zolotas, Professor of Political Economy at the University of Athens, Member of the Athens Academy
Mr. N. Hadji Vassiliou, Permanent Delegate to International Organizations, Geneva
Mr. Jean Papayannis, Secretary to the Permanent Delegation to International Organizations, Geneva

Hungary

Mr. Zoltan Szanto, Minister to France; Head of the Delegation
Mr. Nándor Bacsák, Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign Trade
Mr. György Fehér, Commercial Counsellor, Switzerland

Italy

Mr. Tommaso Notarangeli, Deputy Director-General of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Permanent Delegate to ECE, Head of the Delegation
Mr. Pietro Ghezzi Morganti, Consulate-General, Geneva (Ministry of Foreign Affairs); Alternate Head of the Delegation
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