Page 7, second paragraph

Final sentence:

'The Section therefore expects that a Regulation governing the application of the rules of competition to international maritime shipping will provide more legal certainty and stimulate competition more than decisions on individual infringements of the rules of competition taken under Articles 85 (1) and 86 of the EEC Treaty, e.g. decisions concerning discrimination by Liner Conferences.'

Voting

For: 52; against: 6; abstentions: 13.

Page 8

First, fourth and fifth indents:

- 'it is clear that the International Air Transport Association (IATA) tariff policy is frequently being circumvented,
- airline companies, for the most part, come under Article 90 (1) (public undertakings or undertakings having special or exclusive rights); the Commission does not exclude the possibility that governments are infringing Articles 90 (1), 85 and 86, and that these infringements may warrant action under Article 90 (3),
- whilst there exists in international air-transport a price war which is in some cases having ruinous effects, the fares for scheduled air services within Europe often appear excessive and this has led *inter alia* to complaints from the European Bureau of Consumers' Unions.'

Voting

For: 41; against: 12; abstentions: 20.

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 2511/69 laying down special measures for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruit

The text referred to the Committee has been published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 276 of 28 October 1981, page 6.

A. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE OPINION

On 26 October 1981 the Council referred the abovementioned proposal to the Economic and Social Committee in accordance with Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community.

B. OPINION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Economic and Social Committee prepared its opinion on the above matter at its 195th plenary session held in Brussels on 24 and 25 February 1982.

The full text of the opinion is as follows:

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the request made by the Council of the European Communities on 26 October 1981 for an opinion on the proposal for a Regulation amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 2511/69 laying down special measures for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruit,

Having regard to the decision taken by its Bureau on 27 October 1981 instructing the Section for Agriculture to prepare an opinion on the matter,

Having regard to its previous opinions on this subject, with particular reference to the opinion on agricultural aspects of enlargement of the Community to include Spain,

Having regard to the opinion adopted by the Section for Agriculture at its 231st meeting held on 7 January 1982,

Having regard to the oral report made by the rapporteur, Mr Paggi,

Having regard to the discussions at its 195th plenary session held on 24 and 25 February 1982 (meeting of 25 February),

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING OPINION

by 81 votes to nil, with two abstentions:

1. The Economic and Social Committee points out first and foremost that the proposed Regulation is just one facet of the improvement of Community rules and regulations in preparation for the further enlargement of the EEC. The Committee has expressed its views on this on several occasions, and particularly in the opinion on agricultural aspects of negotiations with Spain, which was adopted on 23 September 1981 (1). In view of the projected enlargement of the Community, the Committee accordingly stresses the need for an improvement in the rules governing the sector in question on a fair and equal basis, as advocated by the Commission in the Mandate of 30 May.

2. In this connection, the Committee notes that the parent Regulation (EEC) No 2511/69 of 9 December 1969 which laid down special measures for improving Community citrus production and marketing, has had little impact so far. As the Commission itself admits, the two main reasons why less than one-fifth of the planned area (42 thousand hectares) has been converted, are: (a) the grants do not provide sufficient incentive; and (b) the number of beneficiaries is too small. For this reason the problems in the Community citrus fruit sector have remained more or less unsolved, and the matter should be given more serious thought now that other citrus-fruit producing countries are about to join the Community.

3. The Committee sympathizes with the reasons behind the new proposals, and has taken particular interest in how the proposed measures tie in with the objectives.

4. The Committee supports the Commission Decision to list lemons among the products qualifying for conversion aid (Article 1 (1)), particularly since reorganization is long overdue in this area.

5. The information contained in the draft Regulation provides a valid basis for deciding which Member States should qualify for grants (Article 1 (3)), and must therefore be considered a useful adjunct to the current rules. However, as reference is made to Member States rather than Community regions, the Committee points out that 'Corsica' (second paragraph of Article 1 (3)) should be replaced by 'France'.

6. Furthermore, all measures for making aid more accessible and eliminating discrimination between farmers (Article 1 (5)) are an improvement on the earlier arrangements; in fact some of the restrictions, which the new proposal imposes on individual beneficiaries, should perhaps be removed, so as to make the conversion programme accessible to the maximum number of people.

7. The increase in funds for aid (Article 1 (5)) should be sufficient to surmount the obstacles which impeded the original conversion proposals. However, the length of time needed to put these measures into effect remains a serious problem: if too much time is taken, and if the adjustments proposed from 1984 are not made, aid may very soon fail yet again to provide sufficient incentive, partly because of the high inflation in the Member States concerned.

8. The Committee rather doubts the wisdom of phasing out the 'market promotion premiums' (first and second paragraphs of Article 1 (8), and in particular of treating oranges and mandarins differently from lemons and clementines. The Committee hopes, however, that before any definite move is made to scrap these premiums, the whole citrus fruit sector will be reviewed in the light of the results of the conversion measures.

9. The Committee urges the Commission to submit regular detailed figures of the results which have been achieved. It also recommends a thorough review of the entire reference price system, whose inefficiency led to the introduction of these compensatory arrangements in the 1975/76 marketing year.

Done at Brussels, 25 February 1982.

The Chairman of
the Economic and Social Committee
Tomás ROSEINGRAVE

(1) OJ No C 310, 30. 11. 1981, p. 36.