ANNEX

to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee

I. The following amendment was rejected at the plenary session:

Paragraph 1.5

'The Committee notes that the proposed Directive will apply to pre-packaged foodstuffs, but may also apply to foodstuffs sold loose to the ultimate consumer. However it is not to apply to intermediate products.'

Voting

For: 2, against: majority, abstentions: 5.

II. The following passage in the opinion of the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs was changed following the acceptance of an amendment at the plenary session:

Paragraph 2.21.4

'Where the conditions under which the foodstuff should be stored and distributed are specified, the manufacturer is in as position to determine, within an adequate safety margin, how long the foodstuff concerned will remain completely fit for human consumption and retain all its essential qualities.'

Voting

Adopted unanimously.

Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision establishing a uniform procedure for the exchange of information on the quality of surface fresh water in the Community

The text referred to the Committee has been published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 133 of 14 June 1976, page 25.

A. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE OPINION

On 12 May 1976, the Council referred the abovementioned proposal to the Economic and Social Committee in accordance with Article 198 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 141st plenary session, held in Brussels on 29 and 30 September 1976.

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 198 thereof,

Having regard to the request made by the Council of the European Communities on 12 May 1976 for an opinion,

Having regard to the decision taken by its Bureau on 13 May 1976, instructing the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs to draw up an opinion and a report on the matter,

Having regard to the opinion issued by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs on 16 September 1976,

Having regard to the oral report made by the Rapporteur, Mr Eboli,

Having regard to the discussions at its 141st plenary session, held on 29 and 30 September 1976 (meeting of 29 September 1976),

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING OPINION

by a unanimous vote:

The Committee approves the proposal, subject to the comments set out below.

1. General comments

1.1. The mainstay of the drive to prevent physical, chemical and biological deterioration of the environment through pollution is a thorough knowledge of the situation. This has been consistently recognized by the Committee, and is reaffirmed by the Commission in its second action programme on the environment. For a concerted Community drive against pollution, it is essential to have a thorough knowledge of the situation throughout the Community. The present proposal is meant to supply that knowledge about pollution of the Community's rivers.

1.2. The Committee is therefore pleased that the Commission has submitted the proposal. Human health and the well-being of animal and plant life are decisively influenced by the quality of surface fresh water, and have been found to suffer serious damage from pollution of this water. The proposed arrangements will increase the scope for action to combat this important category of pollution.

1.3. It is important not to neglect the aesthetic aspect of water quality, e.g., the presence of substances or wastes which affect its colour or smell.

1.4. The sampling, sample preservation and measuring methods need to be standardized if data are to be really comparable. Standardization is difficult to achieve at the present time, however. The Committee considers that the standard forms and the standard ways of presenting data on the forms, proposed by the Commission, will allow the programme to get underway immediately, and could form a basis for a standardization of methods.

1.5. The Committee would like to see new sampling and measuring stations set up as quickly as possible, so as to increase our knowledge of water quality. If necessary, Community help should be provided.

2. Specific comments

2.1. *Article 6*

2.1.1. The adaptation of the Decision to technical progress provided for in this Article should also cover standardization of methods.

2.1.2. It is therefore proposed that a third indent be added in Article 6, reading:

'— sampling, preservation of samples and measuring methods'.

2.2. *Article 8*

2.2.1. It should be stated that the Committee for the adaptation of the Decision to technical progress is to meet with a certain regularity.

2.2.2. It is therefore suggested that the following be added to Article 8 (1):

'The Committee shall at all events meet at least once a year.'

3. **Annex II**

3.1. While being aware of the difficulties involved, the Section suggests that hexavalent chromium and sulphates be included among the chemical parameters on which data must be supplied.

3.2. Concerning the microbiological parameters, the method of seeding in agar at 37 and 22 °C should be prescribed with a view to obtaining a general picture of bacteriological pollution.

Done at Brussels, 29 September 1976.

The Chairman
of the Economic and Social Committee
Henri CANONGE

Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of a convention on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and a protocol on the prevention of the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from ships and aircraft

The text referred to the Committee has been published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 122 of 3 June 1976, page 2.

A. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE OPINION

On 18 May 1976, the Council referred the abovementioned proposal to the Economic and Social Committee in accordance with Article 198 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 141st plenary session, held in Brussels on 29 and 30 September 1976.

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 198 thereof,

Having regard to the request made by the Council of the European Communities on 18 May 1976 for an opinion,

Having regard to the decision by its Bureau on 13 May 1976, in anticipation of an imminent request for an opinion instructing the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs to draw up an opinion and a report on the matter,

Having regard to previous Committee opinions on related matters, and in particular the opinion on the