II

(Preparatory Acts)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive on crude oil-saving through the use of substitute fuel components in petrol

The text referred to the Committee has been published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 229 of 2 September 1982, page 4.

A. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE OPINION

On 23 August 1982 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 203rd plenary session held in Brussels on 15 and 16 December 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 Articles 99, 100 and 198 thereof,

Having regard to the request made by the Council of the European Communities on 23 August 1982 for an opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive on crude oil-saving through the use of substitute fuel components in petrol (1),

Having regard to the decision taken by its chairman on 2 September 1982 instructing the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions to draw up an opinion on the matter,

Having regard to the opinion adopted by the abovementioned Section at its 76th meeting held on 3 December 1982,

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

Having regard to the discussions on 16 December 1982 during the 203rd plenary session held on 15 and 16 December 1982,

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING OPINION

unanimously, but with five abstentions:

1. The ESC welcomes the present proposal to reduce crude oil usage by substituting other fuel components in petrol used in spark-ignition internal combustion engines. It is entirely in line with Community energy objectives, in particular the reduction of dependence on oil, and the promotion of new energy sources, for which it has already expressed its support.

2. The Committee supports the intention of the draft Directive to prevent national legislation or national administrative procedures within the Member States from hindering the development of a Community market for substitute fuels, the decision whether or not to handle substitute fuels being left to the judgement of commercial organizations.

(1) OJ No C 229, 2. 9. 1982.

3. The Committee believes, however, that the objectives of the draft Directive will be realized only if methanol and other oxygenates can be obtained economically, and from origins where factors likely to cause disruption in supplies are minimal.

It seems in this draft Directive the opportunity for the Community to promote the greater use of raw materials which are not currently being fully exploited e.g. lignite, gas flared in crude oil production, etc.

4. The Committee is pleased to note the Commission's statement that it may be possible to achieve a partial reduction in the lead content of the exhaust emissions from internal combustion engines if substitute fuels are added to petrol. The Committee would stress the importance of reducing the amount of lead and thereby the amount of other pollutants in such emissions.

5. The Committee supports the proposal as laid out in Article 5 to set up a committee responsible in particular for the adaptation of the Technical Annex to scientific and technical developments.

6. The Committee requests the Council to refer to it any future proposal from the Commission for Community action in the field of adding substitute fuel components to petrol.

Done at Brussels, 16 December 1982.

The Chairman
of the Economic and Social Committee
François CEYRAC

Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 81/363/EEC on aid to shipbuilding

The text referred to the Committee has been published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 310 of 27 November 1982, page 6.

A. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE OPINION

On 26 November 1982 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 203rd plenary session held in Brussels on 15 and 16 December 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 198 thereof,

Having regard to the request made by the Council of the European Communities on 26 November 1982 for an opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 81/363/EEC on aid to shipbuilding,

Having regard to the decision taken by its Bureau on 23 November 1982 instructing the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services to draw up an opinion and a report on the matter,