2.2.2. Article 2 No. 4b

The Committee points out that the definition of 'dumping' allows too many exceptions.

2.2.3. Article 27

The Committee points out that the purpose of the Convention may be jeopardized by exemptions granted in order to safeguard certain freedoms.

2.2.4. Annexes

The Committee is pleased to see that the annexes are significantly clearer and more comprehensive than the annexes to the 1974 Convention. The Committee expects the Helsinki Commission to pursue the task of extrapolating the technical aspects contained in the annexes.

Done at Brussels, 24 November 1993.

The Chairman

of the Economic and Social Committee

Susanne TIEMANN

Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste [1]

(94/C 34/03)

On 28 September 1993 the Council decided to consult the Economic and Social Committee, under Article 130s of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

The Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its Opinion on 9 November 1993. The Rapporteur was Mr Beltrami.

At its 310th Plenary Session (meeting of 24 November 1993), the Economic and Social Committee adopted the following Opinion unanimously.

1. The Committee notes that the purpose of the proposal is to revise the definition of the term 'hazardous waste' and to amend the implementing date of Directive 91/689/EEC and the date of repeal of Directive 78/319/EEC, in order to avoid a legal vacuum in a sector which is of key importance for the protection of both people and the environment.

2. The Committee accepts the Commission proposal on the basis of the reasons set out by the Commission.

2.1. The Committee agrees that a definitive, inclusive and binding list of hazardous waste, as previously provided for by Directive 91/689/EEC, is difficult to draw up, since hazard properties depend inter alia on the concentration of the hazardous constituents and/or on specific conditions.

3. The Committee therefore endorses the move to amend the definition of hazardous waste by making direct reference to the category of waste (Annex I), the constituents which make it hazardous (Annex II), and the hazard properties (Annex III). The Commission's original proposal (88/C 295/05), endorsed in an earlier ESC Opinion [2], was along these lines.

4. This will create a broader reference framework which affords more effective protection for both people and the environment, and will further the harmoniza-

[1] OJ No C 212, 7. 10. 1993, p. 16.

[2] OJ No C 56, 6. 3. 1989.

tion of Member States' legislation on the management of hazardous waste.

5. The Committee notes that the new definition will be used to draw up a binding but open Community list of hazardous waste, to which new entries can be added as and when they are notified by the Member States.

5.1. In this connection the Committee feels that the link between the framework definition and the list of hazardous waste should be clearly defined in a revised Article 1(4).

6. The Committee also notes that the proposed amendments make it necessary to postpone for one year (from 12 December 1993 to 31 December 1994) the implementing date of Directive 91/689/EEC and the date of repeal of Directive 78/319/EEC.

6.1. At all events, in order to ensure that the Directive is implemented promptly and effectively, the Committee urges that the new list of hazardous waste be drawn up by the end of June 1994.

Done at Brussels, 24 November 1993.

The Chairman

of the Economic and Social Committee

Susanne TIEMANN

Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision modifying Council Decision 89/286/EEC on the implementation at Community level of the main phase of the Strategic Programme for Innovation and Technology Transfer (1989 to 1993) (SPRINT programme) [1]

(94/C 34/04)

On 20 July 1993 the Council decided to consult the Economic and Social Committee, under Article 198 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

The Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its Opinion on 3 November 1993. The Rapporteur was Mr Nierhaus.

At its 310th Plenary Session (meeting of 24 November 1993) the Economic and Social Committee adopted the following Opinion unanimously.

1. General comments

1.1. In 1989 the Commission presented SPRINT, a strategic programme for innovation and technology transfer, the purpose of which was to help promote innovation and technology transfer between firms and technology brokers.

1.2. SPRINT, which focused on improving SMEs' ability to assimilate and apply new technologies, was intended to underpin national and regional efforts in this area.

1.3. On 23 November 1988 the Committee delivered a favourable Opinion on SPRINT's main phase, which was to last from 1989 to 1993, and on 17 April 1989 the Council adopted a Decision on SPRINT's implementation.

1.4. On 5 July 1993 the Commission presented a proposal amending the aforementioned Council Decision for the purpose of extending SPRINT's main phase by one year.

[1] OJ No C 200, 24. 7. 1993, p. 7.