95,0 at the pump. If a Member State introduces such a prohibition it shall give at least six months notice to the public.'

Article 2

1. Member States shall inform the Commission in advance of any measures they intend to take pursuant to this Directive.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the texts of the provisions of national law which they adopt in the field governed by this Directive.

Article 3

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting an Action Programme for the training and preparation of young people for adult and working life

COM(87) 90 final

(Submitted by the Commission to the Council on 20 March 1987)

(87/C 90/04)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 128 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 63/266/EEC of 2 April 1963 laying down general principles for implementing a common vocational training policy (1), and in particular the Second and Tenth Principles,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas the fundamental objectives of the common vocational training policy set down in the second principle of Decision 63/266/EEC refer in particular to the need to guarantee adequate vocational training for all and to avoid any harmful interruption between completion of general education and commencement of vocational training;

Whereas the Tenth Principle of Decision 63/266/EEC states that special measures may be taken in respect of special problems concerning specific sectors of activity or specific categories of persons;

Whereas the Council in its Resolution of 18 December 1979 on linked work and training for young persons (2) affirmed that there is a continuing need to encourage the development of effective links between training and job experience and to establish coordinated programmes and structures making for cooperation between the various bodies responsible;

Whereas it is a priority objective that young people should be properly prepared for working life and their responsibilities as adults, and that measures be developed to improve the transition of young people from school to adult and working life;

Whereas there is a need for all young people wishing to do so to receive one year or, if possible, two years vocational training in addition to their compulsory education, as agreed by the European Council at its meeting in June 1985 when it adopted the report of the *ad hoc* Committee on a People's Europe and mandated the Commission and the Council, acting within their respective powers, to ensure the implementation of the proposals contained therein;

Whereas there is a need to promote further action and to build on the achievements as well as the measures previously taken at Community level in respect of vocational education and training and to complement the financial interventions in support of youth training currently carried out within the framework of the European Social Fund;

Where there is a need to give a visible European dimension to the different policy measures designed to raise the standards of vocational education and training for young people throughout the Community and to place greater emphasis on better information for young people, on active participation and on the development of their entrepreneurial capacities;

(1) OJ No 63, 20. 4. 1963, p. 1338/63.
(2) OJ No C 1, 3. 1. 1980, p. 1.

Whereas there is a need to give a European dimension to the various training initiatives and to stimulate exchange of experience between Member States as a contribution to the achievement of the internal market and the elimination of barriers to the free movement of persons in the Community,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

A programme to stimulate improvements, within the Community, in the training and preparation of young people for adult and working life is hereby adopted for a five year period commencing on 1 July 1987.

This programme, in pursuance of common policies on vocational training, is designed to assist Member States in ensuring that all young people in the Community wishing to do so receive one year's, or if possible two years', vocational training in addition to their compulsory education.

Article 2

In order to raise the standards and quality of training provisions throughout the Community, the objectives of the programme shall be as follows:

1. to support, in cooperation with the Member States and the social partners, the development and introduction of measures to strengthen links and cooperation at all levels between the vocational education and training systems and with all sectors of the economy both public and private with a view to:

   — adapting curricula to enhance the capacity of young people to achieve their full potential and to take account of economic, technological and social change,

   — providing and developing a variety of learning opportunities which reflect working life and the practical realities and needs of the economy and,

   — helping young people as far as possible to develop an understanding of trends in the world of industry, commerce, services and agriculture, and of the further training and employment implications and opportunities for them;

2. to support closer cooperation and the bridging of gaps between the various agencies responsible for the vocational education and training and guidance of young people, including as appropriate public, private and voluntary bodies and youth organizations at national, regional or local levels. Such cooperation, based on the idea of shared responsibility for the social and vocational integration of young people, should be designed to facilitate the coordination and cost-effective implementation of all services and policies aimed at young people by:

   — diversifying the provision for vocational education and training so as to offer choice for young people with different kinds of ability leading to recognized vocational training qualifications;

   — allowing for more flexible approaches towards achieving a better balance between the need for breadth in the programmes on offer and the requirements for necessary vocational specialization;

3. with respect to the above objectives, to encourage partnership initiatives which aim to provide an integrated approach to the vocational education and training and guidance of young people as part of the Community's active employment policy and involve the social partners in the dialogue about the setting of training standards;

4. to encourage a greater use of opportunities which have been created outside the traditional systems for a more diversified process of guidance and counselling, and also to promote the coordinated provision of guidance and counselling both during the final period of compulsory education and on a continuing basis thereafter in the light of the needs of young people, especially young women;

5. to promote equal opportunities and give special attention to young people who are disadvantaged — whether because of their culture or race, their mental or physical handicap, their social or economic background or because of their levels of attainment as school-leavers, in particular through:

   — training programmes to assist long-term unemployed young people,

   — measures taken in the final period of compulsory schooling to ensure the acquiring of basic skills,

   — measures taken to enable young women to participate on an equal basis in vocational training programmes;

6. to encourage the development of creativity, initiative and entrepreneurial spirit to assist young people in taking an active part in planning and shaping their own futures, and to help them acquire the skills and confidence necessary to enter vocational education and training programmes and/or the labour market, with particular reference to the initiative and adaptability required of workers in small and medium-sized enterprises;

7. to strengthen the Community dimension in the planning and implementation of vocational education and training strategies so as to promote greater flexibility of response by the training systems to the complex challenges emerging from rapid economic, technological and social change, so that training may become a more vital and integral factor in both economic and social development.

Article 3

1. In order to achieve the objectives stated in Article 2, and to support and complement the work of the Member States, the Commission shall carry out specific incentive and complementary measures, as set out in the Annex.

2. In performing this task the Commission shall be assisted by a Committee. The Committee shall be composed of 26 members:

(a) two representatives per Member State, representing the education and training authorities, as appropriate. These members shall be appointed by the Commission on the basis of proposals from the Member States;

(b) two representatives of the social partners, appointed by the Commission on the basis of proposals from the Community-level organizations representing the social partners;

Members of the Committee may be assisted by experts or advisers.

A representative of the Youth Forum shall participate in the work of the Committee as an observer.

The Committee shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission.

The proceedings of the Committee shall be confidential.

The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Secretarial services shall be provided by the Commission.

3. The Commission may consult the Committee on all questions concerning the implementation of the programme and its coherence with national policies.

In seeking the Committee's views, the Commission may specify the deadlines by which these views shall be submitted.

The Committee's discussions shall not be followed by a vote. However, every member of the Committee shall have the right to require that his/her opinion be recorded in the minutes.

Article 4

1. Regular reports on the implementation of the action programme shall be submitted to the Advisory Committee for Vocational Training set up under Council Decision 63/688/EEC (1) and to the Education Committee, set up pursuant to the Resolution of 9 February 1976 of the Council and of the Ministers of Education, meeting within the Council (2).

2. An interim report on the implementation of this action programme shall be presented to the Council and to the European Parliament by the Member States and by the Commission before the end of 1989, and a final report before the end of 1992.

(1) OJ No 190, 30. 12. 1963, p. 3090/63.
(2) OJ No C 38, 19. 2. 1976, p. 1.

ANNEX

to the draft Decision adopting an Action Programme for the training and preparation of young people for adult and working life

1. This action programme is designed to incorporate a range of incentive and complementary measures to be pursued by the Commission in collaboration with the Member States and the social partners, to encourage innovation and the qualitative improvement of vocational education and training systems in the European Community.

2. For the duration of the programme 1987-1992, support may be given for the following activities:

(a) Support for partnership initiatives in vocational education and training which:

— involve a clear commitment to mobilise the collective resources of the public, private and voluntary sectors so as to develop a cooperative or an integrated approach to the vocational education, training and counselling needs of young people,

— demonstrate a commitment to liaise with counterpart initiatives in other Member States, for example through twinning agreements, and to take an active role in a Community-wide network providing technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation.

The financial contribution of the Community will be limited to the operational expenses incurred through activities with a European dimension, linked to the European network, up to a maximum of 30 000 ECU per partnership, for a maximum of two years. Support will also be granted for specific projects exchanging experience, up to 50 % of the cost;

(b) Technical assistance consisting of:

— special measures, including the sending of teams of experts, to advise on or tackle training problems in specific areas or regions,

— a financial contribution to assist in the developments of the training partnerships referred to in (a).

The financial contribution of the Community will consist of a maximum of 50 000 ECU per project;

(c) Support for comparative research programmes involving technical assistance for cooperation between designated agencies participating in the cooperative programme.

A contribution will also be given for the synthesis of the cooperative research and for dissemination conferences at national and Community level.

The financial contribution of the Community will consist of a maximum of 40 000 ECU per programme of comparative research. The contribution for synthesis and dissemination conferences will be limited to 50 000 ECU, or 50 % of the cost of the conference, whichever is the lower;

(d) Co-sponsoring of surveys of coverage of youth training measures, which

— survey trends in the movement of young people through and between the education and training systems,

— pay attention to specific problems relating to youth provision, particularly early drop outs and young people living in rural, peripheral and the most deprived areas,

— break down results by sex.

The financial contribution of the Community is limited to a maximum of 50 000 ECU per survey;

(e) Support and technical assistance for establishing the conditions for a regular review of the evolution of vocational qualifications, and the pooling of experience in this field;

(f) Support for youth information projects, which

— involve the production of effective information resources to facilitate the transition of young people to adult and working life and actively involve young people in the gathering and presentation of information,

— assist existing agencies in making their services more accessible to young people, especially those whom they normally do not reach,

— include a commitment to exchange experience and share information at national and community level.

The financial contribution of the Community will consist of a maximum of 10 000 ECU per project, representing not more than 50 % of the cost of the project;

(g) Support for youth initiatives, which

— enable young people to develop skills, initiative and responsibility through training, use of the media and new technology and through voluntary work and community projects,

— assist disadvantaged young people and the development of policies concerning them,

— include a commitment to exchange expetience and share information at national and Community level.

The financial contribution will consist of a maximum of 10 000 ECU per initiative, representing in general not more than 50 % of the cost of the initiative, but up to 80 % in the case of initiatives managed entirely by young people;

(h) The strengthening of the existing scheme for the exchange of training specialists, currently organized with the technical assistance of Cedefop, giving particular attention to the selection of training specialists involved in the implementation of the objectives of the Decision;

(i) Support for regular dialogue to monitor the implementation of the Council Decision and associated action programme, by means of financial contributions for a series of high-level European Conferences.

The financial contribution of the Community will consist of 100 000 ECU per conference, representing not more than 50 % of the cost.

3. Complementary measures may be carried out by the Commission, including:

— dissemination of information and exchange of experience,

— networking arrangements for partnerships, youth information projects and initiatives,

— monitoring and analysis at Community level,

— assistance for the organization of seminars, conferences and specific cooperation projects.