II

(Preparatory Acts)

COMMISSION

Amendment to the proposal for a Council Directive laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens kept in battery cages (1)

(Submitted by the Commission to the Council, pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty, on 11 June 1982)

On the 5 August 1981, the Commission submitted the abovementioned proposal to the Council. For the reasons indicated in the explanatory memorandum, the following amendment is made to the initial proposal. The text of Article 4 is replaced by the following:

'Article 4

Member States shall ensure that from 1 July 1990 all battery cages which are not at least in conformity with the requirements of Article 3 are not used for keeping laying hens.'

(1) OJ No C 208, 18. 8. 1981, p. 5.

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning a plan for the transnational development of the supporting infrastructure for innovation and technology transfer (1983 to 1985)

(Submitted by the Commission to the Council 18 June 1982)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

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, in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty, the aim of the Communities is to promote harmonious development of economic activities and continuous and balanced expansion throughout the Community;

Whereas the Heads of State or Government, meeting in Luxembourg on 1 and 2 December 1980, expressed the hope that efforts by the Member States in the field of industrial innovation would be better coordinated in order to improve the competitiveness of European products by making the best use of the dimension afforded by the common market; whereas they requested the competent authorities of the Community to examine ways of eliminating the fragmentation of markets and improving incentives to innovation and the dissemination of knowledge;

Whereas it is primarily up to undertakings to develop trade in technologies and to promote their exploitation;

Whereas, nevertheless, a resolute effort is required to promote interaction between technology, industry and the market at European level, so as to ensure that further economically viable innovations accrue from discoveries and inventions through utilization of the advantages of scale afforded by the European dimension;

Whereas the Member States have developed specialized services in the field of research exploitation, technology transfer, information, consultancy and financing;

Whereas these infrastructures are important for facilitating innovation, particularly in small and medium-sized undertakings;