

Enrico Gibellieri, Criteria for the integration of the ECSC Consultative Committee into the ESC

Caption: Proposal by Enrico Gibellieri, President of the ECSC Consultative Committee, that the Consultative Committee, as the Paris Treaty expires in July 2002, be incorporated into the European Economic and Social Committee through the creation of a 'Steel and Coal Consultative Committee'.

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Criteria for the integration of ECSC Consultative Committee into the ESC through the set up of a "Steel and Coal Consultative Committee"

The present paper should be considered as a proposal from the President of the ECSC Consultative Committee.

1 – Preamble

The ground on which paragraphs 2 and 3 are based upon is constituted by the following:

- the Commission's proposal for the integration of the ECSC structured sectoral dialogue as practised for several years in the ECSC Consultative Committee ;
- the subsequent agreement reached between ECSC Consultative Committee and Economic and Social Committee ;
- the speech delivered on 28th November by President Prodi in front of the Plenary Assembly of the ESC.

2 – Repartition

Taking as a basis the agreement between the Commission and the ECSC of having 30 members from ECSC Consultative Committee for both the steel and coal sectors, two repartition levels must be taken into consideration:

- a) the repartition of members between the two sectors ;
- b) the repartition of members among categories.

2.1 - Repartition of members between the two sectors

The actual repartition between the steel and coal representatives inside the present ECSC Consultative Committee is about 70% for steel and 30% for coal. A similar proportion has also been established by the Commission for the repartition of the post-ECSC research funds, on the basis of the levy on the steel and coal production over the entire duration of the ECSC Treaty. This would lead to the result of having 21 members for the steel sector and 9 members for the coal sector.

2.2 - Repartition of members among categories

At present, the ECSC Consultative Committee is composed of three categories - workers producers, consumers and dealers - with the same number of members. Two alternatives (hereafter named as A and B) are foreseeable:

2.2.1 – A

By keeping today's structure of three categories, the repartition would be 7 members for workers, producers, consumers/dealers in the steel sector and 3 members for workers, producers and consumers/dealers in the coal sector.

2.2.2 – B

Since in Group 3 of the ESC the consumers and dealers are already represented as such, the total number of members from the ESCS Committee could be shared for each sector between the respective workers' and producers' representatives. This proposal would result in 11 members respectively for the steel workers and producers and in 4 members for the coal workers and producers.

3 – Nomination

The agreement reached between the ECSC Consultative Committee and the Economic and Social Committee indicates two stages for the nomination of the members of the future "Steel and Coal Consultative Committee" inside the ESC.

In the first stage, the actual ECSC Consultative Committee would propose among its members the ones for the new relevant committee inside the ESC. Following the expiry of the ECSC Treaty, the members would then be appointed by the ESC itself at every renewal of the ESC.

It seems appropriate that for all nominations (including the first one), members for each category are appointed on the basis of a proposal from the European organisations representative of the sector, possibly taking into account a certain equilibrium among countries and on the basis of the total steel and coal production and employment.

Being unlikely that all countries are properly represented at the same times, a rotation system between countries could be established. In this perspective, it is important to note that the ESC has accepted the principle of having a "deputy member" for each of the members coming from the ECSC Consultative Committee.

Furthermore, in order to take into due account the role and responsibility of the European social partners, and to assure a real representation of the interest of all countries involved, the European organisations as such could become members of the future Steel and Coal Consultative Committee inside the ESC with one representative per category.

[New Steel and Coal Consultative Committee inside ESC](#)