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ECW/CM.IV/2

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

ECOWAS SECRETARIAT
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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

TO

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
MEETING IN DAKAR

20 - 21 NOVEMBER 1978

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1978 should be considered as a decisive year in the evolution of ECOWAS.

The Summit of April in Lagos did not only remedy the structural inconsistencies found within the Institutions of the Community but also took important decisions which contributed to the renewal and consolidation of our faith in ECOWAS.

The efforts made by the Institutions of the Community since that historic session are enabling us today to submit to you concrete proposals whose implementation from the beginning of 1979 will mark the take-off of our Community.

The work accomplished by the Executive Secretariat was made possible largely through the ready cooperation of Member States. On several occasions we have had cause to appeal to Member States to provide the Secretariat with Experts needed for some specific tasks that were undertaken; and on each occasion the assistance was readily forth-coming. It should be emphasized that this method of work enabled us to execute the programme the Council of Ministers approved at its last session.

I wish to express heart-felt thanks to all Member States for this demonstration of goodwill and commitment to the ECOWAS cause.

During the course of the year I had the occasion to benefit from the invaluable advice of several members of this Council whom I had to contact in the course of my work.

Honourable Ministers, thank you very much for this support.

I would like, in particular to put on record my gratitude to the out-going Chairman of the Council, Dr Omoniyi ADEWOYE, Federal Commissioner for Economic Development in the Federal Republic of Nigeria as well as the in-coming Chairman of the Council, Mr Ousmane SECK, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs in the Republic of Senegal and Mr. Isidore AMOUSSOU, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the ECOWAS Fund and the Minister of Finance in the Republic of Benin. These Heads of the Institutions of the Community have given and continue to give me wise counsel and helpful directives.

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In accepting to host not only this session of the of Ministers but also the Technical Commissions, the Committee of West African Central Banks and the Board of Directors of the Fund, the Government of Senegal has once more, if ever there was need for, amply demonstrated their invaluable support to ECOWAS, the success of whose operation is vital not only to the fortunes of the 140 million souls inhabiting the sub-region but to the entire African Continent as well. I would want to express to His Excellency, Président Leopold Seda SENGHOR, my deepest respect and gratitude.

I would like, finally, to express my deepest appreciation, through the current Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Governments, His Excellency, General Olusegun OBASANJO whose patient and gracious support has sustained me, to the Founding Fathers for their continuing confidence in me and their commitment to the success of our Community.

CHAPTER I: MAIN ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN APRIL 1978 IN LAGOS

Since the last meeting of the Council of Ministers, held in Lagos on the 14th and 17th April our efforts have principally centred on the execution of the directives of the Authority and of the Council in the following areas:

A. LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE

The decision taken during the last ECOWAS Summit meeting, April 1978 in Lagos, to fix 28th May 1979 as thecommencement of the period for the consolidation of Customs Tariffs within the Community, marked a decisive step towards the gradual establishment of a Customs Union.

In order to ensure that the declaration of the Tariff consolidation period does not constitute a source of problem either in the interpretation of the relevant texts and provisions or through an insufficient preparation for the implementation of this important stage in trade cooperation within our sub-region, some important preliminary work has been undertaken, especially in the field of:

(i) the formulation negotiation and adoption of the common ECOWAS Customs Nomenclature.

(ii) the formulation, negotiation and adoption of an ECOWAS Statistical Nomenclature

(iii) the harmonization of the foreign trade statistical standards of the 16 Members States of the Community.

(iv) the study, in a more general but systematic manner, of the import and export regimes of Member States with a view to their harmonization in the nearest future.

(v) the set of problems related to the implementation of the ECOWAS Rules of Origin in conformity with the Protocol relating to the concept of Originating Products of Member States.

The importance of the work being undertaken to ensure that trade cooperation within the sub-region is effected under satisfactory conditions is obvious.

The proposals of the Executive Secretariat on each of the above points have been examined by the relevant Commission that is to say, the Trade, Customs, Immigration, Monetary and Payments Commission. The recommendations of the Commission on all these points are presented in chapter V of this report.

B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF PERSONS

By its decision taken during its April 1978 Session in Lagos, the Authority of Heads of State and Gouvernment actually affirmed the importance of this problem for the realisation of the ideals of our Community. To enable us present concrete proposals relating to the free movement of persons to the next Summit in May 1979, we have initiated a study, the result of which will first be reviewed by Member States before drafting the final proposals to be placed before the Authority at its next session. The progress so far made in respect of this project was presented to the Trade, Customs, Immigration, Monetary and Payments Commission for its information and comments. The observations and recommendations of the Commission are reflected in Chapter V of this Report.

C. RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The execution of the Research Programme which was first defined during the July 1977 Ministerial Council in Lagos and subsequently refined, has been continuing satisfactorily. It

should be noted that the greater part of the proposals being presented within the framework of the liberalisation of Trade, and discussed further in Chapter V below stem from some of the studies already completed. In other words, the studies being undertaken on regional trade are progressing on schedule.

With respect to the studies on Transport and Telecommunications, the main field missions have already been undertaken. The preliminary reports are expected to be ready during the first quarter of 1979.

Finally, the study on Industrial and Agricultural Development problems and the economic situation within the Community, for which a budgetary allocation was made during the last Ministerial Council sitting, has commenced. Some improvements have been made to the conceptualisation of the study and the revised terms of reference by the relevant Commission.

The table summarising the whole set of studies currently being undertaken by the Executive Secretariat, the present status of implementation as well as the remaining time schedule is attached to this Report.

D. NOMINATION OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Authority of Heads of State and Government, by its Decision No.A/DEC.4/4/78 requested the Government of Sierra Leone to designate the External Auditor of the Community. The firm of Auditors R. A. DILLSWORTH and Co., was retained and subsequently proposed by Sierra Leone to perform the functions of an External Auditor for two years. In anticipation of the ratification of this nomination by the Authority at its next session a letter of confirmation of the nomination of the firm R. A. DILLSWORTH and Co., as the ECOWAS External Auditor has been sent to that firm by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. They should be able start work soon after this present meeting if the Council approves their fees. The accounts of the Community should therefore be audited and the report of the Auditors ready to be presented to the Council at their meeting in May 1979.

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E. SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF APPOINTMENTS

The Special Committee of Appointments established by Decision No.C/DEC 19/78 of the Council of Ministers has accomplished its work. The Chairman of this Committee's Report is attached as appendix 2 (document ECW/CM.IV/7) together with reports on all the meetings of the Committee.

At this juncture, I would, on behalf of the Committee, like to express our sincerest gratitude to the Council for the confidence it has in the Members of the Committee to carry out such an important mission which in all respects affect the future of the Community. It is with great devotion and a true sense of responsibility that the Committee accomplished such a delicate mission. We pray that the results of the deliberations of the Committee which took place in an atmosphere of absolute frankness and objectivity will be so successful as to appease an assure all those who think that any durable success of the Community depends largely on the quality of the personnel who shall be faced with the very difficult task of seeing to its smooth functioning.

The expenses incurred in the course of the operations of the Committee, as stated in the report of the Chairman previously cited and reports attached thereto, amount to 38,600 U.A. and are being submitted to Council for approval.

F. EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

All the different levels of institutions in the Community have done their best to establish and consolidate useful relations with the relevant organisations. Their efforts are not only directed towards their sister organisations in the Sub-region but also far beyond. Thus in accordance with the desire expressed by the Authority in April to strengthen the cooperational ties between the ECOWAS and CEAO, we have presented to the General Secretariat of this sister organisation, a draft outline showing the practical fields in which this cooperation can be achieved. The two organisations are to meet and discuss and reach an agreement which will then, a few months later, be submitted to the relevant authorities of the two organisations for approval. A similar effort is to be extended

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to the MANO River Union and in a more general way, to the other inter-governmental organisations of the Sub-region consultative matters. Already, this relationship has been established by the Executive Secretariat since October 1977. The draft agreement presented by us to Secretariat of the CEAO is attached to this as Appendix 3.

Finally, ECOWAS was represented at the recent meetings of the CEAO institutions held in Bamako by a high Executive of the Community, the Deputy Managing Director of the Fund.

In accordance with the Resolution No.ECW/C/(III)/Res.9 of the Council, the Executive Secretariat participated in the July 1978 opening session of the negotiations on the renewal of EEC-ACP Convention in Lomé. We have been directed to resume a more active participation in these negotiations soon after the sitting of this Council. The report of our mission at the opening session of these negotiations is attached as Appendix 4.

CHAPTER 11: ECOWAS AS OF TODAY

The following observations on the running of the Institutions of the Community are restricted to Institutions whose recommendations are being brought before the present session of the Council of Ministers.

As for other Institutions, suffice it to recall that the activities of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Commission are progressing according to schedule. The next meeting of this Commission which will be held in 1979 is being prepared with the help of a group of Experts from member states nominated by the Commission at its meeting in Lomé last July.

We hope that the Commission will be able to make recommendations to the next Council of Ministers on the basis of information obtained from on-going studies on the measures to be undertaken for improvement of telecommunication network in the Sub-region.

The Social and Cultural Affairs Commission will be meeting during the first quarter of 1979 to examine the schedule of work in its sphere of activity.

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As regards the Capital Issues Committee, we hope that it would be operational by the second half of 1979 when measures taken to develop intra-Community trade would have yielded some results.

A. TRADE, CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION, MONETARY AND PAYMENTS COMMISSION

Following upon the decision of the Authority to declare May 28, 1979 as the commencement of the period of consolidation of Customs tariffs, and its agreement to take final decision at its May 1979 Summit on freedom of Movement of persons within the Community, the work of this Commission has revolved round three main issues viz: the examination of draft Reports of sections of the trade study already completed, secondly preliminary measures needed for the effective observance of the Consolidation of Tariffs, thirdly consideration of concrete steps taken by the Secretariat to propose in May 1979 the draft convention on movement of persons as requested by the Heads of State. Since the last meeting of the Council, this Commission has held two regular sessions (July in Lomé and November in Dakar); in addition, two special session devoted to Customs and Statistical Nomenclatures and Statistical Standards were held in Lagos (September) and Dakar (October/November). The work of the Commission was further aided by an ad hoc Committee of Customs Experts established by it to examine ECOWAS Rules of Origin and other issues related to the implementation of the tariff Consolidation provisions of the Treaty.

As a result of these recent meetings of the Commission, a draft common ECOWAS Customs and Statistical Nomenclatures has been subjected to a detailed examination and extensive amendments to the text have been agreed upon. The Commission proposes to re-examine the draft document early next year, after these modifications have been effected, before submitting the document to the Council for consideration and approval. Similarly, the Commission shall examine the amended text of the Harmonised Foreign Trade Statistical Standards of ECOWAS Member States, after the modifications proposed have been incorporated before passing it on to Council. In the meantime, the Commission has requested Member States to study a statistical training programme that was drawn up as part of its recommendations to the Executive Secretariat. Comments are similarly

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expected from Member States to complement discussions the Commission held on the study report on Import and Export Regimes which is designed to provide basic information for the formulation of policy options in trade liberalization within the Community.

In addition to the above, the Trade, Customs, Immigration, Monetary and Payments Commission is putting before this session of the Council, three recommendations in the areas of Customs cooperation viz:-

(i) on the definition of Rules of Origin - article 2.2 of the Protocol relating originating Products .

(ii) on treatment of Separation of Materials - article 7 of the Protocol relating to Originating Products.

(iii) on treatment of Mixtures - article 8 of the Protocol relating to . Originating Products.

Council is also being called upon to pass two resolutions for the extension of, firstly, the provisions of the Treaty relating to the consolidation of tariffs to non-tariff barriers and, secondly, the provisions of the Protocol on re-exportation within the Community.

The Commission deems essential to the formulation of a multilateral General Convention on Free Movement of Persons and goods and in-depth study of the Economic, Social and Political issues connected with immigration and is therefore, recommending the commissioning of such a study to the Ministerial Council.

A summary of the November Dakar meeting of the Trade, Customs, Immigration, Money and Payments Commission, together with the above-mentioned resolutions are attached to this report as appendix.

B. : INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND MINERAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

The inaugural meeting of the Industry, Agriculture and Mineral Resources Commission was held in Dakar, 8th to 10th November 1978. The Commission considered the terms of reference of those sections of the General Economic Survey that fall within its competence. Confirming the necessity for a comprehensive

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economic survey at this initial stage of the Community, the Commission endorsed the measures already taken to implement the ECOWAS Research Programme. In particular, the sub-study on agriculture, Industry and Lake and River Basins were approved after some amendments to the draft Outlines and Terms of Reference. The report of the Commission is attached as an appendix.

C. COMMITTEE OF WEST AFRICAN CENTRAL BANKS

The Governors of ECOWAS Central Banks held the inaugural meeting of the Committee, as constituted under article 38 of the Treaty, on 14 and 15th November 1978. The Committee underscored the important role the financial and monetary sectior plays in the satisfactory performance of the economy of the Community. Concern was expressed over the almost intractable problems of balance of payments deficits, very low foreign reserves and the ever-mounting external indebtedness. The Committee, however, recalled the efforts alrezdy being made at various levels within the sub-region to overcome these problems.

Recognising the need for an all-embracing West African approach to these and other related programmes, the Committee endorsed the proposed three studies into the financial and monetary situation within the Community. The Governors called for the cooperation of not only the Central Banks but also the Financial Institutions operating within the Community to enable the Executive Secretariat produce a useful study report.

In view of the severe balance of payment and debt servicing problems facing many ECOWAS Member Countries, the Executive Secretary suggested that the Committee of Governors of Central Banks of ECOWAS consider the establishement of a special facility to supplement financial assistance being rendered by other International Institutions such as the IMF to alleviate these problems. This facility would be the vehicle not only within the region when sometimes surplus reserve assets are available, but also particularly outside the region. This would be an effective and immediate opportunity for the Community to foster the spirit of solidarity in this urgent matter.

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The Governors of Central Banks endorsed the idea and requested that in view of the importance and urgency of subject matter for many member countries, the Executive Secretary drafts a preliminary report on the proposal for consideration for the next meeting of the Committee.

The report of the Committee of Governors of Central Banks is attached as an appendix.

D. THE F U N D

Since the meeting of the Council of Minsiters in April 1978, two other meetings of the Board of Directors of the Fund have been held, the first in Lomé from the 10th to 12th of July 1978 and the other in Dakar on the 16th and 17th November 1978. The reports of the two meetings of the Board of Directors of the Fund are annexed to this document. (See appendix 8).

CHAPTER 111: MAJOR ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN AND/OR TO BE REALISED IN '79

In view of the remarks made above, the main lines of action for our Community during the year 1979 will be the following:-

I. Trade Liberalisation

Organization of the framework, harmonisation of procedures in the field of Customs administration so that concrete measures that will be taken during the year could yield desired results.

In particular we should realise the implementation of:

(i) ECOWAS Rules of Origin
(ii) ECOWAS Common Customs and Statistical Nomenclatures
(iii) Harmonised Statistical Standards for Foreign Trade
(iv) Take off of the assistance programme to member States and training in statistics
(v) Consolidation of Customs Tariffs.

2. Free Movement of persons

We hope to be able to finalise the draft convention to be submitted to the authority in May 1979.

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3. Organisation and re-inforcement of administrative structures of the Institutions of the Community

The decision to recruit staff having been taken by the Special Committee on recruitment, the professional staff of the Community should at the latest assume duty before the end of 1978 to allow for the set-up of the operational structures of our institutions.

4. The implementation of the study programme and the beginning of the work on the elaboration of Sectoral programmes of cooperation particularly in the field of transport and telecommunications and in the field of agriculture and industry.

CHAPTER IV: RESOURCES FOR ACTION - SECRETARIAT/FUND

A. HUMAN RESOURCES

It will be recalled that the Institutions of the Community, the Executive Secretariat and the Fund, had been operating either either a Task Force made up of staff seconded by Governments of some Member States as in the case of the former, or with "temporary/interim" staff as in the case of the latter. It will further be recalled in April 1978, the Council decided that the appointments of all temporary professional staff be terminated within two months of the decision.

In accompliance with that decision, the temporary appointees were terminated in June 1978. Since then, apart from Statutory appointees, the Executive Secretariat has operated with 4 professional staff members; an Administrator, an Economist, a legal Adviser and an Accounts' Officer three of them seconded by the Nigerian Government and one by the Ghana Government. The Fund on the other hand, has been operating with 5 professional staff; that is, apart from the two statutory appointees, the Managing Director and his Deputy. These are an Administrator, a Financial Officer, an Internal Auditor, an Accountant and an Economist; the last being a seconded Officer from the Togolese Government and the first 4 being members of the former temporary staff.

However, appointment of the professional staff has been made and the Institutions will have in the months ahead the full complement of staff.

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B. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

It will be recalled that the Council of Ministers and the Board of Directors approved certain sums as budgetary estimates for the Executive Secretariat and the Fund respetively. For the Executive Secretariat, the sums approved for 1977 and 1978 were 3,100,000 u.a. and 4,017,800 u.a respectively. In respect of 1978, Member States were called upon to contribute only 1,805,864 u.a. of the amount voted in view of savings made on the previous year's budget. And yet as at 30th September, 1978, the outstanding balance of Member States' contributions amounted to 1,521,522 u.a. This is made up of 677,991 u.a. outstanding in respect of the 1977 budget and 843,531 u.a. in respect of the 1978 budget.

Similarly in respect of the Fund, the budget approved for 1977 and 1978 were 726,380 u.a. and 2,777,078 u.a; respectively. As at 30th September 1978, the outstanding sum due to be paid in by Member States amounted to 619,186 u.a. This sum is made up of 51,574 u.a. in respect of 1977 budget and 567,612 u.a in respect of 1978 budget.

As regards the 50 million dollar initial capital approved for the Fund, the sum of 23,182,729 dollars was still outstanding as at 30th September 1978.

As is well known the main source of funding for the Institutions of the Community is the contributions of Member States as of now however some Member States have not paid their contribution for 1977, let alone that of 1978 as can be seen from the fore-going analysis.

An up-to-date statement on the status on payment of contributions by Member States can be found in the Financial Controler's Report to this Council.

The Council and the Board will in this session, be approving budget estimates for the operations of the Institutions of the Community in the 1979 financial year.

While one appreciate the financial problem which some Member States are facing, at present, the non-payment of contributions

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is not only hampering the smooth operation of the Community's Institutions but is in fact putting the Institutions of the Community in any embarrassing situation. It also implies loss of revenue which could have accrued from the investment of the capital.

I would, therefore, wish to appeal to members of this august body, many of whom, incidentally, happen to be Ministers of Finance in their countries, to use their good offices to urge Governments of Member States to pay up their contributions promptly.

I am happy to inform the Council that to enable us to conduct the studies approved by the Council, we have been receiving some financial assistance from friendly organisations. I have, at an earlier meeting of the Council, mentioned the fact that the ECA has been gracious enough to offer to pay the salaries of ECA Staff working on our projects. The Community's financial liability as regards the ECA Staff is thus limited to their air-fares and per diem. The same formula has been adopted by UNCTAD.

In addition to this, the UNDP has offered us 700,000 dollars for the trade and customs study; and has recently offered 1 million dollars from its regional funds through the current programme cycle ending December 1981. A copy of the letter from the UNDP Regional Director for Africa is attached for your information.

The EEC would not be left out of this. In an earlier Report, I mentioned that the EEC had offered to finance the Customs Nomenclature study as can be seen from the report of the Trade, Customs, Immigration Monetary and Payments Commission. The report of the study has been examined thoroughly by an ad hoc Committee of that Commission.

The EEC has now offered to finance the Lake and River Basins Study which is part of the Economic and Social Survey.

The USAID has shown considerable interest in the study on health and is prepared to finance that study which is also part of the economic and social survey.

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In short, ECOWAS has begun to attract the attention and support of well-wishers who are willing and have demonstrated their readiness to off-load some of the financial burdens of Member States.

CHAPTER V: MAIN ISSUES REQUIRING COUNCIL'S ATTENTION FOR DECISION

A. TRADE AND CUSTOMS ISSUES

Rules of Origin: Article 2 of the Protocol relating to the definition of Community originating Products set out the criteria for the determination of goods of ECOWAS Origin. One of these requirements stipulated in article 2 2.2, is that there must be a "desirable level of participation of nationals" in the equity capital of the enterprises whose products are being considered for ECOWAS origin. The Trade, Customs, Immigration , Money and Payments Commission has considered a clear definition of what should be a desirable level of participation and recommends the following for the endorsement of Council

(i) During the four years beginning from May 29, 1979 an agreed list of enterprises will be established by the Council of Ministers working through the Secretariat and the relevant Commission on the basis of information supplied by Member States relating to such factors as location of Headquarters, sector of operation, percentage ownership of equity capital by nationality, raw material input and their source, installed and utilised capacity and current and planned export sales to the Community.

(ii) After the fourth year mentioned above, and for the next six years, at least 34% of the Equity capital of an enterprise must be owned by nationals of a Member State in order for its products to be eligible for consideration as a Community product and

(iii) As from the 10th year counting from May 29 1979 at least 51% of the equity capital of an enterprise must be owned by nationals of a Member State for its products to be eligible for consideration. (Please see attached recommendation 1 of the Trade Customs, Immigration, Money and Payments Commission. (Appendix 5A)

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2. Separation of Materials: Rules of Origin: In the determination of Community originating products, Article 7 of the Protocol relating to Originating goods stipulates that an appropriate accounting system must be devised to be applied to products derived from materials of Community and third country origins but physically impossible to separate This question has been examined by the Trade, Customs, Immigration, Money and Payments Commission and the following recommendation is being put before Council by that Commission.

For the next four years beginning from May 29 1979, the provisions of article 7 of the Protocol relating to the definition of originating product should be suspended. Enterprises whose products fall within this category would be required to satisfy the conditions set out in article 2 of that Protocol and supply any other information that may be demanded. The Executive Secretariat should take steps to study the issue further and propose a solution before the end of the fourth year.(see attached recommendation 2 of that Committee - appendix 5B).

3. Treatment of Mixtures: Rules of Origin: Article 8 of the Protocol on originating products stipulates that the Council of Ministers may determine under what conditions mixtures derived from materials of Community and third countries origins may be granted ECOWAS status. After consideration of the matter, the Trade, Cusoms, Immigration Money and Payments Commission recommends to Council the suspension of the application of the above article during the four-year - period beginning from May 29, 1979 while further study into the problem is undertaken.(see attached recommendation 3 of that Commission).

4. Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade : The two-year consolidation period to be declared on May 28,1979 is to serve as a preparatory period, prior to the gradual reduction of all barriers to Trade, during which there ought not to be any worsening of obstacles to intra-community trade.

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Unfortunately, provisions pertaining to this matter- article 13.2 of the Treaty - specify a freeze on only tarrif barriers. Considering that a stiffening of non-tarrif barriers can easily nullify the freeze on tariffs, the Trade, Customs, Immigration, Money and Payments Commission has found it necessary to propose to Council the adoption of a resolution extending the provisions of article 13.2 of the Treaty to cover non-tariff barriers to intra-community trade.(See attached draft resolution)on article 13.2 of the Treaty -appendix 6)

5. Re-exportation of Originating Products within the Community

The Protocol on Re-exportation stipulates that the original importer of a merchandise from a Third Country would be re-imbursed by the first Member State, the Customs duties levied on such merchandise if the merchandise is subsequently re-exported into another Member State. Before the Community completes the establishment of a free trade area, duties may be levied on products of Community's origin imported by Member States; and such dutiable import may be re-exported. It is considered that if no refund of import duty is made to importers of originating goods which are subsequently re-exported, the Community would in effect be discriminating in favour of re-exported goods of Third Country origin. The Trade, Customs, Immigration, Money and Payments Commission, therefore, proposes to Council the adoption of a Resolution for the extension of the provisions of the Protocol relating to the re-exportation within the Community of goods from Third Countries to cover ECOWAS originating products.(See attached draft Resolution on the extension of the Protocol on re-exportation. Appendix 7).

6. Draft Reports on completed ECOWAS Research Studies: The Trade, Customs; Immigration, Money and Payments Commission has considered the Draft Reports of the three completed sub-projects of the Trade Study namely :

- ECOWAS Customs and Statistical Nomenclatures

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- Harmonisation of Foreign Trade Statistics of the Member Countries of ECOWAS and
- Import and Export Regimes of Member States.

The Commission has reached an agreement on amendments and the expansion of the basic structure the ECOWAS Nomenclature is to follow: These modifications are to properly inserted in the draft document for a further examination in early 1979 before presentation to the Council. Similarly, a basic agreement has been arrived at with regard to the document on Harmonisation of Foreign Trade Statistical Standard and a second draft will be available for the proposed meeting of the Commission in early 1979. The examination of the report on Import and Export Regimes is to be supplemented by comments from each Member State before December 31, 1978.

B. General Convention on Free Movement of Persons: The drafting of a multilateral convention on movement of persons and good as requested by the Authority in April 1978 requires an indepth study into the economic, social and political issues connected with immigration. The Trade, Customs, Immigration, Money and Payments Commission has therefore considered an Outline and the Terms of Reference of a study into this subject presented by the Executive Secretariat. The Commission recommends to Council that such a study coordinated by the Executive Secretariat should be undertaken by experts drawn from the Community. The Council is respectfully requested by the Commission to designate Member States which should provide the five experts yet to be identified for the study.

C. General Economic Survey: As a further step in the implementation of the Council directive to undertake a general economic survey of the Community, terms of reference have been defined for all the sectors falling under that "General Economic Survey". The Industry, Agriculture and Natural Resources Commission at its inaugural meeting examined those projects outline falling within its field of competence and is proposing to Council the commissioning of the following sub-studies:

- Industrial survey of the Community
- Agricultural survey of the Community and
- Lake and River Basins Study

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D. FINANCIAL AND MONETARY STUDIES: During its inaugural meeting, the Committee of West African Central Banks expressed grave concern about the adverse effect the continuing problems being faced by Member States in the financial and monetary sector is having on the economic development of the Community. The Committee therefore endorsed , and recommends to Council the implementation in stages, as envisaged by the Executive Secretariat the following:-

- financial and Monetary obstacles to Trade Expansion
- Short-term Possibilities in Monetary and Financial Cooperation and
- Medium-term Possibilities in Monetary and Financial Cooperation.

The Committee further recommends that all Central Banks and Financial Institutions of the sub-region such as the West African Clearing House and the African Centre for Monetary Studies should give the Executive Secretariat every support in carrying out the above studies. The Committee endorsed the proposal made by the Executive Secretary to set up for ECOWAS countries a special facility to help Member countries facing balance of payment and debt servicing difficulties.

The Executive Secretary has been requested to submit a paper on this project at its next meeting.