

Statement on positive measures

(11 December 1992)

The Joint Committee, at its plenary meeting held in Brussels on 11 December 1992,

Noted that as a proportion of the world fleet, the Community fleet was continuing to decline, to the extent that it now represented some 13.5% compared with over 30% a decade ago;

Noted that, over the same period, employment of EC seafarers had fallen by some 50%;

Noted that since 1986 the Council, Commission, European Parliament and Ecosoc¹, as well as both shipowners and unions, have recognized that action was needed to halt such a decline and have, in the context of EUROS, discussed specific measures with this aim in mind;

Noted that despite the considerable work undertaken by all parties involved, positive measures had yet to be adopted by the Council;

Noted that the 'Maritime industries' forum at its final plenary session in October had recognized the core role of shipping vis-à-vis maritime industries generally and its importance to the Community in relation to trade and employment;

Noted that the Transport Council meeting on 8 December had also stressed the importance of shipping to the Community and had invited the Commission to come forward with revised measures to enhance the

competitiveness of the EC maritime sector and thereby provide greater employment opportunities for EC seafarers;

Urged Member States to give priority over the coming months to discussing and adopting positive measures to this end.

¹ See Ecosoc Report (OJ C 207, 18.8.1986), co-rapporteurs Mr Mols Soerensen and Dr A. Bredima.

