

ions. Commission proposals and the regulations, etc., that result are published in the Community's *Official Journal*.

The EEC Treaty's Article 235 outlines a procedure for action in areas unforeseen by the drafters of the three treaties. This article allows the Community to act as new situations arise.

National courts must enforce Community law. Disputes about interpretation of Community law go to the Court of Justice. National courts retain jurisdiction over criminal cases. A convention that came into force in February 1973 ensures that civil and commercial judgments affecting parties in more than one member state can be enforced in any of them without review by courts in the other states.

Community budget

In 1974 the Community spent about \$6.1 billion, 66 per cent of it on the common agricultural policy (agricultural price supports and farm modernization). The remainder covered administrative costs and financed other common policies and joint research projects.

Until January 1, 1971, Community activities were financed by contributions from the member states and a tax on coal and steel production. A new system to give the Community its own revenue is gradually being introduced, to be completed by the end of 1977 by the Six and by the end of 1979 by the three new members. Revenue already comes from levies on agricultural imports and customs duties; up to 1 per cent of the

value-added tax-assessment basis will also be contributed to the Community when value-added tax rules have been standardized.

Unit of account

For accounting purposes the Community has devised the "European unit of account". It was originally defined as 0.88867 of a gram of gold, the equivalent until 1970 of a United States dollar. When the U.S. dollar was devalued in 1971, the unit's definition was not changed. The introduction of floating exchange-rates made it difficult to use the unit of account. The Community therefore decided in 1975 that it would introduce a unit defined in terms of a "standard basket" of Community currencies. Its application is being gradually extended to various Community financial operations. Each currency's "weight" is related to member countries' wealth and trade with Community partners.

The value of one unit was initially fixed at \$1.20635 (U.S.) — the same as that of the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Right on the day the SDR was introduced, June 28, 1974. The unit's subsequent value varies according to exchange-rate fluctuations.

The unit-of-account value in any currency is equal to the sum of the equivalents in that currency — using daily market exchange-rates — of the amounts in the following table:

	Amounts in member states' currencies	Weights as percentages
German mark	0.828	27.3
Pound sterling	0.0885	17.5
French franc	1.15	19.5
Italian lira	109	14.0
Dutch guilder	0.286	9.0
Belgian franc	3.66	7.9
Luxembourg franc	0.14	0.3
Danish crown	0.217	3.0
Irish pound	0.00759	1.5
		100.0%

The value of the unit of account in Canadian dollars was fluctuating around \$1.20 at the time this text was written (November 1975). In this booklet, Community expenditure is frequently expressed in units of account rather than in Canadian dollars. This has been done in the interest of accuracy, as exchange-rates are subject to variation. Up-to-date values of the unit of account in Canadian dollars and other currencies are published regularly in the *Official Journal* of the European Community, Information and Notice Section.

Community civil service

More than 12,000 people work for the Community. Recruited by competitive examination, "Eurocrats" must have a working knowledge of one Community language besides their own. There are six official languages: English, Danish, French, German, Italian and Dutch. English, French and German are the main working languages.