

French proposal concerning the establishment of a questionnaire (Paris, 15 July 1947)

Caption: On 15 July 1947, during a working session of the Committee for European Economic Cooperation (CEEC), the French delegation submits to its partners a draft questionnaire which will enable an assessment to be made of the requirements and scope for economic recovery of the various countries in Western Europe.

Source: Archives historiques des Communautés européennes, Florence, Villa Il Poggiolo. Dépôts, DEP. Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques, OECD. Committee for European Economic Co-operation, CEEC. CEEC 03.

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French Proposal

Questionnaire to be addressed to the various European Governments for the purpose of a reply to General Marshall

Introduction.

The object of this questionnaire is to collect information for the drafting of a general report:

- On the efforts which the European Nations have already made or propose to make to surmount the difficulties due to the war;
- On the help which they have given or are prepared to give to other European countries in the reconstitution of a prosperous European economy sharing with all its resources in the development of world trade;
- On the minimum external assistance which they would require in order to achieve this objective.

Paragraphs I, II and III concern the analysis of the difficulties due to the war, the efforts already made to cope with them and the contribution so far made by each country to the reconstruction of other European countries.

Paragraph IV deals with the efforts which each country proposes to make during the next three or four years to develop its fundamental resources.

The object of paragraphs V, VI and VII is to permit of the establishment of a balance sheet of the requirements and resources of Europe, the above-mentioned productive effort being taken into consideration. The balance would represent the amount of external assistance necessary as regards power, raw materials, foodstuffs and equipment and also means of payment.

Paragraph VIII concerns such measures of cooperation as the European States may decide to take among themselves in order to reduce external assistance to a minimum and to enable Europe to play her own part in the re-establishment of world trade and the development of world prosperity.

The resources of the overseas territories depending on European countries shall figure in the balance sheet when essential to the rehabilitation of Europe (fats, timber, ores).

The same shall apply to resources of all kinds including the consumer goods required by the native populations in order to increase the production of such commodities. The apport [sic] which each country is decided to make for this purpose should also be indicated in the replies. Finally, the balances of payments should mention imports and exports of currency in connection with the external relations both of the home country and of its overseas territories.

I. Difficulties due to the war.

What are the difficulties with which the different countries have to cope:

- 1) Owing to destruction caused by the war, and to lack of foodstuff, raw materials, equipment and means of transport?
- 2) Owing to the disorganization of the normal relations between the various sectors of national economy, in

particular the reduction of the exchange of goods and services between town and country?

3) Owing to the disturbance of the normal currents of international trade and, in particular, the impossibility for many countries to procure sufficient quantities of coal or basic raw materials.

Destruction and losses of material and manpower due to the war and the effect of such losses on productive capacity and living conditions have already formed the object of a questionnaire circulated by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (Sub-Commission on the Economic Reconstruction of the Devastated Regions — Question i-8 of the Questionnaire of 6th August 1946). On this point, all that is necessary is to complete the replies. For Germany, the Control Authorities will draw up a reply to the questionnaire on the same lines as the replies from other countries.

Other international documents can also be used, in particular, those prepared for the Paris Reparations Conference and the annual reports for the F.A.O.

II. Analysis of efforts already made.

What has each country already done for its own reconstruction and the development of its essential branches of production? Information should be given on:

Objectives fixed;

Results achieved as at 1st July 1947;

Methods and means applied;

Difficulties encountered;

in the following sectors:

1) agriculture

2) power (coal, electricity, oil)

3) means of communication (rail and road transport, inland shipping, ports, sea transport)

4) basic industries (each country shall select from amongst the following list only the industries which are particularly important for its economy)

ores

iron and steel

non-ferrous metals

fertilizers

soda

cement

manufacture of equipment for sectors 1), 2), 3)

5) housing (repairing of houses, building of new dwellings).

III. Contribution by each country to the reconstruction of the other countries.

Classification of contributions shall be as follows: credits granted, exports to the Europeans countries of food stuffs, power and basic raw materials (c.f. list, paragraph V), and principal equipment goods (c.f. table 12), reconstitution of international transport, emigration, passenger traffic facilities.

IV. Description of plans for the period 1947–1950.

Efforts shall be confined to the basic sectors indicated under paragraph II, defining:

- the objectives planned for the end of 1950, and the programme of action for 1947 and 1948 (tables 1 and 2);
- the necessary means (table 3);
- the fundamental difficulties to be overcome.

In the analysis of means, stress shall be laid chiefly on coal, electricity, oil and steel. The fullest information possible shall be supplied on the quantities required to achieve the proposed objectives, and on the requirements of the other activities broadly stated).

Annexed is the form of tables to be filled in (tables 4, 5, 6 and 7).

On table 8, the available resources and requirements in labour shall be indicated.

V. Deficits and surplus supplies, in food products and raw materials.

Each country is asked to draw up statements on their resources and requirements as regards the chief foodstuffs and raw materials which are exchanged on the world market. Quantities shall be estimated as regards the imports which each country will have to make in the course of each of the two coming years, for delivery in 1948 and 1949, and the exports which it will be able to carry out during the same period (for agricultural products, the periods are: 1st July 1947–30th June 1948, and 1st July 1948–30th June 1949).

The products which enter into consideration are the following:

Grain
Edible and industrial fats
Animal feeding stuffs
Seeds
Coal
Oil
Ores
Steel
Non-ferrous metals
Fertilizers

Soda
Cotton
Wool
Timber
Paper pulp

Quantities should be indicated in tables 9 and 10.

Proof of where requirements shall be produced, which should be precise, in proportion to the greatness of the world shortage.

VI. Import requirements and export possibilities in equipment goods.

Each country shall indicate the equipment required to attain the objectives defined under paragraph III, and for the other industries which are important for its economy. It shall produce a proof of its requirements.

It shall also indicate the equipment it will be in a position to export.

Those indications shall be given as regards imports and exports before the end of 1950. They shall include an enumeration, a brief description and an estimation (c.f. tables 11 and 12).

VII. Balance of payments, public reserves of gold and currency, and other elements of the external financial situation.

Balances of payments shall be brought out for 1946, and estimates for each of the years 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950. Annexed is a form for table 13 in which the desired information shall be given, and brief indications as to the manner in which it should be filled in.

In addition, the following information on the situation of each country as regards assets and liabilities in respect of foreign countries, shall be produced: position of public reserves in gold and currency, position of private assets in foreign currency, statement of government credit, balances on foreign countries, external public debt, annual liabilities for servicing of external public debt, analysis of the situation in respect of the principal countries of the American continent. (c.f. table 14).

VIII. European Cooperation.

What is the contribution which each country considers it is in a position to make towards the reconstruction of Europe, in addition to the effort it is making to develop its basic productions (credits, emigration, facilities for passenger traffic, etc.)? What are the measures of general cooperation which it considers necessary and possible?

Paris
Quai d'Orsay
15th July 1947.