



REFERENCES



Distr.
GENERAL

E/ESCWA/45/Add.2
24 April 1977

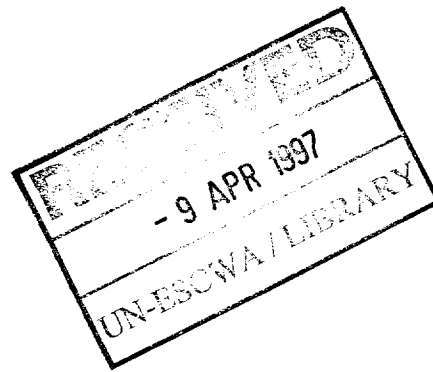
Original: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Fourth session
24-29 April 1977
Amman, Jordan

Item 6(a) of the Provisional Agenda



THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

(Progress report)

May 1976-April 1977

1. The Economic Commission for Western Asia prepared, at the request of the Jordanian Government, a report on the Euro-Arab dialogue.^{1/} This report was submitted to the Commission at its Third Session held in Doha, Qatar, from 10 to 15 May 1976. After considering the report, the Commission took a resolution inviting "the Executive Secretary to consult with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States on ways and means which could enable the Commission to assist in achieving the objectives of the Euro-Arab dialogue."^{2/}
2. The Executive Secretary took the necessary action to implement the above-mentioned Resolution. He met with the Secretary-General of the Arab League, on 27 May 1976, and exchanged views on ways and means of co-operation between the two organizations in matters related to the Dialogue. A follow-up meeting was held between the Secretary of the Commission and the Adviser to the Arab League on the Dialogue. In this meeting, it was agreed that ECWA will communicate to LAS areas where ECWA can provide assistance in the context of the Dialogue.
3. An ECWA staff member visited the Secretariat of the Arab League, from 7 to 14 September 1976, to discuss with the officials concerned specific areas of interest in the context of the Euro-Arab Dialogue where ECWA can be of assistance. In his discussions with the officials of the Arab League, he pointed out the following areas where ECWA can assist the Arab party to the Dialogue:
 - to assist in the undertaking of studies in the field of industry aiming at pinpointing demand, production capacity, possibilities for regional co-operation and identification of major investment projects in industry;

1/ E/ECWA/35/Add.1

2/ ECWA resolution 23(III).

- to identify regional infrastructural projects, particularly in transport and communications;
 - to assist in the formulation and evaluation of agricultural projects submitted by the Arab party to the Dialogue and in other studies in the area of agriculture and water;
 - to submit proposals on major regional investment projects for financing;
 - to provide statistical information on trade between the Arab countries and the European Economic Community (EEC) and other information on the trade, bilateral and multilateral arrangements applied by EEC;
 - to participate in the study of proposed projects in the area of scientific and technological co-operation, particularly the proposed regional centres and institutes;
 - to study issues related to labour and social development and the improvement of Arab workers conditions in Europe; and,
 - to provide data and other required information on the economies of the Arab countries.
4. It was also pointed out that co-operation between the Arab League and ECWA in the context of the Euro-Arab Dialogue can take the following forms:
- direct contact between the Arab League and ECWA when the former needs particular information or assistance in the areas mentioned under paragraph 4, above;
 - use by the Arab League of advisory services of expertise at ECWA, particularly the regional advisers, for short-term missions;
 - ECWA's participation in meetings of specialized committees and working groups of the Arab party; and,
 - ECWA's participation in the meetings of the Arab party to the Dialogue.

5. The Arab League officials responded favourably to ECWA's initiative. They pointed out that a Euro-Arab Dialogue Unit has been established in the Secretariat of the Arab League and the necessary financial resources have been allocated to enable the Unit carry out its responsibilities. Seven technical committees have been formed to deal with specialized areas of the Dialogue. The chairman of each committee is responsible for the formulation of an Arab position in the Dialogue in one area, such as industrialization, trade, etc.

6. The Arab League officials proposed specific areas where ECWA's assistance will be sought. In the context of the Euro-Arab Dialogue, they requested ECWA's assistance in three areas; namely, trade, transfer of technology and transport.

The Arab League officials expressed interest to co-operate with ECWA in the following matters of concern to the Arab League:

- participation in the formulation of a strategy of Arab economic development;
- sending an expert for a short period to study the feasibility of establishing a joint Arab stock exchange; and,
- advising on the operations of the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to Arab and African Countries, particularly in recruiting experts and in undertaking technical assistance missions.

7. An ECWA staff member visited Geneva to exchange views with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on ways and means of providing the required assistance in the areas of trade, transfer of technology and transport.

8. ECWA's report on the Euro-Arab Dialogue (E/ECWA/35/Add.1) was submitted to the Arab-European Business Co-operation Symposium, held in Montreux

(Switzerland) during the period 25-27 October 1976. An ECWA staff member participated in this Symposium and took note of ideas relating to the Euro-Arab Dialogue such as finance, industrialization, transfer of technology; joint ventures and development in general.

9. Dr. A. Zalzal, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs of the Arab League, visited ECWA on 3 January 1977 and discussed further areas of co-operation between the two organizations. He stated his interest in two specific projects and sought ECWA's collaboration in their implementation. The first deals with the presentation of an Arab strategy in the area of transport while the second deals with the establishment of an Arab money and capital market. It was agreed that the Arab League meeting of transport and communications experts will be co-sponsored by ECWA and held in December 1977. This meeting will formulate a draft of the transport strategy.

10. It may be indicated that ECWA's Programme of Work, 1978-1979, contains a good number of projects of direct relevance to the areas of co-operation which have been identified between the Arab League and ECWA. In addition, ECWA will consider giving special emphasis to undertaking the work needed to meet the specific requests of the Arab League.