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Collaboration with the United States in the field  
of energy.

(communication from the Commission to the Council)

The energy crisis which has gathered momentum in the world for almost three months in the wake of the events in the Middle East lends renewed urgency to the ideas that world security of energy supply must be sought within a broad-based cooperation between the energy-producing and the energy-consuming countries. On several occasions the Commission has called attention to this necessity, and in particular in its Communication to the Commission of 27 April 1973 on "Guidelines and priority actions under a Community energy policy".

In a speech delivered in London on 12 December, the American Secretary of State, solemnly laid stress on collaboration between consuming countries in the field of energy without ruling out the participation of the producing countries. What Mr Kissinger basically put forward for this purpose was the setting-up of an "energy action group", made up of representatives from Europe, North America and Japan, which would be given the responsibility for developing an initial action programme in all sectors of energy.

On 27 December 1973, the American Secretary of State restated this proposal for cooperation and on 3 January he announced at a press conference that President Nixon would shortly be taking steps - doubtless diplomatic steps in the first instance - in this field.

The nine Community countries should therefore get ready without further delay to react to these steps. They should do this in the spirit of their declaration on the European identity, i.e. on a Community basis, thus ruling out any responses by individual countries, which could only have the effect of weakening that political solidarity which the Community intends to demonstrate as evidence of its existence and significance.

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In this way, without anticipating the principles, procedures and the actual content of the cooperation which they intend to develop between energy-consuming and energy-producing countries, the Community Member States have adopted, by a Council decision, the principle of an affirmative Community reply to the US proposal. They should also, and accordingly, decide to consult and confer in the same way prior to any contact in this sphere with the US Administration and to bring the Commission in to such consultations and meetings. The Commission will formulate proposals regarding the content, organization and procedures for the functioning of this cooperation, especially as regards the dialogue necessary not only with the producing countries but also with the consuming countries among the developing nations.