

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 10 January 1975

## COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

THE PREPARATION OF THE CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE

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COM(75) 7

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Subject: Proceedings of the International Energy Agency and preparation of consumer/producer dialogue

1. Since the end of December 1974 the International Energy Agency's proceedings have been stepped up particularly as a result of the outcome of the meeting between President Ford and President Giscard D'Estaing. Special stress must be laid in this connection on the importance and urgency of the preparation of the dialogue between the oil-consuming and the oil-producing countries. The preparatory meeting with the producer countries is planned for March.
2. With regard to a number of matters being dealt with at these proceedings there are already Community guidelines and decisions (e.g. the Council Resolution of 17 September 1974, the Resolution on 1985 Community energy policy objectives of 17 December 1974, and various Decisions, Resolutions, Directives and Regulations on information, fuel efficiency, stockpiling and research in the energy field). It is, moreover, obvious that pretty well all, if not indeed all, the Agency's proceedings are of particular interest to the Common Market within the meaning of Article 116 of the Treaty of Rome.
3. It follows that as regards the fields already covered by Community discussions only Community positions in line with those discussions can be adopted in the IEA. On all other matters of particular interest to the Common Market it is essential that the Member States taking part in the IEA's activities should conduct a common action in accordance with Article 116.

4. To ensure that the Community arrangements work properly, the traditional procedure for preparing discussions in the OECD context should henceforth be made to apply to the meetings of the different IEA bodies, that is, that there should be prior meetings between qualified officials of the nine Member States and of the Commission.

5. As concerns the matters tackled by the Agency on which there have not yet been definite Community discussions, the Commission is required under Article 116 to submit to the Council proposals with respect to the scope and implementation of the joint action referred to in the Article. The most urgent of these matters have to do, as noted in (1) above, with the preparation of the dialogue between the consumer and the producer countries. Consequently, the Commission submits to the Council, together with this communication, a paper on the procedure for this dialogue.

6. Over and above points concerning the actual holding of the dialogue, attention will have to be given to the fields where satisfactory progress must be achieved before the dialogue with the producer countries opens, including in particular:

- (i) mounting of concerted energy conservation programmes;
- (ii) expedited development of new energy resources.

The Commission will be submitting to the Council at the earliest possible date proposals with regard to:

- (a) short-term reduction of oil consumption;
- (b) principles of a Community energy resources development policy.