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**NOTE D'INFORMATION  
NOTA D'INFORMAZIONE  
TER DOCUMENTIE**

Brussels, January 1976

**First Periodic Report on the RATIONAL  
UTILIZATION OF ENERGY (RUE) Programme \***

As provided in the Council Resolution of December 1974 on the programme for the Rational Utilization of Energy up to 1985, the Commission has approved the first periodic report issued under that Programme.

In Part One of the Report progress is reviewed under three heads, namely :

- the present situation in the Member States ;
- the situation produced by the Member States' coordinating endeavours within the steering and coordinating Group for the RUE Programme (the findings of which are set out as recommendations in Part Two of the Report) ; and
- problems arising from implementation of the Programme and relating in particular to :
  - (a) the organizing of press and information campaigns to enhance public awareness and provide the technical support required by projects to be undertaken ;
  - (b) establishing the statistical machinery for effective monitoring and checking of the effort put in by each country and sector ;
  - (c) fostering of the capital investment required by the Programme in the private and public sectors, with a view to improving the technical efficiency with which energy is used.

Part Two of the Report contains the steps recommended to the Member States, the results of which will be monitored periodically on both a country and sectoral basis.

**1. Promotion of thermal insulation of buildings**

The essential recommendation is that basic standards be adopted for thermal insulation, these to be implemented by stages in respect of each class of building, beginning with offices and public buildings.

**2. Rational utilization of energy in the heating systems of existing buildings**

This recommendation relates to :

- public buildings used for office purposes and those which in general are not occupied full-time; in this connection automatic systems are contemplated for the programming and control of heating, together with a 20° C limit on temperature. Furthermore, each office or room should be provided with independent means of control (thermostatic valves) to prevent the maximum permitted temperature from being exceeded.
- dwellings ; detached, semi-detached and other houses must be distinguished from apartment buildings (with block central heating systems). As regards the former, what is envisaged is the fitting of means of control working off outside or

inside temperature; planning is for the heating systems of the latter to be controlled in relation to outside temperature and for the adoption of heat meters or distributors ;

- Inspection, periodic maintenance of heating facilities with a capacity exceeding 30.000 kcal/h ;
- Improvements in methods of producing, measuring consumption of and limiting the temperature of hot water.

### 3. Improving driver behaviour

The purpose of this Recommendation is to bring in several ways of helping consumers to save energy, directed both at manufacturers and users.

It is proposed that :

- car manufacturers should include in driver's handbooks practical information on fuel saving ;
- cars should have ways of displaying to the driver information on the most economical way of driving ;
- all types of vehicle on the market should be subjected to a standardized fuel consumption test, its results to feature in advertising so as to enable buyers to select on the basis of comparable data ;
- manufacturers should fit vehicles - including heavy vehicles - with radial-ply tyres ;
- that road-vehicle users should ensure that ignition and carburettor settings are correct.

### 4. Urban passenger transport

Several steps are recommended to encourage the rational use of energy in urban passenger transport : improvement of public-transport services, introduction of bus-only lanes, improvement of traffic flow through programmed control of traffic lights, encouragement of car pools, etc..

### 5. Electrical household appliances

It is recommended that a label be placed on the chief classes of appliance (boilers, cookers, refrigerators, deep-freeze cabinets, freezers, washing machines, dish-washers, dryers, TV sets, ironing machines) to inform the user of their unit energy consumption, calculated to harmonized standards. Publicity and provision of information to the consumer would use, in respect of all appliances and all makes, the same markings to indicate unit consumption, thus clearing the way for selection based on comparable energy-consumption criteria.