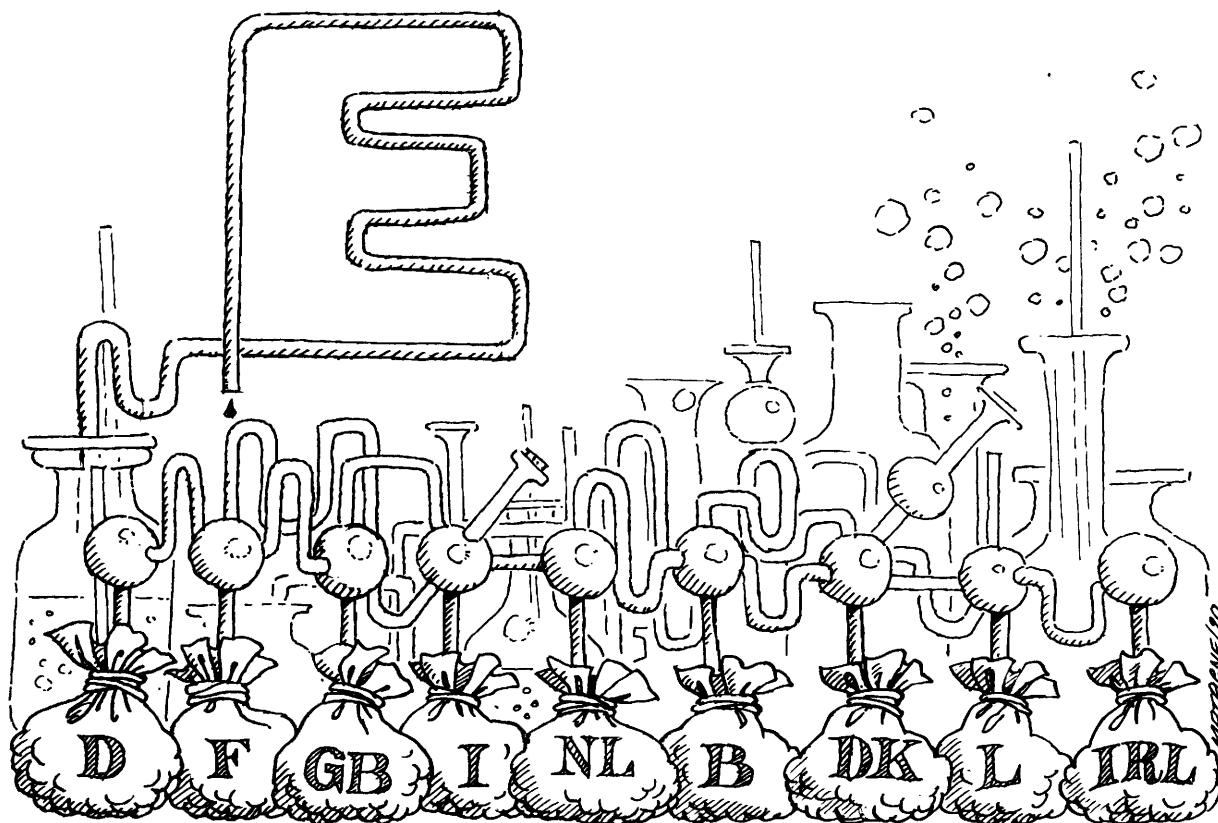


Brussels, 30 May 1978

Nº 21/78



Community money is bubbling into research (see page 3).

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++ COMMUNITY UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Two million jobs have disappeared in three years in Community industry. The job outlook in Europe is not rosy.

Annex 1 takes a look at the situation in individual sectors and the Community's answer to the problem.

++ 1979 BUDGET : TIGHT AND SELECTIVE

The budget proposed by the European Commission for 1979 will have the smallest increase for years - 15.5%. Priority areas will receive large increases : energy, social and industrial policy, agricultural structural reform and development aid.

The Commission's proposals are outlined in Annex 2.

++ SEVEN GOOD YEARS OF EURO-RESEARCH

Scientific, human, social and economic progress over the coming years largely depends on today's research effort. Research priorities and expenditure in the Community are examined in Annex 3.

++ AID TO INDUSTRY

The founding treaties of the European Community confide great responsibility in the European Commission concerning aid given to industry by Member States, particularly industries in trouble, since such aid can distort trading conditions and competition within the Nine.

The Commission takes the view that State aid is compatible with Common Market rules when used in moderation to cover the socio-economic costs involved in adapting industry to ensure its long term viability.

It should not be used however to subsidise unviable industries nor to cover development costs which would effectively only transfer industrial problems and unemployment from one country to another.

++ THE NINE BACK ENERGY SAVINGS

Since the energy crisis, a number of energy savings publicity and information campaigns directed towards the individual private consumer have been undertaken in the Community. The European Commission has held a number of meetings with those in charge of the schemes to exchange ideas and experiences. The main schemes are as follows:

United Kingdom

- "Save it" information/advertising campaign (£1 million budget 1978/79);
- agreement between Government and nationalised energy industries to coordinate their publicity work.

Italy

- National campaign to save on domestic heating (1.5 million Lire budget in 1978). A number of campaigns have been undertaken by various organisations and companies such as ANCC (Associazione Nazionale per il Controllo della Combustione), ENI (Ente Nazionale per gli Idrocarburi), ENEL (Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica), and Publigras.

France

- Public awareness campaign conducted by the energy savings agency (Agence pur les Economies d'Energie). Budget FF 10 million.

Netherlands

- General campaign "Verstadig met energie" organised by the Ministry for Economic Affairs;
- information campaign on thermal isolation; campaign for rational use of gas (undertaken by Gasunie and the distribution companies); campaign for the rational use of electricity (electricity companies);
- setting up an energy saving information bureau.

Denmark

- Public education programme organised by the energy saving committee (Kr 3 million budget).

Ireland

- Publicity campaign on energy saving in residential, commercial and transport sectors;
- public information campaign with special accent on domestic heating and consumption, involving demonstrating a model energy savings house.

Belgium

- "Mr. Calerie" campaign to inform individuals on energy conservation.

++ TRIBULATIONS OF SIGNOR SIOTTO

Signor Siotto comes from Italy but has recently been working in Paris. Unfortunately Sr. Siotto is physically handicapped and had to move to the town of Cluses in the Haute-Savoie to undertake a vocational retraining course.

Though his friends knew he was leaving, he was unaware he had to inform the police. Hence his surprise and indignation when he was taken to court for failing to declare his change of residence. He was convicted and fined.

This conviction of a European Community citizen who was relocated to another Community country appears to be at odds with the spirit of the European Treaties and Community directives on the free movement of labour.

French regulations require all foreigners who have a residence permit (permis de séjour) to report any change of address to the police within eight days of arrival. This regulation is technically not applicable to nationals of other Community countries who live in France. These "semi-foreigners" should be treated as French citizens. The European Commission is currently examining the case of Sr. Siotto who thinks his fine is unjustified under Community law. Sr. Siotto for his part is taking up the case with the French courts who will consult the European Court of Justice for a final judgement.

++ AT THE C.C.C.

At its latest session, the Consumers' Consultative Committee (C.C.C) examined initial Commission proposals for a directive on the advertising of pharmaceuticals. In its view the proposals are in line with consumer requirements (minimum standards which Member States could make more stringent if required) though they would wish improvements on the consumer information aspects. The Committee takes the view that medicines cannot be treated as ordinary goods, and a source of objective information from an independent organisation is required for medical workers which could substitute for advertising and publicity.

The Committee had already given its approval on the Commission's proposals for farm prices in December 1977. It has decided to examine the consequences of recent decisions on farm prices for consumers (prices, surpluses, market structures etc.) for the next marketing year (see Euroforum 19/78). The Committee will draw up an opinion after this review.

The Committee also expressed interest in a proposal for a Community information system on household accidents caused by certain products. This initiative from the Commission's services could be expected to receive the approval of consumer organisations.

++ WATER SUPPLIES

Demand for water is constantly increasing in industrialised countries and the Community is facing potential water shortage problems. The subject has consequently been given high priority in the Community's environment programme.

The following measures are being undertaken:

- studies on the availability of water resources in the Community, on planning methods and on supply problems;
- a study on the integrated management of water resources;
- a balance sheet of water availability (current supplies and demand trends);
- an estimate of underground water resources;
- a study of ways to encourage Europeans to conserve drinking water, and find alternative solutions.

An ecological map of the Community is being drawn up (see Euroforum N° 5/78) which will supply an inventory of ground water resources and evaluate the pollution loads in our water supplies.

Discussions are being undertaken with experts in Member States to exchange views on national water policies.

The Commission's own services are preparing a proposal for research into climatic factors which will also touch on problems of water supply.

++ CARAMEL THREAT?

Certain evidence has been put forward to suggest that caramel colouring, which is used in a variety of beverages and foodstuffs, can be a danger to health. Mr. Erik Anderson of the European Parliament has asked the European Commission whether it intends to take any precautionary measures as there are no guarantees of safety for the substance.

The Commission has replied that concern is only being caused by certain preparations of caramel. The Community's Scientific Committee for Human Foodstuffs is currently re-examining the subject to be able to make a judgement before the general review of colourants at the end of 1978. If the Committee finds there is any danger associated with the colourant, the Commission will of course take any measures required.

++ FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Direct investment by third countries in the Community was on the increase until 1974. The following year the tide turned and investments have since dropped considerably in all Member States. The only exception has been Germany where a partial recovery has been recorded.

The major investor in the Community has been the USA. The American share of total third country investment dropped from 48.74% in 1972 to 41.27% in 1975.

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COMMUNITY UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The main employment trends over the past three years have been a persistent reduction in the agricultural workforce, in spite of labour market difficulties and poor prospects of finding another job; the disappearance of more than two million wage-earning jobs in industry; slower job creation in the service sector (almost 3% per year between 1970 and 1973, and 0.8% between 1973 and 1976).

(≠)
Civilian employment in the Nine :

| | 1973 Employees 1000 | % | 1976 Employees 1000 | % | Net creation or loss of jobs | Percentage change |
|----|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| a) | 9,380 | 9.2 | 8,629 | 8.6 | - 751 | - 8.0 |
| b) | 43,638 | 42.8 | 41,641 | 41.5 | -1,997 | - 4.6 |
| c) | 48,940 | 48.0 | 50,070 | 49.9 | 1,130 | 2.3 |
| d) | 101,958 | 100.0 | 100,340 | 100.0 | -1,618 | - 1.6 |
| e) | (2,596) | - | (5,243) | - | - | - |

(≠) Civilian employment = total employment excluding military personnel.

Source : SOEC Social Statistics 2/1977

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| a) | Agriculture |
| b) | Industry |
| c) | Services |
| d) | Total civilian employment |
| e) | (Registered unemployed) |

It is extremely difficult, and perhaps rather arbitrary, to distinguish between the effects on employment of the recession and of changes in international trade flow between 1973 and 1976. Since external demand was the only dynamic growth factor, the fairly rapid pace of exports was important in supporting activity in industrial sectors, and helped to limit the decrease in jobs. However, the pressure of external events was felt both in traditional high labour-intensive sectors and in the high-technology sectors subject to keen competition, and helped aggravate difficulties in industries already affected by the slowdown in domestic demand.

Owing to the decline in domestic demand and activity, the numbers employed in branches that are not exposed to international competition increased much less rapidly (tertiary sector), or even decreased (building). Some 500,000 jobs disappeared in the building industry (20% of the total number of industrial jobs lost) as a result of decreased investment in housing and other buildings, itself a consequence of restrictive budgetary and monetary policies and a reaction to the residential building boom of former years.

A novel feature was that the branches benefiting most from the growth of international trade equipment goods, machinery, electrical equipment also had to cut back their workforces. This is because investment in goods within the EEC dropped so much that the reduction could not be offset by the increase in foreign demand (particularly from the OPEC countries). Only in the transport equipment sector (other than motor vehicles) were jobs created (some 20,000) between 1973 and 1976.

Most of the jobs lost in the "intermediate products" branches were in the iron and steel sector, although it should be noted that, in the present crisis, trade in iron and steel was still in surplus even in 1977, in spite of the rapid increase in imports from non-member countries, including new producers such as Spain and South Africa.

The branches most affected by job losses are those producing consumer goods. Nearly half (47%) of industrial wage-earning jobs that have disappeared were concentrated in these branches (mainly textiles, footwear, clothing, wood and paper), although they employ only 31% of industrial wage-earners. These branches are, moreover, very vulnerable from the point of view of external trade, since the pre-recession clothing deficit has increased, while the surpluses in other products (fabrics, textile articles, footwear, precision instruments, photographic goods, clocks and watches) is shrinking rapidly.

Anti Protectionism

The difficulties encountered by these industrial branches, which are particularly serious in certain Member States and certain Community regions, have led to mounting protectionism. The Community is seeking ways to restore the conditions for sustained and balanced growth and for improved use of technical and human resources; it must adopt an unambiguous attitude to the changes in its international environment by developing an aggressive strategy of accepting the advantages and constraints of the international division of labour, and by contributing to better-adjusted international payments.

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1979 BUDGET : TIGHT AND SELECTIVE

Total Community budget expenditure in 1979 should only increase by 15.5% - the lowest rise for several years. This is the view of the European Commission which has just proposed expenditure (appropriations for commitment) next year of 14 667 million ECU (1 European unit of account = ± 1.27 dollars).

This "tight" budget is justified by the current economic situation and the need for prudence in public spending. The Commission has proposed a selective budget concentrating on the operations which are most important for the Community.

Areas to receive special attention in the budget are agricultural structural policy, industrial policy and development aid. Especially large increases are proposed for social and energy policy. Only a relatively small increase has been written in for the guarantee section of the EAGGF (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund) - the organisation which finances the management of the Community agricultural markets and makes up any differences between world and Community market prices.

The Commission's proposals will be discussed by the Council and the European Parliament. A final decision should be taken towards the end of the year.

A spectacular increase in expenditure has been proposed for the energy sector (+228% in 'appropriations for commitment' and +353% in 'appropriations for payment!'). Though regarded as a first rank priority among Community operations, energy policy has never been well endowed with funds despite the Commission's exhortations. In 1979 the accent should be put on the development of Community resources and energy saving measures.

A 49% increase in 'appropriations for commitment' for social policy has been proposed to expand existing operations and introduce new projects. About half of the funds are earmarked for reducing unemployment, particularly amongst young people. Budget allocations for victims of disaster areas in the Community have, in the light of recent events, been doubled.

Industrial policy should receive a 65% increase for the conversions and reorganisation of Europe's crisis industries (shipbuilding, synthetic fibres, etc.) and to promote our advanced technology industries (data processing, aerospace).

As part of the Community's aid to developing countries, the Commission proposes to raise food aid to 1 135 000 tonnes of cereals, 150 000 tonnes powdered milk, 55 000 tonnes of butter-oil and 10 000 tonnes of sugar.

Increased funds should be allocated to the EAGGF (guarantee section) to improve agricultural structures, particularly in the Mediterranean regions, and to provide a better balance within Europe's farming industry. Fisheries policy should receive a boost of more than 500%.

The largest portion of agricultural expenditure under the guarantee section was already decided at the recent Council of Agricultural Ministers. Agricultural expenditure is only to rise moderately (10%) in 1979 mainly because the effect of farm prices on the budget will be less than in previous years.

The Regional Fund should not increase very substantially next year (+ 6.7%) since it received a very substantial boost last year.

If the Commission's proposal is accepted, the total budget will amount to 0.88% of the Community's gross domestic product (GNP) as against 0.81 in 1978, and will represent less than 3% of total volume of national budgets of the nine Community partners.

The 1979 budger proposed by the European Commission is as follows:

| Sector | Appropriations for commitment in mil. EUR | In % | % Variation on 1978 |
|--|--|--------|---------------------|
| 1. <u>COMMISSION</u> | | | |
| a) Intervention appropriations | | | |
| - agricultural sector | 10,278 | 70.07 | + 11.93 |
| - social sector | 882 | 6.02 | + 48.87 |
| - regional sector | 620 | 4.23 | + 6.71 |
| - research, energy, industry, transport | 577 | 3.93 | + 81.22 |
| - development cooperation sector | 705 | 4.81 | + 26.22 |
| - miscellaneous | p.m. | - | - |
| | 13,062 | 89.06 | + 16.28 |
| b) Operating appropriations | | | |
| - staff | 418 | 2.85 | + 7.87 |
| - administration | 121 | 0.83 | + 14.72 |
| - information | 12 | 0.08 | + 7.70 |
| - aids and subsidies | 48 | 0.33 | + 6.94 |
| | 599 | 4.08 | + 8.74 |
| c) Reserves | 65 | 0.44 | - |
| d) Reimbursement to Member States from own resources | 689 | 4.70 | - 0.09 |
| Total Commission | 14,415 | 98.28 | + 15.52 |
| II. <u>OTHER INSTITUTIONS</u> | 252 | 1.72 | + 12.10 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 14,667 | 100.00 | + 15.46 |

EUR = approx. 1.2 dollars

Where the Community's money comes from and where it goes to - which is the natural reaction of the European taxpayer - is answered in Euroforum N° 46/77.

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SEVEN GOOD YEARS OF EURO-RESEARCH

Between 1970 and 1977 government expenditure on research and development (R&D) in the European Community grew 3.2% per annum in real terms. This figure which covers expenditure by central public administrations including Germany's "Länder" excludes that by regional authorities, public enterprises and private sector industry. Only half of total R&D is financed by national authorities.

1970-77 the years of plenty

3.2% is only an average and behind it lies a period of rapid growth in the first years and a wide gap between expenditure in individual countries. Whilst both Ireland and Germany rapidly increased R&D expenditure, little change was evident in Italy and France. The 5.2% per year increase in R&D expenditure by the European Commission itself has made a large contribution to overall expansion.

For the Nine as a whole, R&D expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product (GNP) has remained constant whilst it decreased slightly relative to the budget of central administration. It is currently one third of GNP.

R&D expenditure in 1976 in million EUR (1 European unit of account = ± 1.27 dollars):

| | |
|-----|----------|
| D | 4 071.7 |
| F | 2 909.6 |
| I | 554.8 |
| NL | 704.7 |
| B | 405.9 |
| UK | 2 319.7 |
| IRL | 28.9 |
| DK | 190.6 |
| EUR | 11 186.1 |

Average annual increase in R&D expenditure (at constant prices) between 1970 and 1976 (in %) :

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Civil R&D</u> |
|------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Germany | 5.4 | 6.4 |
| France | 1.2 | 1.6 |
| Italy | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| Holland | 4.7 | 5.0 |
| Belgium | 2.2 | 2.1 |
| U.K. | 2.7 | 0.7 |
| Ireland | 9.4 | 9.4 |
| Denmark | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| EUR 9 | 3.2 | 3.4 |
| Commission | 5.2 | 5.2 |

More interesting still, is comparison with the USA. Whilst expenditure increased in Europe, the American Government decreased its own by 1.4% per year 1970-76, largely through the cutbacks in the space programme.

The effect of this has been to bring European and US R&D expenditure closer together. In recent years, research outlays have tended to stabilise though in real terms they have increased in the USA.

General promotion of knowledge N° 1

For the Nine as a whole the lion's share of R&D finance goes for the general promotion of knowledge (38%). In countries such as Germany, Holland and Denmark it accounts for more than half. Technology takes second place (24%) defence third (22%), human and social research fourth (10%) and agriculture fifth (4%).

Between 1970 and 1977, research into general promotion of knowledge and social and human matters increased, whilst technological and defence research declined. Men have been put before machines.

Only three countries spend more than 10% on defence research : the UK with 47% (the same as the USA), and France and Germany, though expenditure in these two countries is on the wane.

Dividing the cake

Priorities differ from country to country. Belgium is closest to the Community average and Ireland the furthest away.

Distribution of civil R&D expenditure (in %) - 1976 :

| | D | F | I | NL | B | UK | IRL | DK | EUR 9 | Commis- sion |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| 1. | 2.1 | 4.6 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 2.8 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 2.1 |
| 2. | 2.7 | 6.7 | 1.4 | 6.7 | 1.6 | 4.9 | 7.0 | 2.7 | 4.1 | 0.1 |
| 3. | 4.8 | 7.7 | 3.9 | 7.3 | 6.8 | 5.3 | 6.1 | 8.4 | 5.9 | 16.2 |
| 4. | 12.4 | 12.0 | 21.7 | 4.9 | 17.0 | 14.8 | 0.9 | 2.9 | 12.6 | 64.3 |
| 5. | 2.2 | 6.0 | 3.2 | 7.6 | 5.3 | 8.3 | 40.9 | 8.6 | 4.8 | 2.4 |
| 6. | 7.6 | 16.9 | 10.8 | 4.9 | 10.6 | 13.5 | 20.4 | 6.6 | 10.7 | 12.0 |
| 7. | 4.8 | 2.0 | 1.1 | 6.5 | 7.8 | 2.7 | 8.0 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 2.1 |
| 8. | 5.1 | 7.8 | 9.3 | 2.8 | 5.1 | 4.4 | 0.0 | 4.0 | 5.7 | 0.6 |
| 9. | 58.2 | 35.9 | 46.6 | 56.1 | 43.1 | 44.7 | 13.4 | 61.4 | 49.4 | 0.2 |
| 10. | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

NABS chapters

1. Exploration and exploitation of the earth and its atmosphere.
2. Planning of human environment.
3. Protection and improvement of human health.
4. Production, distribution and rational utilization of energy.
5. Agricultural productivity and technology.
6. Industrial productivity and technology.
7. Social and sociological problems.
8. Exploration and exploitation of space.
9. General promotion of knowledge.
10. Total expenditure.

European R&D expenditure on human health runs at similar levels in all countries though agriculture research varies widely from country to country in money terms.

Energy research comes second though the contrast between countries is striking with Holland, Denmark and Ireland lying far behind their six other Community partners. 61% of Community research expenditure is devoted to energy.

ENERGY RESEARCH

Public financing of energy R&D has been steadily increasing in the Community. Figures in million EUR (1 European unit of account = 1.27 dollars) are as follows:

| | <u>1974</u> | <u>1977</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Germany | 398 | 470 |
| France | 190 | 251 |
| Italy | 78 | 135 |
| Netherlands | 20 | 38 |
| Belgium | 50 | 70 |
| U.K. | 128 | 177 |
| Ireland | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Denmark | 4.2 | 7.3 |

Community expenditure

In relation to total R&D expenditure by Member States, Community expenditure (1%) does not appear impressive. Between 1970 and 1976 it has however increased 5.2% or twice the average of Member States, and the greatest increase has taken place since 1974 when national expenditure began to stabilise.

In 1975 and 1976 the European Commission introduced new research programmes into energy, health and agriculture. Community research into energy, health (16%) and industry (12%)

is, percentage-wise, greater than research by Member States.

National priorities

Germany : public R&D expenditure accounts for one third of total expenditure in the Nine. During the 1970-76 period research grew at twice the overall rate for the Community as a whole. Energy research is increasing.

France : in 1970, R&D expenditure per inhabitant was the highest in the Community. In relation to GNP, however, expenditure is not so impressive. Defence research accounts for close on 30% of the total.

Italy : the trend here has been the reverse of other countries and expenditure decreased in real terms at the beginning of the seventies and increased sharply in 1976 through particular emphasis on energy research.

Netherlands : no slow down in research was experienced here in 1976 and in most areas Dutch expenditure is considerably divergent from the Community average. Research into general knowledge is very high.

Belgium : with lower expenditure on defence research, this country is closer to the Community average.

United Kingdom : total expenditure on R&D has been more or less static since 1970 and it appears that reduced expenditure into civil research has been compensated for by defence research.

Denmark : an exceptionally high proportion of R&D allocations go to the promotion of general knowledge and a small share to energy and defence.

Finally it is interesting to note that multilateral research absorbs 1/10 of public R&D finance by Member States, and 75% of this deals with space exploration and exploitation.

This information is taken from a report recently published by the Community's statistical office entitled "Government Financing of Research and Development 1970-1977" which can be obtained from the Office for Official Publications, P.O. Box 1003, Luxembourg, price £4.70.

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