



trade union information

COMMUNITY JOURNAL FOR TRADE UNIONS
produced by the trade union division
(information directorate-general)

No. 9 - 1975

REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED

Contents:

1. A stop to rising unemployment
2. Progress in setting up two Community institutes
3. New measures in favour of migrant workers and handicapped persons
4. Aids to the Community's coal mining industry
5. Harmonisation of social conditions in transport by inland waterway
6. Days lost through strikes in Community countries
7. ETUC decisions
8. Establishment of transport trade union committee in the European Community
9. European teachers' unions form committee
10. Commercial travellers discuss working conditions at European level
11. British TUC congress calls for democratisation of the European Community
12. German DGB and French FO issue joint statement on European integration
13. German DGB European conference on employment
14. German union conference on energy policy.

OFFICE ADDRESSES:

Dublin:	29 Merrion Square Dublin 2, Ireland	London:	20 Kensington Palace Gdns London W8 4QQ, England
New York:	277 Park Avenue N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.	Edinburgh:	George Hotel, George Street Edinburgh, Scotland
Washington:	2100 M Street, N.W. Suite 707, Washington 20037, U.S.A.	Cardiff:	The Angel Hotel Castle Street Cardiff, Wales

X/528/75-E

1. A STOP TO RISING UNEMPLOYMENT

Underlining the importance which the European Trade Union Confederation attaches to the forthcoming summit conference of representatives of governments, employers, trade unions and European Commission (see also "Trade Union Information" No 8, August 1975), the ETUC executive committee adopted the statement which follows at its meeting in Geneva on 26 September 1975. The Conference is to be held in the second half of November.

Under pressure from the European Trade Union Confederation, representatives of Trade Union organisations in Europe will shortly meet representatives of governments, the European Community, and employers in a tripartite conference on economic and social issues. They will speak in the interest of all affiliates of the European Trade Union Confederation inside and outside the European Communities.

The dominating and urgent feature of the current situation is the growing level of unemployment directly attributable to falling levels of economic activity generally, and to low levels of investment and reduced investment intentions in particular.

The ETUC Executive Committee believe that there is now an opportunity to modify and to reverse the deflationary policies which governments have pursued as part of their attack on rising prices. Some countries have been able to maintain a strong balance of payments throughout. Those countries are in the most favourable position, and the ETUC calls on them to take the lead in reflationary action.

The ETUC will ask representatives of the Governments and the Commission to present to the conference an account of the economic situation and of the employment situation - which is still seriously deteriorating - and will call on them to outline the measures which they propose to take, individually and collectively, to deal with it.

These measures will include action by individual governments taken on their own responsibility to deal with the situation in their own countries, and there should be scope for agreement on special measures to be taken in the countries most affected, particularly to deal actively with the employment situation.

But the main thrust of the discussion, in the light of the responsibility of European countries to their own people and to the world, must be to reflate the European and the world economy. The opportunity is there, the need is there, and the ETUC will insist that the full efforts of the countries in the Community should be towards firm cooperative action with the other governments of Europe in recognition of their joint responsibilities.

The ETUC will take maximum action to publicise this Conference through TV and other means, and to this end calls on all national organisations to secure synchronised activity where possible.

The position which the ETUC will defend at the economic and social conference will be expounded at a public meeting on 14 November 75, which will be held at the close of the Executive Committee meeting.

2. PROGRESS IN SETTING UP TWO COMMUNITY INSTITUTES

Two Community institutes of a new kind are expected to begin operations by the end of the year - the European Centre for Vocational Training, to be located in West Berlin, and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, due to be placed in Ireland.

These two bodies will have quadripartite administrative boards with 30 members: nine representatives of the governments of member states, nine representatives of the trade union organisations, nine representatives of the employers and three representatives of the Commission. (The Foundation has, in addition, a committee of experts consisting of twelve members.)

The Foundation will work to increase and disseminate knowledge contributing to the improvement of living and working conditions. More specifically it will deal with the following issues, in an order of priority to be determined:

- man at work
- organisation of work and particularly job design;
- problems peculiar to certain categories of workers;
- long-term aspects of improvement of the environment;
- distribution of human activities in space and in time.

The Centre will encourage, at Community level, the development of vocational training. Through its scientific and technical activities it should contribute to the implementation of a common vocational training policy, mentioned in article 128 of the EEC treaty. It has the particular duty of encouraging the exchange of information and the comparison of experience.

In the period before the establishment of the Foundation and the Centre the Commission is preparing suggestions for action programmes. In regard to the Committee of Experts of the Foundation, the Commission has the duty of making a proposal to the Council of Ministers for the appointment of the members of this. It will appoint the Directors of the two institutions from lists of candidates submitted by the two boards. (Two of the four groups on the quadripartite boards, the employers and the trade unions, have met and stressed that the setting-up and functioning of both these institutions are of major importance for the employers' organisations and trade unions of the Community. They therefore intend to present jointly agreed names for candidates for the posts of director).

In the period before the official organs of the Foundation and the Centre are appointed the Commission, in its capacity of future member of the two boards, can acknowledge any communications on the subject and undertake to submit all relevant information to the two boards, once appointed.

3. NEW MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS

The Commission has recently made several proposals to the Council of Ministers aimed at improving the working conditions of migrant workers as part of the implementation of the Action Programme in favour of migrant workers and their families. These proposals deal with:

- standardisation of the system of paying family benefits to Community workers the members of whose families reside in a Member State other than the country of employment; if the basic regulation on this subject is amended by the Council as the Commission wishes, migrant workers in all countries will receive the family allowances of the countries in which they work for the members of their families who reside in another country (normally the country of origin of the migrant worker). Up to now France has paid rates applying in the country of origin.
- improving the education of the children of migrant workers; in a directive to this end, the Commission proposes special reception measures for assisting migrant workers' children to adapt from the educational system of the country of origin to that in the country of reception; teaching of the language and culture of the country of reception; and training of teachers having migrant workers' children in their classes.
- extension of the trade union rights of Community migrant workers; the Commission believes that it is opportune to consolidate at Community level the principle accepted in most countries of equality of treatment for migrant workers as regards holding office or taking part in the management of a trade union.
- technical amendments to the social security regulations covering migrant workers, adapting these rules to recent changes in national legislation.

The Commission has also sent a Communication to the Council concerning the elimination of architectural barriers which hinder the mobility of handicapped persons. The Commission proposes also to part finance a series of pilot operations in the member states designed to improve housing conditions of handicapped workers.

4. AIDS TO THE COMMUNITY'S COAL MINING INDUSTRY

The Commission has just forwarded to the Council a proposal renewing Decision No 3/71/ECSC on Community rules for intervention by Member States for the benefit of the coal industry; this Decision expires on 31 December 1975.

The new decision which the Commission proposes to adopt takes into account the upheavals which have taken place on the energy market since October 1973 and is based on the guidelines of the Commission's energy policy and on Council Resolutions on energy matters.

The main objectives in the coal sector are maintaining production around the 250 million tce per year level, increased productivity, implementation of a manpower policy and increased investments in coal-fields with a greater potential production capacity.

The new system of aids to the coal-mining industry will act as a kind of safety net. Aid can be granted only with the Commission's approval, which will not be given until the Commission has received from national governments full details of the measures envisaged, and these fulfil the requisite aims.

The following kinds of aid may be granted:

- investment aid to stabilise production,
- aid for the training and maintenance of the labour force,
- aid for the build-up and holding of stocks to make the supply of Community coal more flexible and to make energy supply more secure,
- aid to stabilise the sale of steam coal to power stations,
- aid to cover production losses.

Finally, the Commission considers that Community participation in the financing of aids to the coal mining industry must be envisaged and intends to forward relevant proposals to the Council.

The changed situation since 1973 has given coal a primordial place in energy policy, returning to it the competitive position it had lost. If the burdens of the past are disregarded, Community coal production can be said to be 90% viable.

The Commission has drawn some useful lessons from the past which can be used for the future system of aids. Firstly, a Community system of aids seems to have become indispensable and would form the cornerstone of the Community's coal policy. The future system of aids must, in view of the uncertain situation of the energy market, be flexible so that the aids granted can be adapted to the specific requirements of the coalfields involved. Community coal production must be stabilised in the long term, thus ensuring the security of the Community's energy supplies. In order to do this a number of measures must be taken to rationalise and develop the industry; this will, in particular, require a system of aid. However, governments will only be able to request such aids when other methods have failed to solve their problems.

5. HARMONISATION OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN TRANSPORT BY INLAND WATERWAY

The Commission has approved and sent to the Council a proposal for a regulation on the harmonisation of certain social provisions in transport by inland waterway.

The proposal is the first stage in the introduction of rules to govern social conditions in transport by inland waterway within the Community. It aims at providing better social protection for barges, with due regard for safety and economic operation in this sector, and to harmonise the conditions of competition. This proposal falls within the common transport policy.

This proposal is intended as a first step towards harmonising social legislation in this sector. As things stand, each Member State has its own legislation and some Member States have no legislation at all in particular sectors. Germany, Belgium and Italy have detailed

manning laws, for example, while France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands have none at all. Such disparities raise social and traffic safety problems and distort competition.

Rules are proposed for the following aspects:

- total working hours and breaks;
- number of working hours at the helm or radar screen;
- daily rest periods;
- periodic rest breaks instead of weekly rest periods in transport by inland waterway;
- annual holidays and public holidays;
- manning of different types of boats;
- monitoring methods.

The Regulation does not impinge upon the autonomy of management and labour, and the Member States preserve the right, in the interests of social progress, to apply to the workers more favourable provisions than those in the Regulation.

6. DAYS LOST THROUGH STRIKES IN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES

In connection with a reply to a question in the European Parliament, the Commission has published a table giving the number of days lost through strikes per 1000 workers in the nine Community countries, over the period 1964-1974. This table is given below:

Number of working days lost through strikes per 1000 employees											
Year	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74
Germany	1	2	1	19	1	12	4	205	3	26	48
France	175	68	171	282	(9 973)	145	110	281	229	233	201
Italy	1 053	573	1 207	700	747	3 013	1 445	1 012	1 333	1 564	1 783
Netherlands	13	15	4	2	4	6	69	25	35	152	2
Belgium	160	25	189	65	130	56	482	420	116	280	187
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	97	124	101	120	203	297	480	613	1 082	318	650
Ireland	802	795	1 129	261	570	1 285	1 405	376	286	282	753
Denmark	10	143	9	6	19	31	56	11	11	2 007	95
Community average	237	146	255	202	(2 029)	585	405	-	-	-	-

7. ETUC TO HOLD EUROPEAN CONGRESS IN LONDON

The European Trade Union Confederation will hold its first regular congress (the founding congress was in February 1973 and an extraordinary congress was held in May 1974 in Copenhagen) in late April 1976 in London. This was one of the decisions of the ETUC executive committee meeting in Geneva on 26 September 1975. Its preparations for the tripartite European meeting on economic and social issues are reported as item 1 of this bulletin.

In regard to the situation in Spain, the committee decided unanimously to make Thursday 2 October a European day of trade union solidarity with the people of Spain. It demanded that all negotiations between the European institutions and the Franco Government should be broken off.

Recalling its analyses of the deteriorating economic situation in Portugal and emphasizing that in present political conditions coordinated action by European democracies is urgently required, the executive committee requested "all European Institutions and organisations and all the Governments of Western Europe to put a programme for economic cooperation and aid for Portugal into operation immediately and in conjunction with the Portuguese Government".

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSPORT TRADE UNION COMMITTEE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Transport trade unions from the International Transportworkers' Federation, the World Confederation of Labour and the Italian national trade union centre CGIL in the nine countries of the European Community decided to create, as from 1 July 1975, the Transport Trade Union Committee in the European Community.

From that date the three former liaison committees of transportworkers' unions ceased to exist.

The new Committee brings together unions concerned with inland transport (railways, road and waterways), maritime, docks and air transport, as well as sea fishermen from the nine countries.

Accordingly this new body will be the interlocutor for the European Community in all problems concerning workers in the different modes of transport in the nine countries.

The formal adoption of the statutes and elections to the various organs of the Committee will take place in the coming weeks.

The Committee has as its objective coordination of trade union work in the EEC and the examination of all problems relating to common transport policy in the European Community.

To this end the Committee has relations with the different instances of the EEC as well as with the European Trade Union Confederation.

9. EUROPEAN TEACHERS UNIONS FORM COMMITTEE

Teachers' trade unions of the nine countries of the European Community - those belonging to the International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions, those affiliated to the World Confederation of Labour teachers' body as well as teachers' unions in France not members of a national trade union centre - formed the European Trade Union Committee of Teachers in June 1975, after two years of preparatory discussions.

The Committee's aim is "in relation to the European Community bodies, to undertake permanent representation of the teaching profession, continuous defence of its material and moral interests and action for the development of initial and recurrent education". The Committee will apply to the European Trade Union Confederation for recognition. In this way it expresses "the firm will to promote the development of education and vocational training in cooperation with the whole trade Union movement."

The Committee reports a total individual membership of 1,200,000. Its headquarters are in Brussels.

Principal officers are A. Ouliac as President and A. Braconier and C. Damen as joint general secretaries.

10. COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS DISCUSS WORKING CONDITIONS AT EUROPEAN LEVEL.

The commercial Travellers' Section of EUROFIET (the European Organisation of the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical and Technical Employees) met in Brussels on 10 and 11 September 1975. It urged the Commission to send its draft directive concerning the legal status of salaried commercial travellers to the Council of Ministers without delay. The project dates from 1971.

The meeting confirmed its agreement with the principles set out by the Commission in the draft directive. These concern the harmonisation of national legislation on the rights and duties of salaried commercial travellers: remuneration (elements, acceptance of orders, etc) and commissions; form and cessation of the contract; indemnities for the regaining of customers, non-competition clause on termination of a contract, length of notice in a trial period and in contracts of a specific duration and of an indefinite duration; definition of the job of salaried commercial traveller.

11. BRITISH TUC CONGRESS CALLS FOR DEMOCRATISATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The 107th annual Trades Union Congress, held in Blackpool from 1-5 September 1975, adopted the following resolution on the European Economic Community:

Congress accepts the decision of the people of Great Britain to continue membership of the European Economic Community. The responsibility of representing the British trade union Movement requires a continuing review of developments within the Community by the General Council and the determination of policies directed to ensuring:

- a) greater democratic control over the European Parliament;
- b) greater direct control and supervision of the Council of Ministers and the European Commission by the European Parliament;
- c) reforms of the economic, social, industrial and agricultural policies in the interests of the workers of the Community;
- d) the extension of greater positive participation by workers in industrial democracy; and
- e) that there are no irrevocable steps taken towards European Union without the known whole-hearted consent of the British people.

In a separate reference to the European Community Jack Jones, as chairman of the international committee of the general council, said that the TUC intention was constructive participation, but its representatives in the Economic and Social Committee of the EEC would not tolerate "inaction, bureaucratic complacency and red tape frustration".

The Congress called for action on Spain and Portugal in a single resolution in favour of democracy and free trade unionism in both countries.

The main debate of the week concerned the wages situation in the context of unemployment and inflation. The Congress accepted that for the next twelve months "pay increases should be limited to a single flat rate figure with protection for the low paid, i.e. no worker should receive less than £ 6 per week increase". At the same time the Government should "do everything in its power to control the upward spiral of prices and ensure wide-ranging price restraint."

Among measures set out in the resolution for preserving jobs are "the introduction of selective import controls in the short term" and "the reduction of overseas investment by British firms".

A resolution on the textile, clothing and footwear industries, which account for up to a million workers in the United Kingdom, regrets that the Government rejected an appeal to limit imports in these sectors to 80 per cent of the 1974 figure and continues:

Congress therefore calls upon the British Government, and the European Economic Community, to implement policies that would assist the industry to maintain adequate levels of employment for the workforce currently employed in the industry and to ensure that the importation of textiles does not mean the importation of unemployment. Such policies should seek to control imports of textiles, clothing, knitwear and leather goods from low cost countries and also apply quota restraints against areas of unfair competition. These controls should be of such a nature to bring confidence into these industries, and assist in the burden sharing of these imports throughout the other developed countries of the world.

The British Equal Pay Act will become operative at the end of 1975, and the Congress adopted measures to achieve the aim "that women should be paid the wage that a man would be paid if he were doing the job."

Affiliated unions are invited to achieve, in collective bargaining, equality of treatment not just on pay, but also in access, training and promotion opportunities, and to give priority to the advancement of women in trade unions.

The following resolution was adopted on industrial democracy:

Congress reaffirms the decisions taken in 1973 and 1974 in respect of the extension of industrial democracy.

Congress calls on the Government to take early action to introduce legislation that will implement these proposals.

In particular such legislation should ensure:

- a) that employees have equal rights with shareholders in merger situations; and
- b) that policy-making boards or supervisory boards, as appropriate, shall, where they are established by and with trade union agreement, have 50 per cent trade union representation.

However, Congress accepts that the only long-term protection for workers' interests is an effective and independent trade union movement. Congress rejects any form of participation in management which would tend to weaken that essential trade union independence.

A major review of trade union education services in Britain was presented to the Congress. A report on this will be made in the next number of "Trade Union Information".

12. GERMAN DGB AND FRENCH FO ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Franco-German and European problems were discussed at a joint meeting of the executives of the German DGB and French Force Ouvrière at La Brévière, just outside Paris, from 3 to 5 September 1975.

The delegations first discussed problems of employment in general and of young people in particular. In dealing with fundamental causes of employment they recognised the need for a new world economic order based on concertation between industrialised countries, that is, the users, and the producers of raw materials as well as the whole third world.

The final statement by the two organisations continued:

"They insist in particular on the role to be played by a coherent and initiative-taking European Community, undertaking a series of common policies and having a common currency which would at once be a corrective factor in relation to the present international monetary disorder.

"The two confederations will support all current efforts to rel unch the European Community and are interested in the highest degree in the mission of Mr Tindemans concerning European Union.

"They both declare their willingness to take initiatives together with the democratic parties, so as to work for the achievement of a United States of Europe, in the eminently positive and courageous heritage of Jean Monnet and the pioneers of European economic and political construction, which can be a bulwark of peace and freedom in the world.

"Concerning the achievement of Europe at trade union level, the DGB and FO will act positively to achieve cohesion and efficacy in the positions adopted by the European Trade Union Confederation whose creation must be a decisive and promising step for European free trade unionism."

The two centres expressed great interest in the policies to be adopted by the British TUC after the referendum on EEC membership and expressed the view that Spain and Portugal could only evolve in a positive direction if they create democratic political systems allowing for public and individual freedoms, notably trade union freedom.

A final subject of joint deliberation concerned the strengthening of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, due to hold a world congress in Mexico shortly. They stressed the need to bring the North American AFL-CIO back into world-level trade union action, thereby re-establishing concertation and cooperation among all the democratic trade union centres at world level.

13. GERMAN DGB EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT

The German Federation of Trade Unions held its 24th European Conference in Recklinghausen on 17 June 1975. It was devoted to the situation of women in Europe and problems of the Common Employment Policy.

Speaking before 250 delegates from EEC countries, Switzerland and Austria, the Chairman of the German Federation of Trade Unions, Heinz-Oskar Vetter, called upon the Member States of the European Community to take common measures against unemployment and inflation.

In the opening speech of the conference, Mr Vetter warned individual countries against the temptation to export their own difficulties.

At the same time he stressed the need for the Trade Unions of the EEC member countries to participate closely in the working out of the common policy and the necessary measures which would go with it. This was all the more important as the increasing concentration of capital and undertakings in the European economy had increased workers' dependence. They must therefore have the right to reasonable representation as well as timely and comprehensive information about planning and development in business and undertakings.

Mr Vetter described unemployment as an "existential problem of the European Community". In the future, he urged, there should be much more serious thought about what European integration meant and how it was to be achieved.

The DGB Chairman went on to urge rapid putting into practice of equality of opportunity and equal rights for women.

He further stated that the order of priorities in the Social Action Programme of the EEC was too influenced by the concepts of economic growth and expansion, and recommended that it be re-examined.

14. GERMAN UNION CONFERENCE ON ENERGY POLICY

The OTV (Gewerkschaft Öffentliche Dienste, Transport und Verkehr - Public Service and Transport Workers Union) organized a conference on energy in Dortmund on 29 April 1975, in conjunction with the Trade Union Information Division of the EEC Commission. About 600 delegates from all branches of the power industry in Germany attended the conference. The speakers were K-H Hofmann, Deputy Chairman of the OTV Trade Union, Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the EEC Commission and Detlev Rohwedder, Under-Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic affairs.

Mr K-H Hofmann opened the conference. In his introductory speech, he emphasised that it was the OTV's intention, in organizing the Dortmund conference, to make a further contribution to a progressive energy policy in Germany and in the European Community. All aspects of the energy, price and supply crisis should be discussed on the basis of the guidelines on energy supply drawn up by the OTV. At the same time possible solutions to these problems should be suggested, the final objective being to assure the consumer of a regular and adequate supply of energy, while respecting environmental imperatives, and to guarantee the jobs of workers in the energy supply industry.

Vice-President Haferkamp started his paper "Energy Crisis and Economic Policy from a European Point of View", with a brief survey of the energy policy situation. He attempted to explain the reasons for the lack of a European Energy Policy. The prices dictated by the oil producing countries had divided EEC countries on this question and the political will, needed to back a Common Energy Policy had been lacking. The Community's considerable dependence on imported energy (63% in 1973) made it necessary to seek the solutions to energy problems within a wider context. Mr Haferkamp therefore urged close cooperation with other large consumer countries like the USA.

Turning to the aims of Community Energy Policy, he declared that:

- 1) nuclear energy was no panacea for our energy problems;
- 2) yet an effective reduction in our economic and political dependence on imported energy could be achieved only by a rapid expansion of nuclear energy;
- 3) this should not lead to further dependence on supplies of fissile material. Supplies of natural uranium would have to be guaranteed on a long term basis.

The present level of coal production in the Community would have to be maintained until 1985. This could be achieved only if the long term market prospects for coal were satisfactorily guaranteed.

Mr Haferkamp called for realistic decisions and measures instead of ambitious projects. For example the short term energy conservation

programme had not gone far enough. There was a danger that the drop in the demand for energy, which was due more to the general economic recession than to conservation, could lull people into a false sense of security.

Cooperation with the oil producing countries was in the political and financial interests of all EEC countries.

Haferkamp stressed that apart from the International Conference between producer and consumer countries, they would have to master the enormous economic problem of the increase in the price of energy, together with its consequences. The energy crisis had been an unprecedented challenge to our economic structures and ushered in a new era in which the world economy would adapt itself to radically changed commercial and financial circumstances.

A brake on the growth of consumption was inevitable, but the associated incomes policy should not be to the disadvantage of workers alone: a greater degree of participation and co-determination should go hand in hand with active policies of employment and vocational training, fiscal justice and social reform.

Turning to the situation in Germany Mr Haferkamp declared that investment was again profitable since appropriate economic and financial measures had laid the basis for an economic upturn.

Mr Haferkamp stressed that on the international scene, the signs were also encouraging. His forecast was : a clear reflationary trend in the second half of 1975 and an upturn for 1976. Care should nevertheless be taken to avoid a new wave of inflation.

In his address on "Energy Policy from the Federal Government's Point of View" Under-Secretary Rohwedder said that in future, energy policy was of paramount importance, not only in the Federal Republic but throughout the world. This had been obvious to everybody since the energy supply crisis of the winter of 1973/74. The supply situation in Germany had improved again, but one should not harbour any illusions about this. Germany had only minimal amounts of energy on her own soil and would therefore have to rely in the medium term on her traditional sources of supply. This meant that she would continue to depend on imports of mineral oil from the unstable Near and Middle East regions for some time yet.

After a detailed survey of the government's proposed measures aimed at guaranteeing energy supplies, Mr Rohwedder stressed that national efforts alone were inadequate at a time when each country's economy and energy situation were inseparably linked with those of every other country. The energy problem was international and had to be solved internationally. Germany was dependent on imported energy, was deeply engaged in the world economy - every 5th job depended on exports - and bore some responsibility for the proper functioning of energy markets and the world economy. For all these reasons, effective cooperation on energy was of vital importance. All this had been unequivocally stated in the National Energy Programme and its extrapolation. The Federal Government considered that the European Community and the International Energy Programme were the most important starting points for this cooperation.

In recent months the Community had set the goals for the Community energy policy up to 1985 and decided on the measures necessary to attain these goals. Mr Rohwedder considered that this was an important step but only a first step. The Commission would have to take concrete proposals for carrying out these decisions and would have to work out sensible compromises by taking into account the different situations of individual Member States. The Federal Government was convinced of the need for a Common Energy Policy.

The International Energy Programme and the International Energy Agency, responsible for carrying it out, here however further ways in which national energy policy was involved in international cooperation.

Tangible results had already been achieved in this forum with close collaboration between EC countries. Cooperation within the IEA and the development of a Common Energy Policy in the EC should in future complement and inspire each other.
