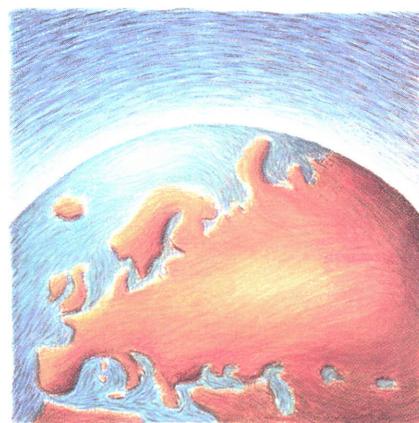

ENERGY

A CHALLENGE FOR EUROPE

AND THE WORLD



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PREFACE



or the first time since the oil crises of the 1970s, energy is back at the top of the political agenda in Europe and around the world.

The awareness that Europe and the industrialized countries generally were short of energy and that the world energy balance was a precarious one did not last long: the second half of the eighties showed that the 1973 and 1979 warnings had not been clear enough. Europe and the rest of the world slipped back into a comfortable complacency with regard to the vulnerability of their economies and the volatility of international markets. There were dangerous delays in introducing technologies, materials and legislation favourable to energy efficiency, and the market situation discouraged investment in renewable energy resources.

Given such conservative attitudes, it is hardly surprising that there has been far slower progress in fusing and opening up energy markets, particularly within the Community, than with other sectors of the economy which are clearly of less strategic importance for improving the world-wide competitiveness of Community firms and for promoting international trade.

In the last few years, however, things have begun to change. The rising public awareness of environmental problems points an accusing finger at the energy industry, blaming it for such things as the 'greenhouse effect'. In Europe, and not only in the European Community, major world events have direct repercussions on the energy situation - as we have been starkly reminded by the Gulf crisis and war. The energy scenario today is very different from what it was in the late 80s.

In the European Community, the Single Market, Monetary Union and Political Union are inconceivable while national energy markets remain closed and sclerotic. In Eastern Europe, energy now takes centre stage in cooperation programmes, since it is the field in which natural, financial and technical resources undeniably complement one another most obviously. All this is set against a background of international environmental concerns to which national frontiers, languages and political regimes are irrelevant.

The European Community must shoulder its responsibilities vis-à-vis the new energy problem to which there are three main dimensions: the internal energy market of the Community of Twelve, the continent-wide European Energy Charter and the world-wide response to environmental problems. As Commissioner responsible for energy since 1989 I have endeavoured, and am still endeavouring, to lay the foundations of just such a responsible Community approach to both the internal and the external aspects of energy policy. This brochure gives a broad picture of what action the Commission is taking in response to this very real challenge for Europe and the world.

ANTÓNIO CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member of the Commission since 1986;
responsible for Energy since 1989



A SINGLE LARGE MARKET IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY



achieving the Single Market is one of the chief aims of the European Community. Abolishing barriers to the free movement of persons, goods, capital and services is a decisive step for the economic development and the prosperity of the twelve Member States of the Community, as well as a decisive stage in the process of European integration.

It is inconceivable that energy should be ignored in this process. Vital to the whole web of the modern economy and in the day-to-day activity of businesses and citizens alike, the energy sector could not fail to be one of the keys to making the Community's Single Market a reality. Without the energy sector such a market would be merely a shadow of what it is intended to be. Conversely, the energy sector, if not properly integrated in the structure of the Single Market, would remain isolated from the momentum of '1993'.

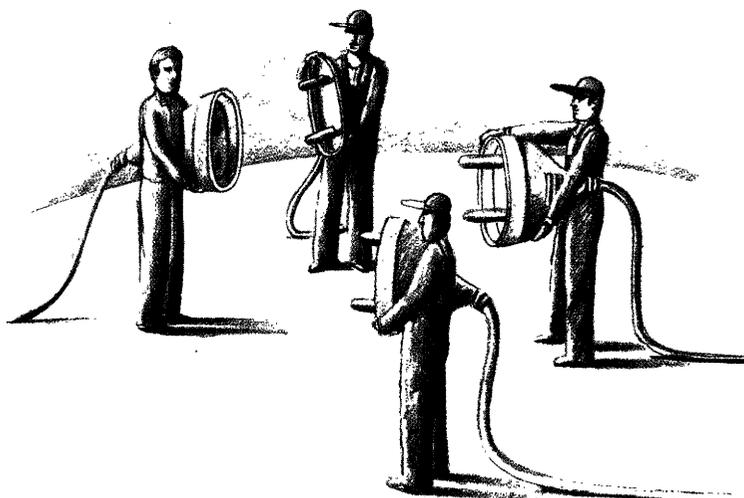
The European Commission was fully aware of this backdrop from the outset and has always adopted an unequivocal attitude as regards the construction of the Single Energy Market. In 1989, having carried out a thorough inventory of the situation, and of the means likely to prove necessary for this objective, the Commission, following an initiative of its Member responsible for energy, António Cardoso e Cunha, adopted a strategy for the realization of the Single Energy Market which recognises both the importance of the sector for the overall Community economy and the need to take due account of its special characteristics. Thus the Commission set out a gradual and responsible approach, which saw its first concrete achievement with the adoption by the Council of a series of Directives aimed at regulating and also stimulating intra-Community transit of electricity and gas, and promoting price transparency for these commodities.

More recently, in January 1992, the Commission adopted a new 'packet' of proposals aimed at the subsequent stages in the

realization of the Single Energy Market, and which already reach out towards complete liberalization of markets, especially for electricity and gas.

OPENING UP THE GAS AND ELECTRICITY MARKETS

The present situation on these markets is marked by an almost total lack of competition, which is to the detriment of both consumers and the overall Community economy. Undertakings which dominate the market, which often enjoy a virtual monopoly, are in a position to impose both prices and production and technology choices, and industrial consumers particularly are deprived of any choice between suppliers. Such captive markets have the effect of severely limiting energy trade across intra-Community frontiers. This in turn further aggravates the purely 'national' and non-Community character of energy markets.



The aim of these Commission proposals is the liberalization and gradual opening-up of the electricity and gas markets. Their key feature is the introduction of a system of Third-Party Access (TPA) to Networks which would progressively introduce the principle of consumer choice between suppliers, whilst at the same time facilitating access to the market for new operators.

The Commission's proposals in this field are based on four general principles:

- a gradual approach to enable the industry to adjust to its new environment in a flexible but orderly manner;
- subsidiarity, to enable each Member State to opt for the system best suited to its particular circumstances;
- avoidance of excessive regulation;
- a legislative approach based on Article 100a of the Rome Treaty as revised by the Single European Act, entailing political dialogue with the Council and the European Parliament.

A THREE-STAGE APPROACH

The basic principles have been given practical expression in a three-stage approach:

- **FIRST STAGE** : implementation of the three Directives adopted in 1990 and 1991 (electricity and gas transit and price transparency);
- **SECOND STAGE** : from 1 January 1993, greater liberalization of the electricity and gas sectors, including the limited introduction of a system of third-party access to the network;
- **THIRD STAGE** from 1 January 1996: to include an extension of the system of third-party access to the network in the light of the outcome of the second stage, completing the internal market for electricity and gas.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SECOND STAGE

The second stage, starting on 1 January 1993, has the following three objectives:

- **FIRSTLY**, the abolition of exclusive rights regarding electricity generation and the building of electricity lines and gas pipelines, in order to increase competition and open up the market to new operators;
- **SECONDLY**, putting into practice the concept of unbundling (separation of the management and accounting of production, transmission and distribution activities) in vertically-integrated companies, to guarantee transparent accounting with a view to fair and non-discriminatory competition;
- **THIRDLY**, the introduction of a system of third-party access to the network (TPA) whereby the transmission and distribution companies are obliged to offer access to their network to certain eligible entities (large industrial users, distribution companies subject to certain conditions) at reasonable rates, within the limits of available transmission and distribution capacity; this will enable eligible consumers to choose their gas and electricity suppliers freely within the European Community.

WHO WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR TPA?

The criteria for eligibility for the TPA system have been laid down in such a way as to include:

- large industrial energy consumers whose annual consumption exceeds 100 GWh of electricity or 25 000 000 m³ of gas; for each sector a total of 400 to 500 industrial consumers will be eligible in the Community, mainly in the aluminium, steel, chemicals, construction materials and glass sectors; the main gas consumers concerned are fertilizer and electricity producers;
- distributors who supply at least 3% of the electricity or 1% of the gas consumed in their Member State; distributors can join forces to reach or exceed this threshold. A total of 100 or so electricity distributors, individually or in association, will be eligible in the Community as a whole, as will a similar number of gas distributors; this will enable all consumers, and especially households, to benefit indirectly from the greater competition.

'SUBSIDIARITY'

During the second stage the Commission wishes to avoid the trap of excessive regulation and to leave as much room as possible for subsidiarity.

- Member States remain free to regulate electricity and gas prices for all final customers who are not eligible for TPA or who do not opt for TPA. This includes the possibility of equal treatment of different customer groups.
- Member States remain free to determine the obligations of distribution companies particularly in relation to the public service obligation. This means that Member States can maintain exclusive rights for distribution companies in respect of customers who do not opt for TPA or are not supplied by a direct line. For these customers the right of supply and the right of connection may remain unchanged.
- Member States may fix licensing criteria for the construction of lines and electricity generation facilities in an objective and non-discriminatory manner. This will allow the application of national rules on environmental protection and land-use planning. For electricity, Member States may also fix criteria for the merit order of generation facilities. Thus, priority could go to electricity produced from domestic primary fuels. Renewable energy or waste is given mandatory priority. This will allow Member States to take into account national energy policy and environmental considerations.
- Finally Member States are free in their basic choice of how to implement the Directives. They can either entrust existing or newly-created regulatory authorities with implementation, or they can rely on the application of national competition law.

PROTECTION FOR SMALL CONSUMERS

A frequent but mistaken criticism of the Commission's proposals has been the argument that the new system would be disadvantageous for small consumers. In fact, the Directives contain a number of provisions dealing particularly with the interest of all consumers not eligible for TPA or who do not opt for TPA:

- Member States can control tariffs for these consumers
- obligation of supply as well as other public service obligations remain possible
- distribution companies may use TPA rights for the benefit of all consumers
- a consultative procedure will be set up enabling all consumers including domestic customers to be regularly consulted.

This will ensure secure supply to small customers at reasonable prices.

COMPETITIVENESS AND COMPETITION

The opening-up of the electricity and gas markets obviously presupposes improved competitiveness upstream, in other words at the primary energy supply level. In this context the coal sector is a good example of the Commission's work in the competition field.

The coal industry in the Community suffers not only from being unable to compete internationally, but also from closed national markets which allow excessive differences in production costs to persist between Community coal undertakings. It is only if greater pressure can be brought to bring costs throughout the Community down to competitive levels, and with the support of a reasonable 'security premium', that our coal industry will ever be able to become competitive once again. The price level against which it should be matched needs to reflect the long-term production cost trend incurred by the major world exporters.

Commission action in support of this process is in three main areas: stricter control of state aids, the removal of trade barriers in the internal market, and the promotion of social measures and industrial reconversion plans for those former mining areas that have definitely reached the end of their useful life in terms of future competitiveness.

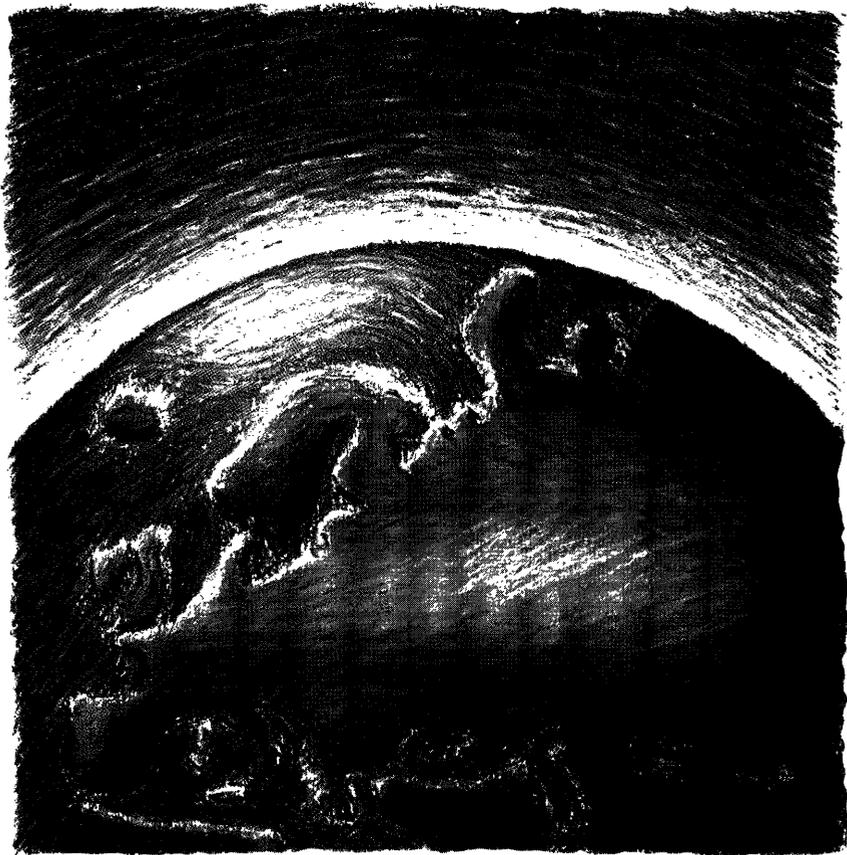
**SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COHESION
IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
FOR ENERGY POLICY**

One of the Community's main medium- and long-term policy aims, adopted at the highest political level, is to reduce the differences in the level of socio-economic development, and thus ultimately in the quality of life, between its constituent regions. This aim of cohesion has to be reflected across the range of sector and structural policies, and energy policy, because of its intrinsically strategic nature, is no exception. Indeed cohesion has to be seen as an indispensable complement to the internal energy market.

The Community's energy policy combines with regional and other structural policies in the management of the various Community initiatives involving structural improvement in the energy sector. Examples of these initiatives are VALOREN, aiming at regional development through the rational use of energy and the exploitation of new and renewable sources of energy, POSEIMA, providing specific Community assistance to compensate for the extra cost of oil supply to the Azores and Madeira, RECHAR for the benefit of coal-mining regions affected by pit closures, and REGEN, concerning the energy component in regional infrastructure development. Last, the Community is active in energy planning with partners such as regional and local authorities, aiming at the improvement of energy management, particularly by making the most of local resources, improving energy efficiency and seeking optimum energy supply conditions for regions and urban areas, thereby contributing to their economic and social development.

Alongside these Community programmes, Member States own operational programmes are also taken into account, which involves collaboration with the European Investment Bank.

A Conference organized by the Directorate-General for Energy in Lisbon (June 1992) is the starting-point for medium-term political options, within energy policy, with the object of increasing the latter's contribution to economic and social cohesion.



ENERGY AT THE FOREFRONT OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION



Energy cooperation with Eastern Europe and the European Energy Charter currently form the cornerstone of the Community's operations outside its own boundaries where energy is concerned.

ENERGY COOPERATION: A VENTURE IN FULL EXPANSION

Events in Eastern Europe, perhaps the greatest political and economic challenges of the second half of the century, with the new democratic and market-based principles to be applied there as part of the restructuring process, have required the European Community's and hence the Commission's tasks to be redirected.

At the Paris Summit, in July 1989, the Commission was given the task of coordinating aid and economic assistance to Poland and Hungary from the 24 OECD countries ('G-24') and from international organizations such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank. This form of cooperation was later extended to include Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania. This coordination effort, led by the Commission, is aimed at facilitating cooperation between donors and recipient countries, at applying financial resources cost-effectively, and at avoiding duplication of effort. In October 1990 energy was made one of G-24's priorities.

The Commission, for its part, has its own cooperation programme, on behalf of the Community, aimed at the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This is the PHARE programme, which covers more or less the same areas of assistance as G-24's programme. It is intended to encourage economic reform as part of progress towards a market economy, and while aid is granted mainly in the form of donations to the governments concerned, the projects funded are aimed at helping provide a framework in which private enterprise can flourish.

In 1991 the energy part of Phare included credits of between ECU 3 and 5 million for each country. PHARE assistance tends to take the form of software, i.e. technical assistance, training, feasibility studies, activities to redefine regulatory and institutional frameworks, and small-scale pilot projects. Investment cannot be financed under PHARE. Where energy is concerned, assistance focuses on the most urgent problems, e.g. the formulation of policies and guidelines covering pricing, supplies and demand (such as diversification or energy management), and environmental and safety considerations (including the question of nuclear energy).

The Commission's energy cooperation activities, aimed at the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, are also conducted as part of its own international programme, through coal and steel sector loans, and its THERMIE programme (transfer and market penetration of new, more efficient, and cleaner technology), which was extended to Eastern Europe and the ex-USSR as from 1992. Energy is also one of the areas for cooperation provided for in the Association Agreements with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

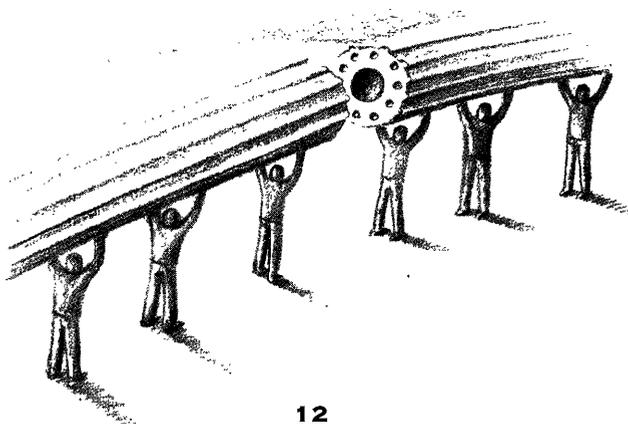
For the countries of the former Soviet Union, a special technical assistance programme has been set up. In 1991 ECU 115 million was allocated for energy out of a total budget of ECU 400 million. In addition, it will treat the Baltic Republics in the same way as other Central and Eastern European States. In 1992, therefore, Community assistance to those three Republics is also granted under the PHARE programme.

Lastly, the Community is keeping the situation in the ex-USSR under close observation in the light of recent events, and is taking part in the recent international effort to coordinate short-term emergency aid to the twelve Republics of the former Soviet Union, which includes an energy component.

THE EUROPEAN ENERGY CHARTER: AN AMBITIOUS PROCESS IN STAGES

Alongside these forms of energy cooperation, the need rapidly arose for the Community to take a political and economic initiative on a bigger scale.

In June 1990, Prime Minister Lubbers of the Netherlands submitted a memorandum recommending the establishment of a pan-European energy community to strengthen East-West economic cooperation, improve security of supply, and develop energy efficiency and the use of modern technologies in this sector, placing the emphasis on the environmental aspects, to the Community Summit held in Dublin. The reaffirmation of market-economic



principles would enable a favourable climate to be created for the investment needed for the restructuring of the economies of the East European countries.

The idea was taken on board and expanded in November 1990 by President Delors at the CSCE Summit in Paris. In Rome, the European Council formally requested the Commission to submit guidelines for long-term energy cooperation, and called for an International Conference to be convened in 1991 to draft a European Energy Charter.

As planned, the European Energy Charter was signed on 17 December 1991 in The Hague by nearly 50 States, the European Community and the Interstate Economic Committee for the former Soviet Union. Commissioner Cardoso e Cunha signed the Charter on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission considers that the value of the Charter lies in the possibility of making use of complementarities between countries with resources, countries with advanced technologies, know-how, and consumer markets, and countries which are in a position to invest. The Charter clearly expresses this interdependence in the energy field in Europe, and increases awareness of the shared responsibility for supplies and environmental protection. The text of the Charter consists of a solemn declaration of principles and objectives, morally binding on the signatories and clearly setting out the areas for cooperation. A basic agreement and specific protocols are being negotiated at the time of going to press (April 1992), constituting legally binding international commitments with a view to applying the Charter principles in the different energy sub-sectors, and furthering the objective of cooperation. This approach by stages will permit the mobilization of specialized sectors and above all of industry, as well as of the governments and international organizations concerned.

The International Conference began with a preparatory session, organized by the Commission, on 15 July 1991 in Brussels. All European States (including the Soviet Union and emerging republics) and the non-European countries of G-24 (USA, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Australia) attended as full members. Observer status was granted to seven international organizations (IEA, OECD, IAEA, World Bank, EBRD and UN Economic Commission for Europe) and the Gulf and Maghreb countries which wished to attend.

The basis for the proceedings was the Community draft of the text of the Charter, and the Conference met regularly in plenary sessions and working parties. Apart from Working Party I for the negotiations on the political text of the Charter, which was chaired by the Commission, four others were set up to start the negotiations on specific agreements: WP II - Basic Agreement setting out the general rules for cooperation (in particular non-discrimination, transparency, competition, investment protection), and a framework for implementing the Charter and the agreements, chaired by the United Kingdom; WP III - Energy efficiency and environmental aspects, chaired by Hungary, WP IV - Oil and gas, chaired by Norway, WP V - Nuclear energy and nuclear safety, chaired by Canada.

The deliberations of these working parties continue in 1992, priority having been given to concluding the Basic Agreement. Additional working parties (electricity, coal, etc.) are also planned.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT : ALLIES, NOT ENEMIES

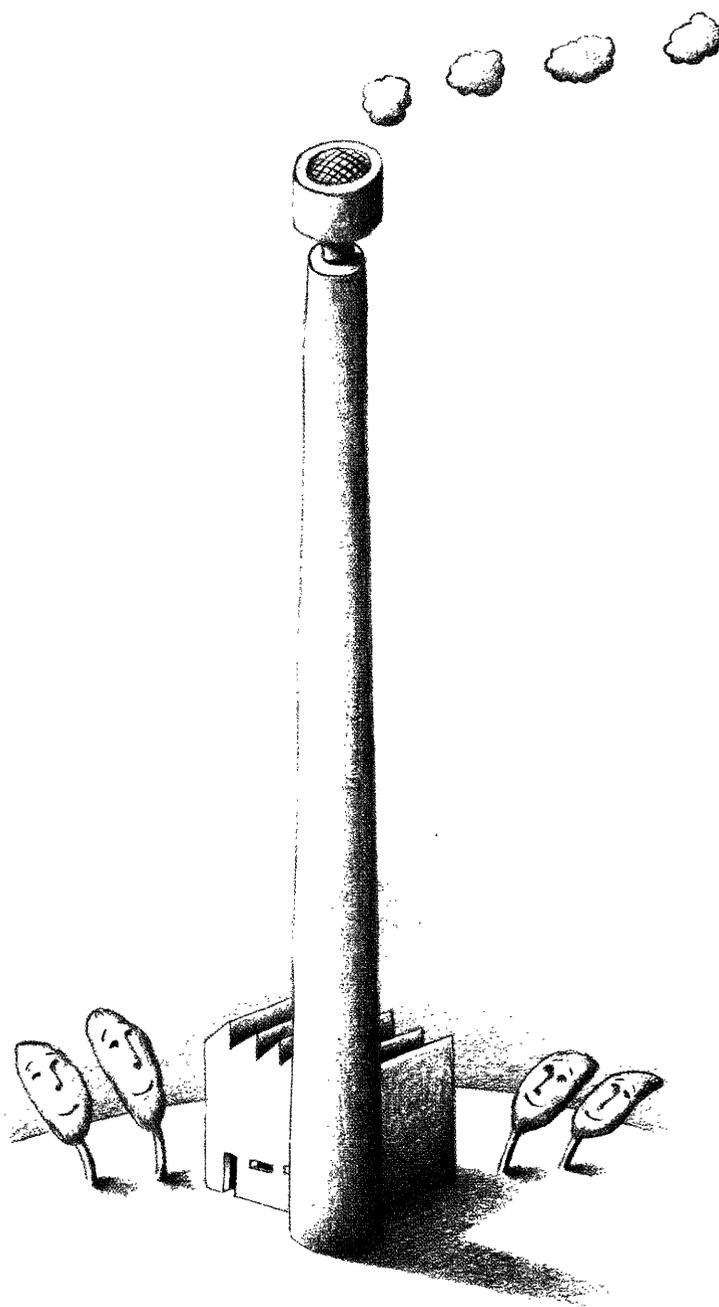


The 340 million people of the Community are responsible for some 14% of the world's total energy consumption. Per capita consumption of primary energy is about 3.5 tonnes of oil equivalent, a low figure compared to other industrialised countries but far higher than the levels in developing countries. This energy consumption produces greenhouse gases, especially CO₂, the main trigger of global warming, and pollutants such as SO₂ and NO_x which in turn produce acid rain and other regional air pollution phenomena. While acid rain can be dealt with thanks to state-of-the-art technology (flue gas desulphurization, catalytic converters for vehicles ...), the complex problem of global warming demands a more comprehensive response.

ENERGY POLICY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Commission in 1989 concluded that the cornerstone of any action in this field must be Community commitment to energy efficiency and conservation. This could then be coupled with measures in other areas, such as improvement of energy technologies or further development of new and renewable energy sources. The Community's 1995 energy policy objectives call for 'a search for balanced solutions as regards energy and the environment, by making use of the best available and economically justified technologies and by improving energy efficiency'. The following areas have been identified as target sectors for environmentally responsible energy policy:

- Energy efficiency improvement
- Renewable energy sources
- Clean and more efficient technologies
- International energy cooperation
- Use of fiscal instruments for energy and environmental policy



IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The cornerstone of the environmental dimension of energy policy must be commitment to efficiency and conservation. The importance of efficiency improvements has often been stressed, for instance by the World Commission on Environment and Development, which believes that 'energy efficiency should be the cutting edge of national energy policies for sustainable development'.

The Community has followed an active policy aimed at improving energy use since the first oil crisis in 1973. Energy audits of the major consuming industries (steel, aluminium, paper, glass, brick and clay, chemicals, grains, milk and ceramics) have been launched. Its non-nuclear research and development programme has supported almost 300 projects in the energy efficiency category, covering a wide range of technologies. The demonstration programme has supported nearly 600 efficiency projects.

An auditing service for small and medium enterprises throughout the Community was launched in 1980: a database of over 10 000 audits is held by the Community's Joint Research Centre at Ispra, in Italy.

The European Investment Bank offers loans under advantageous conditions for investments in energy efficiency and it has supported the promotion of innovative techniques to promote investment in the field.

At present, the Community is concentrating on two major programmes which address end-use and efficiency:

- **PACE** : a wide range of initiatives mainly concerned with the 'software' aspects of electricity end-use: consumer information systems, exchange of information between utilities, establishment of joint study topics, voluntary agreements with energy-using equipment manufacturers, minimum appliance efficiency standards.

- **SAVE** : a medium to long-term energy efficiency programme with initiatives aimed at improving consumer information, and minimum efficiency levels.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

The Community's 1995 objectives include the development of renewable energy sources, furthering the diversification of supplies. The contribution of such sources to date has been modest. Estimating their future potential is difficult: biomass combustion, solar energy, hydro (especially mini-hydro), geothermal and wind energy are very disparate. These types of energy production are forecasted to account for 8% of total Community output by 2010.

Renewable energy technologies are already competitive or else will be so in five or in some cases ten years. Calculations are generally based on straightforward cost comparisons with fossil fuels. Taking social costs into account (for example the value of resource depletion and environmental degradation and climate change), the relative viability of renewable energies is greatly enhanced.

In the ten years to 1989, the Community spent about ECU 300 million on renewable energy demonstration projects. It is now actively promoting innovative technologies in solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric and biomass or waste combustion energy. A new programme ALTENER is being introduced which is aimed at the market introduction of renewable energy sources.

CLEAN AND MORE EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGY

Clean and more efficient technology contributes to rational energy use and can meet major environmental concerns. Balanced energy solutions based on the best available and economically justified technologies need to be researched.

Market-orientated support of these technologies is a major element in Community policy. Between 1975 and 1989 the Community allocated roughly ECU 1200 million to some 1600 technology projects in the field of energy conservation, renewable energy sources and clean coal and hydrocarbon technology.

These projects have proved to be a vital link in the technology chain by demonstrating new systems on a commercial scale, confirming the need for continuing support for this kind of innovation helping to bridge the 'inertia gap' between successful demonstration of new technologies and market penetration.

THERMIE, a new programme started in 1990, takes this one stage further, aiming not only to support innovative energy technology, but also to promote market penetration through a network of 43 Organisations for the Promotion of Energy Technology (OPET), which extends to eastern Europe and the former USSR. Each OPET focuses on forty specific projects each year, placing emphasis on the dissemination of results and encouraging investments in successfully-demonstrated projects.

THE COMMUNITY'S INTERNATIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION PROGRAMME

The Community's international energy cooperation programme aims at helping to improve the long-term world energy situation by encouraging developing countries to make effective decisions in the field. Its importance is growing as the links between energy and CO₂ production become clearer, and as the Community adopts new initiatives on assisting developing countries with the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies.

STABILIZE CO₂ EMISSIONS

Community Environment and Energy Ministers in 1990 agreed on a common approach to the issue of climate change and the Community's response:

- developed countries with high emission levels should take urgent action to stabilize or reduce them
- they should assist developing countries to play their full part in the international response to climate change, through the provision of financial resources and the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies.

Community Ministers agreed on this basis 'to take action aiming at reaching stabilization of total CO₂ emissions by 2000 at 1990 levels in the Community as a whole'.

A comprehensive and coherent strategy is required to achieve the initial stabilization objective, addressing all human activities which contribute to the problem, including energy, transport, agriculture, and industry.

Community CO₂ strategy is based on the need to adopt measures designed to meet the target at lowest cost and justified in terms of objectives other than those connected with climate change. The Commission's strategy comprises:

- non-tax measures to improve energy efficiency, such as the strengthening of the SAVE and THERMIE programmes
- an energy/CO₂ tax directed at rational energy use and fuel switching to lower carbon or carbon-free energy sources
- further action by Member States

A new specific tax will be the most appropriate means of giving a long-term price signal and to bring about a change in the economic behaviour of the Community's 340 million energy consumers. The Commission favours a combined energy/CO₂ tax in order to achieve both CO₂ reduction and improved energy efficiency, while taking account of the varying impact of a CO₂ tax on industrial competitiveness, given the different energy structures of Member States.

The tax level needed to reach the Community CO₂ stabilization target by the year 2000 depends on trends in key variables, like economic growth and world energy prices, and on the response economic agents give to these policy measures. A tax rate equivalent to \$10 per barrel of oil, in combination with other policy measures, is likely to be sufficient to ensure that the overall strategy can come close to the CO₂ stabilization target. This \$10 per barrel of oil would be introduced gradually to allow industry and other economic agents to adjust.

One of the key aspects of the new tax would be its neutrality in terms of revenue. This means that it should not result in any increase in statutory contributions and charges. The new tax needs to be offset by fiscal incentives and by tax reductions for companies and individuals.

It is obvious that the introduction of such a new tax by the Community in isolation would have a negative impact on industrial competitiveness. Sectors such as steel, chemicals, non-ferrous metals, cement, glass, and pulp and paper could suffer to the extent that some might choose to move production outside the Community. Given the global dimension of the greenhouse effect, this would lead to no reduction in CO₂ emissions. Therefore special treatment must be provided for these energy-intensive sectors until the Community's main competitors take similar action. These sectors could nevertheless contribute in the meantime through voluntary agreements.

Introduction of the overall policy package would entail modest macro-economic costs, thanks to the revenue neutrality of the new tax as well as its gradual planned introduction.

Such a strategy should not only result in CO₂ stabilization but should also improve the Community's security of energy supplies through improved energy efficiency and support for low- or zero-carbon energy sources. However the problem of global warming can only be attacked if the Community effort is part of a concerted world-wide action. Therefore the Community's major industrialized trading partners, such as the USA and Japan, will need to be convinced to follow the Community example.

As this publication goes to press (April 1992) the Commission has yet to make a formal proposal concerning tax instruments within the framework of the overall strategy to stabilize CO₂ emissions.

This brochure deals with some
of the main areas of activity
by the Commission of the European
Communities in the energy sector.

The Commission has
other responsibilities in this field:
they include following and reporting
on trends and indicators
on the energy markets
and control of nuclear materials.



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Cette brochure est également disponible en français
Esta brochura está igualmente disponível em Português

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