

COMMISSION OF THE ~~EUROPEAN~~ COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 726 final

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND CANADA WITH REGARD TO THE ENERGY BUS PROGRAMMES

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)

COM(79) 726 final

1. By its resolution of 17 December 1974 the Council instituted a Community action programme on the rational utilization of energy (1) and the Commission, in its communications to the Council of 24 February 1977 (2) and 15 June 1979 (3), drew up further Community action programmes in this field.

The Conclusions reached by the European Council on 12 and 13 March 1979 reaffirmed the targets for the efficient use of energy for 1985 and widened their scope.

2. A large part of the programme in question is concerned with the industrial sector, which can make a significant contribution to improved utilization of energy without compromising its own economic objectives.
3. The difficulty to effect energy savings is particularly acute in undertakings of modest size or undertakings for which energy is a marginal factor of production-cost. They often do not have sufficient knowledge and technical resources to identify the potential energy savings and to determine the appropriate measures.
4. Therefore it is necessary to intensify the advisory and technical assistance for these small and medium-sized companies in the Community by creating, within the framework of a Community programme (4), a tool which makes it possible on the one hand to give the above-mentioned assistance, and on the other hand to co-ordinate and facilitate the exchange

(1) O.J. n° C 153, 9 July 1975, p. 5

(2) COM (77) 39 final

(3) COM (79) 312 final and COM (79) 313 final

(4) "The Community Energy Bus Programme" - Programme for Technical Advice and Support in the Field of Rational Use of Energy.

of experience and knowledge between the Member-States and between them and third countries co-operating with the Community in the field of rational utilization of energy.

5. The mobile "energy bus system" which is being run with great success by the Canadian Department of Energy, Mines and Ressources (E.M.R.) since 1977 has proved to be an appropriate means for meeting the above-mentioned requirements.
6. The Community Programme would be based on the introduction of this system in the Member States, using the Canadian experience, and on the integration of the national energy bus systems in a central information and evaluation service to be established at the Joint Research Center - ISPRA. This central Service would have the task of co-ordinating and facilitating the exchange of experience and knowledge gained in the Member-States or in other co-operating third countries by their energy bus systems or by other programmes in the field of rational utilization of energy.
7. At present already five Member States intend to introduce the energy bus system.
The Community Energy Bus Programme has found the entire support of the Working Group on Rational Use of Energy in the Industry as well as of Community industrial associations, in particular UNICE.
8. The Commission intends to recommend to the Member States to participate in this Energy Bus Programme by setting up a national system according to common technical specifications and by linking it to the central service in ISPRA.

9. For setting up the Community Energy Bus Programme the Commission intends to make full use of the Canadian experience in this field which has been offered by Canada in the framework of the Industrial Cooperation Sub-Committee, set up by the Joint Cooperation Committee under the Framework Agreement for commercial and economic cooperation between the European Communities and Canada, signed at Ottawa on July 6, 1976 (1).

At the September 1978 meeting of the Industrial Cooperation Sub-Committee in Ottawa "energy conservation" was adopted as an area for cooperation. Numerous meetings at expert level have led to a Canadian offer to assist the Community in setting up this system by transmitting the Canadian software programme of the energy-bus, by training first bus crews of the Member States and by fully cooperating with the Community once a Community Energy Bus system has been created.

10. The Government of Canada is prepared to give to the Commission of European Communities the above-mentioned assistance on certain conditions under which the exchange of information and software resulting from the operation of energy bus programmes will take place.

They particularly concern their confidential and non-profit character, the equal participation of both parties in their data bases compiled through the implementation of the energy bus programmes and the free and full exchange of available software for use in such programmes.

11. In accordance with the procedure foreseen in the Council Decision of 20 September 1976 on practical measures of economic cooperation within the EC-Canada Joint Committee(2),

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(1) J.O. n° L 260 of 24 September 1976

(2) J.O. n° L 260 of 24 September 1976, p. 36

the Council is hereby invited to give its approval to:

- the initiation of cooperation measures between the European Communities and Canada in the field of the energy bus programmes;
- an understanding to be reached between the Commission and the Government of Canada concerning the conditions for the exchange between Canada and the Communities of software and information resulting from the operation of the bus-systems.