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** The world's energy requirements will increase by over 150% between now and the end of the century. Consequently, in order to ensure that the Community enjoys a lasting energy supply on satisfactory terms, the COMMON ENERGY POLICY must, with immediate effect, be based on a global and long-term view of the development of the situation, in order to ensure that energy is obtained on optimum economic and political conditions, and, in the longer term, to discover and develop new resources.

Against this background, the Commission recently forwarded to the Council of Ministers a Memorandum entitled "GUIDELINES AND PRIORITY ACTIONS for Community energy policy" in which it proposed, in particular, the strengthening of cooperation between the Community and the other energy-importing countries, the establishment of relations of trust with the energy-exporting countries and better organization of the Community petroleum market. A summary of the Memorandum will be found in ANNEX 1.

** The European Commission has finalized the broad lines of its SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMME which gives concrete expression to the general guidelines laid down by the Heads of State or Government of the Community countries at the Paris Summit in October 1972 (see IRT No. 178). ANNEX 2 contains a brief summary of the suggestions made by the Commission with a view to promoting full and better

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The information and articles published in this Bulletin concern European scientific cooperation and industrial development in Europe. Hence they are not simply confined to reports on the decisions or views of the Commission of the European Communities, but cover the whole field of questions discussed in the different circles concerned.

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employment, improving living and working conditions and ensuring that both sides of industry have a say in decisions on economic and social matters in the Community.

** A BUSINESS COOPERATION CENTRE, intended to facilitate contact between firms wishing to collaborate or link up, inform them of the means by which the problems inherent in international cooperation can be surmounted, and draw the attention of the Community authorities to hindrances to such cooperation (see IRT No. 153) was recently set up on the initiative of the European Commission. Further particulars of the Centre's activities will be found in ANNEX 3.

** ANNEX 4 contains a selection of RECENT PUBLICATIONS which have been acquired by the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities and can be consulted in the Library (1 avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Loi Offices, 1st Floor, Room 43) or borrowed.

** The European Commission is proposing the adoption of common standards laying down permissible upper limits for RADIO INTERFERENCE PRODUCED BY WIRELESS AND TV RECEIVERS, in order to eliminate the obstacles to trade in these appliances which at present arise out of the disparities between existing national laws and regulations on the subject. With this end in view, the Commission will very shortly lay before the Council of Ministers a proposal for a directive concerning the approximation of the Member States' laws relating to radio interference caused by sound and vision broadcasting receivers.

** ABOUT 100 SCIENTIFIC JOURNALISTS from Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands gathered at Sestriers on 14 April for the general meeting of the European Union of Associations of Scientific Journalists.

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The European Union of Associations of Scientific Journalists brings together the national Associations of scientific journalists of Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Its chief objective is to make the national and international authorities, scientists, and public opinion generally, more aware of the importance of promoting the dissemination of scientific and technological information.

** The European Commission has prepared a draft proposal for a general directive on the IRRADIATION OF FOODSTUFFS, together with a draft of an initial implementing text concerning treatment to inhibit the sprouting of Ware potatoes. These two drafts are currently under discussion with experts from the Member States. Furthermore, the Commission has undertaken preliminary studies on the possibility of granting Community authorization for the irradiation treatment of wheat and cultivated mushrooms. It stated this recently in an answer to a written question from Mr Vredeling, Member of the European Parliament, concerning the irradiation of foodstuffs for the purpose of extending their shelf life.

** THE NUMBER OF PUPILS ATTENDING SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, etc., in the Six rose from 30 million in 1960 to 40 million in 1971; the corresponding rates of attendance were 17.1 and 20.8%. This large increase was not evenly spread over the various levels of education. The rise was small in the primary-school population (+ 3.5%) and substantial among the numbers attending pre-school institutions (+ 40%) and secondary educational establishments (+ 60%), while the numbers attending universities and colleges of equivalent status went up by leaps and bounds (+ 120%). Most countries saw an increase in technical and professional instruction as a proportion of secondary education.

Of State expenditure (by central government and local authorities) in 1970, education accounted for about 18% in Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, about 13% in France (in 1967) and some 12% in Germany. Per-capita expenditure on education was as follows (latest available data; in Belgian francs):

Germany (1970)	:	4970
France (1967)	:	4370
Italy (1970)	:	3660
Netherlands (1969)	:	7585
Belgium (1970)	:	6950
Luxembourg (1970)	:	6930

The foregoing facts are taken from a study entitled "Effectifs scolaires et quelques aspects financial des systèmes d'enseignement dans les pays de la Communauté", (Educational populations and some financial aspects of the educational systems in Community countries) published recently as No. 6/1972 in the "Social statistics" series by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Centre Louvigny, Boîte postale 1907, Luxembourg 1).

** The Ispra Establishment of the Joint Research Centre was recently visited in connection with its work on HYDROGEN PRODUCTION, by representatives of the research laboratories of Hitachi Ltd (Tokyo), L'Air Liquide (France) and the Bechtel Corporation (San Francisco, USA).

A COMMUNITY POLICY TO MEET THE CHANGES IN THE WORLD ENERGY MARKET

The world's energy requirements will increase by over 150% between now and the end of the century. Consequently, in order to ensure that the Community enjoys a lasting energy supply on satisfactory terms, the COMMON ENERGY POLICY must, with immediate effect, be based on a global and long-term view of the development of the situation, in order to ensure that energy is obtained on optimum economic and political conditions, and, in the longer term, to discover and develop new resources.

Against this background, the Commission recently forwarded to the Council of Ministers a Memorandum entitled "GUIDELINES AND PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY", in which it proposed, in particular, the strengthening of cooperation between the Community and the other energy-importing countries, the establishment of relations of trust with the energy-exporting countries and better organization of the Community petroleum market.

A. Relations between the Community and energy-importing countries

Cooperation between the hydrocarbons-importing countries, and in particular between the Community, the United States and Japan, will be the means of avoiding - through the continuous exchange of information and appropriate consultation - needless and expensive counterbidding for crude oil. This cooperation, with which energy-importing developing countries should also be associated, must be based upon the observance of non-discrimination and reciprocity of obligations. Furthermore, it must not result in the energy-importing countries working against the legitimate interests of the exporting countries.

As a means of coping with possible supply difficulties, each party must undertake to introduce a compulsory stockpiling scheme harmonized with those of the others and to take all necessary action to cushion the impact of the crisis on all those involved. In addition, any crisis that may occur would entail the apportionment of imports in accordance with the energy requirements of each party and the harmonized application of rationing measures.

Cooperation could also extend to the adoption of common criteria for environmental protection and, as regards scientific and technical research, concerted action aimed at discovering new sources of energy or new resources, or even new uses for known resources.

Pending the establishment of the institutional framework for cooperation on energy matters, however, there is already a need to set up without delay a body for joint consultation, in which those responsible for energy matters in the Community, the United States and Japan would meet periodically.

B. Relations between the Community and the energy-exporting countries

Ultimately, the Community's best assurance of stability of supplies will derive from the climate of trust that it maintains with its suppliers. If it is to be lasting, this trust must tie in with cooperation based on the satisfaction of the mutual interests of the partners. That their interests are complementary is a fact: oil- and gas-exporting countries can also find in Europe outlets for their unprocessed products or manufactured goods, and the Community, furthermore, can contribute to the commercial exploitation of their natural resources and to their industrialization. Such relations are already in the process of being fostered with the energy-exporting countries of the Mediterranean basin as part of the policy of cooperation between the Community and that region.

C. Organization of the Community oil market

Effective competition and freedom of movement within the Community must be ensured, in particular by harmonizing specifications for petroleum products. Furthermore, it will be necessary to lay down a common system governing imports and exports of hydrocarbons. Concerted surveillance of supply conditions and structures must also be introduced.

As regards the financing of exploration and production activities, the cost of which is rising, it is up to market forces to produce the necessary funds: the public authorities can only provide a stimulus, e.g., by means of Joint Undertaking status.

General rules governing the Community market should also be introduced so as to enable the Community authorities to monitor projects for concerted action by industry in order to promote the optimum structure of the Community's petroleum industry, while maintaining competition between the various supply networks, and providing those authorities with information on the cost of petroleum supplies. The pricing systems in force in certain Member States will have to be based upon comparable criteria, and the advisability of having a pricing system harmonized at Community level should be examined.

Lastly, concertation between the public authorities and the oil companies should be extended for the purpose of achieving a more consistent and economically rational pattern of oil supply for the Community. The European Commission will propose appropriate forms for such cooperation to the Council of Ministers and will also examine the advisability of setting up a system whereby companies are recognized as "approved" subject to their entering into certain undertakings, in return for which they would be entitled to special concessions.

D. Nuclear energy, coal and natural gas

A speeding-up of the use of nuclear energy will be a means of reducing the Community's dependence on outside energy sources, and the aim must therefore be to ensure that, within the shortest possible time, the whole of the increase in electrical generating capacity, in large units, is covered by nuclear power stations. To this end the European Commission will lay before the Council of Ministers a plan of action designed in particular to strengthen the common market by introducing open bidding for public contracts and the like and by the removal of technical obstacles due to differences in standards and criteria, and also to boost demand through measures to facilitate the financing of nuclear installations and provide them with a regular and stable supply of fuel on economically satisfactory terms.

As reagrds coal, medium-term guidelines should be laid down which set out its future role in the Community's energy supply (and in particular make provision for the retention of a capability to burn steam coal in power stations).

Natural gas will remain a relatively scarce energy source and, on account of its particular advantages in certain sectors, care must be taken to ensure that it is put to the best possible use.

E. Environmental protection

The aim of ensuring that the Community is adequately supplied with energy has to be reconciled with the demands of environmental protection.

The action called for in this field relates primarily to motor-vehicle exhausts and to the emissions caused by the sulphur present in the fuels used to run fixed installations. Attention must also be given to the problem of discharges of cooling water from thermal power stations. Lastly, with the growing recourse to nuclear energy, it is necessary that the safety of the installations should be further improved and satisfactory arrangements made for the management and storage of radioactive waste.

THE GUIDELINES OF THE COMMUNITY'S SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMME

The European Commission has finalized the broad lines of its programme of social action which gives concrete form to the general guidelines laid down by the Heads of State or Government of the Community countries at the Paris Summit in October 1972 (see IRT No. 178). The Commission makes a number of suggestions with a view to promoting full and better employment, improving living and working conditions and ensuring that both sides of industry have a say in decisions on economic and social matters in the Community.

In the Commission's view, the aim is to implement the first phase of European social union, which should be completed not later than the end of the second phase of economic and monetary union. The preliminary report which it recently presented will be the basis for discussions within the Council of Ministers and at the tripartite conference with representatives of both sides of industry to be held in June 1973. The report will also be sent to the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee. The final proposals will be presented this autumn.

1. Full and better employment

Among the Commission's suggestions are:

- Community contributions to employment premiums for the creation of new jobs in underdeveloped and declining regions;

- Subsidies, from community funds to help the setting up by the Member States of retraining systems with guarantees against loss of income;

- A European centre for vocational training, to be set up under a Council decision to be taken before July 1974;

- The adoption, by 31 December 1974, by the Community institutions of concrete measures to give migrant workers assurances on social protection and on reception facilities, including training, education and housing;

- For women's employment problems, national committees should be set up in those Member States which do not have them already, as well as a Permanent Committee to assist the Commission in coordination at Community level. This Committee would report by July 1974 on suggested improvements in such matters as access to employment, promotion, training, paid maternity leave, child-care facilities and flexibility of working hours;

- For school leavers, community funds could be used as an incentive to the setting up of national systems for the further training of those who fail to obtain jobs. Pre-wage payments and mobility grants are also suggested;

- There could be similar Community aids for schemes to guarantee elderly workers against loss of income due to premature retirement and for the establishment of pilot centres for training instructors in the rehabilitation of handicapped workers;

- A system of permanent collaboration between the Commission and national employment services should be set up by 1 January 1974. Experiments in job placement by computers should be promoted which could be later extended to other parts of the Community.

2. Improvement of living and working conditions

The objectives cover the more equitable distribution of income and wealth, the extension of social security policy and action to counteract the tendency to dehumanize work organization and methods. Among the actions the Commission considers necessary are:

- An examination of the question of minimum wages and conclusions to be drawn from this study by the Commission by 31 December 1974;

- The implementation of the principle of equal pay, for the same work, for men and women. The Commission will shortly report on the situation at the end of 1972 and take the necessary initiatives. Another report will recommend further improvements in national schemes for asset formation by workers;

- Concrete proposals for the extension of social protection to categories of people not, or inadequately, covered under existing systems;

- A study on the possibility of Community support for unemployment benefits and the conclusions to be drawn by the Commission by 31 December 1974;

- Social housing pilot schemes especially for migrant workers;

- Immediate studies with the social partners with a view to abolishing assembly line work by sector and on a Community basis.

3. Participation of both sides of industry in decision-making

The Commission recalls that it has already made proposals in this matter in its proposal to the Council for a statute of the European company and a fifth directive on the harmonization of company law (see IRT No. 161).

In addition, the Commission considers the following action necessary:

- Extension of the terms of reference of the Standing Committee on Employment;

- Special Community labour conferences should be convened;

- Aid to European organizations of trade unions to help their training and information services on Community affairs. The Commission suggests the setting up of an Institute of Labour.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION SETS UP A BUSINESS COOPERATION CENTRE

A Community Business Cooperation Centre was recently set up on the initiative of the European Commission (see IRT No 158). It is intended to facilitate contact between firms wishing to collaborate or link up, inform them of the means by which problems inherent in international cooperation can be overcome, and draw the attention of the Community authorities to hindrances to such cooperation.

This move should facilitate the formulation of transnational collaborative projects by Community firms; such cooperation is essential to the Community's industrial development.

The Business Cooperation Centre will be staffed by officials of the Commission, but will operate as an automomous body in order to give firms and businessmen every assurance of discretion and independence when they call upon its services.

The Centre can provide firms with the following services:

(1) Information on the national and Community provisions of a legal, fiscal, financial or administrative nature concerning cooperation and link-ups between firms in different Community countries. The Centre will not, however, intervene in the selection of, and internal arrangements for, cooperation schemes, so as to avoid encroaching upon the fields of activity of those professions specializing in advising firms.

(2) A means of making contact for firms desirous of cooperating or linking up.

What the Centre will not do, however, is to act as an intermediary for isolated business transactions, sub-contracting and ordinary licence agreements. It will operate in close collaboration with all public and trade organizations, and even private bodies, which are active in the field of inter-firm cooperation.

The activities of the Centre will be strictly neutral, in the sense that it will not make a selection of firm's from among those interested in the same offer of cooperation, and will make no assessment of applicant firms.

The services of the Centre will be free of charge and its staff will be required to observe the rules of professional discretion with respect to the Commission and third parties.

Interested firms may apply, from 1 May 1973, to the following address:

Business Cooperation Centre
15-17 rue Archimède
1040 Bruxelles
BELGIUM

The work of the Centre will be primarily tailored to the requirements of small and medium-sized firms, but this will debar any firm in the Community, regardless of its size or activity, from making use of the Centre's services. Likewise, firms can approach the Centre about all forms of link-up, as regards both the structure of cooperation (from contractual cooperation to mergers) and fields of cooperation (research, development, production, marketing etc).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

which have been acquired by the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities and can be consulted in the Library (1 avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Loi Offices, 1st Floor, room 43) or borrowed.

ENERGY

Ce monde affamé d'énergie (EU 13584d)
Grenon, Michel
Laffont, Paris, 1973

US Energy Outlook (EU 16266 (Summary))
A Summary Report
National Petroleum Council, Washington, DC, December 1972

US Energy Outlook (EU 17266)
A Report of the National Petroleum Council's Committee on US Energy Outlook
National Petroleum Council, Washington, DC, December 1972

FORECASTS

Forecasts from the Japanese Delphi (EU 17257)
With comparable forecasts drawn from the literature of the West
Futures Group, Glastonbury, Conn., 1971

RADIATION PROTECTION

An Introduction to Radiation Protection (EU 17233 (86))
Martin, Alan & Harbison, Samuel A.
Chapman & Hall, London, 1972

The Effects on Populations of Exposure to Low Levels of Ionizing Radiation (EU 17173)
National Academy of Sciences & National Research Council
USGPO, Washington, DC, November 1972

Safe Handling of Radioisotopes (EU 630 (1)e/1962)
International Atomic Energy Agency, Wien, 1962

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Nachrichtenkabel und Übertragungssysteme (EU 17208)
Schubert, Werner
Siemens, Berlin, 1971