

** Guidelines and priority actions for a COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY, as proposed by the European Commission (see IRT No. 187), constitute a suitable basis for discussions on Community measures designed to ensure security of energy supplies for the Community: this, in particular, was the opinion formed by the Council of Ministers of the Nine when it met in Brussels on 22 and 23 May 1973.

After a thorough-going exchange of views on the Community's energy situation and outlook, the Ministers emphasised the urgency attaching to the formulation of a Community energy policy and took a number of decisions concerning the supplying of the Community with enriched uranium, support for Community projects in the hydrocarbons sector, and measures intended to cushion the effects of any difficulties that may arise in the supply of oil and petroleum products. Further particulars on this subject will be found in ANNEX 1.

** ANNEX 2 contains a selection from the RECENT PUBLICATIONS acquired by the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities. These can be consulted on the premises (1, avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Loi Offices, Room 1/43) or borrowed.

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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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IRT No. 191, 29 May 1973, p.2

** The European Investment Bank recently granted long-term loans totalling 60 million units of account (DM 204 million) for the purpose of FINANCING NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The European Investment Bank is thus continuing its endeavours to supply the Community with electric energy based on modern technology. It has previously made loans to this sector totalling 129 million units of account, four of which, amounting to 100.6 million u.s., were made in 1972 alone; they were for financing two nuclear power stations in Germany, one in France and one in Belgium.

** In the proposal for a Directive concerning COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES which it laid before the Council of Ministers on 19 October 1972 (see IRT No. 162), the European Commission stipulated that the hexachlorophene content of soaps shall not exceed 1%. Furthermore, the Commission is in favour of prohibiting the use of toiletries containing hexachlorophene for baby-care and of recommending, by means of suitable labelling, that these products should not be used for intimate feminine hygiene during pregnancy. It pointed this out recently in its reply to a written question from Mr Vredeling, Member of the European Parliament, concerning the presence of hexachlorophene in numerous cosmetics and baby-care products.

** With the accession of the three new Member States the Community's scientific and technological potential has been increased and the problem of research and development aims has become more topical than ever. The European Commission therefore recently held an EXPLORATORY DISCUSSION on the action that it should take in the fields of RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION. This discussion will form the basis for the subsequent adoption of specific proposals for action.

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The Commission's deliberations were held on the basis of a paper put up by Mr Dahrendorf, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for these matters. Copies of it are obtainable on request from the Industrial and Scientific Information Service (200 rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels, Belgium).

** As part of its work on the ELIMINATION OF TECHNICAL OBSTACLES TO TRADE, the European Commission has sent to the Council of Ministers two further proposals for Directives, one concerning the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to COLD-WATER METERS, the other the approximation of their laws relating to CONTINUOUS TOTALIZING WEIGHING MACHINES (used chiefly on conveyor-belt systems for the loading or unloading of bulk commodities).

The harmonization procedure selected in this case is the one known as the "optional" approach, meaning that water meters and continuous totalizing weighing machines which satisfy the requirements specified in these Directives may be marketed and used without restriction within the Community, as may, within each Member State, instruments which have satisfied the national approval requirements.

** The European Commission recently banned a COOPERATION AGREEMENT between the two largest producers of potash in the Common Market, namely the Société Commerciale des Potasses et de l'Azote, S.à.r.l. (Paris) and Kali und Salz A.G. (Kassel). The Commission had formed the opinion that the effects of that agreement, which is contrary to the provisions of the EEC Treaty, are particularly harmful to a most important sector of European agriculture.

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** EXTENSION OF THE RIGHT TO TENDER FOR SUPPLY CONTRACTS IN NATIONALIZED AND SEMI-NATIONALIZED SECTORS (railways, telecommunications, nuclear industries) and the rationalization of such contracts within the Community are needed in order to give European dimensions to the necessary process of technological innovation. This, in particular, was pointed out by Mr Spinelli, Member of the European Commission with special responsibility for industrial and technological affairs, in an address to the European Parliament's Committee on Energy, Research and Technology. The process of innovation must also be placed on a European footing in the field of consumer goods production by promoting cooperation between private firms in this sector, though without eliminating competition.

** A symposium on the role of the INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE recently acquired in NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS in relation to medium-term objectives for electricity generation in the European Community is to be held by the European Commission at the Palais des Congrès, Brussels, on 5 and 6 June 1973. Panel discussions on the industrial and technological importance of PROCESS HEAT and the possibilities of substitution with the aid of nuclear energy will be held at the same venue on 7 June 1973.

** A European Colloquium on the problems arising from the CONTAMINATION OF MAN AND HIS ENVIRONMENT BY MERCURY AND CADMIUM is to be held by the European Commission in Luxembourg on 3-5 July 1973.

THE COMMUNITY'S FIRST BROAD DECISIONS
WITH A VIEW TO A COMMON ENERGY POLICY

The guidelines and priority actions for a Community energy policy, as proposed by the European Commission (see IRT No. 187), constitute an appropriate basis for discussions leading towards Community measures designed to ensure the security of the Community's energy supplies: this, in particular, was the opinion formed by the Council of Ministers of the Nine when it met in Brussels on 22 and 23 May 1973. The Ministers took a number of decisions with a view to the implementation of a common energy policy, after holding a detailed exchange of views on the Community's energy situation and outlook. They emphasised the urgency attaching to the formulation of a Community energy policy which would ensure reliable and lasting supplies for the Community on satisfactory economic terms. They considered that:

(a) Supply of enriched uranium to the Community

Since the supply of enriched uranium to the Community cannot be ensured beyond 1980 by existing plants, a policy should be adopted as soon as possible which will provide the enriched-uranium supplies essential to cover foreseeable requirements, failing which there may be a lag in the growth of the use of nuclear energy which would jeopardize the attainment of the chief objectives of a common energy policy (see IRT No. 181).

The Council of Ministers considers, in particular, that the industries of the Community must provide themselves with a uranium-enrichment capacity capable of meeting at least a substantial and growing proportion of the Community's requirements from the beginning of the next decade.

In view of this, it has decided to set up a Standing Committee on Uranium Enrichment, consisting of representatives of the public bodies

and undertakings concerned, under a chairman provided by the European Commission. The tasks of this Committee will be to keep up to date the surveys of the market for enriched uranium, having regard to the capabilities and guarantees offered by the various suppliers; to review the basic characteristics of the various technologies from the technical and economic standpoints; lastly, to examine means of promoting the development of the industrial capacity required by the Community and to facilitate the coordination of measures taken by the partners concerned.

The Standing Committee on Uranium Enrichment will transmit to the European Commission, by the end of October 1973, a report which that body will lay before the Council of Ministers before 31 December 1973.

(b) Support for Community projects in the hydrocarbons sector

The Community may, where essential, provide support for the implementation of Community projects which are of paramount importance to the security of its hydrocarbons supply. To be eligible for consideration, projects must be concerned with technological development activities connected with exploration for, and production, storage and transport of hydrocarbons. Community support, in the form of loan guarantees, loans, or subsidies repayable under certain conditions, shall account only for a minority share in the financing of the project.

(c) Measures in the event of petroleum supply difficulties

The Council of Ministers adopted a Directive, on a proposal from the European Commission, concerning measures intended to cushion the effects of difficulties in the supply of oil and petroleum products (see IRT No. 161). This Directive requires the Member States to make laws or regulations, not later than 30 June 1974, empowering them to intervene on the market, if need be, by drawing upon emergency stocks, imposing specific or general restrictions on consumption, and by controlling prices.

Under this Directive the Member States are also required to prepare plans for action in the event of difficulties arising in the supply of petroleum and petroleum products. A special consultative procedure is laid down to coordinate, at Community level, measures taken or considered when difficulties actually occur.

(d) Community aids to coking coal and coke

The Council of Ministers has invited the European Commission to submit a modified proposal concerning the new system of Community aids to coking coal and coke, having regard to the progress made in the study of this question. The Ministers will reach a decision on this matter not later than 25 June 1973.

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The Commission announced that before 31 December 1973 it would submit specific proposals to the Council on the following points:

- the development of ties of cooperation with the energy-importing and -exporting countries, in the most appropriate manner;
- the setting-up and organization of the Community petroleum market;
- the fostering of the use of nuclear energy;
- the future role of coal in the Community's energy supply;
- the use and upgrading of natural gas;
- the problems associated with the exigences of environmental protection in the implementation of a Community energy policy;
- the rational use of energy and the development of scientific and technical work to promote new sources of energy.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

added to the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities which can be consulted in the library (1 avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Loi Offices, Room 1/43) or borrowed.

ENERGY

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Centre pour le Traitement de l'information (CENTI), Paris, s.d.

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