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No. 202

**The President in office of the Council of Ministers of the Community has set out in a note THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMUNITY FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1973, which stems from the decisions taken by the Heads of State or Government of the Member States at their Conference held in Paris in October 1972.

ANNEX 1 sets forth the items in this programme concerning regional policy, industrial policy, energy policy, social policy, company law, scientific and technical research, and environmental policy.

**During its first three months in operation, the COMMUNITY BUSINESS COOPERATION CENTRE has booked 259 requests for associates and 241 requests for information, mainly from the secondary sector, followed by the service industries.

ANNEX 2 contains a few particulars of the Centre's activities.

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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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****ANNEX 3** gives a selection of RECENT PUBLICATIONS added to by the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Community. These works may be consulted in the library (1, avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Lei Offices, 1/43) or borrowed.

****The European Commission has decided to set up an ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS.** This Council will have the task of representing the interests of consumers to the European Commission and of giving it, either on request or on its own initiative, opinions on the formulation and implementation of a Community consumer protection and information policy.

The Advisory Council on Consumer Affairs will consist of 15 representatives from the six European consumers' organizations in regular contact with the European Commission, namely:

- three representatives of BEUC (European Bureau of Consumers' Unions);
 - three representatives of COFACE (Committee of Family Organizations in the European Community);
 - three representatives of EURO-COOP (European Community of Cooperative Societies);
 - six representatives of CES (European Confederation of Trade Unions), EO-CMT (the European Organization of the World Confederation of Labour) and CGT-CGIL (the liaison office);
- and

ten other public figures who are particularly well versed in consumer affairs. The European Commission is moreover now preparing a PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON IMPROVING CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INFORMATION which it will forward to the Council of Ministers by the end of 1973 at the latest.

The establishment of the Advisory Council on Consumer Affairs and the adoption of a programme of consumer policy action will thus carry out the wishes expressed by the Heads of State or Government at the Paris Summit Conference in October 1972, that action for the benefit of European consumers should be strengthened and coordinated.

**The European Commission is now preparing to survey the living and working conditions of FOREIGN WORKERS within the Community. It has just stated in the reply to the written question from Mr. Girardin, Member of the European Parliament, that it has already asked the Governments of the Member States to provide it with all the information available at national level and that it is also in the process of gathering together the data existing at Community level.

After acquainting itself with the data provided by the Community or national surveys, the Commission will examine whether and, if so, to what extent, it could profitably use other means to gather information on the different sectors which would enable it to compare the de facto and de jure situation of both Community and non-Community foreign workers, including their families, with that of national workers.

**In order to expedite the negotiations on the RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF DECREES, DIPLOMAS, the European Commission will be holding a public hearing in Brussels from 22 to 26 October, under the chairmanship of Professor Dahrendorf, which will give those concerned an opportunity to set out their arguments. The medical profession has been chosen as the test case since it is not only of particular importance but it would also appear that the debates on this profession within the Council of Ministers may stand a chance of progressing rapidly.

About 170 representatives from doctors' national bodies and professional organizations, universities, hospitals, friendly societies and consumer protection associations have been invited to participate in this hearing. Governments, the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee have been invited to send observers. The press has been officially invited.

The following problems will, in particular, be examined:

- Can the question of reciprocal recognition of decrees, regarded as a condition of entry into the profession, be resolved independently from the larger problem of the equivalence of the training systems in the Community countries?
- Is confidence in the comparability of the levels of professional training obtaining in the various Member States sufficiently great to enable a doctor, who fulfils the conditions laid down for the exercise of his profession in his country of origin, to be likewise allowed to exercise it in any other Member State (blanket recognition)?

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- Should blanket recognition not be possible, what criteria should be laid down so as to ensure a common minimum level of professional training in the Member States of the Community?

**The European Commission has decided to investigate the subsidiaries of the Hoffman-Le Roche group incorporated in the Community in order to establish whether the group's pricing policy complies with the rules of competition. The Commission may undertake a wide-ranging detailed study of the PRICES CHARGED BY SUBSIDIARIES OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES operating in the territory of the Member States where there is reason to believe that these prices are based on restrictive or harmful practices. This was recently stated by the European Commission in reply to the written question on the pricing policies of multinational companies from Lord O'Hagan, Member of the European Parliament.

**The Community's proven and recoverable reserves of NATURAL GAS, together with quantities covered by long-term import contracts with non-Community countries, are sufficient to cover demands in the domestic sector for the next 20-25 years and to satisfy demand from the Community's industrial consumers who already hold supply contracts; mostly long-term contracts. This was stated by the European Commission in its reply to a written question from Mr. Wolfram, a Member of the European Parliament.

The Commission pointed out, however, that the supply of natural gas available at the moment is not entirely sufficient to cover the additional demand from the numerous industrial consumers and

thermal power station operators who, in view of the advantages of natural gas, now wish to run their plants on this fuel. This shortfall in supply will probably last for some years yet. As deliveries against import contracts become effective, some easing of the situation should begin to be felt in the second half of the 1970s.

In its Communication of 19 April 1973 to the Council of Ministers on the guidelines and priority actions for Community energy policy (see IRT No. 187), the European Commission emphasized the need to get the greatest possible value out of natural gas; this assumes, in principle, a limitation in its supply to power stations, the removal of restrictions on intra-Community trading and the development of better interconnections between transport grids and between storage facilities.

**A digest of the reports presented at the Conference on INDUSTRY AND SOCIETY IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY held by the European Commission in Venice in April 1972 (see IRT No. 141) has just been published in English and in French in a special issue of the Information Notes of the Paris-based Fondation Européenne pour l'Economie. It is obtainable free on request from:

Division for Industrial and Scientific Information,
Commission of the European Communities,
200, rue de la Loi,
1040 Brussels.

**THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK has granted a loan of the equivalent of DM 90 million (26 million u.a.) to the Hochtemperatur-Kernkraftwerk GmbH to finance a nuclear power station now being constructed at Uentrop, North

Rhine-Westphalia, which will be equipped with a thorium high-temperature reactor rated at 300 MW(e). This station is the prototype of a new reactor system possessing a number of advantages as regards both energy policy and technological development. This is the third nuclear power station to be financed by the Bank this year; last year it provided more than 100 million u.a. for four nuclear power stations within the Community.

The European Investment Bank has also concluded a contract with the Caisse Centrale du Credit Hotelier, Commercial et Industriel (CCCHCI) of Paris for a loan of the equivalent of 100 million French francs (18 million u.a.). This is a global loan which the CCHCI, with the Bank's approval, will on-lend to finance small and medium-sized ventures, particularly in less-developed or declining regions.

The Bank has also granted a loan equivalent to 19,000 million lire to the IMI (Istituto Mobiliare Italiano) to be used by Fiat S.p.a. for building a factory producing engines for small cars at Termoli, Campobasso, which will ultimately provide about 3,300 jobs.

****The Fourth Symposium on Microdosimetry**, organized by the European Commission, will be held at Verbania Pallanza from 24-28 September 1973. About 150 scientists from Europe and elsewhere will discuss progress in microdosimetry, its relation to biology health protection and radiation therapy.

The subjects to be dealt with at the Symposium will focus chiefly on the physical, biological and chemical aspects of the spectral and spatial distribution of energy transferred to irradiated tissue, in particular to cells, cell components and biomacromolecules. It is planned to publish the Proceedings of the Symposium in early 1974.

THE COMMUNITY'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1973

The President in office of the Council has set out, in a note, the Community's programme of work for the second half of 1973, based on the decisions taken by the Heads of State or Government at their Conference in Paris on 19-20 October 1972 (see IRT No. 162).

The priority tasks agreed upon at the Paris Summit Conference and necessitating implementation by the Community of the appropriate measures between now and the end of 1973 include the following:

Regional policy

1. A European Regional Development Fund is to be set up by 31 December 1973. As from the beginning of the second phase of Economic and Monetary Union the Fund will be financed from the Community's own resources.
2. In addition, the European Commission has proposed the setting-up of a Regional Development Committee to establish the framework for greater cooperation on regional policy (see IRT No. 181).
3. The proposal to use part of the resources of the EAGGF, Guidance Section, for the creation of industrial jobs in priority agricultural areas is to be examined in the context of discussions on other aspects of regional policy.
4. Finally, the Commission has put forward proposals for decisions on the principles governing the administration of the Regional Development Fund.

Industrial policy

Special attention should be paid to the following matters:

- elimination of technical obstacles to trade. The speedier elimination of technical obstacles to trade figures in the Commission's communication on the industrial and technological policy programme of the European Community (see IRT No 188). Work now under way is to be expedited. The Council Directives should be adopted before 1 January 1974.

- The work on the proposal for the second Directive concerning pharmaceutical specialities is to be continued. This matter is related to the work on the proposals for Directives on the right of establishment for manufacturers of pharmaceuticals.
- The Commission's amended proposal for a Directive concerning coordination of procedures governing the right to tender for public supply contracts is to be discussed as soon as possible with a view to enabling the Council to adopt the Directive before the end of 1973.
- Work in progress on the proposals for Regulations concerning joint undertakings and industrial development contracts is to be continued.
- The programme of action for the aircraft industry should be adopted by the end of 1973.
- The Commission is to put forward a proposal for an industrial policy in the computer sector during the second half of 1973. This could be a major step towards achieving a common industrial policy.

Energy policy

1. The Council Decisions of 22 May 1973, concerning the Commission's proposal for a common energy policy, etc., are to be implemented in compliance with the decision of the Summit meeting to adopt a common energy policy ensuring a stability of supplies at reasonable prices.
2. Special importance is to be attached to the following specific matters:
 - proposal for a regulation concerning a common system for the importation of hydrocarbons from third countries;
 - proposal for a regulation concerning transnational oil and gas pipelines.

3. The possible amendment of Chapter 6 of the EURATOM Treaty should be examined.

Social policy

As the outlines of the Community social policy programme become clear (see IRT No 201), intensified efforts should be made with respect to the adoption of specific decisions on the main items in the programme of action:

- (a) full and better employment;
 - (b) improvement of living and working conditions including the working environment;
 - (c) a closer association of both sides of industry in decision-making.
2. In this connection work should be continued on the following matters:
 - proposal for a Regulation concerning the establishment of uniform statistics relating to foreign workers;
 - proposal for a Directive concerning mass dismissals;
 - revision of the rules governing the composition of the Standing Committee on Employment;
 - proposal for a Directive concerning synchronization of censuses;
 - the application of the rules relating to the Social Fund.

Company law

1. The Working Party is to continue its work on the second Directive concerning share capital and, if possible, should subsequently start on the examination of the third Directive concerning domestic (i.e., non-international) mergers.
2. An examination should begin at once of the technical

modifications, necessitated as a result of the enlargement of the Community, with regard to the draft Convention on Transnational Mergers, so that substantive discussions of the draft can be initiated when work on the third Directive has been completed.

3. The examination of the draft Regulation concerning the Statute of the European Company must await the Commission's suggestions on the possibility of amending the proposal and also the opinion of the Parliament.

Scientific and technical research

The Community's programme of action in the field of science and technology is to be adopted before the end of the year.

In addition, work should continue on the following specific matters:

- The project proposed as part of COST cooperation, for the establishment of a European Information Centre for Computer Programs.
- The practical implementation of Euratom's multiannual research programme.
- The harmonization of the multiannual research programme with the programme of action in research policy. The environmental projects in the research programme should be in harmony with the time scale of the environmental programme.

Environmental policy

1. Work in the field of environmental policy is to be organized in the light of the programme of action adopted on 19 July 1973.
2. Within the framework of the programme of action, efforts should be directed, in particular, to the following specific matters in the second half of 1973:
 - Compilation of a list of sources of information material concerning pollution control before the end of 1973.
 - The Commission is to forward to the Council, before 31 December 1973, a proposal dealing with the allocation of the costs of pollution control and the rules for the application, on a Community basis, of

the principle of making the polluter pay.

- Introduction of health-related environment quality standards with respect to certain particularly dangerous substances.

These standards should be adopted as soon as possible without awaiting the specification of criteria.

- An initial summary report concerning SO₂ pollution due to energy production is to be completed before 30 September 1973, with a view to discussions with the Member States' experts. In the light of these discussions, the Commission will forward a report to the Council as soon as possible, and in any case not later than 31 March 1974.
 - France has convened a conference, to be held in the autumn of 1973, on the effects of the pollution of continental waters on marine pollution. The Community's attitude towards the conference itself and the resulting proposed measures is to be clarified beforehand.
 - On 14 and 18 May 1973 the Council adopted the Euratom multiannual research programme, which includes various direct and indirect research projects in the environmental field (see IRT No. 175 and No. 195). Steps are to be taken as soon as possible to give shape to these projects, and implement them, as well as any other projects approved under the environmental action programme.
3. A detailed study must be made to determine what actions could appropriately be taken at Community level for the enhancement of environmental quality. In this connection, steps should be taken to ensure the necessary degree of coordination with regard to programmes which are to be implemented in other areas of Community activity (e.g., improvement of the working environment as part of the social programme).

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Other things being equal, the action programmes covering industrial policy, social policy, energy policy and research policy will appear on the agenda of the Council of Ministers meetings on 17 and 18 December 1973.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY BUSINESS COOPERATION CENTRE

In the first three months from its inception, the Community Business Cooperation Centre booked 259 requests for associates, and 241 requests for information, chiefly from firms in the secondary sector, although enquiries were also received from the service industries and, to a lesser extent, the primary sector.

Thus, the establishment of the Community Business Cooperation Centre (at the beginning of May 1973) on the initiative of the European Commission (see IRT No. 187 and No. 196) has aroused undoubted interest among businessmen in the Member States. Interest is particularly strong in the United Kingdom and Germany. Italy, Denmark and France, on the other hand, have been slower to react, mainly because the dissemination of information is still inadequate.

The average size of the businesses which have sent enquiries to the Centre is in the 300-400 employees range. Enquiries from the craft industry are less common, as are those from big firms. Nevertheless, a number of requests for possible associates have been received from subsidiaries or divisions of Community firms of international stature.

The aim of the Business Cooperation Centre is to assist in establishing links to promote cooperation, in the broad sense, between businesses of different nationalities within the Community, with a view to increasing firms' competitiveness and helping them to adapt to the scope and demands of the common market. The services of the Centre, which are quite free of charge, are open to all business firms, irrespective of size, the legal form they have taken, financial structure or area of activity (production, distribution, services).

As far as the participating businesses are concerned, one effect of such cooperation may be the pooling of one or more activities, ./.

e.g. research and development, supply, production, sales and marketing, management, etc. Cooperation may also take the form of financial links or, alternatively, the setting-up of joint subsidiaries or parent companies (establishment of a legal personality competent to carry out the pooled functions), as well as tie-ups and mergers.

On the other hand, the Centre does not concern itself with relations which are of a purely commercial character or which do not produce lasting, two-way links between firms, seeking purchasers or suppliers, subcontracting of production capacity, offering or seeking sales agency facilities, etc.).

Links may be forged between firms in the same sector or in different sectors (e.g. between production and service firms). They may be bilateral or they may involve more than two businesses. Furthermore, despite the fact that the Centre is permitted to concern itself solely with tie-ups between firms in the nine Community countries, the purpose for which cooperation is undertaken may lie outside the Community (e.g. joint exports to non-Community countries, setting-up of a joint production subsidiary in a non-Community country).

The following table gives a rundown of the activities of the Business Cooperation Centre up to 30 July 1973:

Rundown of the activities of the Business Cooperation Centre up to 30 July 1973

Requests for Associates	Country of origin										Total	
	Belg.	West Germ.	France	Den.	UK	Italy	Neth.	Irel.	Lux.	Non-member countries		EEC
Extractive industries:	1	1	2		1				1			7
Chemical industry:		11			7		1	2				21
Metal-working industries:	2	21	1		2	2	1	1				30
Mechanical engineering:	2	18	1		1	2	2	2				28
Electrical engineering:	1	5	1		6		2	1				16
Food industry:	2	9	4		5	3	4	4				31
Textiles:	5	18	4		4	3		1				35
Wood and paper:	1	15			3	2	2					24
Miscellaneous industries:		1			1			1				3
Building and civil engineering:	2	8			3							13
Commerce:	3	4	1				1					9
Transport:		4	2	1	3		1					11
Services:	4	14	1		10		2					31
Total:	23	129	17	1	46	13	16	13	1			259
requests for information:	15	70	6	6	76	13	16	4		29	6	241

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

which have been added to 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, No. 43) or borrowed

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Le système de la recherche (EU 1611 (2)/1973 f))
Etude comparative de l'organisation et du financement
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Vol. 2: Belgique, Norvège, Pays-Bas, Suède, Suisse
Salomon, J-J. & Caty, G. & Drilhon, G. & Enoch, R. & ...
Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques, Paris, 1973

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Report of the Conference of West European Science
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