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** The need to implement a EUROPEAN POLICY ON THE ENVIRONMENT is proving urgent; the Commission of the European Communities has repeatedly drawn attention to this fact. Last July it submitted a document setting out the first essentials of a Community policy on the environment (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 109). So far the limited legal and financial resources of the Community for environmental protection have obliged it to limit its activity to special sectors and problems. ANNEX 1 gives details of the work already done by the Community on environmental protection.

** THE THREE-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMME proposed by the Commission of the European Communities (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 114) is under examination by the experts of the Council's Working Party on Atomic Questions. Though the European Parliament does not have to be formally consulted on this matter, it will be officially presented with the draft general budget of the Community for 1972, which includes research appropriations.

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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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** The total AID TO THE COAL INDUSTRY granted by the Community Member States for 1971 is 496 million units of account, or a decrease of 8.3% compared with 1970. This fact emerges from the "Memorandum on the financial measures taken by the Member States to assist the coal industry for 1971", which the Commission of the European Communities has recently forwarded to the Council. ANNEX 2 gives details.

** Mr Fritz Berg, Chairman of the Federal Association of West German Industry (BDI), has announced his decision to resign from the chairmanship of the Union of Industries of the European Community (UNICE), and has been succeeded by Mr Paul Huvelin, Chairman of the French National Employers' Council.

Community Action on Environmental Protection

If the industrial society does not re-think its mode and rate of development, and its choice of priorities, and if it does not look beyond immediate profit to the long-term consequences of its actions, it risks a harsh confrontation with a number of problems, not the least of which is the destruction of its living space by air and water pollution, the saturation of cities, the degradation of the natural environment, etc.

The industrialized countries are becoming increasingly aware of the need to protect and even restore their environment. However, the complexity of a problem in which there are many interacting factors, the magnitude of the decisions to be taken, and the short-term sacrifices required for a long-term improvement, render any large-scale action in the matter particularly difficult.

The protection of the environment is a task which far transcends the national framework. The Commission of the European Communities therefore feels that it has a most important part to play in the planning and implementation of a European policy on the environment, by both independent action and by cooperation with non-member countries and international organizations (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 83). It has set out the first essentials of a Community policy on the environment in a document published last July (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 109) and announced its intention to consult the authorities of the Six and of the candidate countries, with a view to suggesting a number of practical measures which it should undertake.

While the need for a general Community policy on environmental protection, and also of adequate legal and financial resources, is being increasingly felt, the Community's activity in individual sectors has long been marked by concern for such matters.

ANNEX 1 p.2

- A. Under the Coal and Steel Treaty (ECSC), the Community has since 1956 encouraged a number of research programmes on industrial safety in mines and steelworks, and in particular on the protection of workers from harmful dust or gas emissions, and the organization of preventive medicine and medical treatment.

Most of the research already carried out on pollution control was designed to determine the nature and extent of air pollution inside and outside factories, to devise new processes or improve plant or products for controlling air pollution in steelworks and mines, and to study the possibilities of improving and harmonizing measuring techniques, methods and equipment.

The medical studies carried out concern the effects of pollutants on working communities, and aim at effective medical prevention and also at a definition of the relation of pollution to certain respiratory diseases. They have included research on chronic bronchitis and the pneumoconioses, epidemiological surveys and research on diagnostic, prophylactic and therapeutic methods.

The funds allocated so far amount to 14,091,071 units of account for technical research and 15,000,000 units of account for medical research.

- B. Under the Euratom Treaty the Community lays down basic standards (maximum permissible doses and degrees of contamination) for the protection of the general public and of workers against the hazards of ionizing radiations. These basic standards then have to be incorporated in the legislative and administrative provisions of the Member States.

Under the Treaty the States have also to:

- take additional health precautions in relation to exceptionally dangerous experiments, particularly when the effects of such experiments are likely to extend to the territories of other Member States (the Commission's consent is then required);

ANNEX 1 p.3

- to set up the necessary facilities for the continuous monitoring of the level of radioactivity in the atmosphere, water and soil, and for checking compliance with the basic standards; the Commission has right of access to such monitoring facilities, may examine their operation and efficiency, and is kept informed about monitoring procedures (Arts. 35 and 36);
- submit for the opinion of the Commission, assisted by a group of experts, the general data concerning any plan for the disposal of radioactive waste (Art. 37). By 1 June 1970, 67 such plans had been submitted to the Commission in pursuance of this Article. A team of experts from the Six and the Commission examines in each case all the relevant standards to determine whether the application of such plans is likely to cause radioactive contamination of the water, soil or air of another Member State, and within six months sends the Member State concerned a reasoned opinion on the probability of such risks, accompanied where appropriate by recommendations as to methods of limiting them.

A certain number of further standards have been derived from the basic standards; they relate mainly to maximum permissible concentrations of radionuclides in air and water. The organization of the monitoring and supervision of the levels of air, water, soil and foodstuff pollution calls for harmonization and in some cases standardization of the methods of measuring radioactivity in the various environments where this is advisable for health reasons. There is now in the Six a coordinated network of routine and pilot stations which measure ambient radioactivity and send the results to the Community regularly for study, comparative analysis and the establishment of Community averages.

These actions are supplemented by a research programme covering:

ANNEX 1 p.4

- the coordination of research in progress in various sectors, such as radioecology, dosimetry, radioactive contamination of the food chain, embryology, hematology and toxicology;
- the promotion of research carried out by teams of research scientists from the Six, working under the Commission's auspices at national establishments and under contracts of association signed by the Commission. This method has proved particularly advantageous in the field of biology and health protection (see "Industry, Research and Technology" Nos. 76, 98 and 104);
- the encouragement, by means of research or study contracts, of specific projects and experiments in radiobiology and radiation protection.

Finally, the information obtained by the Community during 12 years' study of radioactive pollution control suggests that a similar method should be employed for all health-oriented projects relating to air, water, soil and foodstuff pollution. This information should also illuminate the choice of priorities and of guidelines for programmes of activity.

- C. Lastly, the European Economic Community has been impelled to concern itself with pollution because of the effects which disparities between the laws and regulations on pollution in force in the various Member States may have on trade and conditions of competition.

Under the General Programme on the removal of technical obstacles to trade in industrial products and foodstuffs, adopted on 28 May 1969 by the Council, the Commission of the European Communities has drafted various proposals for directives on toxic products and pollutants.

Two directives have been drawn up, one on permissible noise-levels and exhaust systems of motor vehicles and the other on air pollution by motor vehicle petrol engines.

A number of other proposed directives are under examination in the Council, or are in preparation in the Commission's departments with a view to early adoption. They concern:

- dangerous preparations (solvents, pesticides, etc.),
- household products,
- gas pipelines (air pollution),
- oil pipelines (water pollution),
- air pollution by motor vehicle diesel engines,
- fertilizers,
- the composition of petrol for motor vehicles (especially lead),
- the biodegradation of detergents,
- radio interference.

The Commission has had comparative studies made of the Member States' legislation on water pollution control, and has endeavoured to assess the economic consequences of the application of this legislation. The results suggest that it might be possible to establish a more practical work programme for progressively closer cooperation between the Member States in the sphere of legislation on water pollution control.

Basic studies of the same kind are in hand on the laws and regulations concerning air pollution control.

The comparative study of national provisions concerning waste disposal is at the preparation stage.

- D. Under the common agricultural policy. Under this policy the Community has adopted or proposed various measures directly or indirectly concerned with the environment.

The improvement of the quality of food is the subject of a number of adopted or proposed regulations which set standards of tolerance for additives, undesirable substances and pesticide residues.

In addition, the Commission is about to submit to the Council a proposed directive on the reduction of environmental pollution by the banning of the use of certain persistent pesticides. The Commission's staff are also examining the possibilities of replacing persistent pesticides by rapid-degradation pesticides. The Commission moreover considers it desirable to encourage research on biological control, integrated control and cultivation techniques permitting a reduced use of chemical pesticides. The advisability of establishing an accelerated Community research programme on these questions is to be studied shortly.

In order to stimulate the planning of the natural environment and the creation of parks and open spaces, the Commission recently submitted to the Council a proposed directive stipulating that grants of aid to encourage the cessation of farming should be awarded not only in cases where the land made available is used to enlarge farms, but also where it is used for afforestation or the creation of national parks or public open spaces.

Special support measures are also planned for the farming population in mountain areas, since this population helps to preserve the natural environment in tourist regions.

- E. The common regional policy. This policy aims to ensure that the requirements of the preservation, improvement and planning of the environment are considered at the geographical levels of the various social, competition, industrial and even cultural policies, insofar as these are of concern to the Community.

ANNEX 2 p.1The Financial Measures Adopted by the Community
Member States to Assist the Coal Industry in 1971

The total aid which the Community Member States plan to give the coal industry for 1971 is 496 million units of account (or a grant of 2.96 units of account per ton produced), or 8.3% less than in 1970.

In the Memorandum on the financial measures adopted by the Member States to assist the coal industry for 1971, which has now been forwarded to the Council, the Commission of the European Communities says that these measures are no obstacle to the smooth running of the common market in coal. Furthermore, this aid helps to maintain an orderly supply of energy, particularly at a time when some uncertainties affect energy supply as a result of the major changes which have taken place in the world coal and oil markets.

The Community coal market has in recent years experienced a decline; consumption fell to 196 million tons in 1970, or 9 million tons less than in 1969. There will be a further drop in consumption, estimated at 10 million tons, in 1971. Despite this falling-off, Community imports of coal from non-member countries rose from 24.1 million tons in 1969 to about 32 million tons in 1970. In 1971, coal imports of about 32.7 million tons are anticipated. This trend in imports can be explained by the fact that Community production has declined and that in 1970 it was possible to make only a limited use of pithead stocks. A certain recovery in these stocks is anticipated in 1971.

Despite the fall in coal production and consumption, the present state of the coal market cannot be considered as particularly unfavourable, especially if it is compared with that of the crisis years 1965/67. As imported coal and heavy oil prices increased considerably in 1970/71, the Community coal industry has also been able appreciably to increase its receipts, and thus to offset the rise in costs resulting mainly from the fact that wages and salaries rose more rapidly than productivity. In general, the figures show that the

ANNEX 2 p.2

running losses of Community coal enterprises were slightly lower in 1970 than in 1969 and that they will probably remain at the same level in 1971.

The trend in the financial and general situation of Community coal enterprises was reflected in the grant of aid in 1971.

The total financial aid to cover the deficits of the social security organizations (under Article 4 of Decision No. 3/71) will be nearly 1,400 million u.a. in 1971. The increase over 1970 is 6.2% and is therefore smaller than in 1970, when it was 8.2%. The deficits of the social security organizations are continually increasing and the ratio of earning contributors to beneficiaries is becoming steadily more unfavourable. (There is no direct correlation between financial aid under Article 4 of Decision No. 3/71 and current production, since this aid concerns either social measures of a general nature or costs relating to a previous period.)

The direct and indirect aid planned for 1971 is 8.3% lower than for 1970. There is a marked reduction in coking coal aid.

<u>Total amounts of direct and indirect aid</u>				
(entire Community, in millions of u.a.)				
	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
1. Direct aid under Decision Nos. 3/65 or 3/71	424.7	427.7	369.2	380.1
2. Coking coal aid	84.7	79.4	87.4	24.0
3. Indirect aid	<u>97.4</u>	<u>98.4</u>	<u>84.3</u>	<u>91.9</u>
Totals	<u>606.8</u>	<u>605.5</u>	<u>540.9</u>	<u>496.0</u>
Increase over previous year	-	-0.2%	-10.7%	-8.3%
Amount of aid per ton produced (u.a.)	3.36	3.43	3.18	2.96

ANNEX 2 p.3

The anticipated direct aid will increase by only 3% over 1970. It will be about 380.1 million units of account. Of this total, 263.9 million (or 68.4%) will be spent on maintaining the required level of coal production (Article 9 of Decision No. 3/71), and 116.2 million (30.6%) on measures of positive or negative rationalization (Arts. 6 and 7 of Decision No. 3/71).

The table below gives the breakdown of direct aid by country:

(millions u.e.)			
	Aid under Arts. 6 and 7	Aid under Art. 9	Total
Belgium	4.4	67.8	72.2
France	20.1	179.9	200.0
Germany	91.7	-	91.7
Netherlands	-	16.2	16.2
Total	116.2	263.9	380.1