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- ** Since "Research and Technology" is from now on to cover matters of industry, energy, technology and scientific research, it will in future appear under the title of "Industry, Research and Technology".
- ** The Commission of the European Communities recently decided to propose to the Council of Ministers of the Community that a COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL POLICY be set up. This would consist of senior officials of the Member States and the Commission and would constitute a permanent platform for discussion and study of all matters of Community interest arising in the field of industrial policy. Its tasks would include:
- the dovetailing of national projects in individual industries;
 - the utilization of the results of studies carried out on various branches of industry;
 - the analysis of problems relating to industrial structures;
 - helping to place public contracts on a truly open footing;
 - the examination of measures for promoting the technological development of industry in the Community;

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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 examination of the economic scope of particularly important processes involved in the restructuring of industry;
- the examination of problems arising in the field of technological cooperation with non-member countries;
- the study of the general lines of industrial policy and its requirements which might be brought to the notice of the European Investment Bank for purposes of guidance;
- the examination of the territorial aspects of industrial policy;
- the examination of guidelines for taking into consideration the part played by small and medium-sized firms in industrial development;
- the examination, from the industrial standpoint, of the improvement, commercial organization and legal, fiscal and financial framework in which firms' business activity takes place in the Community;
- the examination of the effects on industrial development of measures for protecting the environment;
- the examination of certain actual cases of common interest.

** The recent oil crisis should induce the Community Member States to implement as speedily as possible a common energy policy in all fields: this is the gist of the conclusions reached in a report on THE CURRENT ENERGY POLICY SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY, adopted on 21 April 1971 by the European Parliament meeting in Strasbourg. ANNEX 1 gives a brief summary of this report, which was submitted on behalf of the Parliament's Committee on Research, Energy and Atomic Problems by Mr Noe, an Italian member.

** During the debate on the COMMUNITY'S ENERGY POLICY in the European Parliament on 21 April 1971, Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, mentioned some of the measures which the Commission may shortly propose in this sector:

- the keying of Community oil supply problems into the general framework of a Community commercial policy towards producing countries;
- an increase in oil stocks of from 65 to 90 days, by means of new storage techniques (underground bunkers);
- establishment of consultation procedures for application in the event of emergencies;
- comparative inventories of national systems (regulatory and practical) for the construction and operation of refineries, pipelines and service stations (with a view to harmonization, under conditions to be decided at a later stage) and for prices;
- granting of loans, under the conditions laid down in the Euratom Treaty, to encourage the building of nuclear power plants.

** The Commission of the European Communities recently laid down the GENERAL LINES which are to serve as a guide in the preparation of the JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE PROGRAMMES. It is now a matter for the Director-General of the Joint Research Centre to draw up, on his own responsibility and in consultation with the General Advisory Committee, definite draft programmes for the various branches of activity. These draft programmes will be submitted to the Commission of the European Communities, together with the opinion of the General Advisory Committee, for forwarding to the Council of Ministers. ANNEX 2 gives a brief summary of the general lines thus laid down.

- ** The members of the GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE were recently appointed by the six Community Member States, these being three members per country (one to represent the public authorities, one for research and one from industry). The first meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on 11 May 1971 at the Ispra Establishment of the Joint Research Centre. As mentioned in "Research and Technology" No. 80, the purpose of the Committee is mainly to provide a platform for the necessary dialogue between the various parties involved in drawing up the research programmes for the Joint Research Centre.
- ** In reply to an oral question put to the Commission of the European Communities by the Committee on Research, Energy and Atomic Problems of the European Parliament concerning the CONCLUSION OF A CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE SOVIET UNION, Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities with special responsibility for energy matters, stressed the great importance which the Commission attached to the question of the Community's enriched uranium supplies. In May 1969 the Commission had made practical proposals in this connection (see "Research and Technology" No. 18) and in October 1970 the Council of Ministers had decided to have a technical and economic study carried out on the possibility of a European uranium-enrichment plant, and, in the meantime, to explore the possibilities of improving the US conditions of supply to the Community (see "Research and Technology" No. 71).
- On 10 March 1971, the Commission was informed that a contract for the supply of enriched uranium had been concluded between the French Commissariat à l'énergie atomique (CEA) and the Soviet Tekhna-export agency. On 24 March the Commission wrote to the French government

to ask for details on the subject; it will not be possible to judge whether the Franco-Soviet agreement is compatible with the Euratom Treaty provisions until the details requested have been supplied by the French government.

Moreover, the Community Supply Agency took no part in the negotiations, since France no longer recognizes the terms of Chapter VI of the Euratom Treaty, which lays down the area of competence of the Supply Agency. The matter has been referred to the European Court of Justice, which is to clarify the question of the applicability of Chapter VI, at present disputed by France.

** In reply to a written question put by Mr Vredeling, a Dutch member of the European Parliament, the Commission of the European Communities recently pointed out that the Council has made the proposals for SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION worked out under the aegis of the Community's Committee on Scientific and Technical Research Policy (PREST Group) the responsibility of the Committee on Scientific and Technical Cooperation (COST Group) which consists of representatives, not only of the Community Member States, but also of a number of European non-member countries. Cooperative work in the field of computers, in particular COOPERATION BETWEEN LARGE EUROPEAN FIRMS ON COMPUTER DEVELOPMENT, to which allusion is made in the question by Mr Vredeling, is the responsibility of a Working Party on Data Processing set up under this scheme.

The Commission states in this connection that, despite the work done by its various groups and departments, which has led to a better definition of the main problems involved, it has not yet been possible to obtain from the companies interested a sufficiently detailed work schedule which could serve as a basis for the initiation of cooperation in this field.

** On 7 May 1971 representatives of the Commission of the European Communities and the United Kingdom will meet in Brussels to examine the fields in which an EXCHANGE OF NUCLEAR INFORMATION might take place between the UNITED KINGDOM AND THE COMMUNITY when BRITAIN JOINS the latter.

It will be recalled that such an exchange of information was proposed by the Commission in order to take into account the Community's achievements in this field.

** Meeting in Strasbourg on 21 April 1971, the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT discussed the report submitted by Mr Oele, a Dutch member, on behalf of the Parliament's Committee on Research, Energy and Atomic Problems concerning THE REORGANIZATION AND FUTURE TASKS OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE and the proposals submitted by the Commission of the European Communities to the Council of Ministers on JOINT COMMUNITY ACTION ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

After hearing in particular an important speech by Mr Spinelli (see "Research and Technology" No. 96), the Parliament adopted a resolution, which is summarized in ANNEX 3.

** Mr Hubert Beuve-Méry, founder and former director of "Le Monde", accompanied by Mr Dufour, Director of the French Study and Information Centre in Milan, will visit the ISPRA ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE on 6 May 1971 and speak before the Establishment's scientists.

The Current Energy Policy Situation in the Community

(Summary of the report submitted on behalf of the European Parliament's Committee on Research, Energy and Atomic Problems by Mr Noe, an Italian member, and adopted on 21 April 1971 by the Parliament)

The Community worker so far consumes only about a quarter of the energy available to his American counterpart. Nevertheless, rising living standards go hand in hand with an increasing energy consumption. World energy requirements have moreover doubled in the last decade.

At the same time, the cost of energy is by no means a negligible factor in the cost of finished products, of which it represents on average 8% (though this percentage obviously varies depending on the industry). An increase in the cost of energy thus has repercussions in the form of a general price rise. The trend of the international economic situation, however, and more especially the oil market, foreshadows the end of the era of cheap energy.

The Community depends largely on imports for its energy supplies. In recent years this dependence has further increased, as the table below shows:

Total energy balance (in millions of tons hce)

	1967	1969
Production of primary energy sources	299.4	318.3
Total imports	459.3	572.6
Resources	758.8	890.9
Degree of energy dependence	60.5%	64.3%

This dependence of the Community with regard to energy supplies results in large part from the predominant and steadily increasing part played by oil in relation to other fuels; it covers almost 60% of the Community's energy requirements. The table below shows the trend in domestic consumption of primary energy in the Community (excluding stocks and exports):

	1969	1970	1971 (forecasts)	% difference	
				69/70	70/71
	in millions of tons hce				
Coal and equivalent	204.71	196.08	186.19	- 4.5	- 5.5
Lignite and equivalent	33.30	34.13	35.14	+ 2.5	+ 3.0
Crude oil and equivalent	439.37	496.21	536.23	+12.9	+ 8.1
Natural gas	53.88	72.25	88.19	+29.3	+22.1
Electric power	44.47	49.15	49.40	+10.3	+ 0.5
Total	777.89	847.83	894.23	+ 9.0	+ 5.5

The recent change in the economic situation and the Community's energy supply structures makes the establishment of a common energy policy more urgent and necessary than ever. At the present time, the Community countries have still not been able to create such a common policy, and the European Parliament has even been led to wonder whether the political will for it exists. It considers, however, that the recent oil crisis should induce the Member States to implement a common energy policy in all fields without delay; this, and this alone, can ensure the Community's regular energy supply at acceptable prices.

Accordingly, the Parliament feels that various measures should be adopted immediately.

- The oil and oil products reserves should be increased in accordance with Community directives, so as to ensure that the Community's minimum requirements can be covered for a period of three months. This increase in compulsory stocks (currently set at 65 days' reserve) would involve additional costs of 10.4 million units of account. Research on underground storage installations, which would apparently reduce storage costs, should be encouraged by the Commission. In principle, a common energy policy should make it possible to store oil without regard to the national frontiers separating Member States.

The Community must also present a united front in matters of oil negotiations and influence these by means of long-term action with respect to the producing countries, covering not only the oil problem but also the other problems affecting the development of those countries.

- Since Community coal remains the most reliable form of energy, research in the field of coal utilization in power plants should be stepped up, with appropriate Community aid, in an effort to find processes by which energy consumption could be reduced. The Joint Research Centre might collaborate in such research as part of its non-nuclear activities.
- Prospecting, i.e., the search for new energy deposits, should be intensified. The Commission should ensure that Member States and private companies provide regular information on the discovery and workability of new energy reserves in the Community and in other regions which may be considered as reliable from the supply standpoint. The Commission should also have powers to grant financial backing to these projects. The financing measures adopted by the Member States in support of prospecting should not be regarded as subsidies.

- The working of Community energy deposits should be stepped up, and if necessary aided financially by the Community and the Member States, in view of present trends in the energy situation.

- The supply of primary energy from reliable sources should be encouraged, together with the use of energy production processes by which fuel consumption can be reduced. It would be desirable for the Joint Research Centre to have an advisory function in this sector, too.

- The increased use of atomic energy and the intensification of Community research should be encouraged, both as to ore prospecting and as to the development of future reactor types. Recent increases in the price of fuel for traditional thermal power plants and the greater reliability of proven-type nuclear installations are factors which militate in favour of a vigorous and speedy resumption of the construction of nuclear power plants. This would permit diversification of fuel supply sources and, more especially, would facilitate the storage of some fuels. The problem of the construction of a uranium enrichment plant in the Community must be solved.

- Finally, the Community should encourage scientific and technological research aimed at reducing the consumption of available energy, improving the utilization of existing reserves and studying new fuels and energy sources. These studies could usefully be coordinated by the Joint Research Centre.

ANNEX 2

Summary of the general lines laid down by the Commission of the European Communities for the preparation of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) programmes

- A. 1. The JRC programmes shall apply to research on industrial development, public service activities and fundamental research.
2. The JRC programmes shall apply to fields where the research effort of the Member States is insufficient.
3. As soon as the programmes are drawn up, suitable contacts shall be maintained with public and private research centres, the administrations of the public services concerned, universities and industry.
- B. The JRC programmes shall cover:
1. The development of nuclear reactors and the fuel cycle;
2. Technological development in a more general sense (e.g., studies on high-performance materials);
3. Public service activities: technical backing for the various projects undertaken by the departments of the Commission and, more generally, performance of public service work for the benefit of the Community (protection of the environment, reference standards and materials, control of fissile materials, information centres, etc.);
- C. The JRC programmes shall also include a reasonable proportion of disciplinary research activities to ensure that its oriented activities are pursued with the appropriate scientific strictness.
- D. Finally, the creation of major research tools accessible to all (e.g., the SORA pulsed reactor) might find a place among JRC activities.

Extracts from the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on the REORGANIZATION AND FUTURE TASKS OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE and on the proposals by the Commission of the European Communities to the Council of Ministers concerning JOINT COMMUNITY ACTION ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (Strasbourg, 21 April 1971)

The European Parliament,

A. Concerning joint Community action on scientific and technological research and development in the Community,

- Records its agreement with the Commission's proposal to set up a European Research and Development Committee (ERDC) and with the tasks of coordination and initiation with which it will be entrusted;

- Believes that it is of the utmost importance that the ERDC should contribute to the cohesion of European projects in the research and development sectors, since only this can provide the framework necessary for the choice of priority programmes, with respect to either concerted actions or the Joint Research Centre;

- Hopes that the ERDC will be able to encourage the implementation of the cooperative schemes recommended by the Aigrain Group, which are currently being held up by the sluggishness inherent in intergovernmental discussion;

B. Concerning the reorganization of the Joint Research Centre,

- Welcomes the agreement reached in the Council on 16-17 December 1970 concerning the reorganization of the Joint Research Centre;

- Urges the need to draw up an interim multiannual programme forthwith - without waiting for the new bodies proposed by the Commission to be set up - and, for this purpose, to provide the Director-General of the Joint Research Centre with the necessary freedom of action by means of general directives;

C. Concerning the future tasks of the Joint Research Centre,

- Welcomes the timely idea of giving the Joint Research Centre an important part to play in the study of environmental problems and considers that the Centre could play a leading part in this sector;

- Believes that the Joint Research Centre should, in the field of industrial development, contribute to the growth of technical knowledge - a prerequisite for the conclusion by Euratom of research contracts with industry - and, in particular, bearing in mind the threats to the Community's energy supply, in the advanced reactor sector;

- Considers, moreover, that the Joint Research Centre should constitute an essential part of the infrastructure vital to the coordination of nuclear activities on the European scale, and an independent base at the service of Community bodies responsible for secondary or additional research.