

# industry research and technology

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- \*\* THE COMMUNITY'S PROGRAMME FOR 1972 was presented to the European Parliament, at its session in Strasbourg on 8 February, by Mr Malfatti, the President of the Commission of the European Communities. Extracts dealing with industrial policy, science policy and energy will be found in ANNEX 1.
- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities intends to put SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE COMMUNITY to the Council of Ministers, after consulting the competent authorities and the business and professional circles concerned, in order to achieve the aims set out in its paper on the Community's policy for the environment forwarded to the Member States and applicant countries last July (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 109). The Commission stated this, in particular, in its reply to a written question from Mr Schwörer, a Member of the European Parliament, about measures to protect and improve the natural environment. The main points from the Commission's reply will be found in ANNEX 2.

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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 Commission of the European Communities recently sent the Director-General of the Joint Research Centre general guidelines for the formulation of a MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMME FOR THE CENTRE. Extensive extracts will be found in ANNEX 3.
  
- \*\* ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION in the Community reached 590,000 million kWh in 1971, an increase of 5.6% on 1970. Such a low growth rate had been recorded only twice since 1950. Further particulars will be found in ANNEX 4.
  
- \*\* THE EUROPEAN COMPANY, as a legal framework, could also help medium-sized firms to adapt structurally to the new requirements of production and the new outlets offered by a home market on a truly European scale. This is the opinion of the Commission of the European Communities, as given in its reply to a written question from Mr Cousté, a French Member of the European Parliament. The Commission is also considering whether it would be advisable to adopt at Community level - with a view to encouraging cooperation between small and medium-sized firms, in particular - a legal form known as the "GROUPEMENT D'INTERET ECONOMIQUE", which at present exists only in France (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 116). The Commission has drawn up a preliminary proposal for a regulation on this subject, and consultations thereon are now in progress. The Commission will subsequently state its opinion on the matter as a whole.

With regard to the European Company, the Commission also stated, in reply to another written question from Mr Cousté, that the statute for European Companies, as proposed by the Commission (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 62), was sent by the Council of Ministers to the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee for an opinion in July 1970. As soon as the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee have delivered their opinions, the Commission will examine its proposal in the light of the provisions of the EEC Treaty. At the same time it will also have regard to the

large number of reactions to, and comments on, its proposal from business circles, the trades unions and academic quarters. The great majority of these reactions have been favourable to the Commission's proposal, apart from remarks on details.

\*\* The European Parliament has expressed its alarm at the growing threat to mankind's natural environment, and its grave concern at the continuous worsening of air pollution. On 10 February 1972, in Strasbourg, it adopted a report on the NEED FOR COMMUNITY ACTION TO ABATE AIR POLLUTION, presented to it by Mr Jahn on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee on Social Affairs and Public Health (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 131).

\*\* The years 1960-70 saw a drop in the share of gross national product allocated to PUBLIC AID TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES by all the Community Member States except the Netherlands. The target figure of 0.7% of gross national product for public aid of this kind - which France regularly bettered up to 1967 - has not been achieved by any Member State since 1968. These points emerge from a memorandum on a Community policy for cooperation in development which the Commission of the European Communities recently forwarded to the Council of Ministers. The table below shows the percentage of gross national product allocated to development aid from public sources:

in %

	Belgium	Germany	France	Italy	Netherlands	EEC	UK	USA
1960	0.88	0.49	1.38	0.30	0.31	1.08	0.56	0.45
1969	0.52	0.35	0.69	0.17	0.55	0.53	0.39	0.35
1970*	0.48	0.32	0.65	0.16	0.63	0.42	0.37	0.31

\*Not including donations from private benevolent organizations.

- \*\* In its reply to a written question from Mr Vredeling, a Dutch Member of the European Parliament, the Commission of the European Communities stated that it systematically monitors the TREND TOWARDS GREATER CONCENTRATION in a number of sectors of the economy, in order that it may, where necessary, detect cases where mergers would result in a reduction of the users' freedom of choice which would be incompatible with the rules governing competition in the Treaty instituting the European Economic Community.
- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities recently signed a study contract with the Centre d'Etude de l'Energie Nucléaire (CEN), Brussels, concerning applications of the principles and methods of health physics to the SURVEILLANCE OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS. The aim of this study will be, firstly, to provide a general picture of the current situation regarding the implementation of control and monitoring schedules for nuclear installations. Subsequently, reasoned proposals will be formulated for a certain measure of rationalization of these schedules according to the health-physics aims and type of nuclear installation in question.
- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities recently authorized the signing of two TOLL ENRICHMENT contracts by the Euratom Supply Agency and the United States Atomic Energy Commission (USAEC), namely:
- one on behalf of N.V. Gemeenschappelijke Kernenergiecentrale Nederland (GKN) for a net total of 226 kg of  $U^{235}$ , for delivery in 1972-74, to be used in the fabrication of elements for refuelling the Dodewaard reactor;
  - the second on behalf of Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica (ENEL) for a net total of 1,700 kg of  $U^{235}$ , for delivery in 1972-73, to be used in fabricating the first core of the Caorso reactor, which is at present under construction by Ansaldo Meccanico Nucleare S.P.A. (AMN) and General Electric Technical Services Company (GETSCO).

\*\* The Memorandum on the GENERAL AIMS OF THE COMMUNITY'S STEEL INDUSTRY FOR 1975-80 was recently published by the Commission of the European Communities (ECSC) as part of the series entitled "General Aims - 'Steel'". It can be bought from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (PO Box 1003, Luxembourg 1). A summary of it was published in "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 93).

\*\* Mr Spaak, Director-General, Energy and Euratom Safeguards, at the Commission of the European Communities, is to brief the trade and industry section of the French "Comité Economique et Social National" on 17 February, at its invitation, on the factors affecting the COMMUNITY'S ENERGY SUPPLY.

INDUSTRIAL POLICY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY  
IN THE COMMUNITY'S PROGRAMME 1972

The Community's programme of activities for 1972 was presented to the European Parliament, at its session in Strasbourg on 8 February by Mr Malfatti, President of the Commission of the European Communities. The following extracts relating to industrial policy, research and energy can be quoted:

Industrial Policy

The Commission intends to continue in 1972 to put to the Council specific proposals on the operational implementation of the strategy outlined in its Memorandum on Industrial Policy of March 1970: in this connection, it will continue working for the full implementation of the programme to eliminate technical obstacles to trade, and will in the very future be proposing an extension of the programme to include, in particular, environmental protection. Another new proposal to be put forward concerns Community development contracts in the advanced-technology industries; others again will set forth the broad outline of an overall Community policy on tenders and awards, development policy, finance and industrial structures.

New horizons, it is hoped, will be opened up for Community industrial policy, in the context of the new social needs developing and the new world responsibilities incumbent on the enlarged Community, at the conference to be held in Venice in April on "Industry and Society in the European Community". (See "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 130.)

Research and Development Policy

The enlargement of the Community offers a great opportunity, involving as it does the bringing-in of Britain's contribution in the sphere of science and technology. In the months ahead the Commission plans to submit specific proposals to the Council con-

cerning on the one hand the organizational structures needed for the development of a more ambitious science and technology policy, and on the other hand the basic lines to be followed in this European research and development policy.

In the Commission's view, in order to evolve the common strategy so vitally important, it is not in fact necessary to centralize the actual conducting of research and development work, nor to increase the appropriations for this purpose: what is necessary is to lay out the appropriations more efficiently, by rationalizing and concerting the activities being undertaken in the European countries, which are at present so fragmented and uncoordinated, and by securing genuine competition between industries in the various countries. Against this wider background, appropriate proposals will have to be put forward for promoting a renewal of activity by the Joint Research Centre. With regard to environmental policy also - a matter considered to be of the greatest importance - the Commission intends to submit within six months, as a follow-up to its first Memorandum, a plan of action setting forth the general principles to be adopted and proposals for specific measures to be taken; the reactions of the Member States and the views of the European Parliament, of the Economic and Social Committee and of the two sides of industry will be borne fully in mind in preparing these proposals.

#### Energy Policy

Developments in the past year have made it more and more obvious how essential it is that concrete progress be made in the matter of a Community energy policy. Europe's dependence on imported energy increased still more; in the petroleum sector the negotiations between the producer countries and the oil companies once again brought home the fact that the traditional supply structures may well undergo major changes in the future. In particular, the Commission intends to devote special attention to preparing further proposals

for a Community policy on hydrocarbon trading and procurement. At the same time it is working to reduce the ever-growing import demand by enabling a larger share of the requirements to be covered by nuclear energy. But this, obviously, calls for an early decision on the construction of enrichment plants.



THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES WILL PROPOSE SPECIFIC  
ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

The Commission of the European Communities is to put specific proposals to the Council concerning environmental protection in the Community, after consulting the competent authorities and the business and the professional circles concerned, in order to achieve the aims defined in its paper on the Community's policy for the environment. (see "Industry, Research and Technology No. 109), which was transmitted last July to the Member States and applicant countries. The Commission stated this, in particular, in its reply to a written question from Mr Schwörer, a Member of the European Parliament:

The Commission points out that it will make the fullest possible use of the means at its disposal for the purpose of improving the environment in the Community. With this in view, it will very shortly submit to the Council a proposal for the revision of the general programme for the elimination of technical obstacles to trade. However, as Mr Spinelli, Member of the Commission and Chairman of the Working Party on the Environment, has stated on several occasions, the powers to act provided for in the Treaty are inadequate for the adoption of the essential measures at Community level, particularly when there are no national laws to harmonize, when national regulations are not such as to create direct obstacles to trade as regards the promotion and financing of the necessary studies and research, or, again, when the nature of the problems requires action at Community level (e.g., in the case of international river basins, or the seas washing the shores of western Europe).

In the Commission's opinion, the protection and improvement of the environment are integral part of the "harmonious development of economic activities throughout the Community", the task laid upon the latter by Article 2 of the EEC Treaty. The Commission therefore feels that, where the Treaties have not expressly provided for powers to act to that end, the Community can base actions

regarding policy for the environment on Article 235 of the EEC Treaty, making it possible to adopt Community rules which are directly applicable in this field.

Pending Community decisions, the Commission hopes that the Member States will inform it of the measures that they intend to take for the protection of the environment when they first form the intention of doing so, and that they will forward drafts of such measures to it. This procedure would enable the Commission to put forward in good time any suggestion capable of speeding-up the formulation of common solutions in this area, and, at all events, would preclude the introduction of measures liable to jeopardize the achievement of the Community's aims.

The Commission wishes to point out that even if the Member States were to lay down national provisions concerning the environment, pending the making of Community regulations on the subject, such national provisions, firstly, should comply with the Community law now in force, and, secondly, would only remain applicable, once Community regulations on the subject came into force, insofar as they were not contrary to those regulations.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE FORMULATION OF A MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMME  
FOR THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

The general guidelines laid down by the Commission of the European Communities for the formulation of a multiannual programme for the Joint Research Centre (JRC) were recently sent to the Centre's Director-General.

The Community's future research programmes must take account, as far as the nuclear field is concerned, of major changes during the last few years and, more generally, of the acknowledged need to institute a common policy for research as a whole.

The Commission wishes the JRC's future programme to be concerned, as a matter of priority, with basic and long-term research (the latter being aimed, among other things, at extending the uses of nuclear energy to purposes other than the generation of electricity) and also with future work on problems relating to Community public services.

The Commission is currently preparing an overall design for Community R&D policy. In the absence of recognition of the power to act in the field of non-nuclear R&D, recourse would be had to the method of contracting with the Member States for the carrying-out of research work. The Commission regards this as an interim measure, and, as part of its overall design for R&D, will make proposals as soon as possible with a view to establishing a suitable legal basis for extending the real powers of the Community in the R&D field.

The JRC must also have regard to services which it might be called upon to carry out for third parties: this approach will enable the JRC to conduct research, nuclear or other, outside its programme, on a contract basis and against appropriate payment.

It is already possible to draw up a general framework of activities within which the JRC could operate, having regard to

trends now apparent in the R&D field.

(a) Public nuclear research and development

A number of projects now in progress should be continued. In particular, the Commission recommends that projects of social benefit (siting, safety, pollution etc.) be given prominence.

(b) New technologies (Studies on advanced materials, new energy sources, energy transmission, etc.)

(c) Promotion of data processing and automation

Data banks and program libraries would provide CETIS (the European Scientific and Data Processing Centre) with an opportunity for a direct extension of its work.

(d) General fostering of knowledge

The JRC's research activity as a whole could be used for education and training tasks requiring, in particular, the use of the major facilities available. Furthermore, closer relations with the Universities appear desirable.

(e) The needs of society

Research into nuisances (water and air pollution, noise) is at present funded on a modest scale, but is of increasing importance to society. The Community aspect of these matters is a further justification for having the JRC carry out work in this field.

(f) Technical support for the Commission in system analysis

The Commission considers that the JRC must put forward a programme for condensed-state physics, to be carried out in collaboration with Europe's other specialist centres and projects, and linked to some extent with the decision to be taken on the possible construction of the SORA reactor at the JRC.

The Commission wishes the JRC to examine with the utmost care the problem of the utilization of its major irradiation facilities.

In view of the budgetary requirements and the time needed for discussions in the Council, the proposed programme must be ready for submission to that body before 25 September 1972.



ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IN THE COMMUNITY  
IN 1971

During 1971 there was a marked slowing down in the growth of demand for electricity. Net consumption (including losses) rose to 590,000 million kWh, an increase of 5.6% on 1970. Such a low growth rate - well below the 7.2% a year that causes consumption to double every ten years - had been recorded only twice since 1950.

The slowing down is attributable chiefly to the down-turn in the economy in most countries, especially Italy, added to which were the effects of the strikes affecting certain major industries. The rise in industrial consumption will not exceed 4%. In contrast, and despite exceptionally mild weather, the household and tertiary-sector demand maintained a growth rate of about 10%.

Net electricity consumption (including losses)

('000 million kWh)

	Community	Germany	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium	Luxembourg
1969	517.9	215.0	130.7	107.6	34.9	27.3	2.40
1970	558.4	232.5	140.0	115.5	38.5	29.3	2.52
1971	589.6	246.9	147.4	120.0	41.7	31.0	2.65
Change							
1970/69	+7.8%	+8.2%	+7.2%	+7.2%	+10.4%	+7.4%	+5.2%
1971/70	+5.6%	+6.2%	+5.3%	+3.9%	+8.2%	+5.7%	+5.1%

Owing to the poor water-supply conditions, hydro-electric power generation was lower than during the previous six years. Because of this, and despite the relatively low growth in overall demand, the output of conventional thermal stations nevertheless increased by over 11% (compared with a 7% rise in 1970), resulting in additional fuel consumption twice that of the previous year. Preliminary

indications are that hydrocarbon fuels accounted for almost all of this increase. Conventional thermal power stations therefore provided a higher proportion of the total electricity production in 1971, meeting 79% of the demand. Nuclear stations, too, again increased their output by over 25%, meeting 3% of the demand.

Net total output broken down by energy source

in '000 million kWh

Community	Total	Hydro-electric	Geothermal	Nuclear	Conventional thermal
1970	550.4	116.3	2.5	14.2	417.4
1971	588.3	104.0	2.5	17.8	464.0
Change 1971/70	+6.9%	-10.6%	-2.2%	+25.1%	+11.2%
Percentage of total					
1970	100%	21.1%	0.5%	2.6%	75.8%
1971	100%	17.7%	0.4%	3.0%	78.9%