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** The list of the areas which may benefit from the Regional Development Fund has just been drawn up by the Commission of the European Communities. It deals with regions and areas where an excessive dependence on agriculture, industrial change or structural underemployment have led to the creation of imbalances (see IRT Nos. 197 and 203).

More details about the criteria used to select these regions, together with the list, are given in ANNEX 1.

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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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IIT No. 207, 23 October 1973, p.2

** The Community's role in CONSUMER PROTECTION is the subject of a memorandum sent to the Community Member States and the European Commission by the Danish Government. This memorandum has come at a time when the Commission is in fact preparing a programme of community action to protect consumer interests; the European Commission will clearly draw on the Danish memorandum in formulating its proposals.

A summary of the memorandum is given in ANNEX 2.

** ANNEX 3 contains a selection of the RECENT PUBLICATIONS acquired by the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities, which can either be consulted on the premises (1 avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Office Loi 1/43) or borrowed.

** The European Commission has just given the go-ahead for an exclusive long-term supply agreement between the German company of Prym-Werke and Beka, the Belgian needle manufacturers. The main reason prompting the Commission's decision was that the agreement would enable each partner to sell needles of a more consistent or even higher quality and at more competitive prices, ultimately implying a NET GAIN FOR THE CONSUMER.

Deutsche Philips GmbH of Hamburg, on the other hand, have been fined 60,000 u.a. by the European Commission for various INFRINGEMENTS OF THE RULES OF FREE COMPETITION as laid down in the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, in particular for maintaining an export ban on its German dealers. The relatively small amount of the fine is justified by the fact that the company can only be charged with negligence.

IRT No. 207, 23 October 1973, p.3

- ** A programme of research into BUSINESS OBJECTIVES AND SOCIAL PRIORITIES is to be carried out by the European Commission in cooperation with the Administrative Staff College at Henley in the United Kingdom. The research will be particularly centered on the following aspects: the importance of social responsibility in industrial planning, the effect of a social policy on management responsibility in private enterprise and the implications of worker participation for business aims.
- ** The Convention setting up the EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MEDIUM-TERM WEATHER FORECASTING has just been signed by the nine member countries of the European Community and 10 other governments (see IRT Nos. 169, 180, 190, 193). The Centre is to be at Shinfield Park, near Reading, Berkshire, and during its operations phase will have a staff of about 120, some 40 of whom will be graduates. The Centre's tasks are threefold:
1. On the research and development side, it will be instructed to make and continually improve mathematical models for medium-term weather forecasting.
 2. On the operational side, it will make regular medium-term weather forecasts with the aid of these mathematical models and will forward them to the national meteorological services, who will use and incorporate them in their own weather forecasting services.
 3. On the services side, it will help to train researchers working in the field of numerical weather forecasting in Europe and, in addition to a data bank, will provide the national meteorological services with any computing facilities they may require.

- ** The proposal for a Directive on COSMETICS (see IRT No. 162), recently examined by the European Parliament, is being amended to define certain requirements relating to labelling, presentation and marketing. In addition, the Community safeguard procedure covering cases where a cosmetic product may still be a hazard to human health even though it complies with the requirements will be further clarified. The Commission has decided to embody these findings in its proposal.
- ** The methods used to identify FOODSTUFFS EXPOSED TO RADIATION, to control their distribution and hence to protect public health, will be compared at an international conference to be organized by the European Commission in Karlsruhe on 24 and 25 October.
- ** CONSUMERISM AND THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE is to be the subject of a paper which Mr J. Braun, head of the division for consumer protection at the European Commission, will read at an International Symposium entitled "Undertakings and Consumerism", to be held in Brussels on 31 October.
- ** The European Commission has just decided to carry out a study into the USE OF RADIOACTIVE NEUTRON SOURCES IN THE ANALYSIS OF NON-FERROUS METALS.

REGIONS DUE TO BENEFIT FROM COMMUNITY AID
FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The list of regions which could benefit from the help of the Regional Development Fund (see IRT Nos. 197 and 203) has just been drawn up by the Commission of the European Communities. The list gives, in order of priority, those areas and regions where an excessive dependence on agriculture, industrial change or structural underemployment have led to the creation of imbalances. Some of these regions may also receive national aid.

I. Criteria adopted by the European Commission

To qualify for aid, the regions must have a per capita gross national product below the Community average and display one or more of the following features:

- (a) a heavy dependence on employment in agriculture;
- (b) a heavy dependence on employment in declining industries;
- (c) high and protracted unemployment or large-scale emigration.

- (a) The criterion of heavy dependence on employment in agriculture is deemed to have been met when, within the territorial units analysed, the percentage of the working population employed in agriculture is higher than the Community average and the percentage of the working population employed in industry is lower than the Community average.
- (b) The criterion for heavy dependence on employment in declining industries is deemed to have been met when 20% of the work-force is employed in an industrial sector characterized by the Community as one in which there has been a fall-off in the number of those at work and further cutbacks are likely. The coal and textile sectors have been put into this category.
- (c) The rate adopted as the criterion for high and protracted unemployment was one which, on average and over a period of several years, was at least 20% higher than the national average and amounted to at least 3.5% of the total work-force.

The qualifying criterion for large-scale emigration was an annual average rate of at least 10% per thousand of the population over a prolonged period.

2. CONCISE LIST OF THE COUNTRIES, REGIONS AND MAIN AREAS LIKELY TO BENEFIT FROM HELP FROM THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

To prevent the Community action from being too scattered, only those territorial units or groups of units were included which had at least 100,000 inhabitants or a surface area of at least 500 square kilometres. A further principle was used to determine the sectors characterized by imbalances arising from industrial change to the effect that the number of persons employed in any one of the declining sectors must be at least 5,000.

In accordance with these criteria, the countries, regions or areas likely to benefit from the Regional Development Fund are:

- Belgium:
- The provinces of Liège, Limbourg and Namur;
 - the districts of Aaslst, Ath, Charleroi, Dixmude, Eekloo, Ypres, Mons, Oudenaarde, Thuin, Thielt and Veurne.
- Denmark:
- Greenland.
 - the "Amstkommunerne" of Bornholm, Nordjylland, Viborg and Ringkøbing;
 - the "Sønderjyllands Amtskommune".
- Germany:
- The main "Länder" involved are (from north to south) Hälstein, Palatinate, Rhineland, Hesse, Eiffel, Westphalia, Lake Constance, Bavaria and the Upper Palatinate.
- France:
- The "régions de programme" (planning regions) of Brittany, Poitou-Charentes, Limousin, Aquitania, Midi-Pyrénées, Corsica;
 - in the planning region of Pays de Loire, the "departements" of Loire Atlantique, Maine et Loire, Mayenne and Vendée;
 - large areas of the planning regions of Auvergne, Languedoc and Roussillon;
 - smaller areas of Lower Normandy, Centre, Rhône-Alps, Provence-Côte d'Azur, North, Lorraine, Alsace;

- a district in the Franche-Comté region.

Ireland: - All areas

Italy: - Southern Italy;

- the regions of Valle d'Aosta, Trentino-Alto Adige, Friuli-Venezia Giulia;

- the deprived areas, the mountain communes and the communes in the textile industry areas, mainly in the northern and central part of Italy, in the "regioni" of Emilia-Romagna, Umbria, Marche, Lazio;

- in the provinces of Vercelli, Novara, Cuneo, Asti, Alessandria, Sondrio, Bergamo, Cremona, Mantua, Verona, Vicenza, Belluno, Padua, Rovigo, Imperia, Lucca, Siena, Grosseto;

- the mountain communes in the areas coming within the province of Brescia.

Luxembourg - The cantons of Clervaux, Wiltz, Vianden and Redange, together with a few communes in the canton of Diekirch.

Netherlands - The provinces of Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe;

- a dozen communes in the province of Overijssel;

- the "oostelijke en westelijke mijnstreken" of the province of Limburg.

United Kingdom

- Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland;

- the Northern Special Development Area, the North Humberside Intermediate Area, the Merseyside Development Area;

- the Employment Exchange Areas.

NB. For a complete list, see document COM(73) 1751.

THE DANISH GOVERNMENT PUTS FORWARD A POLICY FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION

In a memorandum devoted to measures to protect consumers, the Danish Government advocate greater Community action in this field with the aim of getting some tangible results which will have a real impact on the daily life of the man in the street. Certain principles should be established relating to consumer protection and the necessary machinery set up to ensure that these are implemented. The Danish Government hopes that this action will lead to a harmonization of national laws in the following fields:

1. Trade Practices

It would seem preferable to agree on principles for the harmonization of national laws rather than work out detailed Community legislation. The provisions adopted should ensure that activities contrary to fair trading practice are banned. The competent authorities in the countries of the European Community should adopt measures to enable them to keep a control on trading practice.

2. Consumer Credit

Measures designed to safeguard the rights of consumers regarding hire purchase and other forms of credit should be drawn up such that the consumer is informed about the actual terms of credit, including interest rates.

3. Consumer Information

It is vitally important that the consumer is informed, particularly about products and services, so that he can make a proper choice. For this purpose, and in order to ensure more openness in trading, the Commission should enact measures designed to inform consumers in the various countries about labelling and give other information on price, quantity, composition, quality, directions for use and the safety of products.

4. Consumer Complaints Office

A real improvement in the consumer's position can only be obtained if complaints, however trivial, are given due consideration. Whether complaints concern products, services or work carried out, consumers should be able to submit these to a special body (e.g., a complaints office). It should then be possible for the courts to deal with them swiftly, inexpensively yet effectively.

5. Safeguarding Consumer Interests in accordance with Laws existing in the other European Community countries

The Danish Government considers that the drawing up of a programme of industrial policy should not prejudice consumer interests; nor should the harmonization of industrial and commercial standards lead to a restriction of the free choice of the consumer.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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Physica-Verlag, Würzburg, 1973

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System Development Corp., Santa Monica, Calif., 1972

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- Chemical Industry Directory and Who's Who (EU 17718) 1973
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.. L'inquinamento dell'aria (EU 17710)

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Based upon Papers Presented at an International Symposium
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11-13 April 1972

Jenkins, S.H. & Ives, A.J. (Ed.)

Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1973