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** In order to help the heads of SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FIRMS to decide whether COMMUNITY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTS might constitute a suitable means of enabling them to carry out specific projects which have so far come up against financial obstacles, the Commission of the European Communities is to hold a fact-finding meeting around mid-February with the heads of small firms interested in the potential use of Community loans which might be granted under Community industrial development contracts.

It may be noted that these Community contracts, which are intended to promote the development of new products or new technological processes, may take the form of exceptionally advantageous loans, repayable only if the results yield profit (see IRT No. 154).

Moreover, in a reply to a written question by Mr Cousté, a member of the European Parliament, concerning the future of small firms in the Community, the Commission pointed out that it had adopted or proposed a set of measures to help small and medium-sized firms. Details 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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** After the enlargement of the Community, the subscribed capital of the EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK will increase from 1,500 million u.a. to 2,025 million u.a. The United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland are contributing 450, 60 and 15 million u.a. respectively to the Bank's capital. The new Member States will actually pay up to 20% of their share of the subscribed capital and their share in the reserves and provisions equivalent to the reserves established at 31 December 1972, in five instalments staggered up until 30 June 1975. The European Investment Bank's own funds will hence run to about 600 million u.a.

ANNEX 2 gives a short account of the Bank's activities in 1972.

** THE COMMUNITY'S MULTIANNUAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME, in particular the future of the Joint Research Centre (see IRT Nos. 148, 165 and 169), was once more the subject of discussion by the Ministers responsible for research in the Nine Community countries on 18 January 1973. The Commission's proposals were defended by its President, Mr Ortoli, with support from Mr Simonet (Commission Vice-President with special responsibility for energy policy), Mr Spinelli and Mr Dahrendorf (Commission members with special responsibility for industrial affairs and scientific research respectively). After nearly 10 hours of discussion, the Ministers decided to continue the effort to align their points of view at a further meeting of the Council of Ministers, scheduled for 5 February 1973.

** Updating to 1 January 1973 of the percentage BREAKDOWN, by reactor type, of the NUCLEAR REACTOR CAPACITY in operation or under construction in the enlarged Community gives the following figures:

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Graphite/gas	7,730 MWe	(29.3%)
Advanced gas reactors	6,234 MWe	(23.6%)
Boiling light water	3,703 MWe	(14.0%)
Pressurized light water	7,574 MWe	(28.7%)
Heavy water	321 MWe	(1.2%)
High temperature	313 MWe	(1.2%)
Fast breeders	516 MWe	(2.0%)
	<hr/>	
	26,391 MWe	

Details of the capacity of nuclear power plants in operation, under construction or planned in the Community at that date are given in ANNEX 3.

** ANNEX 4 gives a selection of RECENT PUBLICATIONS added to the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities. These works can be consulted in the library (1 avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Loi Offices, 1st floor, No. 43) or borrowed.

** The Commission of the European Communities has had a series of studies carried out on the COMMUNITY'S SUPPLY OF OIL PRODUCTS:

- A contract for a study on the Community's demand for and supply of low-sulphur fuel oils has been awarded to Parra, Ramos and Parra Ltd., of London.
- A contract for a study on the composition of the fleet supplying the Community with crude oil, the route taken by the tankers, the load carried and the freight rates has been awarded to the Institute of Shipping Economics in Bremen.

- A contract for a study on the trend of the delivered cost of crude oil between 1970 and 1972 and of ex-refinery revenue for the principal oil products of the Community has been awarded to Petroleum Economics Ltd., of London.

** THE AMOUNT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE will increase considerably in the Community during the coming years, owing to the rapid increase in the number of nuclear power plants. According to estimates, the volume of low and medium-activity radioactive waste will be in the region of 30,000 m³ per year in the eighties and will reach some 167,000 m³ per year from the year 2000. An increasing accumulation of waste for storage is therefore likely; in 1980 this will amount to more than 225,000 m³ and in 1990 780,000 m³, while in the year 2000 it will reach the impressive figure of over 2,000,000 m³.

In a resolution, the European Parliament, which met in Strasbourg on 17 January 1973 and heard a report on this problem submitted on behalf of the Parliament's Committee on Research, Energy and Atomic Problems by Mr Ballardini, considers that the creation of a genuine Community public organization for the disposal of radioactive waste is essential for effective cooperation aimed at safeguarding the health of the European general public in the coming years.

The European Parliament is accordingly asking the Commission of the European Communities to submit shortly to the Council of Ministers specific proposals for the creation of a Community network of radioactive waste storage zones and the establishment of a set of Community rules to govern their operation; the implementation of these proposals would, moreover, be a

considerable step on the way to a common policy on the protection of the environment. The European Parliament is proposing that the management of the public organization thus created should be entrusted to a Joint Undertaking which, subject to the approval of the participants, should possess legal powers similar to those of the US Atomic Energy Commission.

** Under the Community research programme on CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES, financed by the Coal and Steel Community, the Commission of the European Communities has decided to grant financial aid totalling 288,324.17 u.a. for nine new research projects submitted by research centres in the Community countries on which advisory committees competent for ECSC social research in the field of industrial medicine and safety have passed favourable opinions.

** IN THE NEW COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, the following members have special responsibility for the sectors covered by "Industry, Research and Technology":

Mr Scarascia-Mugnozza, Vice-President: environment

Mr Simonet, Vice-President: energy and Euratom Supply Agency

Mr Spinelli: industrial and technological policy

Mr Dahrendorf: research, science and education.

** The Commission of the European Communities has placed contracts for two studies in the field of MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY, one concerning biomechanics, in particular the stresses which can be withstood by the human organism in the event of a collision, and the other on active and passive safety of vehicles (behaviour of vehicles, stability in the event of an accident, permissible stresses and deformations in vehicle design, etc.).

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These studies, which will in particular include an inventory of research currently being undertaken in this field in Europe by the motor industry, independent bodies and university institutes, should make it possible to define a number of basic conditions for a common motor vehicle safety concept on which to base Community action aimed at establishing appropriate European standards.

** An international meeting on NUCLEAR ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT organized by the Association of Graduate Engineers from the Montefiore Electrical Engineering Institute (the AIM) is to be held at the Palais des Congrès in Liège, Belgium, from 22 to 25 January 1973. The subjects to be discussed include: industrial risks, evaluation and consequences; radioactive waste and the supervision of its disposal; the influence of radioactive waste disposal on the biosphere; the thermal effects of nuclear plants, techniques for reducing radioactive waste.

THE FUTURE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED
FIRMS IN THE COMMUNITY

The European Commission's view is that the Community offers good prospects to small firms, though it is aware of the special difficulties which they face, in particular adaptation and financing. The Community's rules and policies must not, of course, be prejudicial to them and certain action should be taken in their favour.

In this connection the Commission recently pointed out, in a reply to a written question by Mr Cousté, a member of the European Parliament, concerning the future of small and medium-sized firms in the Community, that it has adopted or proposed the following measures to promote the development of small firms:

1. Taxation

With regard to tax harmonization, the Commission is currently preparing proposals which will apply to all firms and will take into account the problems of small and medium-sized firms.

2. In the second directive on the introduction of value-added tax, Member States were given the option of applying special regulations to small and medium-sized firms which might encounter difficulties if the normal procedure were adopted.

All countries which have introduced VAT have availed themselves of this possibility and made special arrangements

for small and medium-sized firms. A system coordinated at Community level for such firms is currently under examination by the Commission.

2. Cooperation between firms

In the context of competition policy, in a memorandum on the agreements, decisions and concerted practices concerning cooperation between firms¹, the Commission indicated cooperative measures, which, in its view, were not subject to the bans in Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty and Article 65(1) of the ECSC Treaty.

Moreover, in a memorandum on minor agreements², the Commission stated that, in its view, agreements which did not significantly affect trade between the Member States and competition were not covered by the ban in Article 85(1).

These two memoranda particularly concern small and medium-sized firms (see also IRT No. 172).

3. Promotion of Technological innovation and cooperation

Having observed that the national measures for promoting industrial innovation do not readily permit technological cooperation between firms in different Member States, the Commission has submitted to the Council a proposal for the creation of Community industrial development contracts. The object of this proposal is to stimulate and promote the execution of medium-scale technological projects by means of cooperation between industrial firms in different Community

¹Official Journal 1968 Nos. C 75/3 and C 93/3

²Official Journal 1970 No. C 64/1

Member States. This measure, which is not aimed exclusively at small and medium-sized firms, will nevertheless be of great interest to them.

4. Development outside the Community of the commercial activities of small and medium-sized firms

In the Commission's view, joint participation by small and medium-sized industrial firms and businesses from the Community countries in fairs and exhibitions organized in non-member countries deserves encouragement. However, up to the present the Commission has not been informed of any definite plans.

THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK - REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 1972

The long-term loan and guarantee contracts signed by the European Investment Bank in 1972 totalled 526.8 million u.a., covering 36 individual operations and three global loans. This figure is slightly up on the 502.2 million u.a. total recorded for 1971, which itself was 42% up on 1970.

The total operations by the European Investment Bank since its foundation amounted to 2,842 million u.a. at 31 December 1972.

To promote the growth of its activities, the Bank again substantially increased its calls on the financial markets in 1972. These totalled approximately 480 million u.a. (compared with 413 million in 1971 and 169 million in 1970). Bond issues during the year totalled 462.5 million u.a. and third party participation in loan financing which the Bank began operating, backed by its own guarantees, in the autumn amounted to 17.7 million u.a.

The loan and guarantee operations conducted by the European Investment Bank in 1972 can be analysed as follows:

1. Breakdown by country. Italy received the most assistance from the Bank, with 216 million u.a., or almost 41% of the total granted during the year. Then came France, with 145 million u.a., or 28%, followed by Germany, with 130 million u.a., or 25%, and finally Belgium, with 14 million u.a.

Transactions carried out by the Bank in 1972 in respect of projects outside the Community were particularly modest. They related solely to the AASM, which received aid totalling roughly 21 million u.a., 12.8 million of which came from the Bank's own funds and 8 million from the special operations budget of the European Development Fund.

2. Breakdown by sector. There was a preponderance of loans for infrastructure development, totalling 354 million u.a., or 67% of the total, and including assistance to the communications equipment sector (193.8 million u.a.), particularly motorways, aviation and telephone installations, and to investments in the energy sector (160.3 million u.a.), international gas pipelines and nuclear power plants.

The bulk of the aid to industrial projects (173 million u.a., or 33%) went towards the production and initial transformation of metals, construction materials and the chemical, electrical engineering and electronics industries.

3. A major task of the Bank under its Statute is to promote regional development through its activities in the Member States. Under this heading the Bank financed investments to the value of 402 million u.a. in 1972, 355 million of which were for projects in underdeveloped regions and 47 million for projects in regions in need of economic redeployment¹.

Its contribution to the financing of projects of common European interest amounted to 219 million u.a., 190 million of which went to infrastructures in European interests and 29 million to investments encouraging cooperation between national industrial enterprises of the various Member States.

¹The figures quoted in this section should not be added together because some of the projects relate to more than one category.

European Investment Bank loans and guarantees in the Community
(contracts signed in 1972)
Breakdown by objectives of economic policy¹

millions u.s.

Country	Number of projects	Loans and guarantees	Regional development			Modernization and conversion of firms (creation of new activities and new technologies, etc.)	Interest common to several Member States	
			Promotion of less developed regions	Conversion	Total		Industrial cooperation and R&D	Infrastructure of European interest
Germany	10	130.4	57.9	-	57.9	16.3	12.9	85.9
France	7	144.9	110.4	32.7	143.1	-	1.3	60.0
Italy	12	216.2	186.5	-	186.5	18.2	-	29.7
Belgium	1	14.4	-	14.4	14.4	-	14.4	14.4
Member countries: Total	30	505.9	354.0	47.1	401.9	34.5	29.1	190.0

¹ Some projects come under several objectives; they are listed, in each case with their total value, in the various corresponding categories. No grand total of the figures given for each of them is therefore possible.

NET ELECTRICAL CAPACITY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN OPERATION,
UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR PLANNED IN THE COMMUNITY AT 1 JANUARY 1973

Net electrical capacity of nuclear power plants in operation,
under construction or planned in the Community: 44,015 MWe. net,
namely:

Type of reactor	Country	In operation	Under construction	Orders and projects	TOTAL MWe
Graphite/ gas	UK	5,161	-	-	5,165
	France	2,365	-	-	2,365
	Italy	200	-	-	200
	Total	7,730	-	-	7,730
Advanced gas reactors	UK	34	6,200	-	6,234
Boiling light water	Germany	1,088	1,630	2,990	5,708
	Italy	150	783	-	933
	Netherlands	52	-	-	52
	Total	1,290	2,413	2,990	6,693
Pressurized light water	Germany	958	3,099	2,430	6,487
	France	270	890	2,740	3,900
	Belgium	10	1,650	-	1,160
	Italy	247	-	-	247
	Netherlands	-	450	-	450
Total	1,485	6,089	5,170	12,744	
Heavy water	Germany	151	-	-	151
	UK	100	-	-	100
	France	70	-	-	70
	Italy	-	-	32	32
	Total	321	-	32	353

Type of reactor	Country	In operation	Under construction	Orders and projects	TOTAL MWe
High temperature	Germany	13	300	-	313
Fast	Germany	19	-	282	301
	UK	14	250	-	264
	France	-	233	-	233
	Total	33	483	282	798
Not yet determined	Germany	-	-	7,300	7,300
	UK	-	-	650	650
	Netherlands	-	-	600	600
	Italy	-	-	600	600
	Total	-	-	9,150	9,150

Breakdown by percentage of reactors in operation and under construction:

Graphite/gas	7,730 MWe	(29.3%)
Advanced gas reactors	6,234 MWe	(23.6%)
Boiling light water	3,703 MWe	(14.0%)
Pressurized light water	7,574 MWe	(28.7%)
Heavy water	321 MWe	(1.2%)
High temperature	313 MWe	(1.2%)
Fast breeders	516 MWe	(2.0%)
	<u>26,391 MWe</u>	

Breakdown by degree of completion and country where sited

Reactors	Germany	France	Italy	UK	Netherlands	Belgium	Community
installed	2,229	2,705	597	5,313	52	10	10,906
under construction	5,029	1,123	783	6,450	450	1,650	15,485
	7,258	3,828	1,380	11,763	502	1,660	26,391
ordered and planned	13,002	2,740	632	650	600	-	17,624
	20,260	6,568	2,012	12,413	1,102	1,660	44,015

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

which have been acquired by the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities and can be consulted in the library (1 avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Bruxelles, Loi Offices, 1st Floor, No. 43) or borrowed

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Agenda pour l'Europe (EU 16827 f)
Spinelli, Altiero
Hachette, Paris, 1972

SOCIAL POLICY

National Health Insurance - Evaluating and Implementing
(EU 16818)
Scholl, Martin M. + Long, Stephen
Mitre Corp., McLean, Vi., January 1971

National Science Foundation: Grants and Awards for
the Fiscal Year ended 30 June 1971 (EU 16802)
National Science Foundation, Washington, 1972

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Some Project Descriptions (EU 16822)
Mitre Corporation, McLean, Vi., October 1972

An Examination of Fuel and Energy Information Sources
(EU 16816 (1))
Bobo, D.L. + Keitz, E.L. + Morris, J.R. + Yeaser, K.E.
Mitre Corp., McLean, April 1971

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Prospective et société (EU 15314 (28))
= Travaux et Recherches de Prospectives Schéma
Général d'Aménagement de la France No. 28
La Documentation Française, Paris, 1972

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Air Quality Data Summary Report - Mitre Environmental
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Duncan, L. + Golden, J.

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Guidelines for the Acquisition of Validated Air Quality
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Mitre Corp., McLean, Vi., June 1970

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Ticcit: A Delivery System designed for Mass Utilization
(EU 16814)

Setten, Kenneth J.

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Proceedings of the American Society for Information
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32nd Annual Meeting held in San Francisco,
1-4 October 1969 (EU 15326(6))

North, Jeanne E. (Ed.)

American Society for Information Science (ASIS)
Greenwood Publishing Co., Washington, D.C., 1969

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33rd Annual Meeting held in Philadelphia on
11-15 October 1970 (EU 15326(7))

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