

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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SYSTEM FOR THE REGISTRATION OF CRUDE OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCT PRICES

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)

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PRODUCT PRICES

1. Introduction

On 24 February 1981 the Council decided to extend the system of registering prices of crude oil imports until 31 December 1981 and that for imported petroleum products until 30 June 1981.⁽¹⁾

In adopting this decision the Council also noted the commitment by the Commission to transmit in due course, after consulting experts from the Member States, proposals for appropriate amendments to Council Regulation (EEC) 2592/79 laying down the rules for carrying out the registration of crude oil imports in the Community and introducing new conditions for the gathering of information on the prices of imported petroleum products.

After consulting, as provided for in the decision, the Member States, the oil industry and the other consumer countries having introduced the same information systems following the decisions taken at the 1979 Tokyo Summit, the Commission has reached the following conclusions.

2. Registration of crude oil imports

After a normal running-in period in November and December 1979, the registration of crude oil prices became operational in January 1980.

(1) OJ L 52 of 27 February 1981, p.1.

The Commission's services have since prepared and discussed with Member State experts monthly summary reports covering the whole of 1980 and early 1981. The information system has interest both at national and Community level in providing an instrument for the collection and comparison of prices in the oil market. More particularly, thanks to the information received on each cargo imported, it has provided precise information on spot and premium purchases.

It has emerged from discussions with Member State experts that there is currently no need to alter the system. The Commission will, however, continue its examination and will, where appropriate, put new proposals to the Council before the end of the year, when the question of extension will arise, in the light of, in particular, any decisions taken by the other consumer countries.

3. Registration of the prices of imported petroleum products

The registration of petroleum product imports came into being more recently - on 1 April 1980. It has emerged during the brief application period that, for many countries, the administrative burden involved has been out of proportion to the intended objectives.

The other industrial consumer nations have drawn the same conclusions.

Nevertheless, the proportion of total Community imports accounted for by petroleum products is significant (an average of 23% including intra-Community trade) and information on the prices of imported

petroleum products is an essential element for the knowledge of our supply costs, and furthermore, they have since 1976 been provided on a quarterly basis under Directive 76/491/EEC.

The Commission does not intend to propose a new system, but to continue to implement this directive, which has always worked satisfactorily.

The Commission merely proposes, in line with its consultation of Member State experts, to extend the list of petroleum products to include petrochemical naphtha and kerosene jet fuel, and to introduce a distinction between EEC and non-EEC imports and types of transaction (affiliate and non-affiliate).

4. Conclusions

The Council is requested to take note that:

for crude oil

- The Commission does not intend, for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1981, to amend Council Regulation (EEC) 2592/79 laying down the rules for carrying out the registration of crude oil imports in the Community.

for petroleum products

- The Commission does not propose to extend the registration of petroleum product imports beyond 30 June 1981;

- In pursuance of Articles 7 and 8 of Directive 76/491/EEC the Commission will amend, as follows, Table 3 in Commission Decision 77/190/EEC implementing this Directive:

a) to be added to the list of petroleum products to be decalred:

- naphtha,
- kerosene/kerosene turbo-jet;

b) the quantities and prices of petroleum products imported to be recorded separately:

- by affiliates and non-affiliates,
- from EEC and non-EEC countries.