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PRESS RELEASE

Study on research in electronics

The EEC Commission has had occasion to study the difficulties experienced by such industrial sectors as shipyards and textiles, but it does not for this reason neglect the problems facing the expanding sectors.

It would seem that the technological revolution which has been going on particularly since 1958-1960 has caught certain European industries unprepared. They have concentrated more on increasing their rate of output than on the quest for new techniques.

The Community institutions have not been blind to the importance of research problems. The first studies of the Working Party on scientific and technological research policy of the Medium-term Economic Policy Committee revealed not only the need to prepare Community action in this field but also the inadequacy of available knowledge by sectors as a result of which the Community authorities did not have the information on which to base an adequate policy in this field. For this reason the Commission has decided to retain the services of the Bureau d'Information et prévisions économiques (BIPE) in Paris for a study of scientific and technological research in the electronics sector.

The BIPE, being in charge of the work, will in turn engage the services of three institutes, one German, one Italian and one in Benelux. The study will be in three parts.

The first will deal with the structure of production in the sector, the features of the market in the various geographical areas covered, and their development between 1955 and 1965.

The second will cover the structure of research and development activities in the electronics industries of EEC and of non-member countries (in particular the USA), information concerning research scientists and equipment, the financing of research, sale and purchase of patents and licenses, and the technological balance of payments.

This part will also contain a table of the principal results achieved. The various points mentioned above will be the subject of a comparative analysis between the different geographical areas for the period 1951-1965.

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The third part will be a comparative analysis, taking account of the direct or indirect incentives provided or planned by the States, of the research policy of States and firms in the above-mentioned industries. The trend of this policy will be described in the light of past experience (1961-1965) of these industries, and the causes and consequences of the results obtained will be examined.

This last part will also deal with the outlook for the industry: prospects of expansion, special problems, and degree of independence vis-à-vis non-member countries.

The conclusions will give some idea of the remedial action to be taken where the future outlook is unsatisfactory.