



European Communities
Commission
Press Release

Windsor Palace Gardens
W18 4QQ
Phone: 01-727 8090

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NEW EEC COAL AND STEEL AID IN BRITAIN

New Package Over £74 million

The European Commission has just approved another parcel of loans and grants to the coal and steel industries in the United Kingdom.

The loans total £72.4 million and the grants nearly £2.3 million. Together they contribute to modernisation, create job opportunities, alleviate the effects of steel closures and provide for new mining research.

At the same time, the Commission announced grants towards the re-adaptation of workers in the coal and steel industries in Germany, Belgium and France, totalling just over £2.5 million.

The details are as follows :

UNITED KINGDOM

L O A N S

ARTICLE 54 ECSC TREATY : Modernisation

Steel

The British Steel Corporation is to receive three loans, totalling £60,700,000.

The first is of £25 million to help finance the installation of a stainless steel making complex at Tinsley Park, Sheffield. This investment will create 141 new job opportunities.

The second is of £35 million for Phase 1 of a scheme to replace the coke ovens at Port Talbot works in South Wales. A specially reduced rate of interest will apply to £260,000 of this loan. This investment will create 46 new job opportunities.

The third loan is of £700,000 to the private firm, Templeborough Rolling Mills Ltd, to part finance two additional rolling stands and a new coil handling installation at their steel works in Rotherham.

The private firm, Spartan Steel and Alloys Ltd, is to receive a loan of £800,000 to help finance the installation of a modern reconditioned mill to roll stainless steel plate at their works in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The project will create 50 new job opportunities.

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Coal

The National Coal Board will receive two loans totalling £10.6 million.

The first is of £4 million which will be used to finance the installation of modern storage and rapid loading facilities at the following collieries : Fasington, and Horden and Blackhall in the Durham area; Bentinck and Hucknall on the South Nottinghamshire coal field; and Maltby and Silverwood in South Yorkshire.

The second loan for the NCB is of £6.6 million for the modernisation of the following collieries : Frickley/South Elmsall, Doncaster; Golborne, Bickershaw and Parsonage, South Lancashire; and Bogside, in Longannet, Scotland.

Terms

The precise terms of these loans (term, interest, dates of repayment) will now be agreed with the parties concerned. The new current interest rate is 8½ per cent.

G R A N T S

ARTICLE 55 ECSC TREATY : Research

Coal

The National Coal Board will receive over 3 years a grant of £1,968,480 for three programmes of technical research in the mining industry.

ARTICLE 56 ECSC TREATY : Assistance to Workers

Steel

The British Steel Corporation is to receive two grants :

The first is of £213,600 for the benefit of 776 people affected by the closure of BSC's open hearth steel plant at Clydesdale.

The second is of £115,300 to help 226 people affected by the closure of BSC's hermitite ore mine at Glamorgan.

GERMANY +

Ruhrkohle AG, Bergbau AG Herne/Recklinghausen, the Ewald-Fortsetzung Mine: Commission non-repayable grant in accordance with Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty of DM2,060,000 in favour of the retraining and re-employment of 878 workers affected by the closure of the mine.

Braunschweigische Kohlen-Bergwerke, "Treue" Briquette Factory : Commission grant of DM40,000 for retraining and re-employment.

Ruhrkohle AG, Bergbau AG Westfalen, Verbundwerk Monopol : The Commission has decided to increase from DM1,250,000 to DM1,770,000 the grant already given on September 24, 1973, for retraining and re-employment.

In the case of 14 other German firms who have already received grants for retraining and re-employment, the Commission has decided to increase the grants by a further DM5,345,450.