



*European Communities  
Commission  
Press Release*

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MORE EEC COAL AND STEEL AID

The Commission has just announced two new allocations of Community funds to the coal and steel sectors in the United Kingdom. The first is a loan of £950,000 (1.64 million units of account) to Natural Gas Tubes Ltd, London, towards the construction of a new factory of welded steel tubes in the industrialised zone of Tafarnaubach, Ebbw Vale.

The total cost of the investment is £2.84m (4.9m u.a.) which, it is estimated, will create 120 new jobs.

For this job preference will be given to former steel workers with the British Steel Corporation at Ebbw Vale. A programme of adequate readaptation is currently under study in cooperation with the BSC and the workers.

Taking account of the jobs created, the rate of interest on the loan will be reduced for the first 5 years.

The loan is made under Article 56 of the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty which authorises the Commission to contribute towards investments creating new jobs in regions where closures have created substantial unemployment in the coal and steel sectors.

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The Commission has also approved a non-repayable grant of £31,625 towards the readaptation of workers at the I.M.I. Alloy Steels Ltd factory in Alfreton, Derbyshire.

The money will go towards the retraining and other readaptation needs of about 63 workers. The closure of this factory will affect 187 workers of whom 124 appear to have found other jobs.

This grant is made under Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty which provides for various aid in the case of redundancies in the coal and steel sectors.

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