

**European
community**

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street Northwest, Suite 707, Washington, D.C. 20037 Telephone: (202) 872-8350
New York Office: 277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 Telephone: (212) 371-3804

No. 2/1974

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 1974

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSION PROPOSES COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES IN FIELD OF ENERGY

WASHINGTON, January 8 -- The Commission of the European Community yesterday proposed to the Council of Ministers that the Community respond affirmatively to a proposal made last month by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and give support to cooperation in the field of energy.

Following is an unofficial translation of the text of the Commission's communication to the Council:

The energy crisis which has developed in the world during the last three months, following the events in the Middle East, gives new and urgent reality to the concept that the world's energy supply must be assured within the framework of cooperation between energy-producing and energy-consuming countries. The Commission has frequently stressed this need, especially in its communication to the Council of April 27, 1973 on "Guidelines and Priority Actions Under the Community Energy Policy."

The United States' Secretary of State, in a speech given in London on December 12, 1973, solemnly emphasized the need for cooperation in the field of energy between the consuming countries, without excluding the participation of the producing nations. To this end, Mr. Kissinger proposed the creation of an "Energy Action Group" composed of representatives from Europe, North America, and Japan whose duty it would be to develop an initial action program in all energy sectors.

On December 27, 1973, the U.S. Secretary of State reiterated his proposal and last January 3, at a press conference, he announced that President Nixon would shortly take initiatives, probably of a diplomatic nature, in this field.

Hence, the nine countries of the Community must, without further delay, prepare to respond to these initiatives. They must do this in the spirit of their declaration of European identity -- that is, on a Community basis -- excluding solely national responses which would only weaken the political solidarity of the Community.

Therefore, without prejudicing the principles, means, or content of such cooperation between energy consuming and producing countries which they intend to develop, the Member States of the Community should, through a decision of the Council, give a positive Community response to the United States' proposal. They should, in the same manner, decide to consult with each other and to work together prior to any formal contact with the U.S. Administration on these energy matters and to include the Commission of the European Community in these consultations and contacts. The Commission will formulate proposals defining the content, organization, and operation of this cooperation and, in particular, the dialogue that is necessary not only with producing countries but also with consumers that are developing nations.