COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

# PRESS RELEASE

9091/79 (Presse 108)

596th Council meeting

- Energy -

Brussels, 20 September 1979

President: Mr Desmond O'MALLEY,

Minister for Industry, Commerce and Energy of Ireland



The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

### Belgium:

Mr Hervé ROBINET

Minister Plenipotentiary Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

## Danmark:

Mr Arne CHRISTIANSEN

Minister for Commerce

#### Germany:

Mr Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF

Federal Minister for Economic

Affairs

#### France:

Mr André GIRAUD

Minister for Industry

#### Ireland:

Mr Desmond O'MALLEY

Minister for Industry, Commerce

and Energy

Mr Raphael BURKE

Minister of State, Department of Industry, Commerce and Energy

#### Italy:

Mr Antonio BISAGLIA

Minister for Industry, Trade and Craft Trades

#### Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador.

Permanent Representation

## Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE

Minister for Economic Affairs

### United Kingdom:

Mr David HOWELL

Secretary of State for Energy Parliamentary Under-Secretary Mr Norman LAMONT

for Energy

## Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

## ENERGY SITUATION - OIL CONSUMPTION IN 1979

On the basis of an oral report by Commissioner BRUNNER, the Council conducted an exchange of views on recent developments in the energy situation and the further outlook, both in the Community and worldwide.

The Council noted that the situation on the oil markets, which had earlier shown signs of settling down, had again become a matter of concern and reiterated the resolve of the Community and its Member States steadfastly to continue their efforts to save energy and to develop alternative energy sources.

With particular reference to oil consumption in 1979, the Council took note of progress to date in the drive to reduce demand and agreed that this action should be continued and intensified.

The Council also agreed to place the Commission proposals for further Community energy-saving measures on the agenda for a forthcoming meeting.

# DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMON TARGET FOR OIL IMPORTS

The Council held a detailed discussion on the question of the distribution of the common target for oil imports among the Member States; it evolved a number of guidelines which are to be finalized by the Permanent Representatives Committee so as to enable the Community and its Member States to express their position on the subject at the meeting to be held in Paris on 26 September 1979 by the Ministers for Energy of the countries which participated in the Tokyo Summit Conference.

# INTERNATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY GROUP

The Council adopted the Community position on the International Energy Technology Group (IETG) which the Heads of State and Government decided to set up when they met in Tokyo at the end of June 1979.

This Group's terms of reference, composition and operation will be on the agenda for the meeting in Paris on 26 September 1979.

#### REGISTRATION OF CRUDE OIL IMPORTS

The Council held a detailed discussion on the arrangements for registering imports of crude.

The Council agreed in particular that the representatives of the Community and of the Member States attending the meeting in Paris on 26 September 1979 would discuss with the other major industrialized countries which had participated in the Tokyo Summit whether an early information system should be introduced for a limited number of crude oil transactions.

#### CERTIFICATION OF PURCHASE PRICES

The Council also discussed for the first time the question of the certification of purchase prices for crude, which will also be on the agenda for the meeting in Paris on 26 September 1979.

#### DATE OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The Council agreed to hold its next meeting in Luxembourg on 9 October 1979.



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A L'ATTENTION DE MELLE BREEDVELD VIA HOTEL SIAM INTERCONT.

NOTE BIO(79)286(SUITE 2 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, DG I ET M. LECOMTE, DG VIII

ENERGY COUNCIL (ROBERT ELPHICK)

THE MINISTERS CONTINUED THEIR DISCUSSION ON THE SHARE OUT OF THE IMPORT OBLIGATION DURING LUNCH WITH THE HELP OF A REPORT FROM AN EXPERT GROUP. THIS REPORT WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER BY A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE THE PARIS MEETING. MR O MALLEY HOWEVER TOLD THE PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERWARDS THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD PUT FORWARD THE GLOBAL TOTAL IN PARIS. HOW THIS WAS DEVIDED UP WAS AN INTERNAL QUESTION. MR BRUNNER SAID HE SAW NO DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THE 472 MILLION TONS OIL IMPORT LIMITATION. THIS WOULD BE CONTINUOUSLY MONITORED HOWEVER AND IF THERE WERE SIGNS OF SLIPPAGE ADDITIONAL MEASURES WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT.

THE COUNCIL MADE FURTHER PROGRESS IN SETTING UP THE REGISTER OF OIL IMPORTS. THEY AGREED TO EXTEND THE PERIOD FOR THE REGISTER FROM JULY 1980 TO THE END OF DECEMBER 1980. MINISTERS ALSO AGREED SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE TOKYO FOLLOW-UP MEETING, THAT MEMBER STATES WILL SUPPLY IMPORT INFORMATION ON A MONTHLY BASIS. IF THE OTHERS AGREED THEY WOULD ALSO IMPLEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MORE REGULAR REPORTS OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF CRUDE OIL TRANSACTIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ON THE SPOT MARKET.

THE COUNCIL ALSO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS LIKELY THAT OIL CONSUMPTION FOR 1979 WOULD BE ABOUT 515 MILLION TONS (ABOVE THE 500 MILLION TONS LIMIT) BY THE END OF THE YEAR CONSUMPTION SHOULD BE DOWN TO ABOUT THE TARGET FIGURE ON A DAY BY DAY BASIS.

THE MINISTERS GENERALLY WELCOMED THE SETTING UP OF AN INTERNATIO-NAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY GROUP AS PROPOSED BY TOKYO WHICH WOULD EMBRACE ALL OECD COUNTRIES WHO WISH TO JOIN. A REPORT ON THE GROUP WOULD BE MADE BY MARCH OR APRIL NEXT YEAR.

ON THE PROPOSAL FOR DEMANDING CERTIFICATION OF PURCHASE PRICES, A STUDY HAD BEEN STARTED BY THE COMMISSION AND THIS WOULD BE CONTINUED.

FINALLY, THE MINISTERS AGREED TO HOLD A FURTHER SESSION OF THE COUNCIL ON 9 OCTOBER. (19HOO) REGARDS, ENZO PERLOT COMEUR

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DG VIII

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PREPARATION DU CONSEIL ENERGIE DU 20 SEPTEMBRE (R. ELPHICK)

LES MINISTRES DE L'ENERGIE SE REUNIERONT DEMAIN A PARTIR DE 10H DU MATIN POUR ETUDIER LA SITUATION ENERGETIQUE DES NEUF AVANT LE FOLLOW-UP MEETING DES 7 NATIONS QUI ONT PARTICIPE A LA REUNION AU SOMMET DES PAYS INDUSTRIALISES QUI S'EST TENUE A TOKYO EN JUIN. LE CONSEIL PEUT AUSSI TENIR COMPTE DU DEROULEMENT TRES SATISFAI-SANT, COMME L'A BEESDEJA DIT M. BRUNNER, DE LA DISCUSSION HIER AU CONSEIL M''AFFAIRS ETRANGERESM''SUR LES PROBLEMES NUCLEAIRES. COMME NOUS VOUS L'AVONS DEJA COMMUNIQUE, LE CONSEIL A EU UNE BONNE DISCUSSION SUR LA CONTROVERSE SUR LE CHAPITRE VI DU TRAITE EURATOM. IL A AUSSI ACCORDE DEUX MANDATS DEMANDE DEPUIS LONGTEMPS PAR LA COMMISSION, PERMETTANT A CELLE-CI DE PARTICIPER AUX TRA-VAUX A EVIENNE SUR UNE CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION PHY-SIQUE DES INSTALLATIONS NUCLEAIRES, ET PERMETTANT A LA COMMISSION D'OUVRIR LES NEGOCIATIONS AVEC L'AUSTERALIE EN VUE D'UN ACCORD CADRE DANS LE DOMAINE NUCLEAIRE. LES NEGOCIATIONS SUR LA CONVEN-TION SE TIENDRONT A VIENNE ENTRE LE 15 ET LE 26 OCTOBRE ET NOUS ENVISAGEONS QUE LES NEGOCIATIONS AVEC L'AUSTRALIE S'OUVRIRONT PEU APRES A CANBERRA. EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES DISCUSSIONS SUR LE CHAPITRE VI M. BRUNNER A L'INTENTERSCION D'INFORMER LA COMMISSION AUJOURD'HUI, QUE LE COMITE AD HOC, QUI DOIT AIDER LA COMMISSION A EXAMINER LES PROBLEMES SOULEVES DANS LE MEMORANDUM FRANCAIS ET LE PAPIER MEME DE LA COMMISSION, AURA SA PREMIERE REUNION SOUS LA PRESIDENCE DE M. BRUNNER ICI A BRUXELLES LE 28 SEPTEMBRE.

POUR LE CONSEIL DE DEMAIN, ON ENVISAGE UN ORDRE DU JOUR ASSEZ COURT. LES POINTS INSCRITS SONT LES SUIVANTS:

- - SITUATION ENERGETIQUE DANS LA COMMUNAUTE
- - LE REGLEMENT COMPLEMENTAIRE POUR L'ENREGISTREMENT DANS LA
- COMMUNAUTE DES IMPORTATIONS DE PETROLE BRUT
- - CONSOMMATION DE PETROLE EN 1979
- - REPARTITION ENTRE ETATS MEMBRES DE LA COMMUNAUTE DE L'OB-
- JECTIF COMMUN EN MATIERE D'IMPORTATION DE PETROLE
- - CONSTITUTION D'UN GROUPE INTERNATIONAL POUR LA TECHNOLOGIE
- DE L'ENERGIE (IETG)

ETC. ////

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SELON NOS DERNIERES ESTIMATIONS M. BRUNNER POURRAIT ANNONCER AU CONSEIL QUE L'OBJECTIF ACCEPTE PAR LES ETATS MEMBRES CONCERTION DE L'ANNEE DE LA LIMITE DE 500 MILLIONS DE TONNES. LES CHIFFRES DONT NOUS DISPOSONS MAINTENANT NOUS MONTRENT QUE MEME SI CE CHIFFRE ETAIT DEPASSE, IL SEMBLE QUE LA COMMUNAUTE POURRAIT ATTEINDRE LE NIVEAU DE CONSOMMATION DE 5% EN-DESSOUS DES PREVISIONS. MAIS IL EST CLAIR QUE LES ENGAGEMENTS PRIS PAR LA COMMISSION A STRASBOURG ET A TOKYO NE POURRONT ETRE TENUES A PLUS LONG TERME, QUE PAR LABERE MISE EN PLACE D'UN PROGRAMME RIGOUREUX D'ECONOMIE D'ENERGIE. EN CE QUI CONCERNE LA REPARTITION DES BREED OBJECTIFS D'IMPORTATION IL APPARTIENT AU CONSEIL DE LES FIXER.

NOUS VOUS RAPPELLONS QUE LORS DE LA REUNION A 7, QUI SE TIENDRA A PARIS LE 26 SEPTEMBRE, ET QUI FAIT SUITE A LA REUNION DE TOKYO, LA COMMUNAUTE SERA REPRESENTEE PAR LE PRESIDENT EN EXERCICE DU CONSEIL ET PAR M. BRUNNER POUR LA COMMISSION.

AMITIES,
MERCAMBANANAMANA
AND PERLOT COMEUR
MENN 16H00
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DG VIII

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ENERGY COUNCIL (ROBERT ELPHICK)

THE ENERGY MINISTERS OF THE COMMUNITY BEGAN THEIR MEETING IN BRUSSELS TODAY AND IMMEDIATELY GOT DOWN TO THE DIFFICULT PRO-BBLEM OF WORKING OUT HOW TO SHARE OUT THE OBLIGATION OF IMPORTING NO MORE OIL THIS YEAR THAN LAST. THE PRESIDENT, MR DESMOND O'MALLEY (IRELAND), MADE THE POINT BERBERTHARTER IT WAS IMPOR-TANT FOR THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING, CALLED IN PARIS NEXT WEDNESDAY (26 SEPTEMBER) TO FOLLOW UP THE TOKYO INDUSTRIAL SUMMIT, TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT WE HAVE AN AGREED POLICY AND WE INTEND TO MEET THIS OBLIGATION. FOR THE COMMISSION, MR BRUNNER SUGGESTED SETTING OUT SPECIFIC TARGET RANGES FOR EACH MEMBER STATE. THE TOTAL IS NOW PUT AT 472 MILLION TONBES (THE ACTUAL 1978 IMPORT FIGURE). THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE U.K. NORTH SEA OIL WHICH IS REGARDED AS DOMESTIC PRODUCTION. MR BRUNNER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMISSION'S FIGURES ARE BASED ON ECONOMIC GROWTH EXPECTATIONS AVERAGING 3.8 PERCENT. EACH PERCEDENTAGE POINT MORE OR LESS MAKES A DIFFERENCE OF BETWEEN 20/25 MILLION TONS.

AS TO THE GENERAL SITUATION, MR BRUNNER REPORTED THAT THE SUPPLY OUTLOOK WAS STILL PRECARIOUS, WITH POTENTIAL SHORTAGES AND HIGH PRICES. THE ACTUAL POSITION AS REGARDS STOCKS IN THE COMMUNITY IS HOWEVER RELATIVELY FAVOURABLE. THE COMMUNITY HAD 110 DAYS SUPPLY IN STOCK OF PRODUCTS IN GENERAL, ABOUT THE SAME AS THIS TIME LAST YEAR. EVEN FOR HEATING OIL THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT OF 90 DAYS STOCKS HAD BEEN REACHED IN ALL MEMBER STATES EXCEPT FOR LUXEMBURG. PRICES HOWEVER ARE HIGH, CRUDE AVERAGING 57% HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER.

MORE LATER

REGARDS, ENZO PERLOT COMEUR 12H45 NNNN

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