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OF THE

EUROPEAN COAL & STEEL COMMUNITY

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THE HIGH AUTHORITY

DECISIONS

DECISION No. 29/56, of September 26, 1956, amending the annex to Decision No. 22/55, concerning the establishment of price-schedules by enterprises in the Belgian coalfields.

THE HIGH AUTHORITY,

HAVING regard to Section 26,2,a of the Convention;

HAVING regard to Decision No. 22/55, of May 28, 1955 (*Official Gazette of the Community, May 31, 1955, p. 182*), concerning the establishment of price-schedules by enterprises in the Belgian coalfields, and to Decision No. 23/56, of May 30, 1956 (*Official Gazette, June 5, 1956, p. 178*), amending the annex thereto;

HAVING regard to Decision No. 4/53, of February 12, 1953 (*Official Gazette, February 12, 1953, p. 21*), concerning the conditions of publication of price-schedules and conditions of sale;

WHEREAS increases in the production costs of the Belgian collieries, which were unforeseeable at the time of the last change in the selling prices of Belgian coal, in May 1956, come into effect as from October 1, 1956;

WHEREAS these increases in costs necessitate a corresponding increase in the selling prices as from the same date;

DECIDES:

Article 1

The annex to Decision No. 22/55 shall be superseded by the annex hereto appended.

Article 2

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4,1,a of Decision No. 4/53, of February 12, 1953, concerning the conditions of publication of price-schedules and conditions of sale, the schedules established on the basis of the annex hereto shall be applicable two clear days after despatch to the High Authority.

Article 3

This decision shall come into force within the Community on October 1, 1956.

Decision No. 23/56, of May 30, 1956, shall cease to have effect as from that date.

This decision was deliberated and adopted by the High Authority at its session on September 26, 1956.

For the High Authority,

RENÉ MAYER,
President.

ANNEX TO DECISION No. 29/56

PITHEAD PRICES OF BELGIAN COAL

(in Belgian francs)

Grades	Ash content %	Water content %	Gras		$\frac{3}{4}$ gras	$\frac{1}{2}$ gras	$\frac{1}{4}$ gras	maigres
			B	A				
Volatile matter in % ¹			> 28½	20-28½	16-20	12½-16	10-12½	< 10
(sizes in mm.)								
Schlamms	20	20	440	440	440	440	440	440
Poussiers bruts								
0/2	20	3	645	645	645	645	645	645
0/5	20	3	655	655	655	655	655	655
Mixtes	20	7	640	640	640	640	640	640
Fines lavées								
0/5-0/6	10	7	—	—	—	770	770	770
2/5-2/6	10	7	—	—	—	790	790	790
4/6	10	7	—	—	—	—	860	860
0/10	10	7	790	810	805	790	790	790
Classés								
Grains								
5/10-6/12	8	6	835	835	835	890	890	890
Braisettes								
10/18-10/20	6-9	6	845	855	885	1065	—	—
12/22	6-8	5	—	—	—	1125	—	—
18/30-20/30	6-8	5	870	890	1070	—	—	—
Têtes de moineaux								
30/50	5-8	5	890	910	1110	—	—	—
Gilletins								
50/80	5-8	5	890	910	1010	—	—	—
80/120	5-8	5	850	870	—	—	—	—
Criblés								
> 80 mm.	4-7	3	850	870	960	—	—	—

¹ For guidance.

Mixtes

By “*mixtes*” shall be understood coal, other than *poussiers* and *schlamms*, having an ash content of more than 20% and less than 40%.

Corrections for ash and water content

The characteristics of *classés* > 10mm. and *criblés* are given for guidance only.

Where the ash content of the other grades is above or below the figures shown in the schedule, the prices shall be decreased or increased as follows:

fines lavées

2·5% of the price for each % of ash above or below 10% ;

grains 5/10 and 6/12

2·5% of the price for each % of ash above or below 8% ;

poussiers bruts, schlamms, mixtes

2% of the price for each % of ash above or below 20%.

Where the water content is above or below the figures shown in the schedule, the prices shall be decreased or increased at the rate of 1% of the basis price for each % of water. Excess water may, however, be offset by a corresponding reduction in the invoiced weight, or made up by “extra weight” in coal.

THE COMMON ASSEMBLY

ANNEX TO THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

QUESTIONS AND REPLIES

Question No. 34, put by M. André Armengaud, Member of the Common Assembly

(August 21, 1956)

Can the High Authority supply the following details in respect of the letter published on June 27 by its Information Service relating to wage costs, social charges and taxation and to competition in the Common Market?

(1) In the comparison on page 2 of the document in question between overall wage costs in the French and German collieries and iron and steel industries, what is the reason for using a rate of exchange different from the official rate quoted for trade-exchanges between the two countries?

(2) Did the overall wage costs develop equally in the French and German enterprises of the Community from 1954 to 1955 and from 1955 to 1956, in view of the inclusion in the German Budget of a portion of the wage increases taking place during this period?

(3) What were the original statistics from which the Information Service took its figures for labour costs in the European motor industries, which appear, at any rate so far as the French motor industry is concerned, to be very wide of the mark?

(4) Do the conclusions listed in the last paragraph of the letter of June 27, concerning competition in the Common Market, come within the jurisdiction of the High Authority's Information Service?

Reply by the High Authority

(September 21, 1956)

The High Authority can supply the following details in respect of the letter published on June 27 by its Information Service.

(1) Conversions to a common value of figures relating to different countries raise a number of very complex problems. To take only one example, in the last Report to the Council of the Republic on the situation in the Community, the rapporteur acknowledges, in connexion with comparisons of capital expenditure, "the largely conventional nature of the rates of exchange," which "does not allow of reliable comparison" between figures for different countries.¹

In the newsletter to which the Hon. member refers, the conversion rate employed to ensure comparability between wage costs for 1954 is the official rate of exchange, corrected as near as possible to allow for the incidence on the overall French economic situation of the subsidies and compensations which covered a large proportion of the trade between France and the rest of the world during the period under review.

In French francs, at the official rate of exchange, hourly wage costs in the industries of the Community were as follows in 1954:

	Germany (W)	Belgium	France	Saar	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands
Coalmines	288·11	301·78	347·—	355·62	193·41	—	279·07
Iron-ore mines	219·83	—	431·04 ¹	—	198·94	457·33	—
Iron and steel	263·16	290·56	262·38	262·17	238·97	331·22	222·—

¹ Eastern orefield.

As regards these problems as a whole, a first technical clarification of the subject has been provided by a study published in the August-September issue of the High Authority's *Informations Statistiques*.

(2) The figures used in the newsletter relate, as is explicitly mentioned, to the year 1954. They were the only ones available at the time, and had already been issued in a document placed in the hands of the members of the Common Assembly at the Ordinary Session in May 1956. Even now the results of the surveys on the collieries for 1955 are not yet available; nor are the 1956 figures for the various industries of the Community.

¹ Council of the Republic, Document No. 662, July 1956, p. 42.

It can, however, already be stated that from 1954 to 1955 overall wage costs in the other French and German Community enterprises increased as follows:

- (a) In the iron and steel industry, overall wage costs per hour worked rose from DM. 3.16 to DM. 3.48 in the German Federal Republic, *i.e.* an increase of 10%, and from Ffr. 262 to Ffr. 296 in France, *i.e.* an increase of 12%.
- (b) In the iron-ore mines, costs rose from DM. 2.64 to DM. 2.90 in Germany, *i.e.* an increase of 10%, and from Ffr. 431 to Ffr. 491 in France, *i.e.* an increase of 14%.

(3) The figures for wage costs in the motor industry were taken from a Report submitted to the Extraordinary Session of the Common Assembly in March 1956 by M. Van der Goes van Naters, Rapporteur of the Working Party set up by the Assembly in 1955.¹ This Report was discussed in detail in plenary session on March 14, 15 and 16, 1956, and the Rapporteur specifically stated during the debates that he had "merely quoted the figures published in the official O.E.E.C. Report, which French experts had helped to draw up."²

(4) The High Authority was represented, at the request of the member States, at the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee in Brussels.

It was even called upon, during the debates which took place in the Common Assembly in Brussels in March 1956, to adopt a definite position regarding the conditions for the development of the economic integration of Europe. It is, therefore, scarcely to be wondered at that before doing so it should have embarked on a careful consideration and study of the matter.

Having so considered and studied the question, it has come to the conclusion that, despite the special situation of France, the present international agreements are not such as to enable France to bring about the removal of such distortions as may now be harming the French economy. On the other hand, in a general common market, suitably organized and possessed of an authority with the power to see that it operates normally, such remedies could be found. This was precisely what was meant by the last paragraph in the newsletter of June 27.

¹ *Rapport Préliminaire sur le Développement de l'Intégration Economique de l'Europe* (Doc. No. 7, 1955-56, p. 18).

² *Débats de l'Assemblée Commune* (verbatim report of the sittings: sitting of March 16, 1956, p. 317).

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