

European Community NEWS

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COUNCIL LAUNCHES EC COMMON ENERGY POLICY

The European Community's common energy policy got underway with the Council of Ministers' adoption of a resolution setting goals for reducing EC oil dependency and stepping up nuclear energy output by 1985. The 1985 objectives include:

- reducing EC dependence on imported energy sources to between 40 and 50 per cent
- developing a 160-200 gigawatt annual nuclear energy capacity
- producing 180 million tons of oil annually and importing 420-to-540 million tons
- reducing imported oil's share of total EC energy needs to between 28 and 38 per cent
- stepping up natural gas production to 175-to-225 million tons annually, importing 95-to-115 million tons.

The Council also adopted a resolution calling for an EC action program for rationalizing EC energy use.

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER VISITS EC

Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam visited Brussels to meet with Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli, Vice President Christopher Soames, and EC development Commissioner Claude Cheysson in Brussels December 18. The talks centered on Australian uranium export and enrichment policies, EC development policy, and the up-

coming negotiations within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Both sides agreed to press for an international commodity agreement covering both prices and stockpiling, during the GATT talks.

SHARP DROP IN COMMON MARKET OIL CONSUMPTION

The European Community member states cut their oil consumption sharply during the first half of 1974, according to a Commission reply to a European Parliament question. Denmark and the Netherlands led the way with 25.7 and 22.8 per cent cuts, respectively. Belgian consumption dropped by 19.1 per cent, followed by Luxembourg (16 per cent), Germany (15.5 per cent), and Britain (9.9 per cent). France, Italy, and Ireland cut back oil use by only 6.1, 4.1, and 3.7 per cent, respectively.

COMMISSION WELCOMES FORD- GISCARD ENERGY TALKS ACCORD

The agreement reached between President Gerald R. Ford and French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing on a conference between oil producing and oil importing countries was hailed by the Commission, in a December 17 statement. The conference should be held as soon as possible and followed by intensive consultations among consuming countries, the Commission said. The Commission also welcomed the readiness of the US and EC member governments to adopt consistent and effective economic policies to fight inflation and unemployment.

COUNCIL MOVES ON MASS FIRINGS, WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Women's equality in the European Community was placed on firm footing with the EC Council of Ministers adoption of a directive for harmonizing member state application of the principle of equal pay for men and women December 18. The directive provides legal recourse for women workers in cases of discrimination. The Council also adopted a directive to strengthen and harmonize laws protecting workers in cases of mass dismissals. In other action, the Council adopted regulations for setting up a European Center for the Development of Vocational Training, and a European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

BENEFICIARIES FOR EC EMERGENCY AID CHOSEN

Seventeen developing countries will receive the first installment of direct European Community emergency aid to alleviate balance-of-payments problems due to rising prices of food and raw material imports, the Council of Ministers decided, December 3. On October 3, the Council resolved to make an initial

EC contribution of \$150 million to world rescue efforts; \$30 million was paid into the United Nations Emergency Fund. Most of the \$120 million in direct EC aid will go to India (\$50 million), Bangla Desh (\$22 million), Tanzania (\$9 million), and Kenya (\$6 million). Sri-Lanka, Mali, and Niger will each receive \$5 million. The rest will go to: Madagascar, Honduras, and Pakistan (\$3 million each); Upper Volta and Chad (\$2 million each), and Dahomey, Rwanda, Haiti, Senegal, and Somalia (\$1 million each).

NO CHANGE IN WORLD WHEAT HARVESTS EXPECTED

World wheat harvests during 1974-75 should yield between 334.4 and 343.3 million tons, roughly the same as estimated for the current marketing year (340.5 million tons). The forecasts, published by the International Wheat Council in London, show minor increases for Western Europe and North America and a slight drop in the Soviet Union. The European Community is expected to produce 43 million tons (41.3 million in 1973). American harvests should reach 50.1 million tons (46.6 million in 1973) while Soviet crops should yield 100 to 105 million tons, compared to 109.7 million tons last year.

PUBLICATION NOTICE -- The next issue of *European Community News* will be published January 10.

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