

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

P R E S S R E L E A S E

10786/82 (Presse 165)

802nd meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Brussels, 9 November 1982

President: Mr Knud ENGGAARD,
 Minister for Energy
 of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Etienne KNOOPS
State Secretary for Energy

Denmark:

Mr Knud ENGGAARD
Minister for Energy

Germany:

Mr Dieter von WURZEN
State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Evangelos KOLOUMBIS
Minister for Energy
and Natural Resources

France:

Mr Edmond HERVE
Minister responsible to the Ministry of State, Minister of Research and Energy, responsible for Energy

Ireland:

Mr Andrew O'ROURKE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA
Minister for Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr John MOORE
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy

Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

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DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

The Council held a policy debate on the Commission proposals on the granting of financial support for:

- demonstration projects relating to the exploitation of alternative energy sources, energy saving and the substitution of hydrocarbons;
- pilot industrial projects and demonstration projects relating to the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels.

These Regulations are intended to take over from the Regulations adopted in 1978 (1979 in the case of the implementing Regulations) which expire on 1 April 1983 and 1984 respectively. In formulating its new proposals, the Commission has taken account of the experience gained in implementing the original Regulations. It submitted a preliminary report on the matter in July 1981 and a report assessing the first results of the projects supported under the original Regulations. The Commission proposals are designed in particular to specify more accurately the area to receive support and to rationalize the means of action in the light of experience and make the programme more homogenous.

The Council's discussions concentrated on certain essential features of the Commission proposals, in particular:

- the task of the Advisory Committee on the Management of Demonstration projects;
- the question of possible financial support for demonstration projects to be carried out in a third country;

- role of the Council as regards the procedure in relation to the application of decisions taken by the Commission and as regards calls for tenders;
- the question of whether two Regulations as proposed by the Commission (see above) were appropriate to cover these areas;
- whether or not to include geothermal energy and ocean energy in the list of fields of application;
- the question of financing the support.

The Council proceedings allowed certain guidelines to be reached on most of the above problems; on others, it asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination in the light of today's discussions in order to prepare for a Council decision on the matter, if possible, before the end of the year.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF
INVESTMENT IN THE RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY

The Council held a policy debate on the Commission proposal on the granting of financial incentives - in the form of interest rebates - in support of certain categories of investment in the rational use of energy.

This proposal is part of a series of suggestions from the Commission designed to promote productive investment in the Community; this question will be discussed by the ECO-FIN Council on 15 November and the ECO-FIN/Social Affairs/Labour Council on 16 November.

The Council discussed more particularly the advisability of creating such a Community instrument, its nature, scope etc.

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the question in the light also of the Council's discussions on 15 and 16 November at the aforementioned meetings.

ROLE OF SOLID FUELS - CONCLUSIONS OF THE PRESIDENT

A firm political will exists in the Council to promote the role of solid fuels in the energy requirements of the Community.

With a view to creating a firm basis for a coherent Community strategy in this field, ministers will conduct a thorough discussion of this issue in the near future in order to establish terms of reference and a time scale for future work and specific actions in this area. The discussion will be prepared by a meeting of high-level officials on the basis of a paper prepared by the Commission in close consultation with the Presidency.

MAINTAINING MINIMUM STOCKS OF CRUDE OIL AND/OR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

The Council examined the Commission proposal amending Directive 68/414/EEC imposing an obligation on Member States to maintain minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum stocks.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to intensify its study of this question so that the Council could take a decision, if possible before the end of the year.

SAVINGS THROUGH THE USE OF SUBSTITUTE CRUDE-OIL FUEL COMPONENTS
IN PETROL

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council took a favourable view of the Commission proposal for a Council Directive on crude-oil savings through the use of substitute fuel components in petrol.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives to continue with a detailed examination of the technical aspects of the proposal in order to prepare a text for subsequent adoption.

ENERGY PRICES

Pending a definitive report on the matter, the Council took note of an interim report from the Commission on "The setting of energy prices: development of Community policy 1981-1982".

CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE COMMISSION COMMUNICATION
TO THE COUNCIL ON COMMUNITY NATURAL-GAS SUPPLIES

1. Natural gas will continue to play an important role in meeting Community energy needs, in diversifying the Community's energy supplies and in helping to reduce the Community's dependence on oil.
2. Very considerable efforts are in hand in the gas industry of the Member States to assure the security of natural-gas supplies. On the basis of information returned by the Member States and account being taken of the measures currently envisaged, it would be possible to deal with a major interruption in supplies (at least 25% over a period of 6 consecutive months), with the minimum of repercussions for the final consumer. The gas deficit would then be partially covered by supplementary supplies of oil. The Commission will continue to follow the evolution of the situation in consultation with the Member States.
3. The following measures will be pursued within Member States in order further to enhance the security of natural-gas supplies in the long term:
 - encouragement of indigenous production, exploration and development;
 - diversification of imports;
 - development of substitute natural gas (SNG).

4. The Commission will continue, in co-operation with Member States' representatives and assisted as necessary by experts from the gas industry, to assess the possibilities for further collaboration between the Member States; in particular, studies will be made of the adequacy of the natural gas transport systems and of the prospects for exploiting "deep gas" in the Community.

Pending the conclusions of such assessment, the Council stresses the need for the public authorities to encourage the gas companies to take adequate steps to ensure the security of natural-gas supplies.

The Member States' representatives and the Commission will consult each other on an ad hoc basis in the event of a major interruption in supplies.

HEAT GENERATORS FOR SPACE HEATING AND THE PRODUCTION OF HOT WATER IN NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

The Council recorded its agreement on an amendment to Directive 78/170/EEC on the performance of heat generators for space heating and the production of hot water in new or existing non-industrial buildings and on the insulation of heat and domestic hot-water distribution in new non-industrial buildings.

The original Directive requires Member States to comply with minimum performance requirements and makes provision for technical studies so that the inspection procedures may be determined.

On the basis of the technical studies carried out in the meantime to this end, the new Directive lays down inspection provisions which should guarantee that the minimum performance requirements are complied with at the stage of manufacture and at the time of installation of new generators.

The technical studies have made it possible inter alia to draft, as a minimum common basis for such inspections throughout the Community, a code of practice indicating the procedures to be followed for the on-site performance testing of a liquid or gaseous fuel fired heat generator.

OTHER DECISIONS

Butter

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- a Regulation on the sale of butter at reduced prices to persons receiving social assistance (amendment of the aid financed by the EAGGF = 80 ECU/100 kg);
- a Regulation on the granting of aid for the direct consumption of butter in 4 Member States where the market situation is characterized by very low private or public stocks, or no stocks at all, viz.: Denmark, Greece, Italy and Luxembourg. (The EAGGF aid is set at 130 ECU/100 kg for Greece and Italy and at 85 ECU/100 kg for Denmark and Luxembourg).

This latter measure was adopted in order to allow the Commission to take ad hoc steps involving a further reduction in the price of butter bought in for direct consumption for the end-of-year holidays (Christmas butter) in the other Member States where intervention stocks are available.

The quantity of butter thus subsidized under this "Christmas butter" measure is restricted to 120,000 tonnes.

Nominations

The Council adopted a Decision appointing the members and alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training for a period of three years from the date of the Council Decision:

A. Experts from the Practising profession

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate Member</u>
Belgium	Mr Wynen André	Mr Dekesel Marc
Denmark	Mr Holst E.	Mr Steensen J.P.
Germany	Mr Bechtoldt Wolfgang	Mr Bräuer Heinz-Peter
Greece	Mr N. Papakyriazis	Mr Loucas Floros
France	Mr Pouyaud	Mr Autin
Ireland	Mr Farrelly P.A.	Mr Galvin C.
Italy	Mr Baruchello Bruno	Mr Testa Guido
Luxembourg	Mr Meisch G.	Mr Demoullin M.
Netherlands	Mr van Zeben W.	Mr van der Leeuw J.I.
United Kingdom	Mr Brearley R.	Mr Cameron James

B. Experts from the medical faculties of the universities

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate Member</u>
Belgium	Mr Castermans André	Mr Vandenhroucke Jozuë
Denmark	Mr Sørensen B.	Mr Melchior
Germany	Mr Hinrichsen Klaus	Mr Seidler Eduard
Greece	Mr Moulopoulou-Karakitsou E.	Mr Garelis E.
France	Mr Rey Jean	Mr Dorner Jean
Ireland	Mr McCormick J.C.	Mr O'Sullivan D.J.
Italy	Mr Cortesini Raffaello	Mr Filadoro Francesco
Luxembourg	Mr Dicato	Mr Betz A.
Netherlands	Mr van Faassen F.	Mr Dokter H.J.
United Kingdom	Mr Whelan R.F.	Mr Bevan P.G.

C. Experts from the competent authorities of the Member States

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate Member</u>
Belgium	Mr De Schouwer Pieter	Mrs Rombouts Yvonne
Denmark	Mr Karle H.	Mr Goldschmidt E.
Germany	Mrs Schleicher Marilene	Mr Scholz Georg
Greece	Mr Philalithis A.	Mr Sfangos K.
France	Mr Tchernia Gilbert	Mr Labrousse Pierre
Ireland	Mr Brady M.P.	Mr Walsh A.
Italy	Mr Vetere Carlo	Mr Cornetta Arturo
Luxembourg	Mr Kohl J.	Mr Heisbourg E.
Netherlands	Mr Dersjant N.J.	Mr Krul R.M.A.
United Kingdom	Mr Crisp Arthur	Mr Reid J.J.A.

Bruxelles, le 9 novembre 1982

NOTE BIO (82) 469 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL ENERGIE (W. Helin)

Si nous ne maintenons pas nos efforts en matière de diversification des sources d'énergie, d'économie d'énergie et d'utilisation rationnelle de l'énergie, nous allons échouer dans notre stratégie énergétique au niveau de la Communauté. Le Conseil doit conserver à son débat un caractère d'ensemble et ne pas se contenter de temps à autre à prendre une décision isolée.

Au fur et à mesure que le prix du pétrole se stabilise, nous assistons à un retour à l'utilisation du pétrole et du gaz, qui, il y a 18 mois encore, tous les Etats Membres condamnaient comme dangereux.

C'est la déclaration d'entrée qu'a faite le Vice-Président Davignon, mardi à l'ouverture du Conseil des Ministres des Dix, chargé de l'énergie.

Le débat a été entamé ensuite sur les projets de démonstration à co-financer par la Communauté à la fois pour économiser l'énergie et chercher de nouvelles sources énergétiques et pour mener des travaux de recherche dans les secteurs de la gazeification et la liquefaction du charbon.

Les grands points qui restent ouverts relèvent de l'enveloppe financière à inscrire au budget de la CE à ce propos de la compétence du Conseil des Ministres dans l'approbation des projets retenus et des domaines d'application (par exemple, faut-il ou non inclure des projets en matière d'énergie géothermique?).

Le débat a été interrompu au moment du déjeuner.

Celui-ci doit permettre, selon M. Davignon d'aborder de manière informelle essentiellement deux questions :

1. Les problèmes liés à la dépendance de la CE en matière énergétique;

2. le charbon. Il s'agit d'une dimension essentielle de notre stratégie énergétique au niveau de la CE qui n'a toujours pas été abordée de manière fondamentale, a dit le Vice-Président Davignon. Ajoutant qu'il fallait "sortir de cette nébuleuse communautaire" et ne plus se contenter d'aborder les questions charbonnières par le biais de dossiers ponctuels, comme l'aide à la production du charbon à coke, par exemple.

DIS

Il est trop tôt à ce stade de le dire, mais il n'est pas exclu qu'un Conseil spécial "charbon" se tienne dans un proche avenir.

Il est clair toutefois pour la Commission que toute stratégie en matière de charbon DOIT nécessairement s'inscrire dans le contexte plus large de la stratégie globale, énergétique, proposée par la Commission.

FIN DIS
A SUIVRE

Amitiés,
M. SANTARELLI COMEUR 14.00

Bruxelles, le 10 novembre 1982

Note BIO(82)469(suite 1 et fin) aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc. aux membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

CONSEIL ENERGIE DU 9 NOVEMBRE 1982 (W. Helin)

Apres de longues discussions et meme si une decision n'est pas intervenue mardi soir, des progres ont ete realises a propos des projets de demonstration. Il reste a regler d'ici a la fin de l'annee le role que jouera le Conseil dans l'application des decisions concernant les projets de demonstration et la question de l'enveloppe financiere a prevoir. En rappelant qu'a ce stade-ci 70 et non pas 90 MECU comme demande par la Commission sont prevues au budget de 1983, M. Davignon a obtenu du Conseil un engagement politique pour que la Communaute soit operationnelle au 1er janvier prochain.

En ce qui concerne la discussion sur les bonifications d'interet a accorder a certains investissements en matière d'utilisation rationnelle de l'energie, le debat sera poursuivi a l'occasion des travaux du Conseil ECO/FIN du 15 novembre. A cet occasion, en effet, les Dix auront a discuter les idees de la Commission visant a stimuler les investissements productifs dans la Communaute. Le Vice-President Davignon a mis le Conseil en garde. Si le Conseil refuse notre projet et declare que les politiques nationales suffisent nos discussions ont un interet culturel mais aucun interet economique. Nous avons fait deliberemment un choix selectif et restrictif pour eviter que notre politique debouche sur une pratique de subsides. M. Davignon a dit en substance: "Notre proposition n'a pas pour objet de rendre rentables des projets d'investissements qui ne le servent pas; elle vise simplement a eviter que l'actuelle distorsion entre les prix a court terme du pétrole et la rarefaction ineluctable de cette source d'energie a moyen terme n'aboutisse a un relachement des efforts d'investissements necessaires pour structurer la demande d'energie. Il y a, en effet, un risque important pour que la conjonction actuelle d'un climat de stagnation economique et d'une detente passagere sur les marches pétroliers, conduise a retarder des decisions d'investissement sans lesquelles la dependance energetique ne pourra pas etre reduite de facon durable. Une telle evolution conduirait a terme a de nouveaux chocs pétroliers, qui compromettraient gravement toute perspective de reprise stable de l'activite economique".

Les critiques a l'egard du projet de la Commission sont venues surtout de la RFA. Le Vice-President Davignon a souligne qu'il s'agit d'une fausse querelle. Il a rappelle en effet que la RFA a recours a des bonifications d'interet pour soutenir l'investissement. Signalons pour votre background que 730 millions de DM ont ete mis a la disposition conjointement par le Bund et les Laender en 1977-1981 pour le chauffage a distance; 1,2 milliards de DM prevus pour la periode 1981-1985; octroi de prêts bonifies pour les investissements de rationalisation et de conversion vers les combustibles solides, etc.

Conseil special charbon

Comme nous l annoncions, le Conseil a decide de consacrer une reunion speciale au role des combustibles solides dans la strategie energetique de la Communaute. Le Conseil a adopte a ce sujet la declaration suivante: "Il existe une volonte politique ferme au sein du Conseil de promouvoir le role des combustibles solides dans les besoins energetiques de la Communaute.

Afin de creer une base solide pour une strategie communautaire coherente dans ce domaine, les Ministres meneront une discussion approfondie a ce sujet dans un proche avenir, en vue d etablir le cadre de reference et le calendrier des travaux futurs et des actions specifiques dans ce domaine."

Aucune date n a ete fixee formellement mais les previsions font etat du 10 decembre.

Gaz naturel

Nous vous renvoyons a la P-63 pour l ensemble de la communication de la Commission. Les Dix ont adopte des conclusions a ce sujet dont le texte integral vous parviendra par express. On retiendra que les Dix soulignent:

"Sur la base des informations communiquees par les Etats membres, et compte tenu de mesures actuellement envisagees, il serait possible de faire face a une interruption importante des approvisionnements (au moins 25% pendant une periode de 6 mois consecutifs), avec le minimum de repercussions pour le consommateur final. Le deficit en gaz serait alors partiellement a couvrir par des fournitures supplementaires de petrole. Par ailleurs, la Commission, en cooperation avec les representants des Etats membres, assistes, le cas echeant, d experts de l industrie gaziere, continuera a evaluer les possibilites d intensification de la cooperation entre les Etats membres. En attendant les conclusions de cette evaluation, le Conseil souligne la necessite pour les pouvoirs publics d encourager les compagnies gazières à prendre les mesures adequates pour assurer la securite de l approvisionnement en gaz naturel. Les representants des Etats membres et la Commission se consulteront sur une base ad hoc au cas ou une interruption importante des approvisionnements se produirait".

Stocks petroliers

Un texte soumis par la Commission Europeenne prevoit une periode de reference plus longue (trois dernieres années de consommation) pour etablir les stocks obligatoires. En substance M. Davignon a indique au Conseil que la Communaute devait donner un signal clair vis-a-vis de l exterieur. Malgre le calme apparent qui caracterise la situation du marche petrolier (le volume des stocks globaux atteindrait environ 140 jours de consommation au 1er avril prochain) il faut maintenir l effort et rester vigilants. Ce texte devrait etre formellement approuve par le Conseil avant la fin de l annee.

Amitiés,
M. Santarelli COMEUR

