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ORAL QUESTION (0-81/78)

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with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr NOE', Mr DEWULF, Mr FIORET, Mr MARTINELLI, Mr VERGEER and Mr BERSANI

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: The EEC and energy aid to the developing countries

In view of the considerable difficulty experienced by the non oil-producing developing countries in obtaining oil supplies and of the fact that world oil resources have reached a stage of depletion which will further aggravate the situation, should the Commission not accord priority in its general development cooperation policy to two kinds of aid as a medium and long-term solution to this situation:

1. Systematic encouragement of fuel exploration in the non oil-producing developing countries through joint action with the OPEC countries;
2. Exploitation of local energy resources through the utilization not only of solar energy plants but also of hydroelectric and geothermal plants where local conditions allow?

Can the Commission indicate what action has already been taken along these lines and what action it intends to take in the near future?

Does the Commission not consider energy development to be a priority issue in the context of the North-South dialogue?