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** Economic development in European countries, and particularly their industrialization, promotes the growth within the Community of LARGE CONURBATIONS, in which social, economic and technical problems are becoming increasingly widespread. This growth of urban sprawl seems unavoidable and is practically the same in every country. While solutions have been forthcoming for some of the technical problems involved (transport, telecommunications, and so on), no satisfactory way seems to have been found so far to keep cities from becoming less and less viable as places to live in. Apparently nothing short of a truly scientific approach to this complex problem, perhaps, is capable of showing us how to solve the human problems connected with urban growth, which,

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The information published in this bulletin covers the European Communities' activities in the fields of industrial development, protection of the environment and consumer welfare. It is therefore not limited to recording Commission decisions or opinions.

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in some areas, are assuming alarming proportions. This at any rate is the conclusion reached by CREST (the European Committee for Scientific and Technological Research) which has just decided to set up a special group with the task of drawing up the procedure for joint research in this field by Community countries.

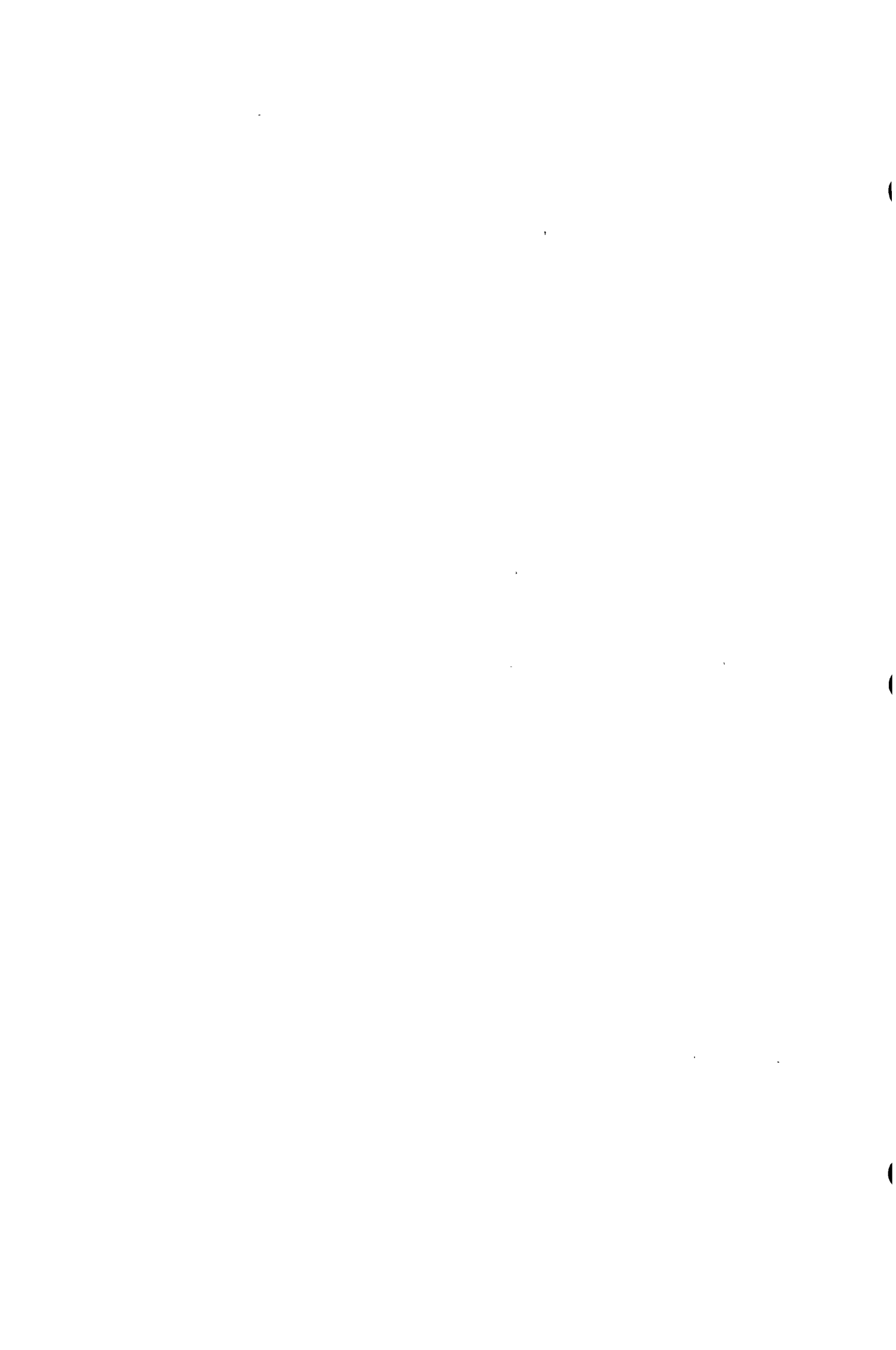
ANNEX 1 gives a brief summary of the working paper drawn up by CREST as a basis for the work of the group just set up.

**** ENERGY PRODUCTION in the Community is to be considerably increased within the next few years, and on up to the year 2000. This will raise extremely serious environmental problems unless careful attention is given to them as of now. The departments of the European Commission have therefore just issued a preliminary report on pollution problems and the harmful effects ensuing from energy production.**

ANNEX 2 contains a summary of this report.

**** ANNEX 3 gives a selection of the DIRECTIVES, of particular interest to the CONSUMER, so far adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Community, on the basis of proposals put forward by the European Commission.**

**** The energy crisis in 1973 has made the difficult economic situation in Member States of the European Community still worse. The rate of inflation is accelerating, the balance**



of payments of several Member States shows serious deterioration, and the rise in consumer prices in 1974 will be between 9 and 15%, depending on the country. This is stressed in a memorandum which the European Commission has just transmitted to the Council of Ministers of the Community on the need to change THE COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC POLICY GUIDELINES which, according to the Commission, produced very disappointing results in 1973. The prime objectives of economic policy for 1974, the Commission believes, should be to restructure the economies, so as to adapt them to changes in the external situation; to step up measures to control inflation; and to reduce the balance of payments in countries whose foreign trade position had noticeably deteriorated even before the crisis.

** On 26 and 27 March 1974 the EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND examined a number of applications for aid from the Social Fund, amounting to some 126 million u.a. (1 u.a. = US \$1 pre-devaluation). Several of these requests for aid for projects of a social or industrial nature (equivalent to about 21 million u.a.) concerned the re-training of workers leaving the agricultural sector, and the conversion of textile firms. Other applications (about 105 million u.a.) were made for the redevelopment of certain priority areas, or for developing technology and company re-grouping. The Social Fund Committee pronounced in favour of some of the applications. It is now for the European Commission to take a final decision on the aid applications as a whole.



** In order to reduce pollution, with its harmful effects, and improve the ENVIRONMENT, the departments of the European Commission are preparing the following proposals to be forwarded to the Council of Ministers of the Community during the second quarter of 1974:

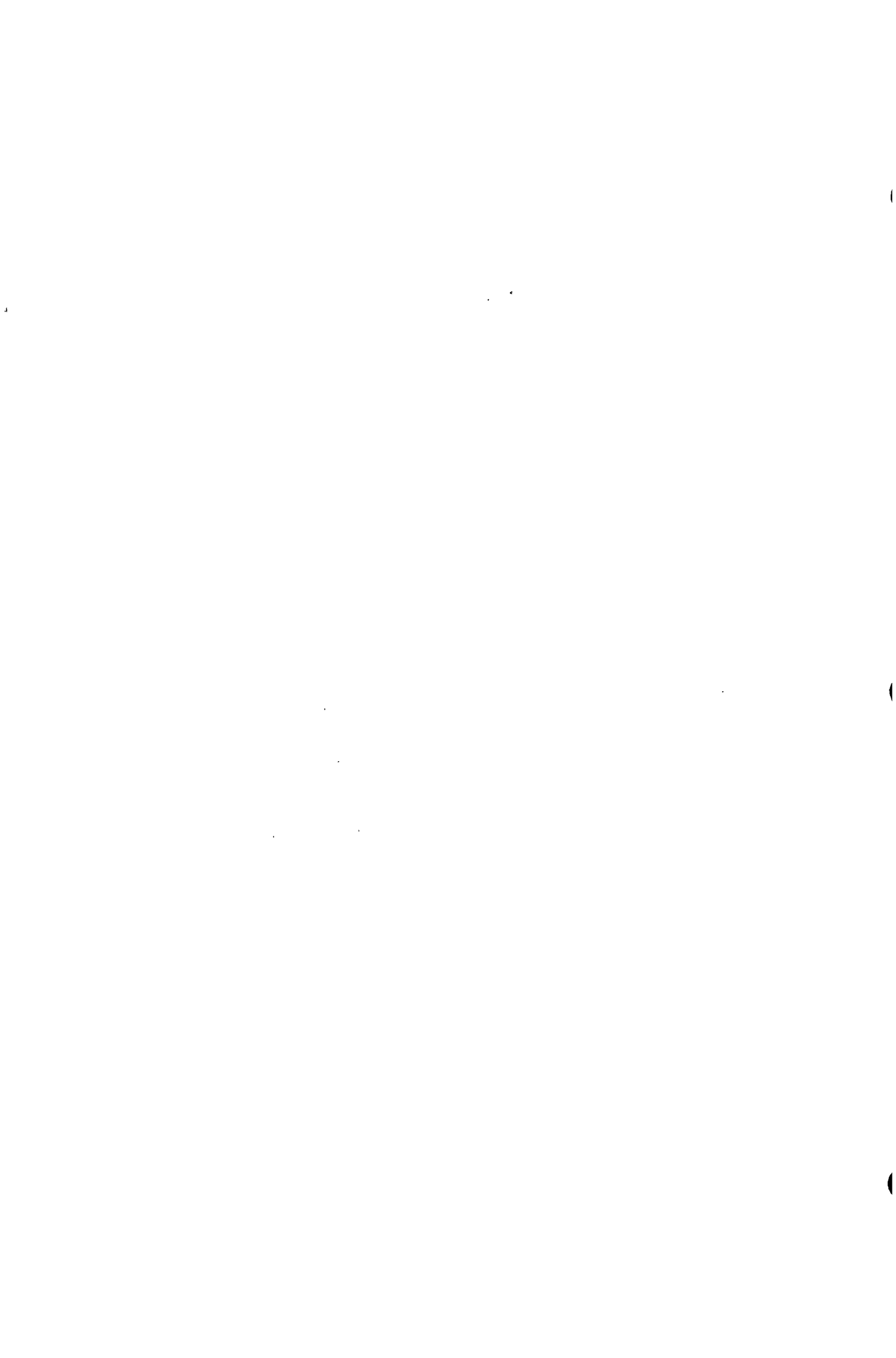
- a draft resolution on the need for environmental protection during the forthcoming Community-wide expansion in energy production;
- a report and draft resolution on pollution control measures in the paper industry;
- a basic directive on industrial waste;
- a proposal on quality targets for fresh water;
- a directive to limit the noise level of certain construction machinery, particularly pneumatic drills;
- a directive to limit the amount of lead in crockery;
- a directive concerning restrictions on the use of certain substances in paint and varnishes;
- a directive on measuring the biodegradability of non-ionic surfactants;
- a directive to limit the noise levels of mopeds and motor-cycles.



** The Economic and Social Committee has just approved in broad outline the Community action programme on CONSUMER information and protection proposed by the Commission to the Council of Ministers (see IRT No. 205). The Committee stresses however, that, this programme should re-examine the basic assumption that continued growth in production and increased consumption are expedient and desirable. The Committee also hopes that the Community will seek consumer participation in shaping medium and long-term economic development.

** On 28 and 29 March the information services of the European Commission held a meeting with some fifteen producers, responsible for TELEVISION PROGRAMMES of particular interest to CONSUMERS. The meeting was held to work out ways and means of achieving closer cooperation between producers themselves, and between them and the information services of the Commission.

** Representatives of European VOCATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRES will be meeting in Brussels from 20 to 22 May, together with representatives of departments of the European Commission. Among the items on the agenda is a discussion of the possibility of establishing a European federation of joint industrial research associations.



TOWN PLANNING: HOW CAN LIVING CONDITIONS IN CITIES BE IMPROVED?

Economic development in European countries, and particularly their industrialization, promotes the growth within the Community of large conurbations, in which social, economic and technical problems are becoming increasingly widespread. This growth of urban sprawl seems unavoidable and is practically the same in every country. While solutions have been forthcoming for some of the technical problems involved (transport, telecommunications, and so on), no satisfactory way seems to have been found so far to keep cities from becoming less and less viable as places to live in. Apparently nothing short of a scientific approach to this complex problem, perhaps, is capable of showing us how to solve the human problems connected with urban growth which, in some areas, are assuming alarming proportions. This at any rate is the conclusion reached by CREST (the European Committee for Scientific and Technological Research) which has just decided to set up a special group with the task of drawing up the procedure for joint research in this field by Community countries. A working paper, of which the following is a short summary, will serve as basis for the work of the group just set up:

Changes in the urban scene

It is a matter of common knowledge that the "transport" and "traffic" sectors play a decisive role in the planning and development of a modern town. Many towns have not been able to adjust quickly enough to the growth of motor traffic, or to take effective measures to cope with its harmful impact.

In addition to these problems, however, city development has been seen to follow the same lines in nearly every country: people tend to move to the outskirts, which means that the centres die out, and that offices, banks and large businesses establish themselves there for the most part, while the suburbs spread out, in the shape of low-cost housing estates or commuter belt villas. Again, it is in the city centres that old houses continue to exist, in most cases.

These dwellings, far from salubrious or not at all modernized, have low rentals, and their potential tenants, in the main, are either immigrants or the low-wage earners among the population.

This two-fold trend leads to the establishing of centres which are busy during the day (in the shopping areas) and deserted at night. In some cities, certain of these localities in the centre are even becoming dangerous at night, and a serious rise in the crime rate can be noted.

Exactly what causes towns to develop in this way, and centres to deteriorate is difficult to establish. Certainly property issues have accelerated the process. These include high prices for sites in town centres, encouraging office building, and property speculation, which puts pressure on people to move to the outskirts.

Finally, in some areas the problems of urban growth take a most peculiar form, and we have towns with seasonal changes in population such as mountain or seaside resorts, where the

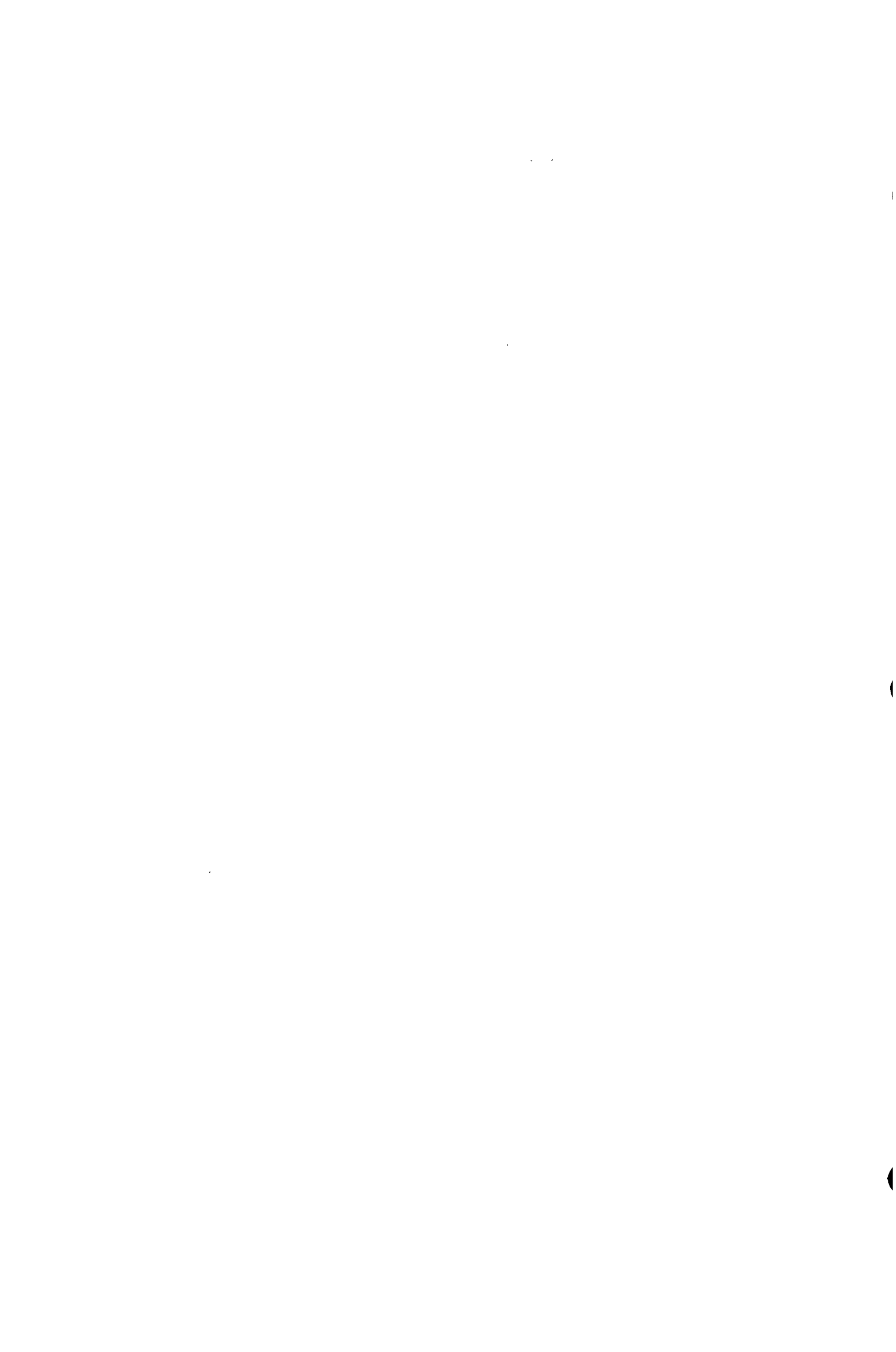
population shoots up during the tourist season.

The need for coordinated research

To appreciate the human scale of the problems now facing large cities, all the factors making for this megalopolitan type development must be brought out clearly, first of all. The point is to prevent the pernicious effects from being too drastic and to ensure that some of the errors are not repeated. Any attempt to halt urban growth in itself would seem to be pointless; the trend appears irreversible. And designing "ideal" cities is not of much help when it comes to integrating individuals into an urban environment, in a way conducive to health. It seems more desirable to acquire complete understanding of the underlying reasons as to why people should gather into formative structures which are less and less viable as places to live in. A scientific approach to these problems is therefore imperative.

Every country in the European Community faces the same kind of problem, and research is already under way at national level. Coordination of this research between the nine countries of the European Community should make it possible to achieve quicker results, in a concrete sense.

It is with this aim in view that CREST has just set up a special group with the task of establishing how such a joint research programme could be carried out. The programme would be drawn up jointly by the nine Member States of the European Community; its execution, financing and final completion would be carried out at national level; when the results could then be pooled.



ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Energy production in the Community is to be considerably increased within the next few years, and on up to the year 2000. This will raise extremely serious environmental problems unless careful attention is given to them as of now. Air pollution for instance will increase in urban and industrial areas, already the most polluted; water will become more and more polluted by discharge and waste, and the heat-up of the water may bring with it the risk of upsetting the biological and ecological balance; nuclear energy production brings us sharply up against the problem of storage for large quantities of solid radioactive wastes; choice of location for still larger plants, producing and transforming energy, will require growing care to protect the environment against water and air pollution from such installations.

This is the background against which the departments of the European Commission have drawn up a preliminary report on problems of pollution and the harmful effects ensuing from energy production. The departments are particularly concerned with the pollution caused by sulphur dioxide, solid particles, nitrogen oxide and thermal discharge since it is the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas) which constitutes the greatest source of air pollution. Among the products of combustion, sulphur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and solid particles (i.e. solid unburnt substances) are regarded as particularly harmful to the environment; they do involve health hazards, but we know little more than that at the moment: the Community and Governments of Member States must give closer study to these hazards and to how far they extend.

The European Commission is indicating the specific steps which the Community and Member States can take, as a matter of urgency, to bring each type of pollution under control as rapidly as possible.

A. Sulphur dioxide and solid particles

It is essential to:

- reduce the level of pollutants in certain areas of the Community. In this connection, a draft directive relating to the sulphur content of gas oils (see IS No. 7/74) has already been forwarded to the Council of Ministers of the Community. In addition, the Commission is preparing a directive on the use of residual fuel oils with a low sulphur content in certain areas where dioxide pollution is serious or could become so unless action is taken (areas heavily industrialized or with high density population);
- organize a more effective supply of clean fuel (natural gas or low-sulphur crude) to areas and users in most need;
- promote desulphurization and all other technological developments aimed at reducing the sulphur dioxide released into the atmosphere;
- ensure that the trend to reduce the level of solid particles continues.

B. Nitrogen oxide

A considerable increase is anticipated in the emission of these oxides, regarding which our knowledge is also extremely rudimentary. It will be advisable therefore to:

- promote research on the effects of nitrogen oxide on man and environment;
- develop suitable monitoring techniques;
- take preventive action as regards NO_x emission sources whether fixed or mobile.

C. Thermal discharge

Between now and the end of the century, it is reckoned, more than 200 new power plants will have to be installed in Community countries, and the total amount of heat thereby released into the environment could increase by a factor of at least 8, as compared with 1970. In the year 2000 according to estimates, some 50% of all energy will be used to produce electricity, as compared with 25% now.

It is essential therefore to:

- consolidate existing data and improve our knowledge of the effects of thermal discharge on the environment;
- programme the location of new plants on a European basis, by arranging for the systematic exchange of information between Member States of the Community;

- promote the large-scale use of wet cooling towers as soon as possible;
- improve the design and technology of dry cooling towers as rapidly as possible;
- utilize in every possible way the heat loss from power plants, especially nuclear plants.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: DIRECTIVES ALREADY ADOPTED
BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE COMMUNITY

On the basis of proposals put forward by the European Commission, the Council of Ministers of the Community has already adopted a number of directives which we believe to be of particular interest to consumers:

(see the Official Journal of the European Communities - OJ)

FOODSTUFFS

1. Authorized colouring matter

Approximation of legislation 23 October 1962 (OJ No 115/62)
Amendments published in OJ Nos 178/65, 263/67, L 309/68,
L 157/70

2. Authorized preservatives

(a) Approximation of legislation 5 November 1963 (OJ No 12/64)
Amendments published in OJ Nos 222/68, 233/68, L 309/68,
L 157/70, L 2/72, L 298/72

(b) Criteria of purity for authorized preservatives
26 January 1965 (OJ No 22/65)
Amendments: OJ No 148/67
Revision OJ No 126 of 12 July 1965

(c) Control measures to be used for the qualitative and
quantitative analysis of preservatives in and on fruit
Approximation of legislation 27 June 1967 (OJ No 148/67)

3. Substances having anti-oxidant effects

13 July 1970 (OJ No L 157/70)

4. Products derived from cocoa and chocolate

Approximation of legislation 27 July 1973 (OJ No 228/73)

5. Sugar:

Approximation of legislation 11 December 1973 (OJ No L 356/73)

VETERINARY DIRECTIVES

1. Animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine

25 October 1966 (OJ 192/66)

amended in OJ Nos 121/64, L 179/71, L 38/72, L 298/72, 172/73

2. Statistical surveys to be carried out by Member States on bovine livestock, on forecasts on the availability of bovine animals for slaughter and on statistics on slaughter of bovine animals

15 May 1973 (OJ No 153/73)

3. Additional surveys concerning pig production to be made by Member States

31 July 1972 (OJ No L 179/72)

additional regulations following the enlargement of the Community
19 November 1973 (OJ No 359/73)

4. Health problems affecting trade in fresh poultry
15 February 1971 (OJ No L 55/71)

5. Health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat
26 June 1964 (OJ No 121/64)
amended in OJ No 192/66 and OJ No L 256/69

6. Introduction of Community methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of feeding stuffs
20 July 1970 (OJ No L 170/70)
amended in OJ No L 171/72

7. Additives for feeding stuffs
23 November 1970 (OJ No L 270/70)
amended in OJ No 124/73

HEALTH PROTECTION

1. Pharmaceuticals
Approximation of legislation 26 January 1965 (OJ No 22/65)
amended in OJ No 144/66

2. Classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances
 - (a) Approximation of legislation 27 June 1967 (OJ No 196/67)
amended in OJ Nos L 59/70, L 74/71, 167/73
 - (b) Classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances (solvents) 4 June 1973 (OJ No 89/73)

TEXTILE PRODUCTS

1. Nomenclature of textiles

Harmonization of legislation 26 July 1971 (OJ No L 183/71)

2. Quantitative analysis of binary textile fibre mixtures

Harmonization of legislation 17 July 1972 (OJ No L 173/72)

3. Quantitative analysis of ternary fibre textile mixtures

Harmonization of legislation 26 February 1973 (OJ No 83/73)

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

Detergents

1. Detergents

Approximation of legislation 22 November 1973 (OJ No L 347/73)

2. Methods of testing the biodegradability of anionic surfactants

Approximation of legislation 22 November 1973 (OJ No L 347/73)

Crystal

Description and labelling of crystal

15 December 1969 (OJ No L 326/69)

Non-automatic weighing machines

Approximation of legislation 19 November 1973 (OJ No L 335/73)

Electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits

Harmonization of laws 19 February 1975 (OJ No 77/73)

MOTOR VEHICLES AND THEIR USE

1. Measures to be taken against air pollution by gases from positive-ignition engines of motor vehicles
Approximation of legislation 20 March 1970 (OJ No L 76/70)
2. Liquid fuel tanks and rear protective devices for motor vehicles and their trailers
Approximation of legislation 20 March 1970 (OJ No L 76/70)
3. Steering equipment for motor vehicles and their trailers
Approximation of legislation 8 June 1970 (OJ No L 153/70)
4. Type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers
Approximation of legislation 6 February 1970 (OJ No L 42/70)
5. Permissible sound level and the exhaust system of motor vehicles
Approximation of legislation 6 February 1970 (OJ No L 42/70)
6. Brakes for some categories of motor vehicles and their trailers
Approximation of legislation 26 July 1971 (OJ No L 202/71)
7. Insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles and the obligation to insure against such liability
(OJ No L 103/72)

8. Measures to be taken against air pollution by gases from positive-ignition engines of motor vehicles
(OJ No L 76/70)

9. Audible warning devices for motor vehicles
27 July 1970 (OJ No L 176/70)

10. Doors of motor vehicles
27 July 1970 (OJ No L 176/70)

11. Rear-view mirrors of motor vehicles
1 March 1971 (OJ No L 68/71)

12. Measures to be taken against the emission of pollutants from diesel engines
2 August 1972 (OJ No L 190/72)

13. Interior fittings of motor vehicles
17 December 1973 (OJ No L 38/74)

14. Devices to prevent unauthorized use of motor vehicles
17 December 1973 (OJ No L 38/74)

METHODS OF MEASURING LENGTH

Harmonization of legislation

19 November 1973 (OJ No L 335/73)

ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

Amendment to certain directives following the enlargement of the
Community

(OJ No L 326/73).

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