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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

559th Council meeting

- Energy -

Brussels, 21 December 1978

President: Otto Graf LAMSDORFF  
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs  
of the Federal Republic of Germany

1492/78 (Presse 176)



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 22 december 1978  
1492 e/78 (Presse 176) Corr. 1

C O R R I G E N D U M

to the Press Release  
1492/78 (Presse 176) of 21.XII.78

To page V, final point (modification of decision  
71/143/EEC) should be added :

"subject to a waiting reserve by the French and  
British delegations".





Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony BENN

Secretary of State for Energy

Mr Alexander EADIE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
of State,  
Department of Energy

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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ENERGY OBJECTIVES FOR 1990

The Council heard a statement by Mr BRUNNER, Member of the Commission, on the communication from the Commission concerning energy targets for 1990 and the programmes of the Member States, and

- requested the Commission to follow the development of the energy situation both on a Community scale and world wide, in close consultation with the Member States;
- took note of the Commission's intention to submit more detailed information on objectives for 1990 to the Council at the beginning of next year in the light of these consultations.

It was agreed to resume examination of this item at a subsequent meeting on energy.

ENERGY SAVINGS FROM THE MODERNIZATION OF BUILDINGS

The Council recorded its agreement on the substance of the Recommendation to the Member States on the reduction of energy requirements for buildings in the Community, the terms of which are as follows.

The Council recommends the Member States:

1. to pursue, in the context of the programmes referred to in the following paragraph, policies designed to save energy by reducing energy requirements through the improvement of the thermal efficiency of buildings.

These policies shall be decided in the context of a programme extending over at least four years, which takes account of variations in social, economic and climatic conditions. The implementation of this programme will depend upon the necessities of short-term economic management and the availability of public funds.

Member States, without prejudice to the division of responsibilities between central, federal, regional or local government, shall decide upon the categories of building to include in the programme of action, giving priority to a substantial rate of improvement of buildings under the direct control and management of public authorities and buildings in resident use.



2. to adopt the programmes described above by 31 December 1979 and to inform the Commission of them.

The Council shall periodically examine the application of this Recommendation; the first examination shall take place not later than 31 August 1980.

Examination will be based upon a report together with any necessary proposals which the Commission will send to the Council and to the European Parliament. The report will contain an analysis of the scope for cost-effective investment to reduce energy requirements for buildings in the Community and of the relative contributions of Member States' programmes to the Community's objectives, with due regard to standards of comfort.

The Commission shall organize appropriate consultations with the Member States within the context of the Energy Committee in order to:

- prepare the reports referred to in the preceding subparagraph;
- facilitate exchanges of information on matters relevant to the implementation of this Recommendation which could prove helpful to Member States in the application of their programmes.

REFINING SECTOR

The Council took note of the Commission communication on developments in the refining sector of the Community oil industry. During discussion of the problem, the Council noted that there were still numerous problems in this sector, particularly that of surplus production capacity.

It therefore requested the Commission to continue regular checks on developments in this sector.

HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION

The Council examined a report from a group of geological experts from the Member States, noted the particular importance of the Greenland project and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume examination of the Regulations necessary to carry out projects of this kind.

COAL

The Council held a wide-ranging discussion on all the Commission proposals concerning Community measures for coal, namely:

- concerning coal and coke for the Community iron and steel industry
- on Community financial measures for intra-Community trade in power station coal
- on Community financial measures to promote the use of coal for electricity generation.

The Council took as a basis for its discussion a summary document submitted by the Presidency.

The debate enabled the delegations to outline their views on this and to examine in detail the problems raised by the Commission proposals. The Council reaffirmed the important role which coal is called upon to play in the Community energy policy. The debate did not however lead to an agreement on the need and procedure for granting the Community aid proposed in its various forms.

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Community agreed in principle on two Regulations fixing the amounts of aid to be granted as Community financial aid under Regulations Nos 1303/78 and 1302/78 of 12 June 1978, as follows:

- 55 MEUA for demonstration projects in the field of energy saving;
- 95 MEUA for projects to utilize alternative energy sources, made up as follows:
  - = 50 MEUA for projects for the processing of solid fuels (gasification);
  - = 22.5 MEUA for solar energy projects;
  - = 22.5 MEUA for geothermal energy projects.

In this context the Council also agreed in principle on two implementing Regulations to Regulation No 1302/78 on geothermal energy and the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels. A consensus of opinion was noted on a third Regulation on solar energy, which means that it will be possible to take a positive decision once the European Parliament has delivered its Opinion.

However, at this juncture the United Kingdom delegation reserved its position on all of these texts; it will announce its position as soon as possible.

INFORMATION ON THE ENERGY CONSUMPTION OF DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

Subject to the completion of current Parliamentary proceedings in the United Kingdom, the Council agreed in principle on the provisions aimed at providing consumers with information, by means of labelling, on the energy consumption of domestic appliances. It should be possible to give formal approval to these texts in the near future, once a number of technical and legal points have been cleared up.

ENERGY CONSERVATION THROUGH STORAGE

The Council took note of the Commission communication stating the latter's intention of signing the Implementing Agreement negotiated within the International Energy Agency (IEA) for a programme on research and development on energy conservation through energy storage, with a view to Community participation in the Agreement.

The Council was scheduled to take a decision on an initial series of demonstration projects in the energy sector in accordance with Regulations Nos 1302/78 and 1303/78 and agreed in principle on <sup>(1)</sup>:

- 17 energy-saving projects involving an estimated amount of 5,779,137 EUA;
- 13 geothermal projects involving an estimated amount of 9,026,700 EUA;
- 16 solar energy projects involving an estimated amount of 3,251,174 EUA;
- 4 projects on the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels involving an estimated amount of 15,825,000 EUA.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The United Kingdom delegation's reservation referred to above also applies in this case.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agricultural and fisheries policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive prohibiting the placing on the market and use of plant protection products containing certain active substances.

This Directive forms part of a set of Regulations, some of them already adopted, intended both to improve farm productivity by combating harmful organisms and to protect human and animal health and the environment when such forms of action involve the use of plant protection products, particularly pesticides.

The aim of the Directive is to ban all plant protection products (pesticides, herbicides, growth regulators) containing active substances which are recognized to be harmful to health and the environment, particularly in the mercury and persistent organochlorine compound groups.

The Directive provides for a limited number of exceptions for special uses and includes a safeguard clause. It will enter into force on 1 January 1981.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 816/78 laying down additional provisions for the common organization of the market in wine;
- the Regulations laying down certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources
  - = applicable to vessels flying the flag of Spain, for the period from 1 to 31 January 1979
  - = applicable to vessels flying the flag of the Faroe Islands, Norway or Sweden for the period from 1 January to 28 February 1979
  - = applicable to vessels flying the flag of certain third countries in the 200-mile zone off the coast of the French Department of Guyane

#### Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Decision amending the unilateral import arrangements for State-trading countries
- the Regulation on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in third countries
- the Decision concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters extending the Trade Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Argentine Republic
- the Regulation on the total or partial suspension of common customs tariff duties on certain products falling within chapters 1 to 24 of the common customs tariff originating in Malta (1979)
- the two draft Regulations concerning the arrangements for the import into the Community in 1979:
  - = of Turkish textile products
  - = of certain Turkish agricultural products

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The Council gave the Commission the necessary guidelines for working out arrangements on textiles with Greece, Spain and Morocco.

With regard to the other preferential Mediterranean countries prepared to seek agreement with the Community in this area, the Council called upon the Commission to continue negotiations with the aim of concluding them by the end of the year.

#### Transport policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Recommendation on the notification of the 1978 International Convention on the Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of Seafarers;
- the Directive on pilotage in the North Sea and the English Channel;
- the Directive on the minimum requirements laid down for certain tankers entering and leaving Community ports.

Food aid and emergency aid

The Council approved the extension of the Convention with UNRWA until 30 June 1978 and the reallocation of 1,000 tonnes to Guinea Conakry under the 1977 cereals programme.

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The Council agreed on an emergency aid operation for Sri Lanka involving an amount of 26,000 EUA as a Community contribution towards the shelter construction programme for the numerous families affected by the recent cyclone.

This sum, which will be forwarded through the Catholic Relief Service, is in addition to the 25,000 EUA of relief granted by the Council on 5 September 1978.

Appointment

The Council appointed Mr Roger LOUET, Director-General with the General Secretariat of the Economic and Social Committee, as Secretary-General of the Committee.

Miscellaneous decisions

The Council approved the conclusion of the Agreement on the CIEC special action between the European Economic Community and its Member States and the AID.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending Decision 71/143/EEC introducing medium-term financial assistance machinery, on which a decision in principle was taken on 13 December 1978 (see press release 1473 (Presse 171) on that date).

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NOTE BIO(78)478 (SUITE 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, DG I ET A M. LECOMTE,  
DG VIII

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SUBJECT: ENERGY COUNCIL (■ROBERT ELPHICK)

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THE MINISTERS BEGAN WORK SHORTLY AFTER 10 UNDER THE CHAIRMAN-  
SHIP OF GRAF VON LAMBSDORFF. THE MEETING STARTED WELL WITH  
AGREEMENT WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPO-  
SAL THAT SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS OF ENERGY COULD BE MADE BY BETTER  
INSULATION OF BUILDINGS AND MORE CAREFUL REGULATION OF HEATING  
AND AIR CONDITIONING PLANTS. THE COMMISSION'S ORIGINAL SUGGESTION  
FOR A DIRECTIVE HAS COME DOWN TO A COMPROMISE RECOMMENDATION NOW  
ACCEPTED BY ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES. THIS LEAVES IT FREE TO INDI-  
VIDUAL GOVERNMENTS TO WORK OUT THEIR OWN NORMES AND STANDARDS  
AND LEVELS OF INVESTMENT. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT A REVIEW  
COMMITMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO LOOK AT ■WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING  
UNDER THIS NEW RECOMMENDATION BY AUGUST 31, 1980. SEVERAL MEMBER  
STATES HAVE ALREADY INFORMED THE COMMISSION ABOUT PROGRAMMES IN  
PROGRESS OR ENVISAGED. (12H00)

A SUIVRE  
AMITIES,  
E. PERLOT COMEUR  
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E. PERLOT







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CONNEXION AVEC ORDINATEUR, NE PAS COUPER S.V.P.  
NOTRE REFERENCE:  
149926

BRUXELLES 21.12.1978

REF NO 149926 CRE

NOTE BIO(78)478 (SUITE 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT DG I, ETA M. LECOMTE  
DG VIII

SUBJECT: ENERGY COUNCIL (ROBERT ELPHICK)

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HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL ENCOUNTERED FAMILIAR PROBLEMS IMMEDIATELY  
AFTERWARDS.

ON THE COMMISSION'S COAL PROPOSALS THE COUNCIL FELT ITSELF UN-  
ABLE TO AGREE TO THE PACKAGE AS IT STOOD IN SPITE OF APPEALS  
FROM THE CHAIR AND FROM MR. BRUNNER FOR THE COMMISSION, THAT CON-  
SIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO PROPOSALS FOR DIFFERENT WEIGHTING  
OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS. MR. BRUNNER ALSO SUGGESTED OTHER  
ENERGY ELEMENTS, SUCH AS REFINING, MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AND THAT  
THE COUNCIL OUGHT TO BE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEGATIVE EFFECT THAT  
DISAGREEMENT HERE WOULD HAVE ON THE OUTSIDE WORLD, ESPECIALLY  
IN VIEW OF THE OPEC PRICE RISE. THE PACKAGE WILL BE RECONSIDERED  
AND REWORKED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT COUNCIL.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS: ENERGY SAVING AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTER-  
----- NATIVE SOURCES.

THESE RAN INTO IMMEDIATE TROUBLE WITH THE BRITISH DELEGATION  
(MR. BENN) WHO SAID NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE ON THE SELECTION  
OF PROJECTS UNTIL THE COUNCIL HAD DECIDED HOW MUCH TO  
SPEND. MR. BENN MAINTAINED THIS POSITION IN SPITE OF APPEALS  
FROM THE CHAIR WHO POINTED OUT THAT ALL THE OTHER DELEGATIONS  
WERE IN FAVOUR OF ACCEPTING THE COMMISSION'S DECISIONS. ON PUT-  
TING A FIGURE TO THE MONEY AVAILABLE, THERE WAS CONSENSUS AROUND  
A SUM OF 150 MUCE OVER 4 YEARS (HALF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL)  
DIVIDED INTO 55 MUCE FOR ENERGY SAVING, 50 FOR COAL GASIFICATION  
AND LIQUEFACTION, AND 22.5 MUCE EACH FOR GEOTHERMAL AND SOLAR.  
ON THIS THE BRITISH DELEGATE SAID HE WOULD AN-  
NOUNCE THEIR POSITION AT OR BEFORE THE NEXT COUNCIL. THERE WERE  
BRITISH RESERVATIONS TOO ON THE IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS. ON  
SOLAR, PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL WAS STILL NEEDED. THE FOUR DEMON-  
STRATION TRANCHES WERE AGREED BUT SUBJECT AGAIN TO THE BRITISH  
RESERVATION.

LABELLING OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES: THIS PROPOSAL WAS PUT OFF  
----- FOR A TECHNICAL REPORT.

(18H00)  
(A SUIVRE)

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NOTE BIO (78) 478 (SUITE 3 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT DG I ET  
A M. OPITZ DG VIII

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SUBJECT : ENERGY COUNCIL (ROBERT ELPHICK)

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THE COUNCIL ALSO DISCUSSED THE COMMISSIONS REPORT ON REFINERIES  
AND ENDED THE MEETING SHORTLY AFTER FIVE.

SPEAKING TO JOURNALISTS AFTERWARDS MR BRUNNER SPOKE OF THE  
IMPORTANCE OF EVEN SMALL STEPS IN PUSHING FORWARD IN THE  
ENERGY FIELD. THERE HAD BEEN SOME PROGRESS ON ENERGY SAVING  
AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOURCES. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BIZARRE  
HAD THERE BEEN NOTHING FOLLOWING THE RISE IN PRICES DECREED  
BY OPEC.

HE APPEALED TO OPEC TO USE THEIR NEXT MEETING IN JUNE TO TAKE  
ANOTHER LOOK AT THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE RISE IN PRICES.  
MR BRUNNER POINTED OUT THAT THE FALL OF THE DOLLAR HAD ALREADY  
WIPED OUT SOME OF THE ADVANTAGE FROM THE PRICE RISE. HE CALLED  
ON THE OIL PRODUCERS TO LOOK FURTHER AHEAD AND TO GIVE OIL  
USERS SOME BETTER PERSPECTIVE FOR STABILITY IN PRICES UNTIL  
END 1980.

AS FOR PROSPECTS FOR THE COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY IN 1979,  
MR BRUNNER SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS IN HELPING REFINERIES  
OVERCOME OVERCAPACITIES, AS WELL AS IN  
AIDS FOR COAL. THERE OUTH ALSO TO BE DISCUSSION ON THE COMMIS-  
SION'S PROPOSALS ON NUCLEAR POLICY - THE TRILOGY COVERING RE-  
PROCESSING, FAST BREEDERS AND WASTE DISPOSAL.

18.35

END

AMITIES,

M. SANTARELLI COMEUR

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R.ELPHICK GPP B 1/16 6802 21/12/78 X X

M. SANTARELLI  
*pp R. Elphick*



Bruxelles, le 21 décembre 1978

Le Conseil confirme la décision de la Commission de soutenir des projets de démonstration: économies d'énergie et l'exploitation de nouvelles sources d'énergie

Le Conseil vient d'accepter les propositions de la Commission concernant le soutien financier d'une première série de projets de démonstration dans le domaine des économies d'énergie et de l'exploitation de nouvelles sources d'énergie - géothermie, gazéification et liquéfaction du charbon et énergie solaire.

M. Guido Brunner, Commissaire responsable pour l'énergie s'est félicité de cette décision: "C'est un premier pas vers une solidarité véritable entre nos pays Membres en matière d'énergie. Par ces moyens la Communauté entreprend une activité supplémentaire en vue de faciliter les échanges d'expérience et d'éviter le double emploi".

Cette première série de projets est couverte par des montants déjà prévus dans les budgets de 1978 et 1979. Elle résulte d'un appel d'offres de la Commission qui a soulevé un vif intérêt chez l'industrie et les institutions.

La Commission a reçu 461 propositions - 326 pour les économies d'énergie, et 135 pour l'énergie solaire. Pour cette première tranche quelque 46 projets ont été retenus d'un montant total de presque 35 MUCE.

Vu le succès de cet appel d'offres et l'importance des projets soumis, la Commission a aussi suggéré qu'un budget régulier d'un montant assez élevé devrait être établi par le Conseil couvrant 4 ans pour les économies d'énergie et 5 ans pour les nouvelles sources d'énergie.

Parmi les projets sélectionnés se trouvent à titre d'exemple:

- Géothermie: exploration des zones profondes; exploitation de l'eau chaude pour le chauffage des bâtiments.
- Energie solaire: chauffage des installations et des maisons, exploitation du biomass.
- Charbon: Gazéification sous pression ou souterrain.
- Economies d'énergie: nouvelles méthodes de construction et d'isolation des maisons, récupération d'énergie par pompe à chaleur pour machines à laver à vaisselle pour collectivités.

