

[REDACTED]

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

7274/84 (Presse 88)

929th meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Brussels, 22 May 1984

President: Mr Jean AUROUX,  
State Secretary  
responsible to the  
Minister for Industry and Research,  
responsible for Energy,  
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS  
Minister for Economic Affairs  
Mr Etienne KNOOPS  
State Secretary for Energy

Denmark:

Mr Knud ENNGAARD  
Minister for Energy

Germany:

Mr Ulrich ENGELMANN  
Director-General  
Federal Ministry of Economic  
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Evangelos KOULOUMBIS  
Minister for Energy  
and Natural Resources

France:

Mr Jean AUROUX  
State Secretary responsible to  
the Minister for Industry and  
Research, responsible for  
Energy

Ireland:

Mr Dick SPRING  
Tanaiste (Deputy Prime Minister)  
and Minister for Energy

Italy:

Mr Nicola SANESE  
State Secretary  
Ministry of Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH  
Minister of State  
Department of Energy

Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON  
Vice-President

MEMBER STATES' ENERGY POLICIES

The Council held a wide-ranging policy debate on the two Commission communications dealing with, firstly, Progress in Structural Change: the Main Findings of the Commission's Review of Member States' Energy Policies, and, secondly, the Review of Member States' Energy Policies. Following this debate, the Council approved the following conclusions:

In view of its previous discussions and the communication approved by it on 4.11.1983, the Council reaffirmed the importance of the common objectives of independence in energy for the Community, recognized the decisive role of a regular review by the Commission of national policies and of the progress each Member State had made towards the common objectives and:

- took note of the important communications from the Commission to the Council on progress in structural change and the review of Member States' energy policies;
- noted that substantial progress had already been achieved.

In the light of the Member States' assessments and the questions raised, the Council

- gave COREPER the task of continuing its examination of the communications including:
  - . in-depth examination of national energy policies, to see the extent to which these policies were making a harmonized and balanced contribution to the common objectives;

- . the conclusions to be drawn at Community level regarding the areas for concern and the priorities for action;
- . consideration of new common guidelines for 1995.

COMPARISON OF ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAMMES OF THE MEMBER STATES

The Council held a discussion on the Commission communication on comparison of energy saving programmes of EEC Member States, following which it drew the following conclusions:

THE COUNCIL

- took note of the Commission report prepared in accordance with the Council Resolution of 9 June 1980 (OJ No C 149, p. 3);
- noted with satisfaction the progress already made in all the Member States;
- stressed the importance of the principle of true prices and the importance of market forces for an effective energy-saving policy, while taking into consideration the individual economic and social development characteristics of the various Member States;
- emphasized the need for the Member States to continue to develop integrated energy-saving policies comprising inter alia, in the light of particular circumstances, regulations, financial incentives and information and consultation programmes;

- instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, in the light of the conclusions reached by the Working party on Energy meeting at senior official level, to continue examining the Commission report in close co-operation with the Commission, with a view to preparing conclusions for the Council on possibilities for reinforcing the Member States' energy-saving policies so as to attain an optimum level of action;
- requested the Commission to continue
  - = circulating widely the results obtained by national and Community demonstration programmes;
  - = studying the results obtained through energy saving in the Member States and to report back to it.

#### NATURAL GAS

The Council held a policy debate on the recent Commission communication concerning natural gas.

The discussion dealt in particular with aspects concerning the importance of gas in relation to other energy sources, co-operation between Member States in this sector, the role of the gas companies, prices, storage and network inter-connections, and the diversification and security of supplies in the gas sector.

Following the discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, in contact with the Commission, which stated that it would supplement its communication to take into account the comments made by delegations at this meeting, to continue examining this important dossier and to report back for its next meeting to enable it to work out common guidelines to be followed in the natural gas sector.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY (1983-1985)

At its meeting on 12 and 13 March, the Council gave its agreement to an overall amount of 265 MECU estimated to be necessary for Community support for demonstration projects in the energy sector for 1983 to 1985. At this meeting, it agreed to allocate this amount as follows:

- 50 MECU for the Regulation on liquefaction and gasification;
- 215 MECU for the Regulation on energy saving, alternative energy sources and the substitution of hydrocarbons.

COAL - SOCIAL ASPECTS

Having confirmed the need for social measures concerning coal at its meeting on 12 and 13 March, the Council signified its agreement to the principle of a transfer of 60 MECU entered in the Community budget for 1984 to the ECSC budget as a contribution, in the form of a Community solidarity measure, to the financing of measures to deal with the socio-economic consequences of the restructuring and modernization of the Member States' coal industry.

It was agreed that this amount would be allocated in accordance with the relevant articles of the ECSC Treaty with regard to the social measures, taking into account the cutbacks in staff in the coal industry and the amount spent by Member States on each person affected, and that the resources would be utilized when the work on this allocation had been completed.

FINANCIAL AID TO EEC INDUSTRIES PRODUCING SOLID FUEL

The Council held a further discussion on the Commission proposals concerning Community financial aid to EEC industries producing solid fuel.

The discussion revealed that more work was required on various points.

Accordingly, the Commission stated that it would re-examine certain features of its proposal to make it easier for the Council to reach a compromise solution.

At the close of the discussion, the Council confirmed its conclusions of 4 November 1983, stressing that solid fuel was an essential aspect of the Community's energy strategy, particularly for reducing its dependency on imported hydrocarbons.

It agreed to resume its discussions on this question at its next meeting (Energy), and noted that the Presidency - in contact with the Commission - would organize the Council's proceedings so as to enable it to take a decision on this dossier before the end of the year.

SITUATION IN THE GULF: STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL TO  
THE PRESS CONFERENCE

While they were considering the energy supply situation, the Ministers for Energy discussed the present situation in the Gulf and its possible implications for EEC energy supplies.

It was agreed that events required the situation to be followed closely.

During this detailed discussion it was stressed that the Community's past efforts over a number of years, in particular in the field of energy savings and control of our consumption of petroleum products, and their continuation in the future, the general market situation and the level of stocks afforded the necessary means for coping with the situation.

PROMOTION OF ENERGY INVESTMENTS

The Council noted that it was unable to take a decision on the Commission proposal on the payment of financial incentives in support of certain categories of investment in the rational use of energy.

The Council noted that the Commission would submit alternative proposals (transfers) enabling the 20 MECU appropriation entered in the 1984 budget under "Promotion of energy investments" to be used.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for wines originating in Portugal (1984/1985):

- (a) - Verde wines
  - Dão wines
- (b) - Port wines
  - Madeira wines
  - Setubal Muscatel wines.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for wines originating in Spain (1984/1985):

- Sherry
- Malaga
- Jumilla, Priorato, Rioja and Valdepeñas.

Finally, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and Norway amending the temporary arrangement on joint discipline in their trade in cheese.

ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision on certain measures to be applied, in respect of State-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, including pig iron, cast iron and high-carbon ferro-manganese.

Appointment

On proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr Arne Scheel THOMSEN, as alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training in place of Mr Jens Peter STEENSEN for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 8 November 1985.

---

Bruxelles, le 23 mai 1984

NOTE BIO (84) 189 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
c.c. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

433

-----  
CONSEIL ENERGIE (Willy HELIN)  
-----

Situation dans le Golfe  
-----

Après que le Vice-Président DAVIGNON ait eu un entretien mardi matin en tête à tête avec le Cheik YAMANI, Ministre saoudien du pétrole, les Dix ont évoqué la situation dans le Golfe arabo-persique, au cours de leur déjeuner de travail.

A l'issue du Conseil, la communication suivante a été présentée par la Présidence :

"Au cours de leur analyse de l'approvisionnement énergétique de la Communauté, les Ministres de l'Énergie ont examiné la situation actuelle dans le Golfe.

Il a été convenu que les événements commandaient qu'on les suive avec attention.

Cet échange de vue approfondi a permis de souligner que les efforts entrepris depuis plusieurs années dans la Communauté en particulier dans le domaine des économies d'énergie et de la maîtrise de notre consommation de produits pétroliers, la situation générale du marché, notamment le niveau des stocks, ainsi que diverses possibilités à la disposition des États membres offraient les moyens nécessaires pour faire face à la situation."

Volet social charbon  
-----

Les Dix ont enfin adopté le principe d'un transfert du budget général de la CE vers celui de la CECA, de 60 millions d'ECUs afin de co-financer des actions de caractère social dans le secteur charbonnier.

Ces actions, comme l'a rappelé le Vice-Président DAVIGNON avec insistance, constituent un effort supplémentaire justifié par la restructuration en cours dans ce secteur.

Les mesures envisagées concernent la retraite anticipée, le reclassement et la création d'emplois nouveaux au bénéfice des travailleurs appelés à perdre leur emploi dans les mines.

## Projets de demonstration

---

Les Dix ont également marque leur accord pour financer des projets de demonstration (c'est-a-dire des applications de travaux de R&D qui ont abouti a la phase de prototype) dans le secteur de la gazeification et de la liquefaction du charbon ainsi que de l'economie d'energie.

Une enveloppe budgetaire de 265 Mio ECUs au total (dont 215 Mio ECUs pour l'economie d'energie, a ete retenue par les Dix (1983 - 1985).

## Analyse des resultats de la strategie communautaire en

---

### matiere d'energie

---

Les Dix ont pris connaissance avec interet de l'analyse exhaustive realisee par la Commission.

Pour les details nous vous renvoyons aux notes P-13 et P-23.

FIN

Amities,  
Manuel SANTARELLI COMEUR 10.30

