



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

7467/93 (Presse 114)

1675th meeting of the Council

- ENERGY -

Luxembourg, 25 June 1993

President: Mr Jann **SJURSEN**

Minister for Energy of the
Kingdom of Denmark

25.VI.93

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

Belgium

Mr Jan DE BOCK Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark

Mr Jann SJURSEN Minister for Energy

Mr Soeren SKAFTE State Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Energy

Germany

Mr Dieter von WÜRZEN State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece

Mr Georges APOSTOLAKIS Secretary-General for Energy

Spain

Mr Claudio ARANZADI Minister for Industry and Energy

France

Mr Gérard LONGUET Minister for Energy and External Trade

Ireland

Mr Brian COWEN Minister for Energy

Italy

Mr Paolo SAVONA Minister for Industry

Luxembourg

Mr Alex BODRY Minister for Energy

Netherlands

Mr Koos ANDRIESEN Minister for Energy

Portugal

Mr Luis Filipe PEREIRA State Secretary for Energy

United Kingdom

Mr Timothy EGGAR Minister for Energy

*
* * *

Commission

Mr Abel MATUTES Member

**NUCLEAR SAFETY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FORMER
USSR - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS**

"THE COUNCIL, committed to assisting with improving the nuclear safety in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union and aware of the need for sustainable, medium and long-term solutions, to energy supply problems of those countries,

- 1. recalls the Council conclusions of 7 December 1992 on nuclear safety in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, involving measures under the Community's PHARE and TACIS programmes for immediate improvements in the safety of nuclear power plants; recalls the importance of the G-24 mechanism for the co-ordination of assistance programmes and the leading role of the Community in this area; recalls also the Community's intended contribution to the multilateral fund for nuclear safety in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union;**
- 2. notes the assistance already provided by the Community for an immediate improvement in the safety of the plants in question, as presented in the report tabled by the Commission in the Council on 23 April 1993; calls on the Commission to finalize as soon as possible the Master Plan under the PHARE and TACIS programmes referred to in that report;**
- 3. emphasizes the need to continue implementing measures under the nuclear safety aspect of the PHARE and TACIS programmes in order to provide urgently needed practical assistance to improve safety of the plants in question; calls on the Commission to streamline procedures so as to accelerate the implementation of these programmes in the context of the Master Plan by, among other means, increasing the effective use of the expertise available within the Community and in the countries in question;**
- 4. emphasizes that some of these plants are in need of substantial safety improvements and notes that some would be candidates for early decommissioning; notes in this context the**

importance of medium and long-term solutions to secure energy needs by means which reduce reliance on less safe reactors, inter alia:

- exploiting the large energy-saving potential existing in those countries;
- increasing efficiency in the energy supply sector;
- diversifying energy supply to any source ensuring appropriate safety and environmental protection;

5. invites the Commission to examine practical ways and means to implement quickly appropriate measures in this field and to submit in the framework of existing programmes proposals for concrete activities by the Community in the energy sector; the Council invites the Commission to report regularly on the practical results of these activities and points to the importance of permanent, close co-ordination between the relevant Community programmes, including activities carried out under the Thermie programme, as well as other international and national programmes;

6. urges the signatories of the European Energy Charter to conclude negotiations and implement as soon as possible the European Energy Charter Treaty and the Protocol on energy efficiency and environmental aspects of energy systems and the Protocol on principles governing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the safety of nuclear installations and on co-operation in these areas."

*
* *

In this context, the Council noted a report submitted by the Commission entitled "Community assistance to the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe and to the former USSR in the field of energy."

COMMUNITY STRATEGY TO LIMIT CO2 EMISSIONS AND TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

As part of the Community strategy to stabilize carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000 in order to combat the greenhouse effect, the Council agreed on:

- a Decision concerning the Altener programme on the promotion of renewable energy sources;
- a Directive concerning the SAVE programme for improving energy efficiency.

Both these acts will be formally adopted after the texts have been finalized.

- ALTENER PROGRAMME

The indicative objective of this programme, which is set to run for five years from 1 January 1993, is to achieve a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 180 million tonnes in 2005 through the development of renewable energy sources according to the following plan:

- increasing the contribution of renewable energy resources to the coverage of total energy demand from nearly 4% in 1991 to 8% in 2005 (to achieve this objective, the production of renewable energy sources should rise from nearly 43 Mtoe in 1991 to approximately 109 Mtoe in 2005);
- trebling the production of electricity from renewable energy sources, excluding large hydro-electric power stations (to achieve this objective, the capacity and electricity production of all power stations - excluding large hydro-electric power stations - using renewable energy sources should rise from 8GW to 25TWh in 1991 to 27GW and 80TWh (in 2005);
- securing for biofuels a market share of 5% of total fuel consumption by motor vehicles

(the production in 2005 of 11 Mtoe of biofuels is considered necessary in order to achieve this objective).

The amount of Community funds estimated as necessary for implementing the programme is ECU 40 million for the duration of the programme. This amount does not cover agricultural policy projects concerning biofuels.

Four categories of actions on renewable energy sources will be financed under the programme, namely,

- studies and technical evaluations for defining technical standards or specifications;
- measures to support the Member States' initiatives for extending or creating infrastructures concerned with renewable energy sources;
- measures to foster the creation of an information network aimed at promoting better co-ordination between national, community and international activities;
- studies, evaluations and other appropriate measures aimed at assessing the technical feasibility of the industrial exploitation of biomass for energy purposes, in particular electricity production.

The Community will bear the full cost of the actions undertaken to define technical standards or specifications, while the level of funding for the other categories of action will in general be between 30% and 50% of their total cost.

A Committee composed of representatives of the Member States will assist the Commission in implementing the programme.

- SAVE PROGRAMME

The **SAVE** programme seeks to limit carbon dioxide emissions by improving energy efficiency.

In order to attain this objective, the draft Directive provides for the establishment and implementation by the Member States of programmes in the following fields:

- energy certification of buildings;
- the billing of heating, air-conditioning and hot-water costs on the basis of actual consumption;
- third-party financing for energy efficiency investments in the public sector;
- thermal insulation of new buildings;
- regular inspection of boilers;
- energy audits of undertakings with high energy consumption.

Programmes may include economic and administrative instruments, information, education and voluntary agreements whose impact can be objectively assessed as being equivalent.

*
* * *

The Council was also briefed by the Presidency on the latest situation regarding the proposal to tax CO₂ emissions and energy.

Discussions on this proposal should continue under the next Presidency.

It should be noted that the other component in the Community strategy to prevent climate change, the monitoring mechanism for emissions of CO₂ and other gases responsible for the greenhouse effect, was formally adopted at the Council meeting on 24 June 1993.

INTERNAL ENERGY MARKET

The Council held a policy debate on the proposed Directives concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and natural gas.

At the close of the debate, the Presidency put forward the following conclusions:

"The Council

- recalled the Council conclusions of 30 November 1992 on the proposals for Council Directives concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and natural gas;
- looks forward to the results of the European Parliament's examination of the Commission proposals;
- invites the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussion, taking account of today's debate of the Council and of the new elements brought forward by the Commission and the expected modifications in the Commission proposals."

*
* *

In addition, the Commission presented orally the second progress report on the internal market in energy.

HYDROCARBON PROSPECTION, EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION

The Council held an exchange of views on the conditions for granting and using authorizations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons.

Examination of this proposal will continue in the Permanent Representatives Committee.

EUROPEAN ENERGY CHARTER

The Council was briefed by the Presidency and the Commission on the progress made in the discussions on the European Energy Charter.

The European Energy Charter was signed in the Hague on 17 December 1991. A draft Basic Agreement, now called the "Charter Treaty", has been under negotiation since September 1991 with a view to:

- introducing market concepts into current legislation in Eastern Europe, and especially the former USSR;
- encouraging the climate for investment in Eastern Europe, by western companies as well as local ones.

The last plenary negotiation meeting (25-28 May 1993) enabled participants to gain an overview of the progress which had been made in this area.

Contacts are under way to find solutions to the outstanding matters so that the next plenary meeting scheduled for 28 June to 2 July 1993 can achieve positive results.

After an exchange of views, the President said that the Council would be returning to the matter in the light of the Conference debate.

COMMUNITY RULES FOR STATE AID TO THE COAL INDUSTRY - COUNCIL GUIDELINES

Having regard to the communication by the Commission requesting Council assent concerning its draft Decision establishing Community rules for State aid to the coal industry;

Having regard to the consultation of the ECSC Consultative Committee dated 2 April 1993;

Having regard to the request for an Opinion of the European Parliament forwarded to it by the Council on 23 April 1993,

The Council reaffirms the need for a new state aid Decision for the Community's coal industry to cover the remaining period until the expiry of the ECSC Treaty in the year 2002;

The Council, although it has not yet finished its examination of the proposal and therefore is not currently able to give its formal unanimous assent, nevertheless underlines the importance of the following principles:

- the need to make further progress in the light of international market prices for coal towards economic viability of the Community's coal industry which will be attained through the reduction of production costs and capacities, in order to achieve degression of aids. Therefore Member States intending to provide aid to coal undertakings will be required to bring forward restructuring plans aiming at improving the economic viability of those undertakings. The implementation of such plans will be monitored and a review made in 1997;
- the need to take account of social and regional consequences of any restructuring of the Community's coal industry;
- the need for an increased transparency of all aid systems including budgetization or fully equivalent mechanisms;

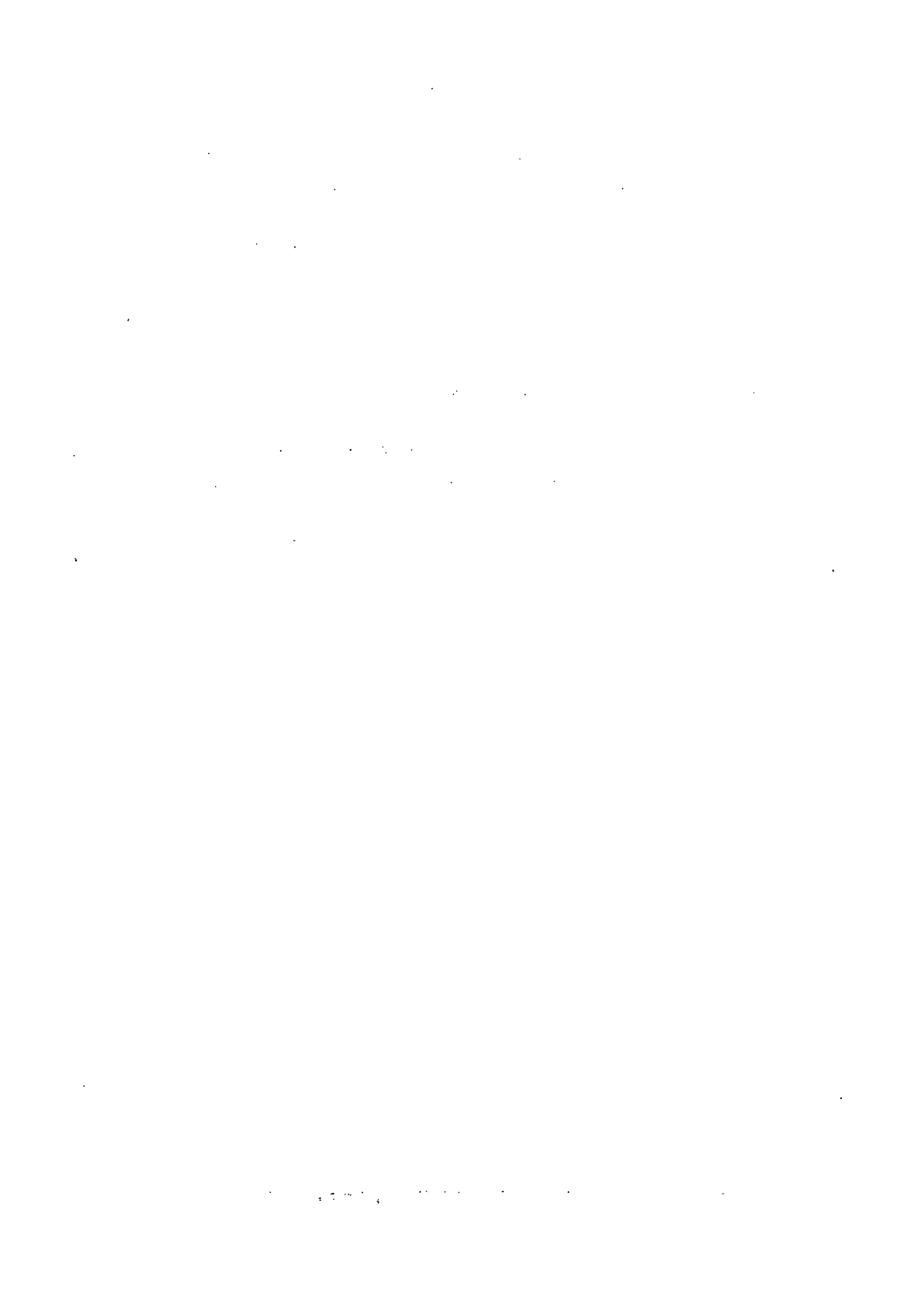
- the need to allow the Community's coal industry access to similar environmental and research and development aid as provided under the existing Community framework.

The Council recognizes the need to give its assent on the draft Commission Decision before the end of the 1993 calendar year.

* * *

The Council noted that the Commission would be submitting:

- a proposal for a Directive on energy efficiency requirements for new household refrigerators, freezers and their combinations;
- objectives for trans-European networks (energy).



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS**Import arrangements for Mediterranean products**

The Council adopted the Regulations on the opening and management of tariff quotas (1993/1994) for:

- apricot pulp originating in Turkey;
- certain agricultural products originating in Cyprus, Morocco, Israel, Tunisia, and Egypt.

Transport

The Council adopted the Regulation for an action programme in the field of transport infrastructure with a view to the completion of an integrated transport market, after agreement had been reached on it at the Transport Council on 7 and 8 June 1993 (Presse Release 7039/93 Press 94).

Until a more comprehensive set of measures on trans-European networks is adopted in the framework of the Treaty on European Union, this Regulation extends Regulation No 3359/90 for a transitional period of two years (1993/1994), and includes a number of amendments to the objectives and infrastructure projects.

Bruxelles, le 24 juin 1993.

433
no follow-up
reports

NOTE BIO (93) 168 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

CONSEIL ENERGIE (PREPARATION) (Paula FIGUEIREDO-LAISSY)

Les Ministres de l'Energie se réuniront ce vendredi 25 juin à Luxembourg à partir de 10 heures pour ce qui pourrait être considéré comme un Conseil d'étape.

A l'ordre du jour les points suivants :

- Energie et Sécurité dans les pays d'Europe Centrale et Orientale et l'ex-Union Soviétique :
La Commission fera un rapport sur l'état de la coopération en matière d'énergie non nucléaire avec les PECO.
- Limitation des émissions CO2 :
Un rapport sera fait sur l'état du dossier de la taxe CO2.
Les programmes SAVE (visant à accroître l'efficacité énergétique) et ALTENER (pour la promotion des énergies renouvelables) seront probablement adoptés puisque l'avis du Parlement Européen, qui était attendu, a été donné en mai dernier.
- Marché intérieur énergie :
Débat politique difficile à la lumière des conclusions du dernier Conseil du 30 novembre 1992. Le Commissaire aura l'occasion de parler avec les ministres, qu'il rencontre pour la première fois dans l'enceinte du Conseil. Aucune décision n'est attendue, puisque l'avis du Parlement Européen n'a pas encore été rendu.

M. Matutes fera une présentation orale du deuxième rapport d'étape sur le marché intérieur de l'énergie (le premier ayant été fait en 1990).
- Octroi et exercice des autorisations de prospecter, d'explorer et d'extraire des hydrocarbures :
La proposition de directive de la Commission reste sur la table du Conseil même si certains pays manifestent quelques réticences à avancer avec le dossier.
- Charte de l'Energie :
Rapport oral sur l'état d'avancement du dossier. Une impulsion politique a été donnée à ce dossier par les conclusions du Conseil de Copenhague qui a souligné qu'il était important de concrétiser la Charte de l'Energie.

- Charbon :

La proposition de la Commission sur le nouveau régime d'aides (présenté en novembre 1992) sera pour la première fois abordée par le Conseil énergie. On ne s'attend pas à ce que des décisions soient prises.

Amitiés,
B. Dethomas.

B D 