

# EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

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## PRESS RELEASE

### COMMON HARMONISED TARIFF FOR COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

#### Transition Period Ends

Luxembourg, February 7: On February 10, 1958, the European Coal and Steel Community marks the end of its five-year transition period by setting up a harmonised steel tariff, varying from 3-12%, for all its six countries. This is the culminating point of the progressive establishment of the Coal-Steel Common Market, forerunner and pilot plant of the general Common Market to be established by the European Economic Community. Thus, by February 10, 1958, the six Community countries will have fully established a single market for coal and steel in which Customs barriers, quota restrictions, currency restrictions, national subsidies, double-pricing, and transport discriminations are abolished.

Five years ago, on February 10, 1953, the Common Market for coal was opened and most of the barriers to trade in coal and steel between Community countries were quickly lowered. But to enable Community industries to adapt themselves to the new conditions of the Common Market, certain transition measures were allowed to remain until their abolition on February 10, 1958. These included: Italian duties on imports of coke and steel, subsidies for French coal, zone prices for certain coalmining basins, and special financial aid to the Belgian and Italian coal industries. All these special temporary measures have achieved their object, except for zone prices and the aid paid to the Belgian coal mines, both of which may have to be replaced by some other form of safeguard.

During the transition period, Community coal production has increased by 3.8% from 238.9 million metric tons in 1952 to 247.8 million metric tons in 1957, and Community steel production by 42.6% from 41.8 million metric tons in 1952 to 59.8 million metric tons in 1957. Trade in coal has increased by 21% over the same period and trade in steel by 157%. Investments planned in the steel industry increased from \$545 million in 1952 to \$793 million in 1957, while investments planned in coal increased from \$505 million in 1952 to \$620 million in 1957. Employment figures

in Community industries at the end of 1957 stood at 1,680,000 as compared with 1,600,000 in 1952. During the transition period, the High Authority has set aside \$12.6 million for readaptation of displaced labour, of which it has spent \$4.5 million on some 20,000 workers. It has set aside \$61 million for workers' housing, and by the end of the transition period 12,147 houses have been built with the aid of High Authority funds. \$7.3 million have been spent in technical and medical research projects furthered by the High Authority, and \$172 million have been made available in investment loans to Community firms.

Over the same period, the High Authority has signed special transport agreements with Austria and Switzerland, to extend to rail transport through Austrian and Swiss territory the "international through-rates" applied to coal and steel rail traffic within the Community. In addition, it has signed an Agreement of Association and a Steel Tariff Agreement with Great Britain and a Consultative Agreement with Switzerland.

The transition period laid down for the general Common Market of the European Economic Community is planned to extend for twelve to fifteen years, compared with the five-year transition period of the European Coal and Steel Community.