

R A P I D I N F O R M A T I O N

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THE HIGH AUTHORITY AND ENERGY POLICY

Statement on energy policy to the European Parliament, by the President of the High Authority of ECSC

The High Authority of ECSC is preparing a new initiative on energy policy, said Signor Del Bo, President of the High Authority at Strasbourg. And he added, "let there be not the least suspicion of a doubt on this; in taking its initiatives, the High Authority solemnly declares that it does not consider the relative importance of the states which are affected by them, but exclusively the overall interests of the Community."

In his speech during the debate of the European Parliament on energy policy, President Del Bo summarized the position as it now stood after the recent discussions in the Council of Ministers and emphasized that the High Authority was convinced of the need to continue and not to resign itself to failure. The High Authority would renew its attack, if necessary in a new form but with no change as to the essentials. It would take account of the forthcoming merger of the three executive bodies, which would make a common energy policy more than ever necessary. It would also take account of a future merger of the Communities, which would have to be accompanied by a revision of the treaties of which the clauses referring to the energy policy should be harmonized.

The High Authority would also take into consideration the imminence of the creation of the full common market at the end of the transitional period. Once complete, the common market would have to include energy.

The High Authority confirmed that it intends to take an urgent initiative, in harmony with these political phases, to commit Member states to a solution of long term energy problems, but also to meet certain immediate problems which will not be solved unless the High Authority assumes its responsibilities.

It is increasingly clear that those governments of Member states which have important coal industries have been led, either because of objective circumstances or under the pressure of serious social and regional problems, to make a series of interventions of an

increasingly national character and therefore increasingly in contradiction with both the letter and the spirit of the Treaty.

As a result it is necessary that a common energy policy should be accepted which would replace these national interventions in the frame-work of the Paris Treaty, and that the responsibility to authorise and control them should be given to the High Authority.

In conclusion, President Del Bo said that the High Authority was not yet ready to lay out in detail the initiatives which it intends to take since it still had to finalize its position and, more especially, contact the executive bodies of the two other Communities. However, the High Authority promised to inform the Parliamentary Energy Committee, or the Parliament itself, as soon as the time was right and asked for the support of the honorable members in its difficult undertaking.