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After Lomé





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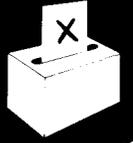
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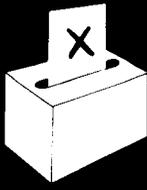


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Health Council
Budget Council
Agriculture Council
ASEAN/EEC Conference
Foreign Affairs Council
Transport Council

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November 13
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November 23-24



Forward from Bremen—EMS

Roy Jenkins at the University of Essex,
July 20, 1978

The European Community is often accused of being obsessed by detail and losing sight of the big issues. No one can say this was true of the Bremen Council with its major initiative towards stable and united money.

The construction of Europe in the fifties and sixties was born out of the radical aspirations of the people channelled by the courageous leadership of a few statesmen, as a conscious rejection of the past, of the two nearly fatal European civil wars in this century and of the political and economic nationalism out of which they sprang. This determined and imaginative thrust towards unity opened up hitherto rigid national frontiers and created a real Economic Community. It was a revolutionary framework. It underpinned the creation of Europe's new economic wealth and a hitherto undreamt-of material well-being of society. A unique historic chance was taken and turned to the benefit of Europe as a whole.

Will needed

In the late sixties and early seventies some of the momentum was lost, despite a sense of real potential. Relatively favourable economic conditions seemed to provide a soft pillow for what can now, with hindsight, be seen as a deceptively easy

surge to European integration. It established, understandably at the time, the idea that progress towards the ambitious aim of economic and monetary union would come about painlessly. But the ideas of automatic action proved illusory. We have learned from that experience. Easy times can certainly induce easy optimism, but the translation of such optimism into action needs a sustained act of political will.

There is a vital difference between the economic situation of today and the 'easy' high growth economies to which we became so used during the previous decades. The world's economic climate has changed markedly and the European Community, which more than any other major economic entity lives on international trade, is deeply affected. All our traditional economic terms of reference are under review.

The opportunity has been enhanced in the past month, first at Bremen, then at Bonn. When, at Florence in October last year, I advanced the then unfashionable view that progress towards greater economic and monetary solidarity in Europe was both necessary and possible, I at first hoped for little more than that the debate would become engaged. It was. There was support, but there was a lot of scepticism. Now, eight months later, we have a communiqué

from the European Council at Bremen whose centre-piece is an imaginative plan for greater monetary stability. Such progress was not simply a question of waiting for some German magic. There was a good deal of preparation. But to plagiarize the Chancellor of this University for a moment — a good academic custom — the vision of the desirable, through the application of the art of the possible, has now become a probable political achievement.

I will not give you a detailed explanation of the European monetary system proposed at Bremen. You will have heard enough of snakes, ECUs, narrower margins and pooled reserves. It must to most people sound like an economist's or banker's game, a sort of Euro-monopoly, entertaining for a while, but boring for too long — and unrelated to ordinary life. Some people, on the other hand, will see it as threatening: another banker's ramp, with more 'gnomes', this time of Bonn or Paris or Brussels — rather than Zurich — seeking to hamper the freedom of the British to fall behind in their own way. In this confusion of technical jargon and political prejudice the real message can get lost.

Paying our way

What is that message? It may seem an old song from former Chancellors of the Exchequer — like Lord Butler and myself — but the central British problem is still economic. Jobs, inflation, competitiveness; paying our way and earning a good standard of living. We in Britain democratically endorsed, three years ago, in an unprecedented referendum, the historical and geographical fact that our lot is cast with Europe. And Europe is an economic Community, although

inspired by a political purpose. It deals with the central issue each member country faces.

No single European state, however economically strong, now has its own salvation in its hands. Each, if it tries to believe this, is caught in a strait-jacket. Action to stimulate a national economy is undercut either by fears of a fall in the exchange rate or by dependence upon what other Governments are doing. I do not claim that greater monetary unity, the drastic reduction of exchange rate uncertainties, would automatically lead to higher employment. But I do believe that there is little hope of returning to acceptable employment levels without such greater stability.

The reasons are simple. First, monetary upheaval has been a major cause of our troubles of the past five years. A world monetary system, as we knew it for the quarter century of Bretton Woods, no longer exists. The stability of the dollar, on which the system depended, underpinned a period of growth and increase in living standards unsurpassed in recorded history. We cannot expect the United States again to carry the central burden in the same way.

Trade

Second, Britain lives by trade in a Community which also lives by trade. Not only is the European Community the largest trading bloc in the world, but 50 per cent of Community trade is inter-Community trade. And we have suffered immensely from having currency upheavals, not merely external to us as with the United States and Japan, but in our midst. The result is insufficient financial and trading stability to encourage trade flows and the productive investment necessary to reconstruct and

replace threatened industries. This is not balanced by the freedom to float our currency, which has recently been a euphemism for the freedom to sink. And that freedom has been singularly unsuccessful in giving us either higher growth or lower unemployment. It has merely given us higher inflation. Industry needs a surer prospect.

Third, the combination of more stable international environment for investment and greater financial discipline can give us a sustained prospect of mastering inflation and thus giving real value to wage and salary increases. Too often in the past a spurt of growth, without the backing of overall financial stability, has frittered away the real value of every increase in the pay packet. And this has been true under Governments of either party.

Jobs

Fourth, unless these preconditions are met, the prospect of unemployment will grow and not diminish. Demographic factors, with nine million more young people entering the European labour market over the next five years than there will be old people leaving it, threaten that. Individual national palliative action can make temporary dents in the figures. But it cannot on its own provide a longer-term solution.

I therefore believe that the results of the Summits of Bremen and Bonn should make us realize that Britain's hard-headed interest, not prospectively but actually, is with the Community. Current European monetary plans are not distant academic talk but political reality. Most of the European countries, including the most economically powerful are determined to go ahead. The launching at Bremen of the concept of a European

Monetary Fund on an unprecedented scale, with reserves of over 50 billion dollars, a quarter as much again as that which the International Monetary Fund has for the whole world, underlines this.

In the past we have shown too great a capacity in Britain for longer periods of self-deprecation, punctuated by brief bursts of unfounded optimism. There has been an apparent readiness to blame others for our difficulties — the European Community included. The result is that we may be tempted to hang back — too much and too often — when the chance is there for us to give a lead.

Opportunity

We hung back in 1950 when the Schuman Plan was launched. We did so in 1955 when we refused to play our part in moulding the Treaty of Rome. Then we complain that the results are not tailor-made for us. Surely we must have learnt enough not to make the same mistake a third time. On an optimistic note I can assure you that the United Kingdom looks better from outside than it often does from within and thus our capacity for influence and even leadership based on full participation is still considerable. There is sometimes legitimate complaint that Europe has been too much concerned with minutiae and has lost its way in a maze of detail. But that is not remotely true of the Bremen plan. We cannot at one and the same time complain that everything is either too little or too big, too nit-picking or too imaginative. I have always believed that it is the primary duty of politicians to seek to raise the sights and aspirations of those whom they represent. Now, after a period of dull and discouraging weather, there is a new and historical opportunity to exercise such qualities.



Fighting slicks

New proposals to combat oil pollution at sea

The stranding of the *Christos Bitas* off Wales, and of the *Amoco Cadiz* on the rocks of Brittany, showed that neither individual governments, nor the present array of international regulations, can be effective in preventing oil spills, or in dealing with them when they occur.

But plans for collective action by EEC governments, already formulated by the EEC Commission last year, could provide some of the remedies.

One of the first steps proposed by the EEC Commission to the Council of Ministers would be a census on a Community-wide basis of all specialist teams, vessels, equipment, chemicals, etc., available for dispersing oil slicks at sea, in shallow waters or on beaches and of the towing arrangements needed.

Scale

There were 642 oil spills around Britain's coasts last year. The press not long ago reported a near-miss for the biggest tanker disaster ever, in the Dover Straits.

Part of the problem for Britain arises from the growing number of tankers — including VLCCs (Very Large Crude Carriers) — using the English Channel and North Sea on their ways to refineries in Britain and the continent. Yet efforts by the UN Agency IMCO (the International Maritime Consultative Organization)

to oblige shipping, including tankers, to use safety lanes, have been resisted. Shippers like to hug the coastline and cut corners to save costs, and navigating can be easier close to land. Only after the *Amoco Cadiz* incident did IMCO's Committee on Maritime Safety feel able to move the shipping lanes in the Channel further away from the Brittany coast.

Moreover, even when traffic rules have been established, the countries with most at stake — in this case Britain and France, stand little chance of enforcing them. Vessels on the high seas are not obliged to disclose their whereabouts to a control centre, and are free, if they care to take the risk, to flout the regulations. Nor can they be compelled to alter course unless they are actually within territorial waters.

Only if an incident has already occurred and is causing or is liable to cause oil pollution can a threatened state take action on the high seas to prevent it, and even then it must, except in an emergency, consult the state under whose flag the ship is sailing before taking action.

No doubt it would be desirable in some ways if control over the movements of ships including tankers were to be extended beyond territorial waters out to the limits of the 200 mile economic zone claimed by each coastal state, but, as an EEC Commission study points out, a number

of countries participating in the UN Law of the Sea Conference believe that this extension could prove a hazard to freedom of navigation.

In a more restricted sphere, eight North Sea countries have agreed that all vessels using their ports should maintain agreed standards covering the minimum ages of the crew, food and accommodation, certificates of competence, and medical care.

Meanwhile, the problem of improving the aids to navigation to be carried by tankers, and of training the crews to use them has not been solved, mainly because the international agreements prescribing the requirements for installation and inspection of equipment and for the construction and stability factors have not secured the minimum number of ratifications needed to bring them into force. One of the causes of the wreck of the Amoco Cadiz, namely the lack of duplicated steering gear, would, it appears have been avoided if these protocols had been in force.

International

The Commission believes, nevertheless that there should now be simultaneous ratification by all EEC members on a Community basis of the existing international agreements concerned with oil pollution, but with reservations declared in cases where the arrangements for control and enforcement are considered to be inadequate.

The Community as such should also accede to the regional agreements already made to deal with pollution in the North Sea and Mediterranean. Furthermore, as part of a united front, all EEC members should maintain territorial sea limits at 12 miles, removing the anomaly where some still have only three.

Action

However, in addition to proposals dealing with the prevention of oil pollution, the EEC study suggests practical methods to be used for methods for speedy detection and action when dealing with oil spillages which have actually occurred either accidentally or deliberately.

At present no action can be taken against a rogue tanker until after it has discharged its oil into the sea, and then only if the oil has been noticed and its connection with the ship could be established in a court of law. Once the suspect has left the territorial waters of the polluted state, there is very little chance of getting a conviction. Prosecution remains in the hands of the flag state, and many of these have passed laws permitting only small maximum fines.

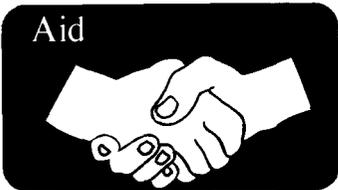
Here the EEC hopes to work through IMCO to allow the state that detects the pollution to prosecute the offender and to establish a kind of *interpol*.

The EEC study also suggests a specific programme for dealing with accidental oil pollution threatened or caused by collision, shipwreck, or as happened in the Ekofisk Field last year, a blow-out. These include a census of specialist teams, vessels, equipment and chemicals available for dispersing oil slicks.

The EEC Commission would favour tanker captains being obliged to report their positions regularly, to allow emergencies to be dealt with as speedily as possible; the Commission's view is that the captain should not be the sole judge of whether his ship needs a pilot or a tow. The Commission also calls for an increased ceiling for compensation.

Finally, the Commission proposes a wide ranging research programme.

Aid



After Lomé

A new Convention to help the Third World

Negotiations have officially opened for the renewal of the world's largest regional agreement, the Lomé Convention, linking over 500 million people in the industrialized EEC and the developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP).

The substantive talks began in September, 18 months before the present Convention expires on March 1, 1980. They are being conducted by single spokesmen for the nine EEC countries on the one hand and the 53 ACP States on the other.

The first Lomé Convention, signed in the Togolese capital on February 28, 1975, was hailed as a 'new model' for relations between industrialized and developing countries. It was based on the principles of equality and economic interdependence and had been negotiated on a regional basis. It differed substantially from its predecessor Yaoundé II not only in the number of countries covered but also in scope and quality. To the 19 mainly Francophone African members of Yaoundé were added 21 Commonwealth countries, including some from the Caribbean and Pacific, as well as six independent African States.

In 1976 there were 46 signatories to the Convention. Since then seven countries have joined. These are Surinam, Seychelles, Comoros, Djibouti, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Cape Verde, and Papua New Guinea.

New features in Lomé were the STABEX system to insure ACP commodity exporters against the impact of bad years, and Industrial Cooperation involving the creation of a Centre for Industrial Development and other measures to develop ACP industry.

Lomé was also significant for its timing. It was negotiated when the industrialized world was in the midst of an economic recession partly due to the oil crisis of October 1973. Lomé thus represented an important political as well as an economic gesture by the EEC to improve relations between developed and developing countries. Many of the ACPs were among those most seriously affected by the oil crisis. While heavily dependent on oil imports they lacked the means to pay for them. Their debts rocketed but unlike the EEC countries they failed to benefit from the re-cycling of petrodollars or the lucrative new Arab markets.

New issue

Though in force only a short time, the Lomé Convention has already proved its worth to the participating ACP states (i.e. from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific). Of the £2,000 million allotted to them by the Community under the Convention, nearly £750 million had been committed by January 30, 1978. The value of Community imports

from ACP countries also rose — by 14 per cent between 1975 and 1976, and by 26 per cent in the first eight months of 1977 compared with the corresponding period in 1976.

The Council agreed in June 1978 that the main objective of the new negotiations was to consolidate the work of the Convention but that, in the light of experience and economic circumstances, some innovations were necessary.

The most important of these concern a mechanism to ensure consultation between the Community and its ACP partners over sensitive industrial development, and the protection of foreign investment in ACP countries. While the Council discussed the question of linking human rights to aid it did not decide a formal position on this.

Consultation

In its submission to the Council the Commission pointed out that the effects of free access to the Community market were beginning to show up in the statistics, and that imports from the ACP states was growing more rapidly than from other developing countries.

If this free access is to be consolidated, it must take account in advance of the Community's own developing programme. This requires improved arrangements for consultation and coordination in industries offering the best opportunities for the ACP partners or the greatest difficulty for the Community. The Commission proposes that this form of consultation, involving employers and trade unions, should be written into the agreement for certain industries, although the ACP countries would, of course, be free to act as they wished on the outcome of the consultations.

Protection of investment

If industrial cooperation is to mean anything it requires investment in the developing countries. But, since 1961, there has been a serious deterioration in foreign investment in the Third World, particularly in the mining exploration sector. In 1961 this sector represented 57 per cent of total investment in mining exploration; between 1973-5 only 13.5 per cent.

While this reluctance to invest in mineral production hinders Third World development, it also poses a danger for the Community and the Western industrial world. It is estimated that by 1985 the Western World will depend on the developing countries for between 50-100 per cent of such vital minerals to industry as cobalt, tin, phosphates, tungsten and copper. Without investment and exploration now the minerals will not be available.

The main reason for the fall in investment lies in the political and other risks involved in the financing of long-term projects. The Commission points out that when countries became independent about 25 years ago the main fears of investors were essentially restricted to the direct risks of expropriation or serious public disorder. Since then the problems have become more varied and diffuse, and consist mainly of creeping appropriation, the imposition of unexpected additional charges, obstacles to a freely determined export policy and interference in management.

The Commission, therefore, proposes certain safeguards for investors to be incorporated into the revised Convention, which would set out the norms of good conduct both for host countries and investors and provide for non-discrimination in the

treatment of investment, equitable treatment of the investor's property, and freedom of transfer of income and capital provided investors complied with the laws of the host country and with the spirit of its development programme.

Human Rights

Though the human rights issue will not now be pushed, the Council considered the possibility of linking aid under Lomé with the human rights position in recipient countries. At a press conference in early June, M. Claude Cheysson, the Commissioner responsible for relations with developing countries, pointed out that it was impossible to ignore

European public opinion on the issue, but the Community concern here was with the dignity of man and not forms of government.

It was clear, however, that such an innovation would not be acceptable to the ACP countries. In any case it would be difficult to apply and was likely to lead to dissension.

The Council finally agreed that at the opening of the negotiations the President of the Council would reaffirm the importance Community members attached to the human rights issue, and urge discussion on it. It would be easier to decide whether to progress further after discussion had taken place.

Lomé 1975-1980

Signed: February 28, 1975, Lomé, Togo.

Entered into force: April 1, 1976.

Expires: February 28, 1980.

Members: 53 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) 280 million (46 original signatories plus Surinam, Seychelles, Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde, Papua New Guinea).

Nine EEC member States—250 million approx.

Main features

1 Trade cooperation

Free access for 99 per cent of ACP agricultural and industrial exports to EEC (only exceptions are certain farm products covered by the Common Agricultural Policy).

Non-Reciprocity: the ACPs are not obliged to make similar concessions. Instead they grant the EEC most favoured nation treatment (MFN) and do not discriminate between member States.

2 Special trade protocols

Sugar: EEC guarantees to buy 1.2 million tonnes of white sugar annually from the ACP at a price practically indexed to that of ACP producers (replaced Commonwealth Sugar Agreement with anglophone ACP producers).

Rum: Duty free tariff quota which is raised each year.

Bananas: export encouragement

3 Stabex

(System for the Stabilization of Export Earnings)

375 million ua (1 ua = approximately 66p) is available over five years to insure ACP commodity exporters against major losses in earnings due to price fluctuations or production problems, e.g. natural disasters such as drought and world economic recession.

Covers 12 products of fundamental export interest to ACPs, e.g. ground-nuts, cotton, hides and skins.

4 Industrial cooperation

A Centre for Industrial Development was set up in Brussels at the end of 1976. Its objective is twofold:

Exchange of information and contacts between EEC and ACP Industrialists.

Research into investment opportunities in ACP States.

In 1977 the Centre helped conclude 24 contracts for industrial development in ACP States worth 500 million ua and creating 1,500 jobs in the EEC and 3,000 in ACP States.

5 Financial and technical cooperation

Between the two Conventions Yaoundé II (linking 19 African and Malagasy States — mainly Francophone — with the EEC) and Lomé I, the number of signatories doubled but the amount of aid quadrupled to 3.39 billion ua. This represents 20 per cent of total aid given by the EEC and the member States to all developing countries.

Volume of aid and amount so far committed (million ua):

4th European Development Fund	Amount	Commitments To 30.1.78
Grants	2,100	821
Loans on Special Terms	430	152
Risk capital	95	38
STABEX	375	109
Total	3,000	1,120
European Investment Bank loans	390	108

In the Lomé Convention priority has been given to rural development (36 per cent of total programmed aid) followed by economic infrastructure (27 per cent), social facilities, e.g. health, education (15.5 per cent) and industrialization (12 per cent).

New features in Lomé were:

- Regional projects for which 10 per cent of EDF aid was allocated.
- Special aid for the 24 least developed ACP States.
- Special aid for small and medium sized firms.
- Micro-projects especially rural ones. 20 million ua were allocated during first two years of the Convention.

Exploring Europe

Exploring Europe is a magazine for the 16-19 age range, and is designed to help teachers concerned with the European Dimension in the curriculum. The first issue deals with the European Parliament and is aimed at the new generation of electors in Europe. All issues will be self-contained but will include ample suggestions for developing the theme. It will be an invaluable aid for teachers and students of European Studies, Geography, History, Languages, Economics, Politics and Science.*

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Waste not want not

The Community applies the proverb

In one year the European Community throws away one thousand, five hundred million tonnes of waste. This includes 90 million tonnes of household refuse, 115 million tonnes of industrial waste, 950 million tonnes of agricultural waste, 200 million tonnes of sewage sludge and 150 million tonnes of waste from the extractive industries. And this figure is on the increase, at a relentless 5 per cent per year.

Discussion of industrial and domestic waste and sewage sludge has traditionally been centred on its disposal and how to get rid of it cheaply and effectively. But the energy crisis, increasing public concern for the environment and the expense — as well as world shortage — of imported raw materials has changed all that. More attention is being concentrated on whether waste can be re-cycled either as energy, fertilizer or as a secondary raw material for re-introduction into the manufacturing process.

Value

The economic advantages of re-cycling waste are enormous. Most wastes contain substances with a potential value. Waste exchanges exist in several Community countries but only handle an average 2-5 per cent of waste in the Community. The Commission recently organized the

first meeting of waste exchanges operating in member States, to promote their activities, to organize links between them, to develop the markets for waste and to extend their sphere of influence to the entire Community. There is a great demand for waste to be used as secondary raw materials. Exploited to their full extent, waste exchanges could reduce the dependence on imported primary raw materials into the Community and thus help its balance of payments.

Action programme

In 1973 the Nine adopted an environmental action programme for the prevention, disposal and re-cycling of wastes and residues.

Priority was given to the following categories of waste: waste oils and residues containing petroleum (lubricants, etc.); waste from the manufacture of titanium dioxide (the notorious red mud of the Mediterranean); toxic and dangerous waste; bulky ferrous scrap (cars, discarded household appliances); non-biodegradable packaging for consumer products; animal waste from slaughterhouses, etc.

First steps

In July 1975, the Nine adopted a directive requiring member States to take the necessary measures to ensure that waste is disposed of without

endangering human health and without harming the environment, in particular:

- without risk to water, air, soil and plants, and animals;
- without causing a nuisance through noise or odours;
- without adversely affecting the countryside and places of special interest.

Waste oils

In June 1975, the Nine adopted the first directive on the disposal of waste oils. Member States are required to ensure the prohibition of:

- any discharge of waste oils into internal surface waters, ground water, coastal waters, and drainage systems;
- any deposit and/or discharge of waste oils harmful to the soil and any uncontrolled discharge of residues resulting from the processing of waste oils;
- any processing of waste oils causing air pollution which exceeds the level prescribed by existing provisions.

Member States are required to take the necessary measures to ensure the safe collection and disposal of waste oils and to ensure that, as far as possible, the disposal of waste oils is carried out by re-cycling.

PCBs

Following a further series of measures adopted by the Nine, the disposal of non-degradable, toxic chemicals known as 'polychlorinated biphenyls' (PCBs) is now strictly controlled. As is also the case with the waste oil directive, the directive establishes that the cost of disposing of PCB shall be borne in accordance with the 'polluter pays' principle.

Radioactive waste

The production of radioactive waste obviously continues to increase

as the nuclear industry develops. The problem of what to do with this waste, especially if it is highly radioactive with a lifetime of hundreds of thousands of years, is one which confronts every country in the world with a nuclear plant. There is a clear need to pool efforts throughout Europe, particularly as the industries which process irradiated fuel are the main producers of radioactive waste and their activities transcend national frontiers considerably.

The European Community is therefore conducting a number of projects in this field, both under contracts with various laboratories in the Community and in its own Research Centre at Ispra in Italy.

Saving energy

The Commission believes that the most effective way to halt pollution is to slow down the growth of energy production and make better use of existing resources. In December 1974, the Council set as its target a level of energy consumption by 1985 which is 15 per cent lower than the figure initially estimated by the Commission in January 1973. In May 1976 the Council adopted recommendations made by the Commission on:

- promoting thermal insulation;
- the heating systems of existing buildings;
- better driving habits;
- urban passenger transport;
- electrical household appliances.

The Commission has set up a Committee on Waste Management consisting of top-level national experts working alongside Commission experts.

The Committee has adopted two action programmes on waste paper and packaging to be carried out by the Community. The action proposed on waste paper calls upon

the Commission to come up with a number of directives, and provides for the following:

- exchange of information on the re-cycling of waste paper; coordination of re-cycling;
- encouragement of the use of re-cycled paper by the public sector, administration, etc;
- the drafting of a Commission proposal concerned with revising and reducing standards, quality criteria and other provisions which limit the use of re-cycled paper;
- an information campaign to make the public more aware of the problem;
- action on contaminants which make re-cycling difficult;
- measures to stabilize the waste paper market.

But 75-90 per cent of the 1.7 thousand million tonnes of waste arising annually in the Community is still disposed of by tipping. The materials contained in this waste, sometimes of great value, are lost to the Community's economy.

In addition to waste exchanges already operating, the French chemicals waste exchange is about to be formed. Projects are beginning in Denmark and Ireland, and in the UK there are plans for a privately organized waste exchange which could supplement the one set up by the Department of Trade and Industry or take its place at the end of its two-year trial period. Consideration is being given to organizing a European association of waste exchanges already in existence.

Consumer waste, including domestic refuse, does not fall within the scope of waste exchanges. But it has been the subject of a study done for the Commission which lists materials obtained from domestic waste which may be used as sources of energy.

A number of incinerating plants, particularly in Germany, have been burning domestic waste, and to some extent sewage sludge as well in order to produce thermal energy.

As a fuel, waste paper possesses an unusual advantage: it is completely free of sulphur. So by adding waste paper to the coal burnt in power stations it is possible to reduce the average sulphur content of the waste gases. This can be done on those days when there is a danger of smog in the vicinity of the power station. And if waste paper is regularly fed into the power station fuel supply, the gas cleaning plant can be scaled down accordingly — an important factor in the construction of new power stations. Because there are no destructive environmental effects, waste paper is burnt in power stations in the USA even when its price is higher than the cost of collecting it.

The Community's Council of Ministers has just approved a Community research programme on, among other things new ways of treating sewage sludge and using the end product to enrich agricultural land.

Quantity of Waste Per Inhabitant Per Year in Various European Cities with Waste Collection and Disposal Systems

	Kg
<i>Great Britain</i> (average values)	280
Suburban areas with numerous gardens	250
Edinburgh	210
<i>The Netherlands</i> (average values)	270
The Hague	275
Groningen	250
<i>Switzerland, Zürich</i> (for incineration only)	170
Basle	164
Lausanne	190
<i>City of Luxembourg</i>	400
<i>France, Paris</i> (1960)	290
Bordeaux	315



Coal/steel loans

The Commission recently announced low-interest (one per cent) loans totalling just over £1 million for the building and modernization of dwellings for coal and steel workers in: Meden Vale, Notts. and Blackhall, Co. Durham (£500,000); North-East England (£34,137); Boughton, North Notts. (£340,000); Sheerness, Kent (£150,000); Wales (£15,727 and £8,760); and Sheffield (just under £20,000).

Water loans

The European Investment Bank has loaned £20.6 million to the National Water Council for three water supply and drainage projects in North-East and South-West England.

Shetland's airport

The European Investment Bank has loaned £10.75 million to help cover half the cost of extending Sumburgh Airport in the Shetland Islands.

Saving it

The Commission has proposed that domestic appliances bear labels indicating their energy consumption. The plan would however be voluntary.

Dyed yolks

A European Parliamentary Question from French Socialist André Guerlin has revealed that it is now possible to incorporate into animal feedstuffs colouring matter which reproduces itself in eggs, making the yolks look yellower. The Commission answered that it knew this, and was studying suitable amendments to its draft directive on colouring-matter in foodstuffs.

Public Enterprises

The European Centre of Public Enterprises (CEEP) has just published two comprehensive reports: its 1978 Review of *Public Enterprise in the European Community* at £9, and a Report on *The Financing of Public Enterprises in the European Community* at £4. They are available through CEEP's English Section at 326 High Holborn, London WC1.

Europe and Africa

Subtitled *From association to partnership*, this study by Carol Cosgrove Twitchett analyses the Community's relations with African and other developing countries, from before Yaoundé to Lomé. As a background to the current ACP negotiations, the book is invaluable. It is published by Saxon House at £8.50.



FAST approaching

Long-term R & D forecasting team being formed

Backs

The Council has just agreed to the Commission's proposal initiating a programme of Forecasting and Assessment in the field of Science and Technology. This programme — FAST — is a follow-up to the Europe + 30 Report and is regarded as an integral and crucial part of the development of the common Research and Development (R&D) policy.

£3 million

Expenditure on the entire programme over five years has been set at nearly £3 million.

The main objective will be to define long-term Research and Development (R&D) priorities for the Community on the basis of which new Community research programmes can be planned.

In this effort, the FAST programme will concentrate on R&D in three areas:

Resources

long term supply of resources. This is an area of current and future concern and work in this field will include continuing research into the Community's future energy needs;

Change

long-term technical and structural changes. This is of interest for example in view of the current high level of unemployment and demands

for a new international division of labour;

Society

evolving social systems. This would include health care needs and in the widest sense the role of communications in the future, an area expected to be of fundamental importance to work in other areas.

Task force

A task force of six experts with support staff will be set up, within the services of the Commission, for a five year period. Their function will be to:

- make internal forecasts and assessments of the R&D fields as pertinent to the Community's long-term needs;
- contract out complementary studies to centres of excellence in the relevant fields;
- keep currently aware of on-going work elsewhere by establishing an active network of European forecasters and assessors;
- disseminate their results outside and inside the Commission.

Experiment

The FAST programme is an experimental step towards discovering the most effective way of formulating the Community's policy on science and technology. If effective, when assessed towards the end of the five years, the FAST technique could be applied in other areas of Community policy making.