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MR GUIDO BRUNNER VISITS OSLO

Mr Guido Brunner, Commission Member for energy policy, is visiting Oslo on 14 and 15 May for talks with the Norwegian Minister for Oil and Energy, Mr Bjartmar Gjerde.

This meeting is the follow-up to the Norwegian Minister's visit to the Commission in June 1978 at which it was agreed that the Norwegian Government and the Commission would hold regular meetings to discuss energy problems facing Norway and the Community.

The development of oil and gas resources in the Norwegian zone of the North Sea is of great importance to the Community.

Community companies have played an active part in developing these resources. Out of the 18 joint ventures operating in the Norwegian zone, Community companies are taking part in 12, two thirds of them.

In this zone production in 1978 amounted to 17.1 million tonnes of oil, of which 9 million tonnes were exported to the Community.

The Community countries have thus become Norway's principal partners in the development of these resources.

The agenda for the talks includes, for the Community, long-term supply and demand prospects, energy conservation policy, the development of new technologies for oil exploration and the Community's external relations with developing countries and oil-producing countries.

On the Norwegian side, the topics raised will be the production and transport of oil and gas over the Norwegian Continental Shelf and the prospects for developing these resources.