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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (*)

submitted by Mr G. SPRINGORUM, Chairman of the Committee

on behalf of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

on appropriate medium and long-term measures for the further alleviation of the energy supply crisis in the European Community

(*) Adopted unanimously with one abstention at the meeting of 24 January 1974, attended by: Mr Springorum, chairman; Mr Bousch and Mr Flämig, deputy chairman; Mr Burgbacher; Mr Covelli, Mr Delmotte (deputizing for Mr Ballardini), Mr Giraud, Mr Glesener, Mr Hougardy, Mr Jahn (deputizing for Mr Memmel), Mr Kater, Mr Krall, Mr Lagorce, M Lautenschlager, Mr Lenihan, Mr Leonardi, Mr Noë, Mr Normanton, Mr Verhaegen and Mrs Walz.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the position of principle adopted by certain supplier countries in respect of the supply of energy to the Community and the political conclusions to be drawn from this,
- 1. Notes that without an adequate supply of energy from sources which are as secure as possible, Treaty objectives, and in particular those of the European Economic Community, cannot be achieved;
- 2. Feels that the latest difficulties in the supply of the Community with hydrocarbons must lead to structural change;
- 3. Considers it necessary for the energy policy of the Community and of its Member States to be guided by the principle of ensuring adequate supplies on the most permanent basis possible rather than by that of the cheapest supplies, since the adoption of the latter attitude in the past is partly to blame for the present situation;
- 4. Is therefore convinced that the Community must henceforth speak with one voice on energy policy and urges the Member States to follow the example of the ECSC Treaty and make the Community responsible for all sources of energy by amending the Treaties;
- 5. Regards the following medium and long-term measures as examples of what can be done, but points out that the Community will have to be granted the necessary powers of coordination pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty insofar as it does not already have such powers under the Treaty;

I. Medium-term measures

- (a) Effective measures should be taken to prevent the wastage of energy, e.g. building standards should be changed to keep heat requirements as low as possible;
- (b) existing collective and, where possible, individual oil-fired heating systems should be converted to natural gas or electricity where available;
- (c) people should be convinced of the advantages of changing their habits to reduce the consumption of sources of energy which are in short supply; fiscal measures should be taken to support this objective;
- (d) existing natural-gas-fired power stations should be converted so that they can be changed over to coal in winter, while continuing to run on natural gas in summer;

- (e) personnel engaged in coal-mining should be employed in the most efficient manner; a study should be made to determine whether flexible working hours and an increase in the labour force would be possible with a view to improving production and whether such a move would be of interest to all concerned in the coal industry;
- (f) greater efforts should be made in the fields of coal gasification and liquefaction and the sale of the resulting sources of energy; the European Parliament will be delivering a separate opinion on this subject;
- (g) the construction of large nuclear-powered ships should be encouraged as far as possible;
- (h) the development and implementation of programmes for the construction of high-temperature and fast breeder reactors should be accelerated;
- (i) the network of energy transport, storage and distribution facilities should be improved with a view to saving energy; research to this end should be encouraged;
- (j) prospecting for new sources of energy in areas that appear politically safe should be speeded up by suitable technical and economic policy means;
- (k) a systematic search should be made for locations in the Community which are suitable in the light of present price trends for the construction of hydro-electric power stations of all kinds (run-of-river, pumped storage, tidal); a list of such locations should be published;
- (l) the Commission and Member States should look into the possibility of generally introducing summer time in conjunction with the division throughout the year of the Community into time zones that make it possible to save energy;
- (m) the Commission should draw up proposals on economic and financial policy measures to induce energy producers to increase supplies;
- (n) the Commission should determine what possibilities exist for the creation with appropriate financial means of an international energy research programme with the USA and Japan on the model of the COST agreement to discover coordinated alternatives to the Middle East oil which is no longer being supplied;

- (o) implementation should be backed up by a mathematical model to permit with the aid of a computer the analysis of the various possibilities for economic and civil development open to Member States on the basis of alternative sources of energy;
- (p) electricity should be generated with the aid of nuclear reactors in as large quantities as possible without harm to the environment and used in conjunction with that generated by coal-fired power plants, whose number should be increased as far as possible; at the same time and within the given limits both the construction of uranium enrichment facilities and the utilization of the waste heat occurring during the generation of electricity in nuclear power stations should be encouraged;
- (q) Common Customs Tariff rates on imported sources of energy should be flexible enough to ensure continued optimum production and sale of Community sources of energy;
- (r) the coal-mining industry in the European Community should be asked to submit to the Commission as soon as possible a long-term plan of investment, employment and production and to state what production objectives can be achieved;

II. Long-term measures

- (s) the search for new sources of energy and research into the better utilization and recovery of used energy should be given generous support so that the funds expended are at least equivalent to those invested in nuclear research;
 - (t) the transport policy should be adapted to the structural change in the energy sector; consequently, public short and long-distance transport capacities should be increased and made more attractive than hitherto; the electrification of railways should be encouraged, the necessary electricity being generated with coal and nuclear power; there should be an increase in the possibilities and attractiveness of transporting road vehicles of all kinds over long distances by rail;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

