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\*\* THE LEAD CONTENT OF ALL GRADES OF PETROL on the market in the Community will be limited to 0.4 grammes per litre from 1 January 1976. The European Commission recently approved a proposal for a Directive to this effect.

ANNEX 1 provides details.

\*\* Heads of the Community's SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FIRMS examined the choices and instruments of an industrial policy aimed at boosting the development of such firms in the Community, at the first Symposium of small and medium-sized firms, held in Brussels on 4 and 5 October and organized by the Liaison Committee for small and medium-sized industrial firms of the Community.

ANNEX 2 recapitulates the measures planned or adopted by the European Commission for the benefit of small and medium-sized firms.

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*The information and articles published in this Bulletin concern European scientific cooperation and industrial development in Europe. Hence they are not simply confined to reports on the decisions or views of the Commission of the European Communities, but cover the whole field of questions discussed in the different circles concerned.*

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\*\* ANNEX 3 gives a selection of RECENT PUBLICATIONS added to by the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities. These works may be consulted in the library (1, avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Loi Offices, 1/43) or borrowed.

\*\* The Community's SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMME (see IRT No. 201), which the Summit Conference requested be formulated by 1 January 1974, will again be discussed with the two sides of industry at a meeting to be held in Brussels on 16 October 1973, chaired by Dr Hillery, Member of the European Commission with special responsibility for social affairs. It is expected that the European Commission will forward this programme to the Council of Ministers of the Communities on 24 October.

\*\* A communication on the COMMUNITY PAPER INDUSTRY is being prepared by the European Commission. On the tenth anniversary of the European Confederation of the Pulp, Paper and Cardboard Industry (CEPAC), Mr Friz, Director of Sectoral Industrial Policy for the Commission, indicated some of the topics for consideration which will provide the substance of this communication. They include:

- (1) Supply of raw materials (wood and paper pulp), involving the promotion of reforestation measures, wider use of paper waste as a substitute raw material and the adoption of a number of measures concerning non-member countries with the aim of promoting international supply contracts between foreign producers and Community users.
- (2) Modernization of the Community paper industry. The Member States' aid policies should be harmonized and directed more specifically towards the production of paper pulp; in order to avoid the

danger of excess capacity consideration should be given to the central collation, at European level, of information on investment projects in this sector.

- \*\* The effects on the economy, regional and energy policy, and ecology of THE APPLICATION OF PROCESS HEAT FROM NUCLEAR SOURCES will be discussed at a meeting of experts in Brussels on 13 and 14 December 1973, organized by the Directorate-General for Industrial and Technological Affairs of the European Commission.
- \*\* Technical information days on DRIVAGE TECHNIQUES are being organized by the Commission of the European Communities for colliery executives and experts and manufacturers of mining machinery and equipment. They will be held in Luxembourg on 28, 29 and 30 November 1973.
- \*\* On 1 October 1973 the European Commission's Directorate-General for Social Affairs held a meeting in Luxembourg with the representatives of research institutes concerned with INDIVIDUAL NEUTRON AND PHOTON DOSIMETRY. The initial results of this work underlined the need to intensify research in this field.
- \*\* As part of the Community programme to abate POLLUTION AND NUISANCES, the Commission of the European Communities is to hold a European seminar in Luxembourg from 17 to 19 December on the health problems due to the presence of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere.
- \*\* The results of oxygen and carbon assays in sodium were examined at a meeting on OXYGEN AND CARBON ASSAY IN SODIUM held in Brussels on 17 September 1973 as part of the European Commission's programme for the improvement and standardization of the gas assaying in non-ferrous metals.

LEAD CONTENT OF PETROL TO BE LIMITED TO 0.4 GRAMMES/LITRE IN THE COMMUNITY

The lead content of petrol on sale in the Community will be limited to 0.4 grammes per litre from 1 January 1976, as the Commission of the European Communities has just approved a proposal for a Directive on the limiting of the lead content of petrol for use as motor fuel. It was drawn up as part of the General Programme for the removal of technical barriers to trade in industrial products. This directive is, furthermore, one of the most important proposals which the Commission had undertaken to send to the Council as part of the recent Environmental Action Programme (IRT No. 185).

The initiative in the campaign to reduce air pollution due to lead was taken by the Federal Republic of Germany where, under the pressure of public awareness of the hazards to public health from lead, a law was passed on 5 August 1971 reducing the permitted lead content of petrol.

Faced with this situation, the European Commission convened meetings of the Member States' experts from early in 1971 to examine the health, technical and economic aspects of the problem. At the same time, a number of studies and research projects were begun to support the work of the Commission, and this included a network for measuring the atmosphere concentration of lead in several European cities.

The proposal reflects the results of all these investigations, in that it takes into account the fact that the situation in the Member States differs sometimes widely. It is based on the finding that, as scientific knowledge now stands, present concentrations of lead in the atmosphere have not been proved to present any immediate hazard to public health, but it should be ensured, however, that they do not increase as a result of growing traffic density.

To this end, the European Commission has proposed that a general limit of 0.4 g/l should be placed on the lead content of all grades of petrol on sale in the European Community from 1 January 1976. This measure represents the reduction required for the protection of public health in the short term.

The Commission has also proposed a limit of 0.15g/l from 1 January 1978 on the lead content of "regular-grade" petrol, which at present accounts for approximately 20% of total petrol consumption in the Community and already has a lower lead content than "super grade".

This second measure provides an indicative limit intended to give the industry a longer-term guideline for the purpose of planning future types of petrol. The subsequent reduction of other pollutant emissions in car exhaust gases - e.g., carbon monoxide and unburnt hydrocarbons - limited by a Directive of the Council of Ministers of 20 March 1970, now being updated by the Commission to take account of technical progress - might necessitate the use of catalytic afterburners. According to the information available on this matter, the life of the catalysts which it is proposed to use is shortened by lead in the petrol.

The economic consequences of the proposed limits and the repercussions on the supply of crude oil to the European market - some increase in the production cost and in crude oil consumption seems inevitable - are, in the Commission's view, warranted by the desired objective. The two limits will together ensure that air pollution due to lead is kept below its 1975 level - the last year before the entry into force of the directive - for at least six years, on the basis of the present rate of increase in petrol consumption in the Community.

The proposed Directive is not definitive, however; for the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, intends to re-examine it before 1 January 1975 in order to take account, if necessary, of developments in vehicle propulsion engineering and emission-reducing systems. It will also re-examine (before 1 January 1980) the trend of air pollution due to lead in European cities on the basis of the information supplied by the network of monitoring stations referred to above.

As soon as scientific data show that the lead levels laid down in the Directive present the slightest hazard to public health, the European Commission will prepare the appropriate proposals as quickly as possible. In its present proposal it has taken precautions to prevent the limit on the lead content from resulting in a change in the composition of petrol which would in turn lead to an increase in the quantities of other pollutants emitted in motor-vehicle exhaust gases.



SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FIRMS IN THE COMMUNITY

A considerable number of measures taken by the European Community are of direct concern to all small and medium-sized firms, and the chief ones among them, in the various sectors of Community activity, are set out below.

I. The right of establishment and freedom to provide services in the Community.

In industry, crafts, trade and services, considerable progress has already been made in the removal of restrictions on the right of establishment.

The proposals for Directives relating mainly to small and medium-sized businesses include: the provision of personal services, itinerant activities, auxiliary transport activities, etc.

2. Vocational training

Implementation of the Community's first programme of action in the field of vocational training, concerning all professional categories, began in 1965. A second programme is being prepared; it will relate in particular to the exchange of information, cooperation at Community level and the approximation of training standards. In it particular attention will be paid to the specific problems of small and medium-sized businesses and craftsmen.

3. Subcontracting

The European Commission is at present working on the content of a Community charter for subcontracting which is arousing considerable interest in business circles.

#### 4. Cooperation between small and medium-sized businesses

A proposal for a "Groupeement d'intérêt économique européen" (European Economic Interest Grouping), to promote transnational inter-firm cooperation has been submitted by the Commission to the Member States and also to industrial and trade union circles. (See IRT Nos. 116, 119 and 146).

The Commission has also been seeking, to facilitate, subject to compliance with the rules on competition, the conclusion of cooperation agreements to strengthen the competition capacity of small and medium-sized businesses, yet without prolonging the existence of outdated structures.

Since the inception in May 1973 of a Business Cooperation Centre (see IRT Nos. 187 and 202) it is easier from now on for businesses wishing to collaborate, or link up, to make contact. The Centre also informs them of means by which they may overcome the difficulties inherent in international cooperation. It also has the function of drawing the attention of the Community authorities to obstacles hampering such cooperation.

#### 5. Taxation

Proposals for directives on the tax rules applying to mergers and those applicable to parent and subsidiary companies in different Member States have been prepared by the Commission. They may concern small and medium-sized businesses, particularly businesses situated in frontier zones.

The Commission is preparing a proposal for approximating the arrangements applying to value-added tax (VAT) for small and medium-sized businesses.

#### 6. Fostering of technological innovation and cooperation

A proposal relating to the introduction of Community industrial development contracts has been submitted by the Commission to the Council of Ministers. It is designed to encourage and promote medium-scale technological projects by means of cooperation between industrial firms in the various States of the Community.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

added to the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities and can be consulted in the Library (1 avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Loi Offices, 1st Floor, room 43) or borrowed

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