



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 18.00 HOURS
Tuesday, June 18

June 17, 1974

DAHRENDORF MEETS PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. Ralf Dahrendorf, Commissioner for research, science and education, today addressed the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, an unofficial group of both Houses of Parliament and representatives of certain science and technical institutions.

Prof. Dahrendorf outlined the elements of his portfolio in the Commission of the European Communities, research, science and education, joint research centre, scientific and technical information, statistical office of the European Communities, and then concentrated on the following factual developments:

1. On January 14, 1974, the Council of Ministers voted four resolutions on the future of European science policy. One of these involves machinery for co-ordinating national policies through a committee of high officials, CREST (Comité de Recherche Scientifique et Technique). CREST has started work in a satisfactory manner, and begun to advise other Community institutions especially in the field of energy research. It would be desirable to extend the scope and level of CREST's work.
2. Proposals for a major energy research programme for Europe are at present being discussed in the Commission. These are based on the experience of EURATOM, on the programme framework already decided, and on the proposed energy strategy. The idea is a combination of national, co-ordinated, and Community activities to a total order of magnitude comparable to those of "Project Independence" USA and "Project Sunshine" Japan.
3. After years of uncertainty, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) with its four establishments at Ispra, Karlsruhe, Geel and Petten has a new pluriannual programme for the years 1973-1976 on February 5, 1973. This programme is to be developed in two ways: closer linkage between JRC work and work in other ("national") research institutes, and specific contributions which a European centre can make better. There remains a place for the JRC.
4. One important aspect of specifically European activity is the collection and dissemination of scientific and technical information, both quantitative and qualitative. The basis for this work - a Council Resolution of June 24, 1971, confirmed on January 14, 1974 - has to be extended, especially by closer co-operation with existing information systems.
5. Openness to the outside world and co-operation with existing governmental, semi-governmental and non-governmental bodies is one of the principles of the Communities' action in this field. The EEC attitude to the European Science Foundation provides an example for both. There are contractual agreements with non-Community countries about research projects. An informal co-operative machinery with the United States has been set up and recently (16-21 May 1974) put to a successful test in energy research.

6. The question of mutual recognition of diplomas according to Article 57 of the Treaty of Rome presented difficulties, particularly after the enlargement of the Communities. A new approach has been sought in the last year, by means of broad discussions with professional groups and the "consumers" of professional services. Greatly helped by a week-long public hearing on problems of the medical profession in October 1973, it has led to proposals for guidelines which were adopted by the Council of Ministers on June 6, 1974. The two important principles are: to assume that courses are comparable and not to try to establish detailed quantitative requirements and, at the same time, to set up "Advisory Committees" which involve those concerned in the process of mutual recognition of diplomas.

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