

COMMISSION
DELEGATION
London

ISEC/9/90
28 July 1990

PRESS RELEASE

BC-NET EXPERIMENTAL PHASE EVALUATED

Meeting in Brussels on 8 June, the first annual conference of the Business Cooperation Network (BC-NET) evaluated the progress of the scheme which was set up two years ago as an instrument to promote transnational cooperation between enterprises.

358 representatives of 258 organisations attended the meeting which both discussed the results of the two year experimental phase of BC-NET ending in July 1990 and indicated the main orientations of the BC-NET development phase starting in August 1990.

In the two year period more than 20,000 cooperation profiles have been received and treated by this computerized system which links up to 400 business advisers from all Member States. Some countries such as the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and France are more active than others where companies still appear to be unaware of the opportunities offered by BC-NET.

An increasing number of BC-NET advisers are switching to telecommunications for exchanging cooperation profiles and matching results with the Brussels central computer, thereby drastically reducing the delay for getting an answer.

There is also a growing interest in BC-NET coming from non-member states. As a consequence, the European Commission decided in November 1989 to grant access to the BC-NET subscribers in Mexico and Brazil. Extension to other countries, such as EFTA members, is currently under discussion.