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## PRESSE-MEDDELELSE MITTEILUNG AN DIE PRESSE PRESS-RELEASE

INFORMATION A LA PRESSE INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS

Brussels, 4 May 1979

MR BRUNNER CALLS ON THE MEMBER STATES TO MOVE FORWARD WITH COMMUNITY EDUCATION POLICY (SUMMARY OF THE SPEECH IN KIEL ON 4 MAY 1979)

At a language conference held in Kiel (Sprachenkongress des Landesverbandes der Volkshochsculen), Mr Brunner, Member of the Commission responsible for research, science and education, reviewed the progress made in education policy in the European Community and its future outlook.

Mr Brunner stressed the function of all Community activities in the sphere of education policy and referred to the plan put forward by the Commission to encourage the teaching of foreign languages in the Community by means of:

- improvements in the basic training of language teachers,
- working visits of one or two semesters for language teachers in the country where the language concerned is spoken,
- increased mobility and more exchange of pupils.

The free movement of workers in the Community will only be guaranteed if the living conditions and training opportunities of the children of migrant workers are dealt with in a satisfactory manner. In some Community cities the proportion of foreign pupils is already between 50 and 90%. A knowledge of the languages of the Community is, therefore, the key to mutual understanding between its citizens.

Although there has been a Community action programme in the field of education since February 1976, adopted by the Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council, and pilot projects are in progress in several Member States, particularly involving the teaching of migrant workers' children in normal schools with tuition for ourses being provided in their mother tongue, Mr Brunner explained that the Council of Ministers is still discussing how this programme should be implemented in practical terms.