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**MR BRUNNER CALLS FOR EXPANSION IN THE MATTER OF ENERGY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

In Luxembourg today Mr Brunner, the Member of the Commission responsible for Energy, research, science and education opened a symposium on new technologies for the prospection for and exploitation of natural gas and oil resources. The main participants in this symposium organised by the Commission are the firms which have received financial aid from the Community towards the development of new technologies, so as to ensure the security of supplies of hydrocarbons. Leading industrial countries such as the United States and Japan, many developing countries, and OPEC, AOPEC and UNO are also represented.

The purpose of the symposium is to present the results obtained by the firms concerned and to pinpoint areas in which further research is required.

Mr Brunner referred to the programme of aid for the development of new technologies in the petroleum sector which has been running since 1973 and reminded the audience of the following facts:

- i) The Commission had invited and examined applications in respect of projects involving an investment of some \$ 2 000 million all told;
- ii) Of these, 140 projects representing an investment of approximately \$ 7 million had been selected;
- iii) the Community contribution to the completion of these projects averages 35% of overall investment, representing a total sum in aid of some \$ 220 million.

Significant progress has been made as a result of Community aid, e.g. in offshore exploration techniques.

The results of this research are accessible to all. In this connection Mr Brunner emphasised the fact that in a recent communication to the Council the Commission had proposed that cooperation in energy matters with developing countries be strengthened. One of the first steps would be to make an inventory of the energy resources and draw up joint research and development programmes. This could be followed by industrial cooperation, help with better training for personnel from these countries, and work on projects to which the Community could contribute financially with the aim of increasing the availability of energy.

Mr Brunner expressed the hope that the challenge on the energy front would soon lead to specific forms of cooperation between the Community and developing countries.