

PROFESSOR DAHRENDORF'S SPEECH AT THE
PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, LONDON, 18 JUNE 1974

Professor Ralf 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 14 January 1974 the Council of Ministers has adopted four resolutions concerning the future of European science policy. One of these involves machinery for co-ordinating national policies through a committee of high officials, CREST. 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 work of CREST in scope and level.
2. Proposals for a major energy research programme ENERGY FOR EUROPE are presently 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 combined effort of national activities, co-ordinated activities and Community activities of an order of magnitude comparable to those of "Project Independence" (USA) and "Project Sunshine" (Japan).
3. After years of uncertainty, the Joint Research Centre (JCR) with its four establishments at Ispra, Karlsruhe, Geel and Petten has got a new pluriannual programme for the years 1973-1976 on 5 February 1973. This programme is to be developed under two aspects: closer linkage between JCR work and work in other ("national") research institutes; specific contributions which a European centre can make better. There remains a place for the JCR.
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 24 June 1971, confirmed on 14 January 1974 - is given, but it 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 EC 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 art. 57 of the Treaty of Rome has presented difficulties, particularly after the enlargement of the Communities. A new approach has been sought in the last year. Developed by 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 have been adopted by the Council of Ministers on 6 June 1974. The two important principles are: an approach which starts from the assumption of comparability and does not try to establish detailed requirements of a quantitative nature, and an approach which, by creating "advisory committees" involves those concerned in the process of recognition. These principles will guide all further work in the field.