

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(75) 7

Brussels, 10 January 1975

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

Practical details with regard to the dialogue
Between consumer and producer countries

COM(75) 7

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO COUNCIL

on

Practical details with regard to the dialogue
between consumer and producer countries

The subjects which may be expected to be dealt with in the coming dialogue between the consumer and the producer countries very much concern the Community, either as affecting existing common policies or as being of particular interest to the Common Market. The Commission would accordingly submit the following proposal to the Council with respect to the practical details of the dialogue.

In its proposal the Commission has borne in mind that the preparatory proceedings by the industrialized countries are being conducted in parallel via different organizations: the industrialized parties concerned belong variously to the Community, the International Energy Agency and, in monetary matters, the Group of Ten. The liaison and coordination problems posed by this state of affairs will need to be dealt with by joint efforts on the part of all concerned, including the Community itself.

.../...

1. Preparatory stage of preparatory meeting planned for March 1975

1.1. It is necessary - as has meantime been recognized by the principal partners - that before the preparatory meeting satisfactory progress should be achieved by the industrialized consumer countries on:

- preparation of concerted energy conservation programmes;
- expedited development of new energy resources;
- financial solidarity.

In the Community's view, "satisfactory progress" is not to be taken as meaning the preparation of fully worked out programmes in these three fields, but arrangement on objectives and on the broad outlines of such programmes or schemes, in the form of political commitments.

1.2. At the same time there will have to be formulated, both within the Community and within the group of industrialized consumers, the objective and content of the dialogue which the industrialised consumer countries will propose to the other categories of countries invited to take part.

1.3. The objective must be that all the parties concerned should be better informed of their respective interests and preoccupations and that harmonious relations should be established between the consumer and producer countries in order to promote the development of the world economy on sound bases.

./.

This objective can be attained only by a continuous process of dialogue, with the planned conference as its starting-point.

The dialogue should lead to better knowledge of one another's problem and make it possible, from an analysis of the situation, to frame objectives in line with the importance to all of:

- . overcoming the imbalances in the economies of all the countries, developing and industrialized alike;
- . healthy expansion of their economies;
- . smooth development of international trade and cooperation between the producer and consumer countries in the fields of industry and finance.

1. 4. Having regard to these objectives, the following main topics should be discussed:

- . analysis of the situation and general economic forecasts and of the development of world energy consumption and production;
- . problems of the economic development of the producer countries;
- . economic and financial problems of the non-oil-producing developing countries;
- . scope for investment by the producer countries in the developing and the industrialized countries;
- . problems arising for the international finance markets;
- . movement of oil prices;
- . conditions and security of oil supply.

Specific matters such as oil prices and oil supplies are among the focal issues to be considered in the dialogue. It does not, however, appear appropriate that these should be tackled in isolation and to some extent in abstracto outside the general economic context, as this would risk the dialogue's becoming involved right from the outset in sterile confrontations. It is for this reason that these matters have been placed where they have on the above list.

- 1.5. One point on which it is also necessary to reach agreement is who should attend the preparatory meeting. Those attending should be responsible representatives of countries belonging to the three following groups: the producer countries, the industrialized consumer countries, and the developing consumer countries. They should be few enough in number to enable work to proceed effectively: at first glance it would appear that there should not be more than five for each of the three categories of countries. They should be chosen -- in the first instance by the respective groups of countries themselves -- so as to be properly representative, particularly in geographical and economic respects. The group of industrialized consumer countries should select its team accordingly. The Community should take part qua Community. In addition, arrangements might be made to permit the attendance in an observer capacity of representatives of regional and functional international organizations concerned.

2. The preparatory meeting planned for March

- 2.1. The task of the preparatory meeting would be to draw up a preliminary list of topics to be dealt with at the conference and to determine the date, venue and composition of the conference, which is to make the start of the dialogue proper. The preparatory meeting should also set in motion certain technical-level activities in advance of the inauguration of the dialogue.

3. The dialogue

- 3.1. The Community qua Community and the rest of the industrialized countries' group will need to concert together beforehand on the positions to be adopted with respect to the several topics listed for the dialogue.

- 3.2. The dialogue, which it is the intention should continue and develop as time goes on, will be inaugurated by a conference. The object of the conference will be to work out from the discussion topics adopted initially (see.1.4) the methods and procedures whereby the dialogue can thus develop: the drawing-up of this initial list need not preclude the participants from adding other matters according as the situation develops and cooperation is instituted in the context of the dialogue.