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INFORMATION MEMO

On February 21, 1963 the Council of Ministers adopted certain general principles on vocational training proposed by the EEC Commission.

The first principle defines the field of application of the common vocational training policy. It concerns young people and adults employed in or intending to take up jobs up to the level of medium-grade supervisory staff.

The second principle defines the main objectives of the common policy, which are:

- i) To give everyone the right to receive adequate vocational training and to reach the higher grades in his career;
- ii) To organize in good time the training facilities needed to meet the requirements of the economy;
- iii) To broaden general basic training in order to develop the worker's personality and keep up with technical progress which, besides appropriate specialization, demands a solid foundation in general technical skills;
- iv) To enable the worker to improve his skill throughout his whole career and thus give real meaning to the term "social advancement";
- v) To ensure that "training" and "production" no longer form two separate worlds but that all circles concerned participate in solving the problems of modern and efficient vocational training.

The third principle lays down the prior conditions for the implementation of the common policy, i. e. forecasting of both quantitative and qualitative requirements and constant guidance of young people and adults in the light of their capabilities and of the openings existing in the various sectors of the economy.

The fourth principle empowers the European Commission to propose to the Council or the Member States, in the framework of the Rome Treaty, all measures necessary to implement the common vocational policy. The special import of this principle is that it makes possible genuine Community action in the vocational training field.

The fifth principle provides for the permanent exchange of information and for studies on new teaching methods and the trend of national vocational training systems.

The sixth principle also provides for exchange of experiences on new departures in this field between the responsible specialized services.

The seventh principle concerns the particular measures required to ensure the technical training and further training of teachers and instructors, in particular those who are called upon to work in the less-favoured regions of the Community and in the developing States and territories.

The eighth principle provides for the progressive narrowing of differences in training levels with a view to the mutual recognition of certificates and diplomas, which is essential to the free movement of workers in the Community.

The ninth principle concerns arrangements for rapid training courses to ensure overall balance between labour demand and supply in the Community in the light of the forecasts which will be established to this end.

The tenth principle concerns training problems arising in certain sectors and for certain categories of workers. It also provides that measures to implement the common vocational training policy may be financed jointly.