

Brussels, March 10, 1965
P-19/65INFORMATION MEMOA school building programme in Mauritania.

On March 9, 1965 the EEC Commission decided to finance, through the new European Development Fund, a school building programme in Mauritania, the EDF Committee having at its sixth meeting expressed a favourable opinion on the project. It is proposed to build 54 primary class-rooms, 5 class-rooms for secondary schools, 3 living units for the head masters of primary schools, 10 living units for secondary school-teachers, and 10 offices and store-rooms. Equipment will be provided for 109 primary classes, 8 secondary school classes, 14 offices and 13 living units.

For some years Mauritania has been making considerable efforts in the field of education, to which the first EDF contributed by financing the construction of 3 secondary schools, 63 primary class-rooms and 21 living units.

The number of pupils receiving primary education has nearly tripled since 1960, and there are now over 21.000 pupils; there has been similar progress in secondary schooling, where there are over 950 pupils.

Despite these efforts, general education is not sufficiently widespread. The proportion of children receiving primary education is under 10%, and the number completing secondary education is well below the requirements of the country.

This programme, at an estimated cost of 291.350.000 Frs. CFA or about 1.180.000 u.a. (1), is accordingly being undertaken to supplement Mauritania's schooling system in order to reach the level of education fixed for 1966 in the development plan.

(1) 1 u.a. = \$1.00