

TALSMANDENS GRUPPE  
SPRECHERGRUPPE  
SPOKESMAN'S GROUP  
GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE  
GRUPPO DEL PORTAVOCE  
BUREAU VAN DE WOORDVOERDER

Brussels, June 1979

**INFORMATION**  
**INFORMATORISCHE AUFZEICHNUNG**  
**INFORMATION MEMO**

**NOTE D'INFORMATION**  
**NOTA D'INFORMAZIONE**  
**TER DOCUMENTIE**

FORWARD PROGRAMME FOR STEEL FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1979 (1)

Crude steel production in the nine Community countries should amount to 34.2 million tonnes in the months of July, August and September this year. The production level estimated for the second quarter is 34.5 million tonnes and actual output in the third quarter of 1978 was 31.4 million tonnes.

During the third quarter the moderate cyclical upturn in steel consumption may be expected to continue but at the same time the seasonal weakness typical of this time of year will make itself felt.

Consumption in the Community's fabricating industries may increase overall by just about 3% over the third quarter of 1978 to reach approximately 27.8 million tonnes crude steel. On the other hand, steel consumption for the second quarter of 1979 had been estimated at 29.5 million tonnes. The two figures clearly show the seasonal decline to be expected.

Stocks will have to be built up as little as possible in the third quarter as otherwise the market situation could be threatened by a rundown of stocks in the fourth quarter. Consequently provision is made for an increase of only 0.3 million tonnes in stocks. Apparent steel consumption would then be 28.1 million tonnes.

Export to non-member countries could rise to 8.6 million tonnes in the third quarter of 1979, compared with 8.36 in the third quarter of 1978. If an import figure of 2.5 million tonnes is assumed, net exports would be 6.1 million tonnes.

The recovery in steel demand is attributed not only to large orders from the motor industry and its subcontractors but also to a moderate increase in orders from the capital goods industry.

Steel production in the first quarter of 1979 was 34.4 million tonnes of crude steel, compared with 32.7 million tonnes in the fourth quarter of 1978. The capacity utilization rate increased slightly from 61% to 64%. In the individual Community countries, capacity utilization rates were in close step in the first quarter of 1979, the maximum difference being barely 6 points. By comparison, in 1976 before the introduction of the crisis measures there had been differences of some 20 points. The narrowing of these gaps has resulted not least from the effect of the delivery programmes whose function - in the interests of equality in economic and social burden-sharing - is to achieve maximum uniformity in the adjustment of supply to demand.

The employment position is marked by a further reduction in short-time working. In April the number of workers on short time fell for the first time below 40 000. The number of lays-offs was, as in the previous months, a little over 2 000 persons per month. At the end of April, the number of jobs in the European steel industry was approximately 670 000 compared with 780 000 at the end of 1974.

The steelworks adhered fairly closely to the Forward Programme for the first quarter of 1979, with a few exceptions. For the Community as a whole, crude steel production exceeded the programme level by only 1% compared with 5% in the fourth quarter of 1978.

PREVISIONI DES DISPONIBILITÀ E DEI BISOGNI DI PRODOTTI SIDURGICI PER LA COMUNITÀ  
 VORAUSSEHUNG DER VORRADE UND DES BEDARFS DER GEMEINSCHAFT AN ERZEUGNISSEN  
 FORECAST OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR STEEL PRODUCTS IN THE COMMUNITY  
 PREVISIONI DELLE DISPONIBILITÀ E DEL FABBISOGNO DI PRODOTTI SIDURGICI NELLA COMUNITÀ  
 STAALPRODUCTIE: PAKING VAN DE VOORRADE EN BEHOEFTE IN DE GEMEENSCHAP  
 FORVENTET UDBUD OG EFTERSPØRGSEL EFTER STAALPRODUKTER I FÆLLESSKABET

in million tonnes of crude steel  
 in Millionen Tonnen Rohstahlgewicht - million tonnes of crude steel  
 milioni di tonnellate di acciaio grezzo - in miljoen ton ruwstaal - i millioner tons råstål

|  | I<br>1974 | II<br>1978 | III<br>1978 | IV<br>1978 | I<br>1979 | II<br>1979 | III<br>1979 |
|--|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Consumation réelle<br>Tatsächlicher Verbrauch<br>Real Consumption<br>Consumo reale<br>Werkelijk verbruik<br>Faktisk forbrug<br>Variations de stock<br>Bestandsveränderungen<br>Stock changes<br>Variazioni delle scorte<br>Voorraadmutaties<br>Lageraendringer<br>Imports - Einfuhr<br>Imports - Importazioni<br>Invoer - Indførsel<br>Exports - Ausfuhr<br>Exports - Esportazioni<br>Uitvoer - Udførsel<br>Production - Produktion<br>Production - Produzione<br>Produktie - Produktion | 34,59     | 29,20      | 27,00       | 29,00      | 29,50     | 27,80      | 27,80       |
|  | - 0,26    | + 1,29     | - 1,56      | - 3,45     | -         | + 0,30     | + 0,30      |
|  | 2,06      | 3,06       | 2,47        | 2,84       | 2,50      | 2,50       | 2,50        |
|  | 7,09      | 7,88       | 8,45        | 9,95       | 7,50      | 8,60       | 8,60        |
|  | 39,35     | 35,31      | 31,42       | 32,66      | 34,50     | 34,20      | 34,20       |

PRODUCTION D'ACIER BRUT  
 CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION  
 ROHSTAHLPRODUKTION  
 PRODUZIONE DI ACCIAIO GREZZO  
 RUWSTAALPRODUKTIE  
 PRODUKTION AF RÅSTÅL

mio tonnes d'acier brut - million tonnes of crude steel - in Millionen Tonnen Rohstahlgewicht - in millions of tonnellate di  
 acciaio grezzo - in miljoen ton ruwstaal - i millioner tons råstål

| Trimestre<br>Quarter<br>Quartal<br>Trimestre<br>Kwartaal<br>Kvartal | D     | F    | I    | NL   | UEBL | UK   | DK/IRL | EUR 9 |
|---|-------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|-------|
| I/74  | 13,37 | 7,17 | 5,99 | 1,51 | 5,86 | 5,29 | 0,17   | 39,26 |
| III/78  | 10,72 | 5,03 | 5,48 | 1,49 | 3,95 | 4,59 | 0,21   | 31,54 |
| IV/78   | 9,10  | 5,52 | 6,24 | 1,49 | 4,77 | 5,32 | 0,25   | 32,69 |
| I/79  | 10,81 | 6,08 | 6,29 | 1,28 | 4,63 | 5,07 | 0,23   | 34,38 |
| II/79   | 10,70 | 6,01 | 6,02 | 1,47 | 4,47 | 5,56 | 0,27   | 34,50 |
| III/79  | 10,67 | 5,95 | 6,02 | 1,45 | 4,69 | 5,15 | 0,27   | 34,20 |
| II/79 SP*   | 2,00  | 1,01 | 1,33 | 0,05 | 0,15 | 0,68 | -      | 5,22  |
| III/79 SP*  | 2,10  | 1,07 | 1,38 | 0,06 | 0,17 | 0,72 | -      | 5,50  |

\*Aciers spéciaux - special steel - Edelstahl - acciai speciali - special staal - specialstål