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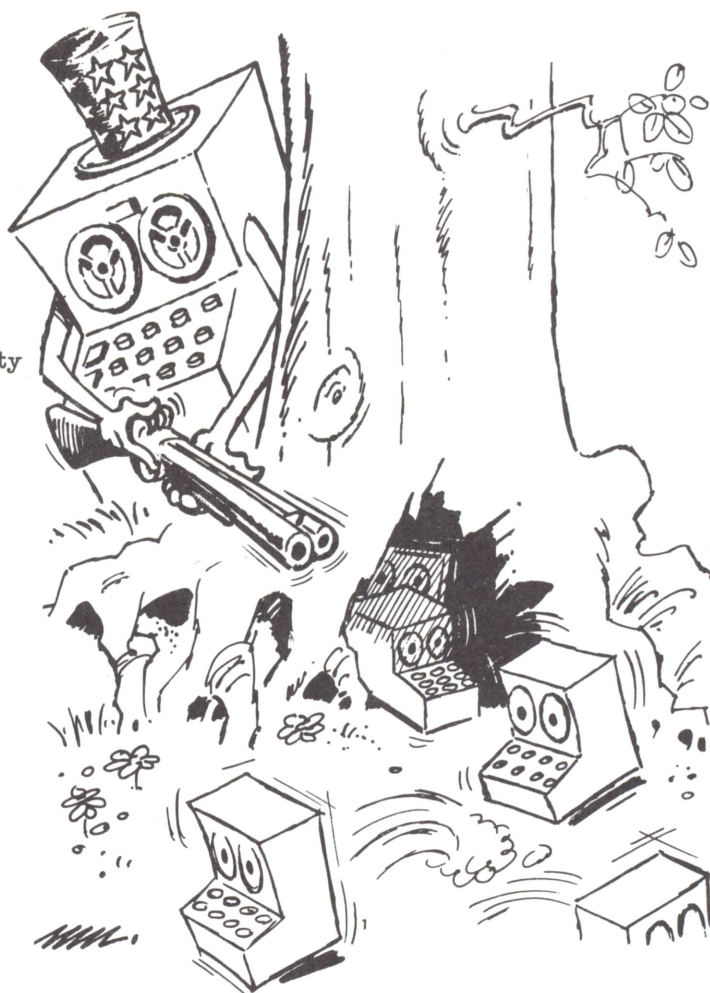
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** The EUROPEAN DATA-PROCESSING INDUSTRY must not permit itself to be defeated by default. At a time when data-processing is on the threshold of a new era, it would be premature for the European data-processing industry to concede defeat.

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ANNEX 1 outlines the actions proposed by the European Commission to keep at least some part of this key industry under European control.

** The European Commission regularly compiles up-to-date statistics on WAGES AND INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

These figures are given in ANNEX 2.

** The most serious environmental problem associated with the WOODPULP INDUSTRY is WATER POLLUTION.

The measures proposed by the European Commission to reduce such pollution are described in ANNEX 3.

** A TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE to be attended by Ministers for Economic Affairs, Ministers for Employment and representatives of both sides of industry may soon be on the agenda. Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the European Commission with special responsibility for social affairs, announced recently that the Commission intends to suggest this to the Council of Ministers in the very near future. Dr Hillery stressed that such a meeting is essential, if a serious attempt is to be made to come to terms with growing unemployment throughout the Community. According to the latest figures the total number of unemployed in the Nine now stands at 4 675 000.

** THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX stood as follows at the end of July 1975:

(1970 = 100)

	<u>July 1975</u>	<u>June 1975</u>	<u>June 1975/July 1975</u>	<u>July 1974/July 1975</u>
Germany	135.4	135.4	-	+ 6.2%
France	152.8	151.7	+ 0.7%	+ 11.1%
Italy	171.4	170.7	+ 0.4%	+ 17.1%
Netherlands	151.6	151.0	+ 0.4%	+ 10.1%
Belgium	149.9	148.5	+ 0.9%	+ 12.0%
Luxembourg	142.3	141.1	+ 0.9%	+ 10.4%
United Kingdom	189.4	187.6	+ 1.0%	+ 26.2%
Ireland	188.6 ¹		+ 6.1% ²	+ 24.5% ³
Denmark	157.5	156.7	+ 0.5%	+ 9.9%

¹ May 1975.

² Change between 15 February 1975 and 15 May 1975.

³ Change between 15 May 1974 and 15 May 1975.

- ** Innocent motorists involved in CAR ACCIDENTS in another country or caused by a vehicle registered in another country are often sceptical as to their chances of receiving compensation from the other person's insurance company. The Community has made every effort to reduce the problems inevitably associated with accidents which take place in the injured party's home Member State and involve a vehicle registered in another Member State. In such cases claims for compensation are settled under the green card system. This document issued by the insurance companies ensures that the injured party is no worse off than if the foreign-registered vehicle had been insured by a company in his home Member State. Where the accident takes place abroad, settlement of claims is clearly more complicated, and the only way of providing against the risks involved is to take out comprehensive insurance covering legal costs. However, as far as accidents which take place in another member country are concerned, the position in law of the injured party improved in 1968 with the signing of a Convention by the six original members of the Community, under which the injured party may sue the insurance company either in the courts of the place where the accident occurred, or in the courts of the place where he is domiciled, or in the courts of the place where the party which served as intermediary is domiciled. Negotiations are now in progress to extend this Convention to the three new Member States.
- ** 12 MILLION EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF TOURING ASSOCIATIONS are now represented by the Office of International Touring Alliance members in the European Community. The Secretariat of this recently formed office is to be found at the headquarters of the Royal Dutch Touring Club ANWB (Post Box 2200, The Hague). The following national associations are affiliated: Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil-Club e.V. - Automobile Club du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg - Forenede Danske Motorejere - Koninklijke Nederlandse Toeristenbond ANWB - The Automobile Association - Touring Club de Belgique - Touring Club de France - Touring Club Italiano. The aim of the office is to maintain permanent contact with the European Commission.
- ** At a time when the regional question is very much to the fore, there is a great need of REGIONAL STATISTICS to establish an accurate picture of the situation. In 1972 the Statistical Office of the European Communities promoted the adoption by the Member States of a regional economic accounts programme, whose results would be published annually beginning in 1975. Harmonized estimates will cover regional product and various basic aggregates such as wages and salaries, capital formation, private consumption, incomes etc. for Länder and Regierungsbezirke in Germany, regions in France and Italy, provinces in the Netherlands and Belgium, and standard regions in the United Kingdom. Denmark is not taking part in the programme for the moment, and both Ireland and Luxembourg are each treated as a single region.

- ** In an attempt to ensure that NURSING STAFF throughout the Community are given the high standard of professional TRAINING called for by modern medicine, the European Commission recently presented a proposal to the Council of Ministers for the setting up of an Advisory Committee on Nursing Training. The Committee's task would be to promote an exchange of comprehensive information on the training methods and the content, level and structure of theoretical and practical courses provided in the Member States of the European Community.
- ** VINYL CHLORIDE and associated industrial health hazards was the subject of a working meeting recently organized by the European Commission. Governmental experts were consulted on the different preventive measures which can be taken in this field. At present the maximum concentration of vinyl chloride monomer in the atmosphere permitted at places of work ranges from 5 to 100 ppm (parts per million) under the current regulations and practices in the various countries of the Community. The Commission feels that the workers in all Member States should be adequately and equally protected, and with this in mind intends to propose the adoption of standard preventive procedures in all undertakings exposed to this risk throughout the Community.
- ** A survey of NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENVIRONMENT ORGANIZATIONS in the European Community was carried out for the European Commission by Marc Pierini et Associés. The findings of this survey, including a non-exhaustive list of organizations, appeared in Industry and Society No 21/75. We have since been asked to add the following names: The National Trust for Scotland; Réserves naturelles et ornithologiques de Belgique; Fonds français pour la Nature et l'Environnement; Town and Country Planning Association. Our attention has also been drawn to the fact that An Foras Forbartha (Ireland) is not in fact a non-governmental organization.
- ** The results of STEEL RESEARCH, with particular reference to physical metallurgy, service properties and uses of steel, will be the subject of an ECSC Seminar being organized by the European Commission in Luxembourg from 18 to 21 November 1975. Enrolment forms and requests for further information should be sent to the Conference Organization and Coordination Bureau, Centre Européen du Kirchberg - Luxembourg.

A PROGRAMME FOR EUROPEAN DATA-PROCESSING

The European data-processing industry must not permit victory to go to the IBM giant simply by default. Major companies such as RCA, General Electric and more recently Xerox have admittedly attempted to challenge IBM's dominant position on the data-processing market but to no avail. The main objective of Community policy must therefore be to promote and encourage the formation of at least one major European-based group which is both economically viable and capable of maintaining a balanced relationship with partners in the United States or Japan. As can be seen from the following table, sales of systems, including medium and large computers, still represent more than 50% of hardware sales. It would therefore be premature for the European data-processing industry to concede defeat.

ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT BY SECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DATA-PROCESSING MARKET FROM 1974 TO 1979

Sectors	1974		1979	
	in MUA	in %	in MUA	in %
Computers and data-processing systems ¹	3 177	57	5 208	51
Minicomputers and microcomputers	508	9	1 108	11
Peripherals	1 382	25	2 831	28
Software ²	474	9	994	10
Total	5 541	100	10 141	100

¹Including software sales by systems companies.
²Sales by purely software firms.

Source: SOBEMAP.

The challenge of IBM however remains daunting and is now assuming a new form as it makes rapid progress towards providing customers with a total information system, including telecommunications facilities and an immense variety of online applications systems. This has been made possible as a result of its policy of diversification, exemplified by its systems network architecture, its telecommunications switching system for private users, the development of its minicomputer business, the provision of a very wide range of terminals to suit different applications and the production of components with a greater power than any other manufacturer in the world can offer.

Community policy must therefore take account of the rapid transformation of the data-processing industry which is on the threshold of what can be called the era of distributed computing, characterized essentially by the following:

- (a) The explosive development of component technology which is making it possible to market an ever-growing range of intelligent devices remote from the central processor and close to the user and his needs. The man in the street is familiar with an example of the application of this component technology in the pocket calculator;
- (b) More rapid growth in the market for minicomputers, terminals, peripherals and communications equipment than in the market for central processors;
- (c) An increasingly close link between telecommunications and computing, with on the one hand an ever-increasing range of computers and terminal devices being linked through networks, and on the other an increasing number of telecommunications switching exchanges being replaced by computers.

It is therefore not acceptable to users nor is it in the public interest that a single company should dominate and control not only the traditional world of central processors but also the new world of distributed computing. At least some part of this key industry must be under European control. It is with this in mind that the European Commission has presented a proposal for a second programme of action to encourage and promote European data-processing.

This programme, to be carried out over five years at a total cost of more than 23 million units of account (1 u.a. = approx. US \$1.2), covers the following four key sectors of data-processing:

- (a) Standardization: The Commission is proposing the development of a common real-time programming language to give users access to a wider range of products and to facilitate programme exchanges;
- (b) Software portability: The aim is to make computer applications more independent of the manufacturer by means of a software development policy;
- (c) The use and protection of data: An effort must be made to ensure data security and confidentiality (project A), to improve programming techniques, thus increasing the viability and efficiency of data-processing systems (project B), and finally to supply the ever-increasing number of users of data base systems with more general instruments for their evaluation (project C);

(d) Data-processing applications: To supplement the initial proposals already forwarded to the Council the Commission has adopted two new projects of vital importance to data-processing and communication:

a project for the development of a documentary retrieval package capable of meeting the common needs of many institutions in the Community;

an experimental action project to develop European experience in advanced techniques of high-speed communication likely to have an effect on the performance of the communication networks of the international bodies and projects involved (CERN, European Space Agency, etc.).

WAGES AND INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE COMMUNITY

In reply to a Written Question put by a Member of the European Parliament, the European Commission recently released the following tables showing variations in a number of criteria affecting employment in the different Community countries.

Table I. Industrial disputes

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
	Number of working days lost (thousands)										
Germany	17	49	27	390	25	249	93	4 484	66	563	1 051
France	2 497	980	2 523	4 204	(150 000)	2 224	1 742	4 529	3 755	3 915	3 380
Italy	13 089	6 943	14 474	8 569	9 240	37 825	18 277	12 949	17 060	20 402	16 747
Netherlands	44	55	13	6	14	22	263	97	134	584	7
Belgium	444	70	533	182	364	162	1 432	1 241	354	866	578
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	2 277	2 925	2 398	2 787	4 690	6 846	10 980	13 551	23 909	7 197	14 740
Ireland	545	552	784	183	406	936	1 008	274	207	207	552
Denmark	17	242	15	10	34	56	102	21	22	3 901	184
TOTAL	18 929	11 815	20 767	16 330	(164 773)	48 319	33 894	37 049	44 912	37 635	37 239
	Number of working days lost per 1 000 employees										
Germany	1	2	1	19	1	12	4	205	3	26	48
France	175	68	171	282	(9 973)	145	110	281	229	233	201
Italy	1 053	573	1 207	700	747	3 013	1 445	1 012	1 333	1 564	1 783
Netherlands	13	15	4	2	4	6	69	25	35	152	2
Belgium	160	25	189	65	130	56	482	420	116	280	187
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	97	124	101	120	203	297	480	613	1 082	318	650
Ireland	802	795	1 129	261	570	1 285	1 405	376	286	282	758
Denmark	10	143	9	6	19	31	56	11	11	2 007	95
COMMUNITY AVERAGE	237	146	255	202	(2 029)	585	405	-	-	-	-

Sources: 1964-69: SOEC - 1972 Yearbook of Social Statistics - 1969-74: Up-dated by SOEC.

Table II. Remuneration of employees per wage and salary earner
Difference expressed as percentage of previous year
(national currency)

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
<u>Denmark</u>	+ 10.7	+ 13.8	+ 10.6	+ 7.1	+ 8.8	+ 12.1	+ 11.6	+ 12.8	+ 10.2	+ 14.7
Current prices										
1970 prices	+ 6.5	+ 7.3	+ 3.8	+ 1.3	+ 1.5	+ 7.6	+ 5.3	+ 7.4	+ 4.0	+ 5.1
<u>Germany</u>	+ 8.3	+ 9.1	+ 7.7	+ 3.6	+ 6.8	+ 9.8	+ 15.0	+ 12.5	+ 9.8	+ 12.9
Current prices										
1970 prices	+ 5.2	+ 5.0	+ 3.9	+ 1.8	+ 4.4	+ 6.9	+ 10.4	+ 5.8	+ 3.5	+ 5.3
<u>France</u>	+ 8.7	+ 6.6	+ 6.5	+ 6.8	+ 10.9	+ 13.3	+ 8.8	+ 10.5	+ 10.6	+ 12.4
Current prices										
1970 prices	+ 5.0	+ 4.0	+ 3.5	+ 3.8	+ 5.4	+ 5.9	+ 3.6	+ 4.6	+ 4.4	+ 5.0
<u>Ireland</u>	+ 14.1	+ 3.3	+ 8.5	+ 7.6	+ 10.2	+ 13.6	+ 15.9	+ 14.6	+ 17.4	+ 16.6
Current prices										
1970 prices	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+ 5.5	+ 8.5	+ 4.4
<u>Italy</u>	+ 12.0	+ 8.1	+ 7.9	+ 8.5	+ 7.5	+ 7.7	+ 15.6	+ 13.6	+ 11.0	+ 18.7
Current prices										
1970 prices	+ 6.4	+ 4.1	+ 4.9	+ 5.5	+ 5.8	+ 4.6	+ 9.8	+ 7.9	+ 4.8	+ 6.6
<u>Netherlands</u>	+ 16.5	+ 11.7	+ 11.1	+ 9.3	+ 8.6	+ 13.2	+ 12.6	+ 13.4	+ 12.8	+ 14.0
Current prices										
1970 prices	+ 9.0	+ 7.3	+ 5.3	+ 6.0	+ 5.6	+ 6.3	+ 7.9	+ 4.9	+ 4.0	+ 4.8
<u>Belgium</u>	+ 9.7	+ 9.5	+ 8.9	+ 7.3	+ 6.2	+ 8.2	+ 9.6	+ 11.4	+ 13.8	+ 12.4
Current prices										
1970 prices	+ 5.4	+ 4.7	+ 4.8	+ 4.6	+ 3.2	+ 4.9	+ 6.9	+ 5.2	+ 8.3	+ 6.2
<u>Luxembourg</u>	+ 14.5	+ 4.9	+ 5.1	+ 3.5	+ 5.5	+ 5.9	+ 12.5	+ 9.1	+ 9.1	+ 11.1
Current prices										
1970 prices	+ 9.3	+ 0.8	+ 1.6	+ 1.3	+ 2.4	+ 3.5	+ 7.6	+ 4.2	+ 3.8	+ 4.7
<u>United Kingdom</u>	+ 15.7	+ 6.9	+ 6.3	+ 6.0	+ 7.8	+ 7.1	+ 12.6	+ 12.4	+ 12.0	+ 11.8
Current prices										
1970 prices	+ 3.3	+ 1.9	+ 2.1	+ 3.0	+ 3.0	+ 1.3	+ 6.3	+ 3.8	+ 4.9	+ 3.1

Source: SOEC - National Accounts 1-1974.

Table III. Wages and salaries
Increase expressed as percentage of previous year

	1973	1974	Definition
Denmark	19.1	22.9	Average hourly wages in manufacturing industries
Germany	12.4	12.3	Gross wage per wage earner in industry, excluding construction and energy
France	15.9	20.3	Hourly wages, all activities. Gross
Ireland	19.0	20.2	Hourly wages in industries producing transportable goods
Italy	23.9	24.4	Economy as a whole
Netherlands	12.7	16.3	Hourly wages. Gross
Belgium	16.2	24.1	Average hourly earnings in industry
Luxembourg	-	-	
United Kingdom	22.1	17.6	Average earnings (all wage earners)

Source: National Statistics.

TOWARDS CLEANER WOODPULP MILLS

In 1972 there were 213 pulp mills in the nine member countries of the Community. In environmental terms the most serious problem associated with the pulp industry is water pollution, the water requirements of the production processes being exceptionally high. Hence the proposal recently presented by the European Commission to the Council of Ministers for a directive on the reduction of water pollution caused by woodpulp mills in the Member States.

Pulp mill effluent can contain appreciable quantities of suspended solids and toxic substances, and can severely deplete the oxygen content of the receiving watercourse as well as colouring it and causing foaming. Such pollution is usually defined in terms of suspended solids and BOD₅ (biological oxygen demand in five days).

In the case of a pulp mill using the standard 1970 sulphite pulping process (not taking into account the effects of external treatment) the effluent can have a pollution load of 450 kg/t BOD₅ and 60 kg/t suspended solids. Such a pollution load can well be considered substantial when compared with the kraft process of pulping, in which recovery of liquor often takes place. In the latter case the pollution load can be as low as 40 kg/t BOD₅ and 10 kg/t suspended solids.

To date few member countries have drawn up legislation which can be specifically applied to the discharge of pulp mill effluent. In Belgium environmental quality standards specifically applicable to this industry do exist and in France an agreement was signed in June 1972 between the (then) Ministry of Culture and Environment and the French Confederation of Paper, Board and Cellulose Industries. Germany is proposing to levy charges on the discharge of noxious effluents.

There are numerous methods for reducing the pollution load of pulp mill effluent. These can be internal measures (i.e., which reduce the causes of pollution at source by modifying the manufacturing process) or external measures (i.e., treatment of effluent discharged during and after the manufacture of pulp). While these methods can remove over 95% of the effluents' oxygen demand and suspended solids content, installation of such facilities would prove exceptionally costly for existing mills.

The differences in national legislation and in anti-pollution techniques could well distort competition and affect the functioning of the common market. It is for this reason that the European Commission has proposed the adoption of certain limits, which are technically feasible and economically realistic and which vary depending on the manufacturing process employed. A period of ten years would be allowed to comply with the standards given below:

Process		A	B ¹	
		SS kg/t	BOD ₅ kg/t	SS kg/t
Kraft	Unbleached	2.5	5	10
	Bleached	10	9	20
Bisulphite	With elimination or re-utilization of residual liquors	12.5	45	50
	Without elimination or re-utilization of residual liquors	15	80	85
Semi-chemical	Production capacity > 150 t/day	5	8	5
	Production capacity ≤ 150 t/day	13	60	60
Mechanical		5	5	5
¹ Biological treatment in aerated lagoon.				