

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION

THE MARKET FOR SOLID FUELS IN THE COMMUNITY IN 1994 AND THE OUTLOOK FOR 1995

THE MARKET FOR SOLID FUELS IN THE COMMUNITY IN 1994
AND THE OUTLOOK FOR 1995

1. This preliminary report analyses the forecasts for 1994 and 1995 prepared by the Member States and forwarded to the Commission in November 1994. Its purpose is to provide the ECSC Consultative Committee and the circles concerned with the most up-to-date information on the developments in the Community solid fuels market.

A new report on the market for solid fuels in the Community in 1994 and the outlook for 1995 will be drawn up during the first quarter of 1995.

At the time of writing, no new data had been submitted by France and Denmark. Therefore the previous data available for these countries for 1994 has been kept for 1995.

2. On the economic front, contrary to the earlier expectations of a moderately paced recovery, there is increasing evidence that the Community economy is moving from a gentle upswing to a rather vigorous and sustained recovery. Given the recent trend in economic indicators and the forces at work in the Community economy, real GDP is now projected to rise by 2½ per cent in 1994, strengthening further to close to 3 per cent in 1995.

3. Previous forecasts for 1994 pointed to a growth in gross inland demand of some 1.6%. For the first half of the year, the growth in total primary energy demand for the whole Community was 1.3%. By energy source, only natural gas and hydro have increased by more than 7% and 35% respectively compared to the same period of the previous year. On the other hand, demand for lignite has decreased by almost 6%, whilst there has been a drop of less than 1% for petroleum products and hard coal.

For 1995, bearing in mind the anticipated recovery of the economy, energy demand could increase by around 2.5%. With respect to solid fuels, however, the demand for hard coal could slightly increase whilst lignite could decrease by 5%.

4. Community hard coal production continues to be affected to varying degrees by the restructuring, rationalisation and modernisation plans. This means that coal production in the Community for 1994 is expected to be around 132.7 Mt, down 25.9 Mt (-16.3%) with respect to 1993. The most significant decreases are likely to be in the United Kingdom with a reduction of 18.9 Mt and in Germany with a reduction of 6.6 Mt.

For 1995, current forecasts are for a drop of some 2.2 Mt (-1.6%) to 130.6 Mt, which is one of the lowest annual decreases seen for many years. The United Kingdom will probably have the largest drop of some 1.6 Mt (-3.3%), followed by Spain with a decrease of 0.6 Mt (-3.3%). On the other hand, total hard coal output could increase by 0.6 Mt in Germany.

COMPARISON OF THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE SOLID FUEL MARKET					
(million tonnes)					
	1993	1994	1995	1994/93	1995/94
	actual	estimates	forecast	(%)**	(%)**
HARD COAL					
Resources					
- Production	158.6	132.7	130.6	-16.3	-1.6
- Recoveries	2.5	1.5	1.7	-38.6	7.5
- Imports from third countries	115.9	118.1	119.1	1.9	0.9
Total	277.1	252.4	251.3	-8.9	-0.4
Deliveries					
- To coking plants	52.5	51.5	51.1	-1.8	-0.9
- To power stations*	182.5	171.7	172.0	-5.9	0.2
- To others	37.9	37.1	36.8	-2.0	-0.8
- Exports to third countries	0.4	0.3	0.3	-18.0	-0.3
Total	273.2	260.7	260.2	-4.6	-0.2
COKE					
Resources					
- Production	39.4	38.5	37.5	-2.3	-2.7
- Imports from third countries	3.1	3.8	3.9	22.6	3.2
Total	42.5	42.3	41.4	-0.5	-2.2
Deliveries					
- To steel industry	37.1	39.2	38.4	5.6	-2.1
- Other deliveries within the Community	4.8	4.2	4.0	-11.0	-6.3
- Exports to third countries	0.7	0.7	0.7	-1.4	-9.7
Total	42.6	44.2	43.0	3.6	-2.6
LIGNITE AND PEAT					
Resources					
- Production and imports	301.5	286.7	272.1	-4.9	-5.1
Deliveries					
- To briquetting plants	47.7	38.4	33.4	-19.6	-12.8
- To power stations	233.8	230.0	222.5	-1.6	-3.3
- Others (including exports to third countries)	20.0	18.8	16.3	-6.0	-13.3
Total	301.5	287.2	272.2	-4.7	-5.2

(!) The sums may not add up due to rounding.

* Including industrial and pithead power stations.

** The variations are calculated on kt.

5. In 1994, internal hard coal deliveries in the Community could total 260.4 Mt, which is some 12.5 Mt down on the previous year. This decrease is due to the lower demand from all the consumer sectors, with the only exception being thermal coal deliveries to the steel industry. The drop in deliveries was especially marked in electricity generation (-10.8 Mt; -5.9%), followed by the cokeries (-0.9 Mt; -1.8%).

With respect to the hard coal stocks, producers' stocks have declined as much as those of the consumers'. During the first eight months of the year, some 6 Mt and 10 Mt have been drawn from stocks at the coal producers and at the power stations respectively.

Thus, bearing in mind this stock variation, the drop in hard coal consumption during 1994 should be much less significant than that shown by the deliveries.

With respect to the electricity generating industry, total electricity generation could increase by more than 1% during 1994 compared to 1993. Natural gas and hydro will be the only primary energy sources that will take advantage of this increase in electricity demand.

For 1995, total internal hard coal deliveries are expected to remain steady at a level of about 260 Mt, putting an end to the decline registered since 1991 (when deliveries reached 332 Mt). By sector, most of the variations up or down are lower than 0.5 Mt in absolute terms. Small decreases are forecast in deliveries to cokeries and to other industries.

By country, the main decrease is expected to be in the United Kingdom with a decline of some 3.0 Mt (-4.5%), whilst in Germany and Belgium deliveries could increase by 2.1 and 0.7 Mt respectively.

6. Crude steel production for 1994 is likely to reach some 137 Mt, which would represent a rise of almost 3.6% compared to 1993. For 1995, crude steel production could increase by 3 Mt to reach 140.0 Mt; internal demand would be the main motor for this.

The final figure for coke production in 1994 could turn out to be 38.5 Mt, which is 0.9 Mt (-2.3%) lower than in 1993, whilst imports from third countries could increase by 0.7 Mt to 3.8 Mt. Deliveries to the steelworks could be 39.2 Mt (up 5.6%) as result of the expected increase in crude steel output. Other deliveries of coke in the Community are expected to be some 4.2 Mt, which is 11.0% down on the previous year. For 1995 a decline is expected, both in production (down 1.1 Mt or -2.7%) and in deliveries to the steel industry (down 0.8 Mt or -2.1%), as well as to other Community consumers (down 0.3 Mt or -6.3%).

It is also important to note the gentle increase in deliveries to the steel industry of thermal coal for pulverised coal injection.

7. Lignite and peat resources in the Community in 1994 are expected to be 14.8 Mt (-4.9%) lower than in the previous year. The most significant change is the reduction of 13.8 Mt in Germany, due to the lower demand from briquetting plants (-10.3 Mt) and power plants (-3.0 Mt). For 1995, they are expected to decrease again by 14.6 Mt (-5.1%), owing to the expected fall in demand in Germany.

8. In 1994, imports of hard coal from third countries are expected to rise slightly with respect to the previous year. Total imports are estimated to be 118.1 Mt, which is 2.2 Mt (1.9%) more than in 1993. For 1995, they could again increase by a further 1.0 Mt (0.9%), compared to 1994, to reach 119.1 Mt.

9. With respect to the prices for imported coal, the guide price for coking coal in the third quarter of 1994 is estimated to be US\$ 53.8 as against US\$ 55.3 for the same quarter of the previous year. This guide price has shown a downwards trend since the peak reached in the first quarter of 1991 (US\$ 60.4).

The weighted average price of steam coal (all contracts and all origins) imported into the Community in the second quarter of 1994 (the latest information available at the time of writing) was US\$ 42.6 per tce compared with US\$ 45.9 per tce for the same period of the previous year. However, upward movements in the spot fob price have been registered during the year.

1994 is seeing an exceptional increase on freight rates, reaching levels not seen since the early 1980's. The increase in trade movements linked to the steel industry and coal demand, together with other bulk commodities as cement, ferrous scrap, etc., particularly in the south-east Asia belt but also to a certain extent in the western economies as they surge from the recession, have led to tight supply/demand conditions.

In the negotiations carried out in the fourth quarter of 1994 for the annual pricing on contracts for 1995, there appears to be a certain inconsistency as some of them point to large price increases whilst others point to small increases. Maybe it is too early to confirm any definite emerging trend in the market, but it does appear that a certain increase in prices will occur for 1995 compared to 1994.

CIF PRICES FOR COAL COMING FROM THIRD COUNTRIES		
PERIOD	COKING COAL (US\$/t)*	STEAM COAL (US\$/tce)**
1/1993	57.50	46.96
2/1993	56.80	45.92
3/1993	55.30	42.80
4/1993	55.00	43.12
1/1994	54.70	43.31
2/1994	54.00	42.60
3/1994	53.80	n.a.
4/1994	n.a.	n.a.

* Referred to a standard coal quality of: ash-7.5%; moisture-8.0%; sulphur-0.8% and volatile matter-26%.

** For electricity generation purposes

10. The expansion in the Community's GDP during 1994 is likely to lead to an increase in total energy demand. However, solid fuels will remain unaffected by this increase in demand and in fact will witness a significant decrease. The preliminary forecasts for 1995 are less negative, as they show a certain stability in hard coal deliveries, whilst the lignite market will continue to contract.

TABLE 1

HARD COAL BALANCE SHEET FOR 1995

(In thousands of metric tons)

	Belgium	Denmark *	Germany	Spain	France *	Greece	Ireland	Italy *	Luxem- bourg	Nether- lands	Portugal	United Kingdom	EUR-12
1. PRODUCTION (t=t)			58100	17650	7800		1					47000	130551
2. RECOVERIES	800		300	50								500	1650
3. RECEIPTS FROM ECSC COUNTRIES	530		700	300	210		344	30	84	400		500	3098
4. IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES	13565	11000	14400	12600	11960	1400	2635	15430	228	15550	5338	15000	119104
5. AVAILABILITIES (1+2+3+4)	14895	11000	73500	30600	19970	1400	2980	15460	310	16950	5338	63000	251305
6. TOTAL INLAND DELIVERIES	14235	12700	77580	30600	20390	1500	2960	16080	310	14150	5338	64100	259943
A.- POWER STATIONS AT MINES			1500		2700								4200
B.- POWER STATIONS	7100	12000	50550	24500	4000	100	2102	6200		9500	4173	41100	161325
C.- COKING PLANTS	4950		13400	4300	7800			7250		4000	395	9000	51095
D.- IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY (of which POWER STATIONS)	1000		2500		1800	70	1	1330	159	500		500 *	7860
E.- OTHER INDUSTRIES (of which POWER STATIONS)	650	400	7700	1500	2700	1328	247	1000	150	150	770	6800 *	23395
F.- DOMESTIC HEATING	525	300	1250	200	1000		609	100	1			4400	8385
G.- MISCELLANEOUS (TOTAL 1 - 6)	10		680	100	390	2	1	200				2300	3683
1. ISSUE TO WORKERS			90	60									150
2. PATENT FUEL PLANTS	10		450		329							1300	2089
3. OWN CONSUMPTION AT MINES			40	40	58								138
4. GASWORKS													
5. RAILWAYS			60			1							61
6. OTHERS			40		3	1	1	200				1000	1245
7. DELIVERIES TO ECSC COUNTRIES	660		1360		347		14			1700		900	4961
8. EXPORTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES	25		20		153		6					100	304
9. TOTAL DELIVERIES (6+7+8)	14910	12700	78950	30600	20890	1500	2980	16080	310	16850	5338	65100	260247
10. MOVEMENT OF PRODUCERS' AND IMPORTERS STOCKS (5-9)	-15	-1700	-5450		-920	-100		-620		100		-2100	-10805

* Commission estimates

TABLE 2

HARD COAL BALANCE SHEET FOR 1994

(In thousands of metric tons)

	Belgium	Denmark +	Germany	Spain	France +	Greece	Ireland	Italy	Luxem- bourg	Nether- lands	Portugal	United Kingdom	EUR-12
1. PRODUCTION (t=t)			57530	18250	8200		1				150	48600	132731
2. RECOVERIES	690		300	45								500	1535
3. RECEIPTS FROM ECSC COUNTRIES	565		800	290	210		328	30	91	400		500	3214
4. IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES	13005	11000	13100	12220	11960	1350	2516	15430	246	15950	5318	16000	118095
5. AVAILABILITIES (1+2+3+4)	14260	11000	71730	30806	20370	1360	2846	16460	337	16360	6468	66600	262361
6. TOTAL INLAND DELIVERIES	13565	12700	75440	30770	20390	1460	2825	16080	337	14250	5468	67100	260385
A.- POWER STATIONS AT MINES			1500		2700								4200
B.- POWER STATIONS	6360	12000	48050	24570	4000	100	2000	6200		9400	4226	44100	161006
C.- COKING PLANTS	5050		13800	4450	7800			7250		4000	395	8800	51545
D.- IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY (of which POWER STATIONS)	900		2400		1800	68	1	1330	164	600		500 *	7763
E.- OTHER INDUSTRIES (of which POWER STATIONS)	685	400	7700	1500	2700	1290	237	1000	172	250	847	7000 *	23781
F.- DOMESTIC HEATING	550	300	1250	200	1000		586	100	1			4400	8387
G.- MISCELLANEOUS (TOTAL 1 - 6)	20		740	50	390	2	1	200				2300	3703
1. ISSUE TO WORKERS			100	40									140
2. PATENT FUEL PLANTS	20		470		329 *							1300	2119
3. OWN CONSUMPTION AT MINES			50	10	58 *								118
4. GASWORKS													
5. RAILWAYS			70			1							71
6. OTHERS			50		3 *	1	1	200				1000	1255
7. DELIVERIES TO ECSC COUNTRIES	680		1100		347 *		13			2100		900	6140
8. EXPORTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES	25		20		163 *		7					100	306
9. TOTAL DELIVERIES (6+7+8)	14270	12700	76660	30770	20890	1460	2846	16080	337	16360	6468	68100	260690
10. MOVEMENT OF PRODUCERS' AND IMPORTERS STOCKS (5-9)	-10	-1700	-4830	35	-520	-110		-620				-2500	-10255

* Commission estimates; + Data supplied in June 1994

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TABLE 3

COKE BALANCE SHEET FOR 1995

(In thousands of metric tons)

	Belgium	Denmark *	Germany	Spain	France *	Greece	Ireland	Italy *	Luxem- bourg	Nether- lands	Portugal	United Kingdom	EUR-12
1. PRODUCTION (t=t)	3800		10600	2500	6000			5200		3000	270	6100	37470
2. RECEIPTS FROM ECSC COUNTRIES	70	14	200	40	150	20	24	35	1040	100	2	100	1795
3. IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES	1075	26	1650	60	260	1	6	120		100	29	600	3927
4. TOTAL AVAILABILITIES (1+2+3)	4945	40	12450	2600	6410	21	30	5355	1040	3200	301	6800	41397
5. TOTAL INLAND DELIVERIES	4305	40	13900	2600	5900	21	30	5425	1040	2200	301	6600	42362
A.- STEEL INDUSTRY	4190		11900	2600	5000		19	5275	1040	2200	271	5900	38395
B.- OTHER INDUSTRIES	100	40	1000		700	21	11				30	400	2302
C.- DOMESTIC SECTOR	5		420		120			80				100	725
D.- MISCELLANEOUS of which :	10		580		80			70				200	940
1. ISSUE TO WORKERS	5		300										305
2. OWN CONSUMPTION			4										4
3. OTHERS	5		276		80			70				200	631
6. DELIVERIES TO ECSC COUNTRIES	800		100		268					800			1768
7. EXPORTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES	40		70		132			10		200		200	662
8. TOTAL DELIVERIES (5+6+7)	4945	40	14070	2600	6300	21	30	5435	1040	3200	301	6800	43014
9. STOCK MOVEMENT AT													
PRODUCTION & IMPORTS (4-8)			-1620		110			-80					-1590

* Commission estimates

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TABLE 4

COKE BALANCE SHEET FOR 1994

(In thousands of metric tons)

	Belgium	Denmark *	Germany	Spain	France +	Greece	Ireland	Italy	Luxem- bourg	Nether- lands	Portugal	United Kingdom	EUR-12
1. PRODUCTION (t=t)	3850		10900	3300	6000			5200		2900	270	6100	38520
2. RECEIPTS FROM ECSC COUNTRIES	70	14	200	40	150	20	15	35	1127	175	2	100	1948
3. IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES	1030	26	1550	60	260	1	4	120		125	29	600	3805
4. TOTAL AVAILABILITIES (1+2+3)	4950	40	12650	3400	6410	21	19	6355	1127	3200	301	6800	42326
5. TOTAL INLAND DELIVERIES	4250	40	14270	3400	5900	16	19	5525	1127	2000	295	6600	43442
A.- STEEL INDUSTRY	4130		12100	3400	5000		12	5275	1127	2000	265	5900	39209
B.- OTHER INDUSTRIES	100	40	1150		700	16	7				30	400	2443
C.- DOMESTIC SECTOR	5		430		120			80				100	735
D.- MISCELLANEOUS of which :	15		590		80			170				200	1055
1. ISSUE TO WORKERS	5		300										305
2. OWN CONSUMPTION			5										5
3. OTHERS	10		285		80			170				200	745
6. DELIVERIES TO ECSC COUNTRIES	650		350		268 *					950			2218
7. EXPORTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES	50		80		132 *			10		250		200	722
8. TOTAL DELIVERIES (5+6+7)	4950	40	14700	3400	6300	16	19	5535	1127	3200	295	6800	44164
9. STOCK MOVEMENT AT													
PRODUCTION & IMPORTS (4-8)			-1850		110	5		-180			6		-1909

* Commission estimates; + Data supplied in June 1994

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TABLE 5

LIGNITE AND PEAT BALANCE SHEET FOR 1995

(In thousands of metric tons)

	Belgium	Denmark *	Germany	Spain	France *	Greece	Ireland	Italy *	Luxem- bourg	Nether- lands	Portugal	United Kingdom	EUR-12
A. RAW PRODUCT													
- AVAILABILITIES :	200		195125	11000	1620	58000	5416	715	9				272084
PRODUCTION			192725	11000	1620	58000	5325	700					269370
IMPORTS	200		2400				90	15	9				2714
- UTILIZATION :	200		195125	11000	1695	58000	5416	765	9				272209
BRIQUETTING PLANTS			32480			170	788						33438
POWER STATIONS			149000	11000	1500	57150	3035	765					222450
OTHERS	200		13645		195	680	1592		9				16321
B. BRIQUETTES													
- AVAILABILITIES :	20	5	10250			60	338		8				10681
PRODUCTION			9900			60	330						10290
ARRIVAL FROM ECSC COUNTRIES	20	5					8		8				41
IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES			350										350
- UTILIZATION	20	5	10250			60	338		8				10681
POWER STATIONS			200			18							218
INDUSTRY			3830										3830
DOMESTIC	20	5	5000				295		8				5328
SHIPMENTS TO OTHER													
ECSC COUNTRIES							3						3
EXPORTS TO NON-MEMBER													
COUNTRIES			700				13						713
- OTHERS			520			42	27						589

* Commission estimates

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TABLE 6

LIGNITE AND PEAT BALANCE SHEET FOR 1994

(In thousands of metric tons)

	Belgium	Denmark *	Germany	Spain	France +	Greece	Ireland	Italy	Luxem- bourg	Nether- lands	Portugal	United Kingdom	EUR-12
A. RAW PRODUCT													
- AVAILABILITIES :	200		210712	11300	1620	57000	5132	716	9				286688
PRODUCTION			208292	11300	1620	57000	5082	700					283994
IMPORTS	200		2420				50	15	9				2694
- UTILIZATION :	200		210711	11300	1695	57000	5537	765	9				287217
BRIQUETTING PLANTS			37185			170	1010						38365
POWER STATIONS			157370	11300	1500	56150	2945	765					230030
OTHERS	200		16156		195	680	1582		9				18822
B. BRIQUETTES													
- AVAILABILITIES :	20	5	11216			60	371		8				11678
PRODUCTION			10848			60	364						11272
ARRIVAL FROM ECSC COUNTRIES	20	5					7		8				40
IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES			367										367
- UTILIZATION	20	5	11216			60	401		8				11709
POWER STATIONS			200			18							218
INDUSTRY			3972										3972
DOMESTIC	20	5	5208				364		8				5605
SHIPMENTS TO OTHER ECSC COUNTRIES							4						4
EXPORTS TO NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES			705				13						718
- OTHERS			1130			42	20						1192

* Commission estimates; + data supplied in June 1994

**TABLE 7A
HARD COAL PRODUCTION BY AREA**

5/12/94

(In thousands of metric tons)

	1993	1994	1995
Campine			
BELGIUM			
Ruhr	51474	45010	45900
Aachen	1560	1580	1580
Ibbenburen	2066	2050	2030
Saar+Kleinzechen	9075	8890	8590
GERMANY	64175	57530	58100
Central Asturias	3714	3420	3240
Bierzo-Villablino + Narcea	6359	6575	6330
Norte Leon + Palencia	2176	1975	1860
Sur	1802	1980	2100
Aragon-Cataluña, Baleares	4132	4300	4120
SPAIN	18183	18250	17650
Lorraine	7412		
Centre-Midi	1164		
FRANCE	8576	8200 +	7800 *
IRELAND	1	1	1
Sulcis (Sardinia)	20		
ITALY	20		
PORTUGAL	197	150	
Scotland			
North-East			
Yorkshire			
Nottinghamshire			
Midlands			
BC Opencast	14414		
Licensed mines + Opencast	3663		
UNITED KINGDOM	67463	48600	47000
EUR 12	158615	132731	130551

* Commission estimates; + Data supplied in June 1994

**TABLE 7B
LIGNITE PRODUCTION BY AREA**

5/12/94

(In thousands of metric tons)

	1993	1994	1995
Rheinland	102100	101600	101000
Helmstedt	3900	3740	3950
Hessen	100	140	145
Bayern	100	60	60
Lausitz	87400	80292	71000
Mitteldeutschland	28200	22460	16570
GERMANY	221800	208292	192725
Ptolemais	31800	35000	36500
Megalopolis	11800	12000	11500
Amindeo	7600	7000	7000
Others	3600	3000	3000
GREECE	54800	57000	58000
La Coruña	13347	11300	11000
SPAIN	13347	11300	11000
Centre-Midi	1671	1620 +	1620 *
FRANCE	1671	1620 +	1620 *
Valdamo	1000		
ITALY	1000		
EUR 12	292618	278212	263345

* Commission estimates; + Data supplied in June 1994