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** During its first month of existence, the COMMUNITY BUSINESS COOPERATION CENTRE booked 116 requests for associates and 74 requests for information; it also entered into cooperation arrangements with 34 organizations. This initial record, which is discussed further in ANNEX 1, is indicative of the interest shown by Community industrialists, particularly by small and medium-sized undertakings, in the setting up of the Community Business Cooperation Centre by the European Commission (see IRT No. 187).

** At present there is no common market in the TELECOMMUNICATIONS field. Each country develops its own technology, its own industry and its own system. If, at a time when telecommunications technology is making huge strides and entailing ever higher investment, the countries of Europe persist in going their separate ways, the

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The information and articles published in this Bulletin concern European scientific cooperation and industrial development in Europe. Hence they are not simply confined to reports on the decisions or views of the Commission of the European Communities, but cover the whole field of questions discussed in the different circles concerned.

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differences will be even greater, resulting waste of resources more grave than ever. A Community telecommunications policy, with appropriate implementing institutions, is therefore urgently needed. This point was stressed by Mr Layton, Director for Advanced Technology Industries within the Commission, in a speech to the Federation of Telecommunications Engineers of the European Communities (FITCE). An extract of this speech is given in ANNEX 2.

** ANNEX 3 contains a selection from the RECENT PUBLICATIONS newly acquired by the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities. These may be consulted on the premises (1, avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Loi office, 1st floor, No.43) or borrowed.

** Between 1952 when it was set up and 31 December 1972, the Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) allocated aid totalling 36.9 million units of account to research programmes aimed at IMPROVING HEALTH AND HYGIENE CONDITIONS FOR COAL AND STEEL WORKERS.

This aid included 9,560,000 u.a. allocated to research relating to respiratory diseases, 3,800,000 u.a. to research on retraining and industrial traumatology and 3,700,000 u.a. in the field of human safety factors.

As to research dealing more specifically with the technical aspects of health and hygiene, 11,500,000 u.a. were allocated to mining research programmes, and 4,600,000 u.a. to iron and steel research programmes. Lastly, an amount of some 3,830,000 u.a. was granted for a certain number of specific research projects (rescue of trapped miners, fire prevention, brown smoke, etc.). Most of these programmes are still being carried out. Their total cost amounts to approximately 20 million u.a.

** On 3 July 1973 the European Parliament is to discuss the report prepared by Mr Jahn on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee for Public Health and the Environment, on the COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME and on the draft measures in this field submitted by the European Commission (see IRT No. 185). The report stresses that the Council of Ministers should adopt the programme as soon as possible, to comply with the decisions of the Paris Summit (see IRT No. 162). But the Council should also ensure its implementation by setting the priorities and by establishing the legal measures needed to effectively protect the environment (see IRT No. 195).

** On 3 July 1973, the European Parliament is also to decide on a proposal for a resolution submitted by the Parliamentary Committee on Energy, Research and Technology, which considers that THE COMMUNITY'S LONG TERM ENERGY SUPPLIES may be jeopardized by the Council of Ministers itself which, at its meeting on 22 May 1973, was unable to adopt the guidelines for a Community energy policy, even though it was forced to acknowledge the urgency of the problems to be solved (see IRT No. 191). In this proposal for a resolution, the Parliamentary Committee requests the Council to adopt by October 1973, on the basis of the new Commission proposals (see IRT No. 187), decisions in the following fields:

- (a) development of cooperation between energy importing and exporting countries;
- (b) more rational use of nuclear energy;
- (c) exploitation and processing of natural gas;
- (d) environmental protection problems connected with the energy policy;
- (e) rational use of energy, the search for new energy sources and more particularly measures against wastage of energy;

(f) the part to be played by coal in future Community energy supply arrangements.

** ANY PREFERENCE OR SUPPLY RESERVATION granted by the Member States of the Community in favour of their national production is to be qualified as a measure having an effect equivalent to quantitative restrictions and contrary to the rules of the Treaty of the European Economic Community. On the basis of the Treaty rules, the Commission has launched a vast overall scheme to abolish such measures. It recently stated this in its answer to a Written Question from Mr Vredeling, Member of the European Parliament, which dealt more particularly with the market for railway rolling stock.

As regards the specific field of railway rolling stock, the Commission stated that it was aware of certain measures applied both in Belgium and in Italy. Following the action taken by the Commission, the situation was or is being straightened out. Nevertheless, in spite of the progress achieved, the Commission believes that further efforts must be made to obtain a true interpenetration of the markets in the railway equipment sector, particularly with a view to harmonizing standards and technical requirements in accordance with the Council Resolution of 7 December 1970.

** THE RISK OF ACCIDENTS IN COMMUNITY IRON AND STEEL WORKS continues to increase. Although the absolute number of industrial accidents in the Community iron and steel industry has dropped (74,000 in 1971 as compared with 77,000 in 1970), the frequency rate (the ratio between the number of accidents and the number of actual hours worked) is steadily increasing (94 non-fatal accidents per million hours of work in 1971 as against 92 in 1970, 87 in 1969, 82 in 1968, 80 in 1967).

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The number of fatal accidents in the six original Member States of the Community is still in the region of 100 accidents a year (115 in 1971). The rate of seriousness also shows a deteriorating situation: 3.3 days lost on average per worker during 1971 (as compared with 3.2 in 1970, 3.1 in 1969, 2.9 in 1968 and 2.8 in 1967), and 19.4 days lost per accident in 1971 (as against 18.1 in 1970).

A study of the trend in the different countries shows that Italy, third in 1969 after Luxembourg and Germany, is now well in the lead with the highest frequency rate (121 accidents per million hours worked as against 106 in Germany, 96 in Belgium, 94 in Luxembourg, 68 in France and 47 in the Netherlands). In the technological departments, the maintenance services have the highest number of accidents (27,000 as compared with 26,000 in the rolling mills and 14,000 in the steelworks), whilst as regards the degree of risk, the lead is held by the steelworks (130 accidents per million hours worked as against 110 in the rolling mills and 85 in the blast furnaces).

These data are extracted from a recent publication by the Statistical Office of the European Communities entitled "Industrial accidents - steelworks" (No. 6bis - 1972 in the "Social Statistics" series). This publication deals with the results of an annual survey which has been carried out for the past 12 years.

** On 26 June 1973, the Council of Ministers discussed the amended proposal from the Commission relating to the new system of COMMUNITY AID TO COKING COAL AND COKE intended for the Community iron and steel industry (see IRT No. 194). The Ministers agreed in principle but, owing to a possible change in the period of validity of the new system, they requested the Commission to amplify certain technical details in the proposal, so that they can adopt it during July.

** A draft convention on a EUROPEAN TRADE MARK LAW has recently been published by the Commission. This is a provisional document, prepared by a Working Party briefed by the Commission, whose work was interrupted in 1964 following differences of opinion between the Member States on fundamental questions of industrial ownership. The published text is aimed at establishing a body of European trade mark law which would exist alongside the national laws and would also guarantee maximum security to holders.

The document has been published in order to obtain the views of the circles interested in this subject, and to facilitate the search for a Community solution to this particularly important and complex aspect of economic life. After the remarkable progress achieved in the field of European patents, we may now expect that uniform protection will soon be established for patented products circulating in the Community (see IRT No. 189). Similar protection rights should also be introduced for branded products in order to facilitate their movement and to broaden competition inside the Common Market.

This document may be obtained at the Sales Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (PO Box 1003, Luxembourg) at the price of FB 210.

** THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK has granted Energieversorgung Weser-Ems AG, Oldenburg (Lower Saxony), a loan equivalent to DM 20 million (5.7 million units of account) for a 20-year term. The loan is intended for the extension of the company's natural gas and electricity distribution networks in the north-west region of Lower Saxony and thus is of considerable importance in terms of energy policy.

** The Energy, Research and Technology Committee of the European Parliament held an initial discussion on a report drawn up by Mr Bessborough on the requirements and prospects of a COMMON TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY. The Parliamentary Committee concluded that it was necessary for the objectives of a common technological policy (see IRT No. 188) to be clearly defined, and that, under the general heading of technology, a broadly-based research and industrial development policy should be implemented.

As a first step, the Parliamentary Committee agreed on the following measures:

- a general assessment of the extent and results of cooperation projects already in progress at the European level;
- compulsory notification to the Commission of the principal technological projects financed by the public authorities or with their participation;
- the establishment of a list of priorities for the sectors in which projects of Community interest should be carried out, and prompt decisions to put these projects in hand;
- establishment of Community financing machinery using venture capital.

** LOANS FROM THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY (ECSC):

Who can obtain them?

What programmes can they be used to finance?

What are their main features?

The answers to these questions are contained in a booklet recently published by the Commission of the European Communities, which can be obtained free of charge from the following address:

Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for Credit and Investment, 9, place de la Gare, Luxembourg.

THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY BUSINESS COOPERATION CENTRE

During the first month of its existence, the Community Business Cooperation Centre received 116 requests for associates and 74 requests for information; it also made arrangements to collaborate with 34 organizations.

The Business Cooperation Centre, set up on the initiative of the European Commission, began its work at the beginning of May 1973. This Centre, staffed by officials of the Commission but operating as an autonomous decentralized department, provides firms with information on the national and Community provisions of a legal, fiscal, financial or administrative nature concerning cooperation and link-ups between firms in different Community countries, and with a means of making contact for firms desirous of cooperating or linking up (see IRT No. 187).

Firms can approach the Centre about all forms of link-up, as regards both the structure of cooperation (from contractual cooperation to mergers) and fields of cooperation (research, development, production, marketing, etc.). The activities of the Centre are strictly neutral, in the sense that it makes no selection from the various firms interested in a given offer of cooperation, and makes no assessment of applicant firms. Its services are free of charge and its staff are required to observe the rules of professional discretion with respect to the Commission and to third parties.

The results of the Business Cooperation Centre's first month of work show that there is considerable interest among the industrialists of the Community countries, particularly in Germany and in the United Kingdom - these two countries providing the greatest number of requests. There is, however, a qualitative difference between the requests from these countries: the English are basically looking for mergers, whereas the Germans are more interested in contractual cooperation.

On the sectoral level, the greatest number of requests for associates have come from the structural steelwork and mechanical engineering industries, two particularly large and diversified sectors. Many requests have also come from the food industry, a sector which is currently going through a restructuring process. Lastly, there is also a heavy demand from service firms.

The work of the Business Cooperation Centre, as conceived by the European Commission, was intended primarily to be tailored to the requirements of small and medium-sized firms, since these do not always have the same facilities as the large firms for finding themselves the associates they need. And in practice, it has been the small and medium-sized firms which have called upon the services of the Centre. Generally speaking, the requests for partners come from firms employing an average of 200 people, although there are also some requests from far larger or far smaller firms.

The following table shows the results of the work of the Business Cooperation Centre during the month of May 1973:

WORK OF THE BUSINESS COOPERATION CENTRE - MAY 1973

Requests for associates	Country of origin										EEC	Total
	B	D	F	DK	GB	I	NL	IRL	L	Other countries		
Extractive industries	1		1		1							3
Chemicals		2			4		1	2				9
Structural steelwork	1	12			1			1				15
Mechanical engineering	1	9	1				1	2				14
Electrical engineering	1				3		1	1				6
Food industry		3	2		5	1	2	4				17
Textiles		8	2					1				11
Timber and paper	1	10			1							12
Miscellaneous industries		1						1				2
Building and civil engineering		1										1
Commerce	3	3	1									7
Transport		4		1								5
Services	3	6			3		2					14
Total:	10	60	7	1	18	1	7	12				116
Requests for information	2	22	4	2	22	3	4			9	6	74
Organizations with which collaboration agreements have been concluded		5	10	1	10		1	1		3	3	34
Grand Total:	12	87	21	4	50	4	12	13	-	12	9	224



EXCERPT FROM SPEECH TO THE FITCE (Fédération des Ingénieurs des
Télécommunications de la Communauté Européenne) BY MR LAYTON,
DIRECTOR FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES

We are at a turning point in the history of European telecommunications. An explosive growth of new technologies, soaring investment needs as the countries of the Community catch up with the huge unsatisfied demand for telephones, and an accelerating growth in all kinds of international traffic, force us to take a radical new look at the way we plan and manage European telecommunications.

At present, the common market in telecommunications does not exist.

Each country develops its own technology, industry and system.

If in the new era of digital communications and electronic telephone exchanges, we persist in going our separate ways, the divisions will be even greater, the waste of resources and irritations for the consumer in ten years time more grave than ever.

We need nothing less than a full-blooded European telecommunications policy with the right institutions to carry it out. We should draw up plans for the creation of a European Telecommunications Corporation in which the PTTS would have shares. This new company would have the following tasks:

- (1) To draw up a longterm plan for the development of the European telecommunications system.
- (2) To choose, in the light of this plan, a common or compatible European technology, particularly for the next generation of electronic telephone exchanges which form the heart of the system.

- (3) To administer and manage, if necessary, certain joint functions, particularly of an international character, for instance the "spinal column" of the European network, a common regional satellite, the provision, maintenance and responsibility for international data links.
- (4) To develop common standards (for signalling, codes, maintenance practices and equipment).
- (5) To represent the European telecommunications administrations in key international negotiations, for instance in Intelsat.

Such a plan would save resources, benefit the user, especially of the new technologies and facilities now possible, make possible the creation of a true common market and give European industry a strong base from which to attack the markets of the world.

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