

industry research and technology

WEEKLY

REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED

Brussels, 20 July 1971

No. 108

- ** Without the REMOVAL OF TECHNICAL IMPEDIMENTS TO TRADE between the Community countries it is impossible to establish a genuine common market, and it is well known that the Commission of the European Communities has often asked for the work being done on this subject to be speeded up. ANNEX 1 contains a brief note on the progress made so far and the obstacles encountered.
- ** In the present energy situation, external purchases of nuclear fuels, more especially of enriched uranium, will still be of major importance to the Community's energy supply arrangements in the near future. At present a REDEFINITION OF THE COMMUNITY PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLIES is being sought. ANNEX 2 contains a summary of a report on this subject prepared by Mr Fläming for the European Parliament Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Problems.
- ** THE EUROPEAN METALWORKERS' FEDERATION IN THE COMMUNITY (EMF) held its first general meeting in Brussels on 29-30 June 1971, in the presence of Mr Malfatti, President of the Commission of the European Communities, and officials of the national and European trade-union organizations. The EMF, which replaces

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This bulletin is published by the Directorate General Press and Information of the Commission of the European Communities

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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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the European Committee of Metalworkers' Trade Unions (ECFTU), now groups 3.1 million workers in the Community countries' metal industry.

In a resolution, the EMF delegates observed with satisfaction that practical cooperation and coordination between the metalworkers' trade unions in Europe have made substantial progress during recent years. They nevertheless regretted that the workers' organizations are inadequately represented in the Community's structures and decision-making bodies. Lastly, they supported the strengthening of the Commission of the European Communities and called for wider powers for the European Parliament so as to subject the activities of the Council to democratic control.

** The General Advisory Committee of the Joint Research Centre, meeting in Paris on 13 July 1971, pursued its examination of the THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME PROPOSALS (1972-1974) submitted to it by the Director-General of the JRC (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 106). In particular, the Committee studied the proposals for public service activities (Central Bureau for Nuclear Measurements, Community Bureau of Standards, applied data-processing, etc.). The General Advisory Committee should be able to start drawing up a formal opinion on the set of programme proposals at its next meeting, to be held in Brussels on 1-2 September 1971.

** The European Parliament Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Problems, met in Brussels on 12 July 1971, Mr Spinelli, member of the Commission of the European Communities with special responsibility for industrial affairs and research, and Mr Caprioglio, Director-General of the Joint Research Centre, were present. There was a wide-ranging exchange of views on the draft THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME FOR THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE (1972-1974), which is now under discussion.

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Replying to questions, Mr Spinelli once more stressed the need to set up a European Research and Development Centre (see "Industry, Research and Development" No. 75) as being the only way for the Community to have an overall view of the objectives which any European scientific cooperation scheme worthy of its name ought to set itself.

** The Council of the Organization for European Cooperation and Development (OECD) recently instituted a PROCEDURE FOR NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION under which the OECD member countries are obliged to notify MEASURES AIMED AT PROTECTING MAN OR HIS ENVIRONMENT (and likely to have significant effects on the economy and trade of other countries) which they are taking or contemplate taking. Procedures for consultations between the countries concerned on these measures are likewise laid down.

The Commission of the European Communities, considering it desirable to establish procedures within the Community to enable the Community and the Member States to define their attitude towards environmental questions in international bodies, has put before the Council of Ministers proposals on methods to ensure that the OECD procedure is applied in an efficacious, coordinated manner for the Community and the Member States.

** CORPORATION TAX AND INCOME TAX IN THE COMMUNITY: this is the English translation of the title of a survey done for the Commission of the European Communities, which has been published in the series "Competition - approximation of legislation" 1970 - 15. The survey covers the following:

- study of the expediency of easing what is commonly termed the double taxation of dividends;
- comparative study of the economic, financial and social consequences resulting from the methods that might be used to ease such double taxation, at the level of intra-Community relations and also of the Community's relations with non-member countries;

- study of the drawbacks caused, at the Community level, by the coexistence of the various methods applied today in the member countries. The object is to suggest transitional methods of reducing these drawbacks until a fiscal system with uniform rules concerning corporation tax comes into force in the Community.

** THE COMMON ENERGY POLICY was the subject of a written question from Mr Oele, Dutch member of the European Parliament. In its reply, the Commission states that it considers that recent events have provided new, imperative arguments in favour of implementing a Community energy policy as soon as possible, so that the Community can cope with its present-day energy supply problems under the best possible conditions. It does not appear to the Commission that the events of the last few months call into question either the principles of its communication to the Council or the value of the initial proposals already submitted.

The Commission had already, before the present situation developed, submitted proposals to the Council regarding, inter alia, the aid systems for coking coal, coke, and coal in general, the harmonization of excise duties on fuel oils and the nuclear fuel supply arrangements, the question of dependability of supply being taken into account in all these proposals. The Commission's work on a number of other items is now so far advanced that it will shortly be able to submit proposals to the Council.

** A programme of intercomparison, aimed at improving the measurement of radiation and ionizing particle doses received by individuals (dosimetry) and thus directly concerning an essential aspect of physical control in RADIATION PROTECTION work, has been going on since 1964 under the sponsorship of the Commission of the European Communities in collaboration with institutes of the various Community countries. The Commission has now decided to allocate 5,096 u.s. for the continuation of this programme in 1971.

** The Community Committee on Scientific and Technical Research Policy (Aigrain Group) has decided to encourage TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 90). With the aid of five universities in the Member States, a coordinated set of short courses, intended mainly for computer science teachers, will be held during 1972:

- at Grenoble, in January 1972, on the architecture of data-processing systems;
- at Munich, in February 1972, on the planning and management of real-time systems;
- at Amsterdam, in June 1972 on programming languages and the structure of data considered as theoretical bases of computer science;
- at Ghent, on advanced methods of data-processing in business;
- at Bari, on data banks and automatic documentation systems.

All information on these courses can be obtained from the Commission of the European Communities, DG III, Directorate D, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040-Brussels, Belgium.

The Removal of Technical Obstacles to Trade in the European Community

When the European Economic Community was set up, freedom of movement of goods inside the common market thus formed was one of the chief aims of its founders. But although the various obstacles in the field of tariffs were fully perceived on all sides from the outset, it was not until some years later that the governments were able to see clearly what attitude they ought to adopt towards the impediments caused by disparities in the technical requirements laid down by law, regulation or administrative action and by standardization.

In point of fact, the removal of technical barriers to intra-Community trade was not tackled systematically until 28 May 1969, when the Council adopted, in the order shown:

1. a resolution establishing a programme aimed at removing technical impediments resulting from disparities between the provisions laid down by law, regulation and administrative action in the various Member States to trade in industrial products;
2. a similar resolution establishing a programme regarding trade in foodstuffs;
3. a resolution concerning mutual recognition of inspection systems;
4. a resolution concerning the adjustment to technological progress of directives established in consequence of the first two resolutions;
5. an agreement concerning the status quo and the communication of information to the Commission of the European Communities. By this agreement the Member States undertook not to adopt any measures liable to raise new technical impediments over a minimum period necessary for the Community authorities to embark on or complete a harmonization scheme.

The chief aims pursued by this set of measures were:

- to enable firms to take full advantage of the size of a genuine common market, by standardizing the production series which the various Member States' regulations obliged them to diversify needlessly;
- to protect the consumer by compelling the producers to observe detailed rules of manufacture and to submit clear statements concerning the nature of the products supplied;
- to safeguard health and the natural environment by making basic rules on pollution compulsory.

The general programme, according to the actual list established in the Council, was to lead to the establishment of over 150 directives, which in principle were to be the subject of Council decisions before 1 January 1971, a certain order of priority having been decided upon.

In reality, it proved impossible to keep up to schedule, partly because the work showed that certain additions to the general programme were necessary to take into account inherent problems of the sectors under study. For instance, the programme called for 25 directives for motor vehicles, whereas the present estimates put the number at around 70. In addition, new laws adopted or contemplated by the Member States, whether in the fields under study or in new ones (especially protection of the environment) added considerably to the work of the departments concerned and at the same time had the effect of altering the priorities.

But difficulties of a less specific nature also held up the implementation of the general programme. They varied in origin, i.e.:

- The removal of technical obstacles, though beneficial to the consumer, has its main effect at the producer level. Hence it generally escapes the attention of the consumer and therefore does not rank high in the political "hierarchy";

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- Furthermore, this is a relatively new subject which hitherto has not commonly received overall treatment in negotiations at the international level, so that those responsible in the various countries are more or less reserved on the matter;
- In contrast to tariff problems, international discussion of which is usually the responsibility of a single ministry, technical regulations are the province of numerous ministries and departments, and this complicates efforts towards coordination and harmonization;
- Changes are resisted by certain firms in a dominant position who, through the slant of the regulations or standards, possess control of a given market;
- Lastly, discrepancies in this field are often due to differences in technical assessment (analysis and inspection methods, protective devices) and it is very difficult to find the best answer - if there is one - to the problem. Usually it is a matter of convincing experts of the merits of methods or criteria which they do not use at present, and this is not an easy job.

These difficulties should gradually disappear as political circles become more aware of the importance of weeding out the technical obstacles to intra-Community trade and the necessity of speeding up procedures at the various stages of formulating the directives. Even now, however, the results obtained by the Commission's departments are far from negligible.

As regards industrial products, about 40 draft directives have been prepared by the Commission and submitted to the Council. They concern, for instance, motor vehicles, farm machinery and tractors, measuring instruments, electrical appliances and machines, textiles, crystal glass and dangerous preparations.

Regarding foodstuffs, the Commission has submitted five draft directives on emulsified sauces, edible ices, caseins, beer and mineral waters.

To date, the Council has adopted ten directives, the other score or so being at various stages of study by the Council authorities, some of them for several years already. The rate at which the directives are adopted by the Council ought certainly to be stepped up if the common market is to be brought into being. The Commission of the European Communities has again stressed, in its memorandum on the Community's industrial policy submitted to the Council at the beginning of 1970, the importance it attaches to an urgent solution of the problem of technical impediments. This importance was clearly underlined afterwards by the Member States, certain of them even acknowledging it to be of a priority character. The fact is that, if only on account of the activity of the international organizations in this field (OECD, ECE, GATT or organizations that have long been dealing with standardization, a special aspect of the removal of impediments), Community-level harmonization enabling a common position to be taken up in these groups seems to be absolutely essential and urgent.

Towards a Redefinition of the Community's Nuclear Fuel Supply Arrangements

(according to the opinion of the European Parliament Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Problems (report by Mr Flämig) on the draft amendments to Chapter VI of the Euratom Treaty, concerning the task of the Supply Agency)

In the present energy situation, although there are plans to build a uranium enrichment facility in the Community, external purchases of nuclear fuel and especially of enriched uranium (for which there is virtually only one exporter, the USA) will continue to bulk large in the Community's energy supply arrangements for some time to come.

The Supply Agency established by the Euratom Treaty (Chapter VI) is the only instrument by means of which the major consumers can form a united front against this de facto monopoly. The fact that one of the Community Member States has been buying uranium without acting through the Supply Agency, however, shows that the machinery of this body requires an overhaul. The Agency's methods of operation need to be adapted to present requirements and to the political situation. This is the opinion expressed by the European Parliament Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Problems in the report prepared on its behalf by Mr Flämig, a German member of the European Parliament.

It was in this context that the Commission of the European Communities, in October 1970, brought up to date a draft amendment to the Euratom Treaty, Chapter VI, which it had already submitted in 1964; the object of the amendment is to set out the main lines of a common policy on nuclear fuel supply and to redefine the Supply Agency's role and structure.

In regard to these proposals by the Commission of the European Communities, the Parliamentary Committee confirms the basic principles of a common supply policy — non-discrimination between Community producers, purchasers or users;

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dependability and stability of supply for users in the Member States, as regards both price and quantities. The general aims of the Community concerning the production, utilization, import and export of nuclear fuels will have to be periodically specified on the basis of these principles.

The Supply Agency is the indispensable instrument of such a common policy. It performs its functions under the supervision of the Commission of the European Communities, and to carry out the tasks entrusted to it, it will be assisted by an Advisory Committee composed of representatives of producers and users and of highly qualified experts.

The Agency must always be able to intervene in its capacity as a monopoly holder when the dependability of nuclear fuel supplies to the Community is threatened. The Parliamentary Committee states, however, that it favours the principle of a temporarily suspended monopoly: with the changes that have taken place in the natural uranium market, liberalization of that market is essential. Under normal conditions, firms would no longer be obliged to make all their purchases exclusively through the Agency.

The Parliamentary Committee concludes by expressing the wish that the provisions of the Euratom Treaty, Chapter VI, be reviewed at least every five years in the light of experience acquired.