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\*\* THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF MERGERS in the Community have been examined by the section of the Economic and Social Committee specializing in social matters. In a report presented by Mr Bollinger, this section of the Committee called on the European Commission to supplement measures already taken or contemplated at Community level by a number of moves designed to deal with the social consequences of mergers for both the workers employed by the firm taken over and for the employees and heads of the other firms indirectly affected by the operation. A brief note on this subject will be found in ANNEX 1.

\*\* THE DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY is an advanced-technology sector with a particularly high growth rate (in the USA it has grown by 500% in ten years), which will affect an increasingly large number of users in the future, and its operations will involve all branches of the electronics industry. The European Commission has frequently stressed the importance of this pace-making sector (in particular, see IRT Nos. 106, 129 and 143), and has suggested that Community resources should be used to help European firms secure a foothold on a market which at present is very largely dominated by American companies. ANNEX 2 contains a brief note on the data-processing equipment industry in the Community.

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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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Furthermore, two surveys relating to this sector were recently carried out, on the instructions of the European Commission, one on the structure and growth of the software industry in Germany and the other on growth prospects in the European computer industry in the context of possible cooperation arrangements. The latter study was intended in particular to identify the various products on the market, the conditions governing access to the market, the reasons for and size of barriers due to differences between products, and the resultant opportunities for cooperation - at European level or with non-European partners.

- \*\* The net electric capacity of nuclear power stations now in operation in the member countries of the enlarged Community totals 10,906 MWe (see IRT No. 173). ANNEX 3 gives a table showing the CHARACTERISTICS OF NUCLEAR REACTORS CONNECTED TO THE GRID in the Community.
- \*\* Italy has the highest MONTHLY COST PER EMPLOYEE IN BANKS, INSURANCE COMPANIES AND RETAIL TRADE in the Community. This fact emerges from a Community-wide survey carried out in 1970 on the initiative of the European Commission, the findings of which were recently published by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Social Statistics series, No. 4/1972).
- In banking, the monthly cost per employee amounts to some FB 40,100 in Italy, followed by: Germany (FB 28,000); Belgium (FB 26,100); France (FB 25,300); the Netherlands (FB 20,500) and Luxembourg (FB 19,700).

- In insurance, the situation is as follows: Italy (FB 30,100), Germany (FB 25,100), Belgium (FB 23,000), France (FB 22,900), the Netherlands (FB 22,600) and Luxembourg (FB 20,100).
  
- In retail trade, the order is: Italy (FB 17,300), Germany (FB 17,000), France (FB 15,600), Belgium (FB 13,800), the Netherlands (FB 13,700) and Luxembourg (FB 12,200).

Generally speaking, costs per employee in all these countries are appreciably higher in banking and insurance than in retail trade.

The differences observed as regards structure of the work force is probably not unconnected with the size of the gaps seen to exist. For example, the proportion of women among employees varies substantially as between countries, e.g., between 12% (Italy) and 47% (France) in banking, 28% (Italy) and 56% (France) in insurance, and 50% (Italy) and 70% (Luxembourg) in retail trade.

\*\* The steps taken by the European Commission with the aim of bringing out all the legal, technical and business factors hampering the expansion of the CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY across national frontiers (see IRT No. 167) was approved unanimously by a meeting of experts from the Member States in Brussels on 22 January 1973, called by the European Commission in order to examine the variety of problems posed by the attainment of the common market in the construction sector.

With a view to making these problems easier to approach and understand, the work of these experts will in future be centred on three main topics, namely, listing of technical and legal

obstacles, comparison of research programmes undertaken at national level, and comparison of the criteria and methods used in the preparation of national projections. The various branches of the industry, notably the homebuilding and general building sectors, will be taken into consideration, as will civil engineering.

The combined results of these studies will provide the Commission with the best possible picture of the position of the industry in the common market and the prospects for it. They will also make it possible to establish the progress as regards the Member States of exercises relating to this industry which have been undertaken by other international bodies. In this way the European Commission hopes that it will be able, where necessary, to formulate proposals for action at Community level with a full understanding of the facts.

- \*\* The European Parliament's Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Problems, having noted the failure of the meetings of the Council of Ministers regarding the FUTURE OF EURATOM, has expressed the opinion that the Council has failed to conform to the principle of a research policy as stated in the final communiqué of the Paris Summit. It accordingly calls on the Heads of State and Government of the Member States to instruct the Council of Ministers to take decisions complying with the letter and the spirit of the declarations made in the communiqué in question (see IRT No. 162).
- \*\* A number of problems affecting the PLASTICS PROCESSING SECTOR in the Community are currently being studied by the European Commission. In this context, the Commission has three outside

organizations carrying out studies on problems of general interest to the sector:

- (a) A study on the reduction of reject rates in plastics manufacture has been commissioned from the Institut für Kunststoffverarbeitung (IKV), Germany. An attempt to cut the reject rate due to technical failures and improve the control of manufacturing processes, through a computer-aided self-optimizing system, should be preceded by the determination of those parameters which will make it possible to automate production control more fully.
- (b) A study on the relationship between the natural and artificial ageing of plastics is to be conducted by the Centre d'Etude des Matières Plastiques (CEMP), France. The rapid pace of technical innovation and keen competition in this field make it particularly desirable that the results of modifications to products be known rapidly, particularly as regards their resistance to atmospheric conditions, weatherproofness, etc. Laboratory tests involving artificial ageing should, therefore, provide information on the strength of new products. However, these tests can be interpreted correctly only if the correlation factor for natural and artificial ageing has been accurately determined.
- (c) A study on plastics waste is to be carried out by the Kunststoffen en Rubber Instituut - TNO (KRITNO), Netherlands. This study is concerned with problems regarding the disposal of plastics waste. Attention will be directed in particular to the growing proportion of plastics waste present in the total quantity of refuse for disposal and to the problems

that this would raise in the disposal of such waste, notably with regard to incineration techniques. Also to be considered, in less depth, are the new lines of approach now becoming apparent, particularly as regards degradable plastics and salvage techniques.

The various European institutions conducting related research work will exchange views on these studies, which concern the entire plastics processing sector.

**\*\* FOR THE COAL INDUSTRY OF THE SIX, 1972 was one of the worst years since the Community was set up.**

The drop in coal output was of the order of 13 million tonnes, the largest since 1967. In 1957, the last year before selling became difficult, the Community still produced as much as 253 million tonnes, compared with 152 million tonnes in 1972.

The table below shows the change in coal output in the member countries between 1971 and 1972.

| Year        | Community |                         | Germany <sup>a)</sup> |                         | France | Italy  | Netherlands |                         | Belgium |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|-------------------------|---------|
|             | t=t       | Natio-<br>nal<br>series | t=t                   | Natio-<br>nal<br>series | t=t    | t=t    | t=t         | Natio-<br>nal<br>series | t=t     |
| 1971        | 164,910   | 158,634                 | 116,885               | 110,795                 | 33,014 | 256    | 3,795       | 3,609                   | 10,960  |
| 1972        | 151,878   | 145,791                 | 108,460               | 102,470                 | 29,762 | (250)  | 2,907       | 2,810                   | 10,499  |
| Change<br>% | -7.9      | -8.1                    | -7.2                  | -7.5                    | -9.9   | (-2.3) | -23.4       | -22.1                   | -4.2    |

a) Not including the output of small collieries.

The fall in the number of underground workers became faster still in 1972 (-8% against -5% in 1971). Whereas the industry had a labour force of 658,500 in 1957, the average over 1972 was a mere 207,300 (-68%). Productivity continued to rise in 1972, however. At 4.1%, the rate of increase was twice that recorded in 1971.

In all, 13 mines were closed in 1972, and their capacity (6.8 million tonnes) was 2.7 million tonnes up on the closures in 1971. Stocks rose by 3.3 million tonnes, more than in any year since 1966.

Production of furnace coke fell again in 1972, namely, by 3.5 million tonnes, reaching the lowest level since the early 1950s. By the end of the year stocks of furnace coke had risen to 10.3 million tonnes, their highest level since the Community was set up.

\*\* A CAMPAIGN ENTITLED "EUROPE-ENVIRONMENT 1972-73" is to be organized in the educational systems of the Community Member States. Its aim will be to make young people aware of the problems facing our civilization, owing to population growth and burgeoning technology, if a proper balance is to be maintained between the natural environment and the legitimate aspirations of individuals towards greater well-being.

A pilot scheme has been put in hand in Belgium, covering all primary and secondary schools. It is being organized by the Belgian branch of the International Association of the Friends of Robert Schuman, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the National Secretariat for Catholic Education, the European Commission's Press and Information Bureau and Directorate for the Environment, and AEDE International.



\*\* "INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY" is the title of a booklet just published by the Information Department of the Commission of the European Communities.

It consists of about 20 pages, written with the layman in mind, and can be obtained free of charge from the Industrial and Scientific Information Division (Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels).

\*\* A report on the seminar on THE POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS TO DOSIMETRY OF THE EFFECTS INHERENT IN EXOELECTRONIC EMISSIONS, held in Brunswick (Germany) on 12 and 13 June 1972, has recently been published by the Commission of the European Communities.

THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF MERGERS

(Based on a supplementary report on "Mergers and Takeovers", by the section of the Economic and Social Committee specializing in social matters.)

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The common market has tended to promote the growth of mergers and takeovers in the Community countries (see IRT No. 145). While it is not inevitable that every merger will have repercussions from the social angle, and they may also have a beneficial effect on the maintaining of employment and wage levels - particularly through greater competitiveness thus acquired by firms in the international sphere - mergers nevertheless do in certain cases entail decisions which may have social effects.

The section of the Economic and Social Committee specializing in social matters therefore addressed itself to the question of mergers and takeovers. In the report, Mr Dollinger reviewed the measures either taken or contemplated at Community level. These include, in particular:

- a) The proposed Statute for the European Company (see IRT No. 62).
- b) The proposed Council Directive on coordinating the guarantees required of companies in the Member States (domestic mergers).
- c) Aid derived from the reformed Social Fund (maintenance of income, redeployment and vocational readjustment schemes, etc.).
- d) The measures taken by the Coal and Steel Community, which operate for the benefit of the workers affected and of those firms setting up new, economically viable activities for them. In the case of the workers concerned, they take the form of the payment of grants of various sorts: unemployment benefit; wage supplements; fares, removal and resettlement grants; subsidies for vocational retraining; and flat-rate allowances.

In the field covered by the ECSC Treaty, about 450,000 persons have so far benefited by these measures. The amount, period and nature of the payments vary according to the agreements (known as framework agreements) with the national Governments. As a general rule, they are more generous than the provisions in force with respect to workers in other sectors of industry who are similarly placed.

- e) Mention should also be made of the Note on the problem of large-scale redundancies published by the European Commission in the autumn of 1972, on which an agreement in principle was reached with the Council of Ministers in November 1972 (see IRT Nos. 162 and 165).

According to the rapporteur, it was also important that the European Commission should develop in greater detail the statistics on takeovers and mergers included in its report on competition. Likewise, there should be more systematic promotion of scientific studies on the social consequences of both integration within a firm and mergers, bringing out the nature and intensity of the effects in those sectors most affected by such occurrences. These studies should be Community-wide in scope, with a view to determining the manpower requirements of the future in qualitative and quantitative terms.

The European Commission should also compile and update a table of all measures taken within the Member States to alleviate the adverse effects of industrial integration and mergers.

On the basis of these documents, the Commission should submit to the Council of Ministers concrete proposals designed to bring about the coordination and harmonization of social policy measures taken in this field, with a view to providing an equivalent degree of protection, and to supplement such action, if necessary, by Community initiatives, in particular, with the aid of the European Social Fund.

The measures that may be needed to cope with the social consequences of closures and mergers should be concerned not only with the workers employed by the firm being closed down or taken over, but also with the employees and heads of other firms indirectly affected. In particular, those likely to be affected by closures and mergers should always be kept fully informed both before and during the operations in question.

With regard more particularly to the social consequences of cases of integration within a company, the report sets out a number of procedures and guarantees which should be laid down (workers and their representatives to be informed and consulted, the setting-up of vocational retraining programmes; standards of living to be maintained at their existing level during the period of retraining, etc.).

Priority should also be accorded to preventive measures designed to assist firms liable to be affected by mergers. These measures should encourage such firms to adjust at a sufficiently early stage to future market conditions, by improving their competitiveness through rationalization and modernization, by cooperation with other firms or by turning over to other lines of business. With these ends in view, not only the employees but also the self-employed should (in the specific case of their being affected by the consequences of a merger) be eligible for benefits from the reformed European Social Fund. Furthermore, the European Investment Bank should contribute to the attainment of these objectives by making available credits for restructuring and conversion.



THE DATA-PROCESSING EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY IN THE COMMUNITY

The data processing equipment industry is an advanced-technology sector with a particularly high growth rate (in the USA it has grown by 500% in ten years), which will affect an increasingly large number of users in the future, and its operations will involve all branches of the electronics industry. The European Commission has frequently stressed the importance of this pace-making sector (in particular, see IRT Nos. 106, 129 and 143), and has suggested that Community resources should be used to help European firms to secure a foothold on a market which at present is very largely dominated by American companies. ANNEX 2 contains a brief note on the data-processing equipment industry in the Community.

Furthermore, two surveys relating to this sector were recently carried out, on the instructions of the European Commission, one on the structure and growth of the software industry in Germany and the other on growth prospects in the European computer industry in the context of possible cooperation arrangements. The latter study was intended in particular to identify the various products on the market, the conditions governing access to the market, the reasons for and size of barriers due to differences between products, and the resultant opportunities for cooperation - at European level or with non-European partners. IBM now supplies over half the world market.

A major share of the Community's output of computers is accounted for by the European subsidiaries of IBM. The table below shows the proportion of computers produced by companies of US origin in service (as of June 1969) in the principal European countries and in the USA.

(% of the respective figures)

|           | Germany | Benelux | France | Italy | United Kingdom | USA   |
|-----------|---------|---------|--------|-------|----------------|-------|
| IBM       | 63.3    | 59.0    | 62.6   | 66.3  | 40.3           | 71.0  |
| Honeywell |         |         |        |       |                |       |
| Bull GE   | 7.0     | 14.8    | 16.2   | 22.6  | 6.5            | 6.1   |
| Univac    | 7.1     | 5.9     | 4.5    | 7.5   | 3.8            | 7.0   |
| CDC       | 2.7     | 3.0     | 3.1    | 1.5   | 0.9            | 5.3   |
| ICL       | 0.7     | 3.1     | 1.7    | 0.2   | 42.0           | -     |
| Phillips  | -       | 5.5     | -      | -     | -              | -     |
| Siemens   | 13.2    | 2.5     | 1.0    | 0.8   | -              | -     |
| CII       | 0.3     | 1.2     | 4.0    | -     | -              | -     |
| Others    | 5.7     | 5.0     | 6.9    | 1.1   | 6.5            | 10.6  |
| Total     | 100.0   | 100.0   | 100.0  | 100.0 | 100.0          | 100.0 |

It should be noted that the item "Others" in the table covers a number of small and medium-sized manufacturers, virtually all located in the USA.

Of the third-generation computers installed in France, IBM's share - as at 1 January 1970 - amounted to 65.1% by value, while European manufacturers (CII, ICL and Siemens) between them accounted for only 6.75% (by number) of second-generation and a mere 4.5% of third-generation computers in service in that country on the same date.

In West Germany, the position as at 1 January 1971 was that 74% of the computers in service (and 92.8% of large computers) were of US origin and 22.2% of German origin (53.8% of small computers, but only 7.2% of large ones) and only 3.8% came from other European countries.

Intra-Community trade in computers is therefore still extremely small, and this applies to private, semi-public and public purchasing. The only exceptions are:

- (a) trade between subsidiaries of the same US company, whether in components or in complete units, incorporated in different countries outside the USA;
- (b) certain peripheral equipments; with these, some European firms have been able, through a policy of compatibility, to compete in Community markets with the subsidiaries of the big US computer companies.

A number of measures are therefore necessary to enable European firms in the computer field to achieve profitability in financial terms and become competitive on the world market, and also to promote trade within the Community and unrestricted competition in the common market.



1. Promotion of the expansion of European companies in the data-processing equipment industry

If the European market is dominated at present by US firms in the computer sector, the reason lies less in a technological gap than in the difficulties experienced by private industry in the financing of this sector's rapid expansion and the major research and development effort.

In order to carve out a share of the market, a company must - over a period of about ten years - plough in the investment needed for the production of the hardware and software required for its operation, before breaking even financially.

Since the computer industry is vital to the future of Europe, and the raising of the private capital needed for its development poses serious problems, the Commission of the European Communities has formed the opinion that the granting of government aids to this industry by the Member States was justified. In 1971 it accordingly authorized the aids granted to computer companies by the German Government, and renewed this authorization in 1972. At the same time it rendered a favourable opinion on the new contract concluded by the French Government and the Compagnie Internationale pour l'Informatique (CII), (See IRT No. 152.)

The European Commission takes the view that, in the present circumstances national aids are capable of giving due support to Community firms operating in the computer market, provided that these aids do not cause distortions of competition between the manufacturers in question and do not prevent collaboration, which is essential.

In the long term, however, the European Commission wishes to see the development of a truly Community approach to the promotion of advanced-technology industries and of greater cooperation between firms in the member countries. With this in view it has suggested the establishment of a legal framework to facilitate such cooperation and the necessary restructuring (the European Company, "groupement d'intérêt économique", and the Joint Undertaking).

## 2. Liberalization of markets in the public sector

It is not only their relative lack of technical and business muscle that make it more difficult for the firms of European origin to break into the market represented by the major purchasers in the other Member States, but also the technological development policies pursued by some of these States. These markets nevertheless constitute major outlets, especially for large computers, which are marked out to play a role of ever-increasing importance in public administration, hospitals, universities, etc.

At the present time, those Member States with a technological development policy in the computer field try to assist their domestic manufacturers, or those manufacturers setting up establishments on their territory, in particular, by ensuring - as far as possible - that they will receive those contracts whose placing they can influence and which, for technical reasons, must not necessarily go to the subsidiaries of the US giants.

In order to remedy this compartmentalization of the market, which is prejudicial to the competitive development of Europe's computer companies, and hampers the restructuring operations needed at

European level, the Commission of the European Communities is endeavouring to secure the effective liberalization of public and semi-public contracts. In August 1972 it submitted a first memorandum on the state of liberalization of public procurement contracts and contracts awarded by undertakings performing a service of economic interest from a public-point of view. The Commission devoted a whole chapter of its Memorandum to advanced-technology products, and the computer sector in particular. (See IRT No. 155.)

CHARACTERISTICS OF NUCLEAR REACTORS FEEDING POWER TO THE GRID IN  
THE COUNTRIES OF THE ENLARGED COMMUNITY

The net generating capacity of nuclear power stations in operation in the Member States of the enlarged Community totals 10,906 MWe.

The table below shows the characteristics of reactors coupled to the grid in the Community:

| <u>Reactor and location</u> <sup>1</sup> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Type</u> <sup>2</sup> | <u>Coupled to grid</u> | <u>Power, net (MWe)</u> |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Calder Hall (UKAEA)                      | UK             | GG                       | 1956-59                | 180                     |
| Chapelcross (UKAEA)                      | UK             | GG                       | 1959-60                | 180                     |
| Dounreay (UKAEA)                         | UK             | FRBR                     | 1962                   | 14                      |
| G2 Marcoule (CEA)                        | F              | GG                       | 1959                   | 40                      |
| G3 Marcoule (CEA)                        | F              | GG                       | 1960                   | 40                      |
| VAK (Kahl)                               | D              | BWR                      | 1961                   | 15                      |
| Berkeley (CEGB)                          | UK             | GG                       | 1962                   | 273                     |
| Bradwell (CEGB)                          | UK             | GG                       | 1962                   | 300                     |
| Latina (ENEL)                            | I              | GG                       | 1963                   | 200                     |
| Windscale (UKAEA)                        | UK             | AGR                      | 1963                   | 34                      |
| Chinon 1 (EDF 1)                         | F              | GG                       | 1963                   | 70                      |
| Hunterstone A (SSEB)                     | UK             | GG                       | 1964                   | 320                     |
| Garigliano (ENEL)                        | I              | BWR                      | 1964                   | 150                     |
| Trino Vercel. (ENEL)                     | I              | PWR                      | 1964                   | 247                     |
| Chinon 2 (EDF 2)                         | F              | GG                       | 1965                   | 200                     |
| Hinkley Point A (CEGB)                   | UK             | GG                       | 1965                   | 500                     |
| Trawsfynydd (CEGB)                       | UK             | GG                       | 1965                   | 500                     |
| Dungeness A (CEGB)                       | UK             | GG                       | 1965                   | 550                     |
| Sizewell A (CEGB)                        | UK             | GG                       | 1966                   | 580                     |
| MZFR (Karlsruhe)                         | D              | EL                       | 1966                   | 51                      |
| BR 3 (Mol)                               | B              | PWR                      | 1966                   | 10                      |
| Chinon 3 (EDF 3)                         | F              | GG                       | 1966                   | 480                     |
| KRB (Gundremmingen)                      | D              | BWR                      | 1966                   | 237                     |
| SENA (Chooz)                             | F/B            | PWR                      | 1967                   | 270                     |
| Winfrith (UKAEA)                         | UK             | EL                       | 1967                   | 100                     |
| EL 4 (Monts d'Arrée)                     | F              | EL                       | 1967                   | 70                      |
| Oldbury A (CEGB)                         | UK             | GG                       | 1967                   | 600                     |
| AVR (Jülich)                             | D              | HT                       | 1967                   | 13                      |
| KWL (Lingen)                             | D              | BWR                      | 1968                   | 174                     |
| KWO (Obrigheim)                          | D              | PWR                      | 1968                   | 328                     |
| GKN (Dodewaard)                          | N              | BWR                      | 1968                   | 52                      |
| St. Laurent 1 (EDF 4)                    | F              | GG                       | 1969                   | 480                     |
| HDR (Grosswelzheim)                      | D              | BWR                      | 1970                   | 22                      |
| St. Laurent 2 (EDF)                      | F              | GG                       | 1971                   | 515                     |
| Wylfa (CEGB)                             | UK             | GG                       | 1971                   | 1180                    |
| KWW (Würgassen)                          | D              | BWR                      | 1971                   | 640                     |
| KKS (Stade)                              | D              | PWR                      | 1972                   | 630                     |
| KNK (Karlsruhe)                          | D              | NaZH                     | 1972                   | 19                      |
| Bugey 1/Rhone (EDF)                      | F              | GG                       | 1972                   | 540                     |
| KKV (Niederzichbach)                     | D              | EL                       | 1972                   | 100                     |

<sup>1</sup> UKAEA = United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority  
CEA = Commissariat à l'énergie atomique (France)  
CEGB = Central Electricity Generating Board  
ENEL = Ente nazionale energia elettrica  
EDF = Electricité de France  
SSNB = South of Scotland Electrical Board

<sup>2</sup> GG = gas/graphite reactor      AGR = advanced gas reactor  
BWR = boiling light-water reactor      PWR = pressurized light-water  
reactor      HT = high-temperature reactor      HL = heavy-water  
reactor      FBR = fast breeder reactor