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** The Community Council of Ministers is to hold a session on social affairs on 26 February 1973. The chief aim will be to conduct an exchange of views on the PROGRAMME OF ACTION IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR called for by the Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Community countries held in Paris in October 1972 (see IRT No. 162).

ANNEX 1 contains a summary of a statement on the Community's social policy made by Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission with special responsibility for social affairs, when he presented a report on the social situation in the Community in 1972 to the European Parliament during its meeting in Luxembourg on 14 February.

** The Euratom Supply Agency has organized a meeting with users of nuclear fuel in the Community for the purpose of discussing the new conditions for the SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM by the USAEC. These new conditions make it even more necessary for the Community to examine the question of setting up a uranium-enrichment facility in the Community.

Against this background, the report by the Parliamentary Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Problems backing the proposal for a

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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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resolution which was recently sent to the Council of Ministers by the European Commission and called for the establishment of a COMMUNITY URANIUM-ENRICHMENT PLANT, takes on a special significance. The report, which is to be presented to the European Parliament by Mr Noé on 17 March, is summarized in ANNEX 2.

** Whereas the Euratom Council meeting on 5 and 6 February 1973 adopted some of the direct-action projects proposed by the European Commission as part of the COMMUNITY'S MULTIANNUAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME, which will be carried out at Joint Research Centre establishments (see IRT No. 175), the Ministers have still to decide (as they have agreed to do before 30 April 1973) about a number of INDIRECT-ACTION PROJECTS to be carried out through research contracts placed with organizations or laboratories in Community member countries. Further particulars of the objectives of the indirect-action projects proposed by the European Commission will be found in ANNEX 3.

** NET ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION in the six original Community countries grew at an overall rate of 7.6% in 1972, compared with 5.6% in 1971. The increase was due not only to healthier industrial activity, but also to increased private consumption (up by more than 12%). In the nine member countries of the enlarged Community taken together, the rise in electricity consumption has been more modest, the rate of increase being 6.3%, as against 4.8% in 1971.

As regards ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION, there has been a dramatic rise (almost 50%) in the generation of nuclear electricity in the Six, owing to better operating results and the entry into service of a number of large units. Including the contribution from the United Kingdom, nuclear power stations now account for almost 6% of total electricity output in the Nine. The share of conventional thermal plants in the satisfaction of the demand was unchanged in 1971,

namely 79% in the Six and 82% in the Nine. Owing to unfavourable hydrological conditions, the rise in the output of hydro-electric power (+2.7% in the Nine) was due only to the slight increase in installed capacity and in pumped storage.

A table showing the trend of net electricity consumption in the various member countries, together with another showing the evolution of electricity production in the enlarged Community, broken down by energy source, will be found in ANNEX 4.

** ANNEX 5 gives a selection of RECENT PUBLICATIONS acquired by the scientific and technical library of the Commission of the European Communities. They may either be consulted on the spot (at 1, avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels; Office: Loi, 1st floor, Room 43) or borrowed.

** A FIFTH OF THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT in the original Six member countries of the Community goes on social spending. In the last ten years this expenditure has more than doubled; in Italy it has tripled, and in the Netherlands it has actually quadrupled.

In 1971, SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS proper represented a quarter of households' disposable incomes - as much as 32% in the Netherlands. The difference in per-capita social expenditure between the Six were, however, still large in 1971. The actual figures are: Germany: FB 33,000; the Netherlands: FB 29,500; France: FB 29,300; Belgium: FB 26,900; Italy: FB 18,900.

A further point to emerge is the levelling-out of the share of the cost covered by State and local-authority subsidies (except in Belgium, where it is rising), and the levelling-off in employers' and households' contributions to the cost.

- ** The European Commission will shortly submit to the Council of Ministers a proposal designed to limit THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE LEAD CONTENT OF PETROL to approximately 0.4 g/l; the relevant practical details are currently being examined by experts. The Commission recently pointed this out in a reply to a written question tabled by Mr Oele and Mr Jahn, Members of the European Parliament, on pollution due to lead and its derivatives.
- ** At a recent meeting of the Working Party on the SAFETY OF LIGHT-WATER REACTORS, the European Commission, together with the constructors and operators of nuclear power plants, as members of their trade associations UNIPEDE, UNICE and CEEP, discussed the advisability of, and ways and means of achieving, systematic concerted action among the parties concerned, in the field of safety methods, criteria, codes and standards relating to light-water reactors.
- ** "ENERGY AND EUROPE" is the title of a fifteen-page booklet, written for the layman and published by the information department of the Commission of the European Communities some time ago, which is now available free of charge on application to the Industrial and Scientific Information Division (200, rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels).
- ** On 23 February Mr Derek Ezra, Chairman of the National Coal Board, and representatives of the miners' unions held talks in Brussels on COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY with Mr Simonet, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities with special responsibility for energy matters.
- ** A report on the progress made with the programme for the ELIMINATION OF TECHNICAL OBSTACLES TO TRADE IN THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD (position in the second half of 1972) was recently published by the Commission of the European Communities.

THE COMMUNITY'S SOCIAL POLICY

(Summary of a statement by Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities with special responsibility for social affairs, to the European Parliament in Luxembourg on 14 February 1973)

The formulation of a concrete programme of action in the social field, in pursuance of the general guidelines laid down by the Heads of State or Government of the Community countries at the Paris Summit in October 1972 (see IRT No. 162), is one of the major concerns of the European Commission. This was stated by Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission with special responsibility for social affairs, when he presented a report on the social situation in the Community in 1972 to the European Parliament in Luxembourg on 14 February 1973.

The Summit identified a number of priority objectives: a coordinated policy for employment and vocational training; improvement of living and working conditions; closer involvement of workers in the running of firms; the conclusion of collective agreements at European level in the light of the situation in the various member countries; and the strengthening and coordination of measures for consumer protection. It is now up to the European Commission to translate these objectives into a practical programme and into proposals for submission to the Council of Ministers.

The European Commission's social programme will develop three major themes:

1. Employment

The Member States' employment policies must be coordinated, and this must be done on the basis of the Community's overall objectives. In

particular, the relations between employment policies and regional policies in the Community must be intensified (notably as regards the creation of viable jobs in less developed or declining regions).

There should be an improvement and intensification of the dialogue in the Standing Committee on Employment, which was set up in 1970 in order to ensure permanent provision for discussion and consultation between the Council of Ministers, the Member State Governments, the Commission and both sides of industry.

The reform of the European Social Fund, which became effective in May 1972 (see IRT No. 122), will enable the European Commission and the Council of Ministers to use an increasing portion of the Fund's budget (\$160,000,000 for 1973) to provide help for workers directly affected by the implementation of Community policies.

Employment policy cannot be successfully developed unless there is maximum transparency of the labour market. This calls for the harmonization of employment statistics and the introduction of specific statistical surveys at Community level. To this end, the Commission is planning to set up a Community-wide computer network with a terminal in Brussels, so that in the long term all the necessary information will be available on the composition, structure and trends of the employment market throughout the Community. Short- and medium-term forecasts must also be greatly improved, for all branches of activity and all regions.

A Community programme for vocational training has already been worked out: the general outline was approved by the Council of Ministers in July 1971 and a more detailed programme for the next three years was submitted to the Council by the Commission at the end of 1972. In this field a special effort must be made to help certain special groups, in particular, the handicapped, migrant workers, working women, elderly workers and young people leaving school.

2. Working conditions and standard of living

If it is to act more effectively to promote an improvement in working conditions and a higher standard of living, the European Commission must have detailed information on the social policies and trends within the individual Member States. This calls, in particular, for the early establishment of a European Social Budget. As regards the harmonization of the provisions in operation in the Member States for mass redundancies, the European Commission has already submitted a proposal to the Council of Ministers (see IRT Nos. 162 and 165). Consideration should also be given to measures at Community level to cushion the social consequences of international company mergers and intensive concentration in industry.

Housing aids for workers in the coal and steel industries must be stepped up; such aids could also be granted to other groups, e.g., migrant workers. Health and safety standards relating both to places of work and to living conditions generally must be improved.

3. Involvement of industrial workers in the making of decisions with social implications

The democratization of economic and social life should be promoted at all levels: Community as well as national, and sectoral as well as company level. As regards collective agreements, the potential for action by the European Commission is two-fold: the establishment of a clearing house for collective agreements on a European basis, and the promotion of such agreements.

Workers' participation in industry is of fundamental importance in the context of future action in the social sector. The European Commission has already made a number of important moves in this matter: the proposal on the Statute of the European Company, which it has submitted

to the Council of Ministers, constitutes a first step in this direction; similarly, the proposal for the fifth directive harmonizing the law relating to joint stock companies provides for the participation of the workers' representatives or trade unions in the supervisory board which is required in addition to the management board in all companies with over 500 employees (see IRT Nos. 62 and 161). Another matter to be examined is the promotion of ownership by workers by means of premiums, tax exemptions, participation in the increase in value of the enterprise, etc. (Asset Formation Policy).

Dr Hillery concluded by saying that only through an integrated approach could the policies in the various sectors (economic, monetary, regional, industrial, etc.) be made to contribute effectively to the realization of the social objectives of our society; at the same time, the development of a common social policy would contribute to the attainment of economic and monetary union.

CREATION OF A COMMUNITY URANIUM-ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY

Existing enrichment plants cannot ensure that the Community will be supplied with enriched uranium beyond 1980, owing to the growth of world requirements. European electricity producers therefore cannot be assured of regular and reliable supplies for nuclear power stations for which the construction go-ahead is given from 1974 onwards and whose enriched-uranium requirements will make themselves felt after 1980.

In order to make possible the development of nuclear energy, which must contribute to the security of the Community's energy supply and gradually reduce its very heavy dependence on petroleum imports, the European Commission has proposed to the Council of Ministers that a decision be taken to provide the Community with a capability for the enrichment of uranium, enabling it meet an increasing proportion of its nuclear fuel requirements from 1980 onwards (see IRT No. 150).

The Parliamentary Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Problems, in a report to be presented to the European Parliament by Mr Noe on 17 March 1973, states that it shares the opinion of the European Commission regarding the need to provide the Community with a uranium-enrichment capability (see IRT No. 177).

If the Community is to be in a position, in 1974, to reach a decision regarding the construction of a uranium-enrichment plant, activities on this subject must be coordinated forthwith. The process of coordination could be carried out, in particular, through a Joint Undertaking which would be assigned the task of collating and studying the relevant facts, in order to provide, by 30 June 1974, the objective data needed for a decision to be taken on the system or systems to be selected for the construction of

an industrial-scale plant (gaseous diffusion, ultra-centrifugation or the nozzle separation).

The Parliamentary Committee is furthermore of the opinion that there is, at first sight, no reason to rule out the possibility of the Community's adopting two systems which experience might show to be complementary.

Lastly, the Committee emphasized that no decision regarding the setting-up of a Community uranium-enrichment plant can be taken unless the political will exists, at Community level, to institute a common energy policy.

INDIRECT-ACTION PROJECTS PROPOSED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
UNDER THE COMMUNITY'S MULTIANNUAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

While the Council of Ministers, meeting on 5 and 6 February 1973, adopted some of the direct-action projects which were proposed by the European Commission under the Community's multiannual research programme and will be carried out at Joint Research Centre Establishments, the Ministers have yet to decide (as they have agreed to do before 30 April 1973) about a number of indirect-action projects to be implemented mainly through research contracts (see IRT No. 175).

A certain number of research subjects which are essential to the Community's technological, industrial and social development because they are of common interest, require concentration of effort or are intended to provide the European Commission with data to help it in the formulation of its sectoral policies, ought to be carried out as part of Community research programmes.

However, some of these research tasks, both nuclear and non-nuclear, require specific equipment and skills not currently available in Joint Research Centre Establishments. In view of this, the European Commission considered it sensible to have these research projects carried out on contract in laboratories and facilities (in the member countries) which are already highly specialized in these fields. This is the reason for the Commission's having proposed that a certain number of indirect-action projects, designed to promote research which it also considers necessary, should be carried out in addition to the research programmes conducted in Joint Research Centre Establishments.

The indirect-action projects proposed by the European Commission comprise:

a) Adaptation of the existing Fusion and Biology Programmes

Two research programmes, (a) in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion and plasma physics and (b) in the field of biology and health protection, were adopted separately in June 1971 (see IRT No. 104). On 6 February 1973 the Council of Ministers signified its agreement on their adaptation, for the remaining three years of their duration, to the enlargement of the Community.

b) Nuclear indirect-action projects

1. Plutonium recycling

In view of the forecast plutonium production in the Community and the concern voiced on this score by electricity producers and in various industrial quarters, the European Commission proposes a policy of plutonium recycling in power stations. The research in question here should close the gaps in scientific and technical knowhow in this field and provide the data necessary for improving and rendering safer the transport of plutonium-containing fuels.

2. Advanced reactors

Owing to the increasing interest being displayed in the high-temperature gas-cooled reactor (HTR) family, and the need to secure the largest possible market for it, views on the choice of its basic characteristics must be brought into alignment. The European Commission therefore proposes that a project be put in hand with the aim of defining common specifications for HTR reactors, and proposes collaboration to that end with Euro HKG, a European company formed for the purpose of analysing the problems posed by the development of the HTR family and preparing the design of a prototype power reactor.

Also included in the Commission's proposal is the continuation of HTR irradiation programmes carried out in collaboration with the Dragon Project and other European research organizations.

As regards fast reactors, the European Commission proposes to promote Community cooperation schemes concerned, in particular with problems of safety, protection of the public and of the environment, doing so on the basis of the work of specialist committees and working parties (e.g., the Community Coordinating Committee on Fast Reactors and its Working Party on Safety). In this context, the Commission wishes progressively to transfer to such tasks its scientific and technical personnel assigned to national programmes.

Lastly, the European Commission proposes the setting-up of a Coordinating Committee on materials-testing reactors. This committee would be given the special task of formulating recommendations for the rational use of test reactors and their associated facilities.

3. Scientific and technical instruction and training

The Commission has requested the extension of its instruction and training activities, designed to promote the in-depth training of researchers and engineers and give them periodic refresher courses. The need to extend these activities has become even greater with the enlargement of the Community.

c) Non-nuclear indirect-action projects

1. The Community Bureau of References (CBR)

Technical progress and industrial expansion bring with them a growing demand for high-quality products, which entails a greater

need for reliable methods of measurement and, hence, for reference substances. In a common market which transcends national frontiers, the development of certified reference substances (CRS) and the harmonization of work undertaken in this field constitute an important economic factor.

Although various public and private bodies produce of reference substances in great numbers, the requirements of industry and of laboratories are very far from being satisfied and are bound to increase. It is therefore becoming ever more necessary to catalogue these requirements and to coordinate and step up activities relating to the selection of certified reference substances capable of meeting them.

The European Commission therefore sees the need for the setting-up of a Community Bureau of References with the task of intensifying, harmonizing and supplementing national efforts. The proposed programme of action is designed to harmonize and supplement the member countries' programmes through collaboration between national laboratories and Joint Research Centre Establishments (the Central Bureau for Nuclear Measurements at Geel and the Ispra Establishment of the Joint Research Centre are already working on a number of reference substances as part of the direct-action projects under the Multiannual Research Programme).

2. The environment

A number of research projects are necessary in order to provide scientific back-up for the Community programme for the environment, which the European Commission submitted to the Council of Ministers in March 1972 (see IRT Nos. 138 and 149). The aims will be, in particular, to establish an objective basis for assessing the hazards/...

to man and his environment due to pollution, in order that environmental quality objectives and criteria may be defined jointly, to improve and harmonize methods of measuring pollution, and to promote the development of technical means of combating it.

As a first step, the European Commission proposes a number of projects relating to the measurement of pollutants, the paths they take in the environment and their effects as well as to anti-pollution technology.

Some of the research projects can be conducted at the Joint Research Centre, but others should be undertaken by highly specialized national laboratories. This is the reason why the programme of research on environmental subjects provides for a coordinate set of direct- and indirect-action projects.

The table below lists the proposals for indirect-action projects put forward by the European Commission:

Indirect-action projects (to be carried out chiefly through research contracts)	Upper limit on expenditure (million u.a.)	Personnel on completion of programme
a) <u>Projects already adopted*</u>		
Fusion	56.196	132
Biology Common programme	18.886	97
Supplementary programme	5.610	10
b) <u>Nuclear projects (four years)</u>		
. Plutonium recycling	2.870	1
. Advanced reactors	6.947	59
. Test reactors	0.215	2
. Instruction and training	5.503	8
Total, nuclear projects:	15.535	70
c) <u>Non-nuclear projects (three years)</u>		
. Community Bureau of References	1.904	6
. The environment	8.683	6
Total, non-nuclear projects	10.592	12
Grand total (nuclear + non-Nuclear projects)	26.127	82

* Total appropriations and personnel throughout the five-year programme (from 1 January 1971), as modified in the light of the enlargement of the Community from 1 January 1973.

CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Net electricity consumption in the six original member countries of the Community grew at an overall rate of 7.6% in 1972, compared with 5.6% in 1971. The increase was due not only to healthier industrial activity, but also to increased private consumption (up by more than 12%). In the nine member countries of the enlarged Community taken together, the rise in electricity consumption has been more modest, the rate of increase being 6.3%, against 4.8% in 1971.

As regards electricity production, there has been a dramatic rise (almost 50%) in the generation of nuclear electricity in the Six, owing to better operating results and the entry into service of a number of large units. Including the contribution from the United Kingdom, nuclear power stations now account for almost 6% of total electricity output in the Nine. The share of conventional thermal plants in the satisfaction of the demand was unchanged in 1971, namely 79% in the Six and 82% in the Nine. Owing to unfavourable hydrological conditions, the rise in the output of hydro-electric power (+2.7% in the Nine) was due only to the slight increase in installed capacity and in pumped storage.

The tables overleaf show the trends in the consumption and production of electricity.

(a) Net electricity consumption (including losses)

(million MWh)

	1970	1971	1972	Variation 1972/1970	Variation 1972/1971
Germany	232.6	246.9	266.4	+6.2%	+7.9%
France	140.0	147.4	157.4	+5.3%	+6.8%
Italy	115.5	120.0	127.8	+3.9%	+6.5%
Netherlands	38.5	41.7	45.8	+8.1%	+9.9%
Belgium	29.3	31.1	34.6	+5.9%	+11.4%
Luxembourg	2.52	2.67	2.85	+5.9%	+6.4%
United Kingdom	230.9	237.5	243.7	+2.9%	+2.6%
Ireland	5.5	6.0	6.5	+9.9%	+7.0%
Denmark	14.7	15.6	17.1	+6.2%	+9.8%
The Nine	809.5	840.9	902.1	+4.8%	+6.3%
The Six	558.4	589.7	634.8	+5.6%	+7.6%

(b) Net electricity production, broken down by energy source, in the enlarged Community

(million MWh)

	TOTAL	Hydro- electric	Geothermal	Nuclear	Conventional thermal
1971	850.5	108.3	2.5	41.8	697.9
1972	905.6	111.3	2.4	51.8	740.0
Variation: 1972/71	+6.5%	+2.7%	-3.1%	+24.0%	+6.0%
Breakdown of total:					
1971	100%	12.7%	0.3%	4.9%	82.1%
1972	100%	12.3%	0.3%	5.7%	81.7%

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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GENERAL

Pour une autre croissance (EU 17069)

LATTES, Robert

Seuil, Paris, 1972

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RIBEREAU-GAYON, J.

Dunod, Paris, 1972

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Mitre Corp. (McLean, VA.), 1972

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SCHURR, Sam H.

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Energy Technology to the Year 2000 (EU 17075)

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USGPO = Committee Print No. 60-927, Washington, DC, 1972

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INSTITUT BELGE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE LA NUTRITION IBAN, Brussels, 1972