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** The proposed COMMUNITY LONG-TERM R&D PROGRAMME which the Commission has just forwarded to the Council involves a total of 255,667,000 u.a. and a staff of 1,708.

It is common knowledge that since the end of its second five-year programme (31 December 1967) the Joint Research Centre has been restricted to annual programmes which, it is generally agreed, are anything but conducive to a smooth nuclear development. In its proposals of 14 June 1972 for a comprehensive Community policy on scientific research and technological development (see IRT No. 148), the Commission had expressed the desire that the Joint Research Centre should embark on "new ventures" and had outlined accordingly the form which the new JRC duties should take. In its letter to the Council the Commission also notes with satisfaction the fact that the Summit Conference has arrived at a similar

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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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conclusion (see IRT No. 162).

It is against this background that the Commission has just transmitted to the Council its proposed long-term JRC programme.

These programme proposals also include a number of non-nuclear activities, while at the same time seeking to exclude from the Community research programme the exploitation of the Essor, HFR and BR-2 reactors, even though the relevance of such exploitation for certain national programmes is readily acknowledged. Accordingly, the Commission has drawn up a plan whereby the Essor, HFR and BR-2 reactors (81.8 million u.a. together with a staff of 298) could be placed at the disposal of interested national institutes on a contractual basis (under Article 6 of the Treaty establishing Euratom).

A table is shown in ANNEX 1 which sets out the various aims of the Commission's proposed long-term research programme.

** In its communication to the Council on THE PROGRESS NEEDED IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY, the Commission has drawn up a list of 46 measures which, in its opinion, need to be implemented (see IRT No. 160). In ANNEX 2 a complete list is given of the measures proposed by the Commission for the practical application of the general guidelines on a common energy policy.

** THE PRODUCTION OF CRUDE STEEL IN THE COMMUNITY reached the record figure of 10,169 million tons in October 1972 (as against 9,687 million in September 1972). The figures for the individual Member States (in millions of tons) are as follows:
West Germany: 3,955; France: 2,214; Italy: 1,781;
Netherlands 468; Luxembourg: 476; Belgium 1,275.

** The Ministers for the Environment of the Member States and Acceding States, meeting in Bonn on 31 October 1972 (see IRT No. 164), formulated a certain number of common principles

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intended to form the basis of a COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY.

Particularly noteworthy are the following: endorsement of the principle of "making the polluter pay", the need for increased scientific research and a readiness to promote the coordination and harmonization of national policies without prejudice to the efforts of individual States or the proper functioning of the Common Market.

Anxious lest the communiqué be dismissed as a mere list of abstract principles, the Ministers have put forward a certain number of measures which, in their opinion, ought to be implemented at an early stage at Community level: drawing up of a common system of procedures, examination of the possibilities for the establishment of a common information and documentation pool, elaboration of Community procedures for the elimination of toxic effluents and consultations on frontier area development plans (and their environmental implications).

The Ministers also agreed on the need for joint consultations between Member States and the adoption of a common position on the activities of international organizations in relation to the environment.

The declaration includes a number of new and original proposals by several Ministers, e.g., the setting-up of a European inspection bureau for chemical and pharmaceutical products as well as a bureau for research into costs and profits.

** The Member State representatives, acting on a proposal from the Commission, have agreed to recommend that Council place on the agenda of its next meeting, which will be devoted to social affairs, the question of CLASSIFYING AND ANALYSING COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS concluded in the Member States and to give formal

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approval to the Commission proposal that this work be gradually concentrated on the 13 priority sectors. These sectors are as follows:

- iron and steel industry
- metal-processing industry
- textile and clothing industry
- building industry
- chemical industry
- petrochemical industry
- food, beverage and tobacco industry
- printing and graphic arts
- leather and footwear industry
- paper industry (manufacture and processing)
- wood-processing industry
- glass and glass-processing industry
- extractive industries.

The Commission has already undertaken, on an experimental basis, the collecting and analysing of the collective agreements concluded in the Member States in the non-electrical machine-manufacturing and electrical engineering sectors.

** A PERMANENT LIAISON AND REPRESENTATION OFFICE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED INDUSTRIAL FIRMS (EUROPMI) has just been set up in Brussels within the framework of the International Federation of Small and Medium-Sized Industrial Undertakings (FIPMI). Its aim is to defend and promote the interests of these companies vis-à-vis the Community authorities.

In addition to providing its members with general information on Community activities, the 1973 EUROPMI action programme also includes plans for the following:

- preparations for active cooperation with the Commission's

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proposed "marriage bureau" (see IRT No. 158);

- analysis of proposals for the introduction of Community industrial development contracts (see IRT No. 154);
- research into ways of improving vocational training in the small and medium-sized undertaking sector and of effectively solving the problem of the creation of new firms in that sector.

** The Commission of the European Communities has just submitted to the Council proposals on the initial measures to be taken prior to the FORMULATION OF A COMMON VOCATIONAL TRAINING POLICY. These proposals provide for appropriate measures to be taken in respect of three types of problem:

- vocational training and the development of policies, structures and organization;
- adaptation of training methods;
- priority training problems in respect of certain categories of persons, certain economic sectors and certain regions.

Community action in these areas would aim to provide an improved flow of information, while at the same time making a positive contribution to the study of certain crucial aspects of the problems posed and encouraging Community collaboration between governments and interested circles in the Member States.

** Meeting for the first time in Brussels on 6 November 1972 under the chairmanship of Mr Haferkamp (member of the Commission with special responsibility for energy questions), senior government officials in charge of ENERGY PROBLEMS from the Member States and the three Acceding States surveyed the whole question of the Community's energy supplies. After an exchange of views they

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had discussions on the recent Commission proposals for a common energy policy (see IRT No. 160) and came out strongly in favour of the measures proposed by the Commission.

** The Ministers for Social Affairs of the Member States, meeting in Brussels on 9 November 1972, decided to hold a conference next spring to be attended by governments, the Commission and both sides of industry. Its aim will be to prepare for the IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME due to be introduced on 1 January 1974 under the terms of the resolution adopted at the recent Paris Summit. The task of organizing and preparing this important conference has been entrusted to the Commission.

In accordance with the suggestions put forward by the Commission (see IRT No. 162), the Ministers also approved the principle of a Community directive designed to harmonize the regulations governing MASS DISMISSALS. These suggestions are to be put before the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

** This procedure represents an appreciable time-saving. Finally, the Ministers decided that the provisions of the REVISED SOCIAL FUND could be held to apply in the case of persons leaving agriculture to take up other employment and also in the case of workers from the textile industry with a view to facilitating their retraining. The Commission proposals were adopted with several amendments.

** The meeting of Member State Transport Ministers held in Brussels on 6-7 November 1972, at which the Acceding States were also represented, ended without a compromise having been reached on the 11-ton axle weight limit as proposed by the Six. The representatives of the UK, Denmark and Ireland are insisting on

a 10-ton limit similar to that applying in their countries. Discussions have been adjourned until the next meeting, planned for 18-19 December.

** The European Investment Bank has contributed to the FINANCING OF TWO BASIC SCHEMES currently in progress in Campania, Italy, by granting two loans worth a total of 28,750 million lire (46 million u.a.). These two schemes involve the construction of the Naples motorway complex and the improvement of telephone communications in Campania.

** Following consultations with the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community and with the assent of the Council, the Commission has decided to grant financial aid totalling 5,431,133 u.a. for 15 TECHNICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS concerned with iron and steel. Research is to be carried out on the following:

- mechanical heat treatment of steels
- cold forming of steels
- cold-formability of steels
- mechanization of pig iron and liquid steel extraction
- improving blast tuyere performance
- structural mechanisms
- management of the pits-slabbing system
- creep behaviour of welded joints
- behaviour of solid solutions and surface studies
- improving the properties of cast iron
- new operating methods in the iron basin in Eastern France
- development of a method of cutting oolitic iron ore of medium hardness
- development of new operating methods suitable for difficult geological and mining conditions
- direct reduction of iron ores: Purofer process
- automatic process control by computer.

PROPOSED LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROGRAMME SUBMITTED BY
THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES TO THE COUNCIL

	Financial ceiling ¹	Staff
A. <u>DIRECT MEASURES</u> to be implemented through the Community Joint Research Centre		
a. <u>Nuclear projects</u> (duration: five years)		
- Long-term energy supplies	12.1	109
- Plutonium and transplutonium elements	28.1	220
- Solid state physics and materials science	30.5	248
- Pulsed neutron sources	3.6	23
- Reactor safety	26.2	232
- Applied data-processing	4.6	28
- European data-processing system ²	1.0	7
- European program library	6.1	43
- Data analysis office	6.3	51
- Central Bureau for Nuclear Measurements (CBNM)	26.3	180
- Technical assistance for nuclear power plant operators	7.3	60
- Training	1.8	15
- Inspection and management of fissile material	6.65	57
b. <u>Non-nuclear projects</u> (duration: five years)		
- Standards and reference substances	6.7	62
- Environmental protection	16.1	142
- Detection of natural resources over large areas	1.3	10
c. <u>Research carried out under contract</u> (duration: five years)	2.25	17
d. <u>Management and coordination</u> (duration: five years)	9.75	79
Total	196.65	1,583

¹ Appropriations are expressed in millions u.a. (1 u.a. = approx. 1 dollar).

² Project already decided on by the Council.

	Financial ceiling ³	Staff
B. <u>INDIRECT MEASURES</u> to be implemented chiefly through research contracts		
a. <u>Nuclear projects</u> (duration: five years)		
- Treatment of plutonium	10.665	3
- Advanced reactors		
High-temperature reactors	4.172	16
Fast reactors	5.764	43
- Materials-testing reactors	0.279	2
- Training	6.975	9
- Fusion (duration: three years) ⁴	9.696	38
- biology (duration: three years) ⁴	1.705	-
b. <u>Non-nuclear projects</u> (duration: three years)		
- Standards and reference substances	1.904	6
- Environmental protection	16.413	6
- Materials	1.444	2
Total	59.017	125
Overall Total	255.667	1,708

³Appropriations are expressed in millions u.a. (1 u.a. = approx. 1 dollar).

⁴These modifications are due to the forthcoming enlargement of the Community. The programme originally drawn up in June 1971 provided for appropriations of 46.5 million u.a. for fusion and 22.915 million u.a. for biology.

WITH A VIEW TO THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR A COMMON ENERGY POLICY, the Commission has submitted a list of measures which, in its opinion, need to be implemented.

With a view to the practical application of the general guidelines for a common energy policy, as outlined in two communications to the Council in December 1968 and July 1971 (see IRT Nos. 109 and 119), the Commission has just drawn up a further communication listing the measures necessary to ensure the continuing development of Community energy policy. This communication was transmitted to the Council in October 1972 (see IRT No. 160).

1) Conservation of the environment

A general call has gone out urging the Community to rely increasingly on the use of nuclear energy and natural gas, since the latter pose the least threat to the environment and at the same time offer the most favourable conditions with regard to costs and medium-term availability of supplies.

Nevertheless, there are a number of pollution problems arising out of the use of energy which have to be faced in the immediate term.

The Commission considers that the following steps must be taken:

1. There must be concerted action at Community level so as to find a swift solution, either in law or on the basis of existing regulations, to the specific problems of environmental contamination posed by:
 - (a) sulphur dioxide emitted from fixed installations;
 - (b) motor vehicle exhaust gases;
 - (c) thermal waste discharged into surface water from electric power plants;

- (d) the growing number of nuclear installations which constitute a potential danger for the environment, not only in the event of accident but also in normal operation;
 - (e) the storage of radioactive waste under optimum conditions.
2. Much more research is needed into ways and means of combating pollution and other hazards arising out of the use of certain sources of energy.

2) Rational utilization of energy

The rational use of energy will help to reduce the magnitude of problems relating to supplies and conservation of the environment. The Commission takes the view that the Community must, at the earliest opportunity, take all appropriate steps to ensure

- (a) the recovery of surplus heat produced by thermal conversion in municipal heating networks;
- (b) the early replacement of old, inefficient heating equipment;
- (c) the more effective insulation of industrial furnaces;
- (d) the thermal insulation of buildings and private dwellings;
- (e) the introduction of appropriate methods designed to reduce the fuel consumption of motor vehicles.

3) Scientific and technical research

The possible discovery of new techniques holds out favourable prospects for an improvement in the energy supply situation. Accordingly, the Community must step up its efforts in two areas of research:

a) research into methods calculated to lead to greater efficiency in terms of the production, processing, transportations, stockpiling and uses of energy; b) research likely to culminate in the discovery of new sources of energy, new resources or new applications of existing resources.

Among the priority areas are the application of electrical energy of nuclear origin, the supply of fissile materials, the use of long-range detection in the search for new resources and the more effective exploitation of Community coal resources.

The Commission considers that appropriate steps must be taken with a view to:

- (a) drawing up an inventory of Community energy research currently in progress and examining the possibilities for cooperation with other countries;
- (b) making an assessment of the new techniques under consideration with regard not only to their prospects of success and the volume of effort required but also the possible implications for the energy situation in general;
- (c) drawing up specific research programmes as and where the results of the preliminary studies indicate this to be desirable.

4) Closer relations between the importing countries

The relations which already exist between countries dependent on energy supply imports will become even closer in future, notably on account of growing US penetration of the world oil and natural gas markets. Consequently any efforts by the Community to improve the supply situation will have little or no noticeable effect on the world market unless similar measures are adopted by the other big consumer areas.

The Commission considers that steps must be taken to:

- (a) supplement the energy discussions with the United States, due to be held from now on at regular intervals, by establishing similar contacts with Japan and all other interested countries or groups of countries;
- (b) create a more effective system of procedures within the OECD with a view to ensuring a better flow of information on the problems and solutions under consideration and drawing up a common list of provisions in respect of safety and stockpiling which would also apply in countries situated outside the European zone of the OECD.

5) Closer cooperation between exporting and importing countries

As a result of the growing industrial and economic development of the oil-producing areas, the promotion of economic and social cooperation between the exporters and importers of energy products in all areas of mutual interest and on a basis of mutual advantage would be a valuable step forward towards the highly desirable goal of stable relations based on mutual equality.

Consequently the Commission proposes:

1. To work together with the exporting countries in establishing procedures for joint consultation designed to encourage dialogue and promote a better flow of information (the joint committee provided for under the agreements between the Community and certain of these countries could play a useful role in this respect.
2. Simultaneously to encourage visits by European industrial missions to the exporting countries and vice versa so as to find practical ways of promoting economic cooperation.

3. To negotiate cooperation agreements containing the following main provisions:

- (a) an undertaking by the Community to promote the economic and social development of the exporting countries by providing them with technical aid, should the occasion arise, financial aid with a further undertaking to open Community markets to the industrial and agricultural products of these countries;
- (b) a joint undertaking by the exporting countries and the Community to introduce a set of agreed regulations and guarantees governing the commercial and industrial investment activities of their respective companies.

We shall resume our investigation of the sectoral energy policy projects proposed by the Commission in this communication in a forthcoming edition of "Industry, Research and Technology".

