

research and technology

bulletin published by the press and information services
of the commission of the european communities

REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED

Brussels, 6 October 1970

No. 69

- ** Mr Cousté, a French member of the European Parliament, put an interesting question to the Commission of the European Communities on the exchange of views organized by the Commission on the subject of the BRAIN DRAIN (see "Research and Technology" No. 55). ANNEX 1 contains the complete text of the Commission's reply.
- ** THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESEARCH in the six Community countries will meet in the Council, probably on 13 October, in Luxembourg. The agenda will include the reorganization of the Joint Research Centre (see "Research and Technology" No. 57) and the draft research budget presented by the Commission for 1971 (see "Research and Technology" No. 65). They will no doubt also consider the Commission's proposals concerning the creation of a European uranium enrichment capability (see in particular "Research and Technology" No. 18).
- ** THE COMMUNITY'S INDUSTRIAL POLICY was the subject of a written question put to the Commission of the European Communities by Mr Vredeling, a Dutch member of the European Parliament. ANNEX 2 contains the text of Mr Vredeling's question and the Commission's reply.

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** THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR FAST REACTORS, set up by the Community last April, will hold its first meeting in Brussels on 20 October 1970. This Committee has to make recommendations to the Council of Ministers of the Community concerning the implementation of the decision taken on 6 December 1969 by which the year 1970 should see the first practical steps being taken towards the coordination of fast reactor development work within the Community (see "Research and Technology" No. 36).

** The Commission of the European Communities has just replied to a written question from Mr De Gryse, a Belgian member of the European Parliament, on the "efforts made by the American International Telephone and Telegraph group to take over the European General Biscuit Company". After recalling that the General Biscuit Company was created in 1965 by merging two German, five Belgian, four French, one Italian and two Dutch concerns and that it has ten production centres in five Community countries, the Commission emphasizes that such a regrouping appears to fit in well with the aims set out in the Community's industrial policy memorandum insofar as it will enable the companies involved to ADAPT THEMSELVES TO THE NEW SCALE OF THE MARKET and to meet internal and international competition on the best possible terms. Furthermore, according to the information available to the Commission, the attempted takeover of the General Biscuit Company by ITT has not succeeded.

** As from 1971 the Commission of the European Communities (Eurisotop Office) will organize a general Community programme with the aim of promoting and utilizing nuclear methods for the assay of TRACE ELEMENTS IN PRECIOUS METALS of high purity and OF PRECIOUS METALS IN ORES and concentrates.

This new programme is a follow-up to the various efforts already made by the Commission's departments over the last few years to promote nuclear analysis methods in various industrial sectors (textiles, leather, steel, non-ferrous metals, etc.).

- ** "INDUSTRY AND THE COMMON MARKET" will be the subject of the symposium which the Federal Trust for Education and Research is holding in London on 7 and 8 October 1970. The topics to be discussed will include the proposals for a Community industrial policy put forward by the Commission of the European Communities, the legal and fiscal problems of international industrial mergers, and the progress of international cooperation on industrial safety.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities (Eurisotop Office) recently published a new document containing more than 600 recent references and abstracts on the use of IRRADIATION TECHNIQUES IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities took an active part in the symposium held at Pisa, Italy, from 21 to 25 September on DIFFERENT SAFETY ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS.

The Brain Drain

Reply by the Commission of the European Communities to a written question from Mr Cousté, French member of the European Parliament.

1. On 24 and 25 April 1970 the Commission arranged a round table at the University of Harvard for twenty young European scientists who had emigrated and were working under contract in the United States. The aim was to ascertain "in vivo" why they had emigrated, to obtain a picture of their professional and domestic life in the United States and to establish the terms under which they would return to Europe, since the Commission feels that such a reversal of the brain drain would be of considerable benefit to the Community as a whole.

The very frank exchange of views, extending over a period of 48 hours, revealed that the reasons prompting European scientists to emigrate to the United States are essentially of a professional nature: they go - intending to stay for a limited period of two or three years - because they wish to add to their experience and because the offers made to them are particularly attractive, both financially and from the standpoint of the interest of the work.

Generally speaking, European scientists who have emigrated to the United States stay there longer than they originally intended, because they find opportunities for social and above all professional advancement there which they feel they cannot find in Europe. In particular, the independence accorded to them in their work and the facilities placed at their disposal to help them with their research or teaching seem to them to be beyond comparison with anything which the government, universities or industry could offer in Europe.

Most of them are torn between their wish to return to Europe for family reasons and their desire to continue to stay in the United States in order to continue to enjoy a professional life which they find more stimulating. Some of them have definitely opted for the United States, but the greater number are waiting - and hoping - for Europe to organize itself so as to be able to offer them working conditions comparable to those which they find in the United States.

2. The only reliable statistics available on the immigration of scientists to the United States are published by the American immigration and naturalization authorities and are used by the National Science Foundation.

Even these must be treated with caution, for the following reasons:

- the general heading of "engineer" includes persons whose qualifications often vary from one country to another, the profession of the emigrant being indicated by the emigrant himself;
- they ignore the number of scientists who each year leave the United States to return to Europe.

The following table can be drawn up on the basis of the National Science Foundation statistics:

Scientists and engineers who have immigrated to the United States

(according to last country of residence)

	1956	1966	1967	1968	1969 ⁽¹⁾
Total	3 826	6 773	11 979	12 423	10 255
Europe	1 679	2 715	4 324	4 768	2 850
United Kingdom	433	1 251	2 144	2 167	972
European Community	613	663	959	1 262	(*)
Germany	339	346	467	737	298
Belgium	18	27	58	59	(*)
France	79	112	154	192	(*)
Italy	72	107	153	128	(*)
Netherlands	105	71	127	146	(*)

(1) including scientific graduates in human and social studies.

(*) numbers not yet available.

3. Examination of the statistics shows that:

- between 1956 and 1966 the number of immigrants from the European Community countries remain largely the same, which is all the more surprising since between 1961 and 1963, and then between 1965 and 1966, there was a very large jump in the total number of immigrants, especially those of European origin;
- between 1966 and 1968 there was a very big increase (90%) in the number of immigrants from the Community countries, which it would be difficult not to interpret as being due to the difficulties encountered in the field of scientific cooperation in Europe;
- between 1968 and 1969 there was an overall drop in the number of immigrants (21%) and in particular those of European origin (over 40%), as a result of new American legislation which came into force at the time and which, in particular, reduced considerably the quota for immigrants from Western countries.

The Community's Industrial Policy

Reply to a written question from Mr Vredeling, Dutch member of the European Parliament.

Question

What arguments is the Commission able to advance against the following comments on its report on an industrial policy to be implemented within the Community?

- (a) In its proposals the Commission anticipates developments the conditions for which have not yet been created; a common policy in the industrial field cannot be divorced from the progress which still has to be made in the Community as regards economic and monetary cooperation.
- (b) Above all it is urgently necessary to improve the institutional framework within which cooperation must take place.
- (c) It is very important to implement a joint industrial development policy on the basis of criteria defined exclusively in economic terms and not, as the Commission proposes, with a view to economic and political independence.
- (d) The first task of the public authorities in the matter must be to do away with the obstacles which still exist within the Community and to abolish the legislation which distorts competition at the legal, fiscal and financial levels.

Reply

- (a) The Commission draws the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that any proposal on its part is in a manner of speaking an anticipation of future developments.

In the introduction to its memorandum the Commission itself emphasized the links between industrial, economic and monetary policy. Economic and monetary cooperation must not be regarded as a prior condition for the mapping out of a common industrial development policy. The Commission believes that progress in these various fields must be along parallel lines, any advance in one sector having the effect of making a similar advance in other sectors easier and more necessary at one and the same time.

- (b) The Commission is convinced, and will continue to emphasize, that the institutional framework of the Community must be strengthened and improved in order that all the Community's goals may be attained.

A significant part of the memorandum, indeed, concerns the improvement and unification of the institutional framework relating to the activity of and cooperation between industrial companies. In particular, the Commission stresses the importance of the directives submitted to the Council on the elimination of the fiscal obstacles to trans-frontier mergers, the urgent need for a European company statute, the value of formulae such as the grouping of economic interests, the law on mergers and the extension of the joint enterprise status to sectors other than the nuclear. Similarly, it has confirmed that the interpretation which it places on Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty does not raise any obstacle to cooperation between and the realignment of companies at Community level, provided effective competition is maintained.

- (c) Nowhere in its memorandum has the Commission formulated its industrial policy aims in terms of economic and political independence. In the introduction it limits itself to recommending "a reasonable degree of technological independence with regard to the major external partners". It seems reasonable to the Commission that a Europe in the course of formation should not lose the mastery of economic and social developments, as it would if a large number of essential economic activities were to be controlled from decision-making centres outside the Community. However, this aim must not and cannot be attained by a protectionist policy. On the contrary, the Community's industrial policy must envisage world market free from restrictions in which European industry is able to compete.

- (d) The removal of the obstacles to competition and of the abolition of the legislative measures which distort it is a priority task facing the Community, as the Commission has emphasized over and over again, particularly in its industrial policy memorandum.

The Honourable Member will, however, appreciate the Commission's view that the realization of these goals is a necessary but not in itself : sufficient condition for ensuring that Europe undergoes a harmonious and healthy development, both from the economic angle and from the social, regional and ecological standpoints.