



news release

communiqué

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S INDUSTRIAL

PRODUCTION UP 7% LAST YEAR

In 1976 the European Community's industrial production was approximately 7% higher than in 1975.

According to initial estimates by Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Communities) the industrial production index (excluding the construction industry) of the Nine will be 115 (1970 = 100) for the whole of 1976, which is almost as high as the average for 1974 (115,7).

Industrial production has risen more quickly in Belgium, Denmark, France and Italy than in the Community as a whole (by more than 9%), compared to a bare 2% in the United Kingdom.

The sharpest rise has taken place in the industries manufacturing intermediate products (raw materials and semi-finished products), where production rose by just under 10%, and in the consumer goods industries, where production rose by 9%. Production in the capital goods industries rose by a mere 2,5%.

No homogeneous trend can, however, be traced within each group of industries. It can be seen from the estimates, which are based on the latest available figures (in principle as of November 1976), that, within the consumer goods industry, production in the footwear industry rose only slightly, while that in the food and clothing industries rose by about 4% and that in the car industry by 12%.

As regards the intermediate product industries, it is the industries where production slumped at the end of 1974 and in 1975 that the highest rises have been recorded in 1976 (e.g. - chemical industry: production down by 13,5% in 1975 and by 13,3% in 1976, paper industry: down by 17,60% in 1975 and up by 11% in 1976, oil refining industry: down by 15,5% in 1975 and up by 10% in 1976, and textile industry: down by 8,3% in 1975 and up by 10% in 1976). Production has, however, continued to fall in the extractive industries, while that of the initial metal processing industry lags far behind its 1974 level.

NR(77) 5
Feb. 25