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COMMON MARKET STEEL IMPORTS GREW BY 13% IN 1966

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 18, 1967 -- The European Coal and Steel Community countries imported 2.54 million tons of crude steel in 1966, 13 per cent more than in 1965.

Operating at 78.5 per cent of capacity during 1966, Community manufacturers turned out 85.112 million tons of crude steel, a 1 per cent decline from the 1965 level when excess capacity averaged 14 per cent.

Production evolved quite differently in the Community and varied according to the type steel manufactured and the country. Although crude steel production decreased during 1966, the Community manufacturers' share of the world market rose to 7.6 per cent, a 2 per cent increase over their share in 1965.

The tables show the member states' steel production in millions of metric tons:

<u>Country</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965, 1966 % Change</u>
Germany	34.10	37.34	36.82	35.30	- 4.1
Belgium	7.18	8.73	9.16	8.91	- 2.7
France	17.30	19.78	19.60	19.58	- 0
Italy	8.46	9.79	12.68	13.62	+ 7.4
Luxembourg	4.08	4.56	4.59	4.39	- 4.3
The Netherlands	1.94	2.66	3.14	3.28	+ 4.6
Community	73.07	82.86	85.99	85.11	- 1.0

HIGH CARBON AND SPECIAL STEELS (1966 estimates)

Germany	2.96	3.04	3.10	2.99	- 3.7
France	1.47	1.60	1.76	1.78	+ 1.4
Italy	1.33	1.07	1.32	1.55	+17.4
Benelux	0.19	0.25	0.21	0.20	- 7.0
Community	5.97	5.97	6.40	6.53	+ 2.0

The Community exported 16 million tons of crude steel during 1966, a 16 per cent decrease from the level attained in 1965 when United States imports were unusually high to hedge against a threatened strike in the steel industry.