

European Community

News Release

Joint Press Release

CANADA/EC COOPERATION ON THE ENERGY BUS PROGRAMME

Canada and the European Community have agreed to collaborate in the continued development of the energy bus, a novel method to save energy.

This cooperative programme has been developed in the context of the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation between the European Communities and Canada.

A memorandum of understanding, establishing the basis for this cooperative venture, was signed in Brussels on December 17, 1979, by Richard Tait, Head of Mission to the European Communities, for Canada, and Vice-President of the European Commission, Wilhelm Haferkamp.

During December and January, a Canadian energy bus will be touring several member states of the European Community, where Canadian experts will be demonstrating the capabilities of the bus to representatives of governments, industrial associations, technical bodies and journalists.

The energy audit vehicle, popularly known as the 'energy bus', is an original idea conceived and developed in Canada. The vehicle is a customized, recreational-type vehicle equipped with sophisticated instruments to measure and analyse energy consumption in industrial and commercial plants and to identify potential energy savings. It is operated in Canada by the federal and provincial governments, and accepted by Canadian industry as a means of improving energy-use efficiency, and reducing expenditure for fuel and electricity.

The energy bus is staffed by a team of professional engineers and technicians and is equipped with a computer, energy measuring instruments, demonstration equipment and video units.

Prior to an energy bus visit, the company provides information regarding the type and amount of energy consumed and the physical characteristics of the establishment. The audit team then makes on-site observations to obtain additional information needed for computer analysis. At the end of the visit, the company receives recommendations

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for improving the energy efficiency at the site and an estimate of potential annual financial savings if the recommendations are followed. Canadian experience demonstrates that the energy bus identifies potential energy savings of as much as 20 to 30 per cent per visit.

The audit system has generated wide international interest. Following a demonstration for representatives for the European Community in Canada in June 1979, six member states have already indicated an interest in implementing a similar system modeled after the Canadian programme. Several member states have begun working on their programmes, and the Netherlands plans to have its system operational by early 1980.

The accent of the energy bus programme in the Community will be on small and medium-sized industrial facilities. The system will be operated by individual member states. The European Commission will coordinate the national bus systems and will institute an exchange of data and software through its Joint Research Centre at Ispra, Italy.

The Canadian government has offered to the Community the computer and data base programmes of its energy audit system. In addition to making a bus available to visit European countries, Canada has offered to train the first bus crews from each member state that decides to implement the programme.

In the future, Canada/EC cooperation will be based on a permanent exchange of the information and software provided by the development of the Canadian and European bus systems. This programme will accordingly be of mutual benefit to both parties in achieving their common objectives in the field of energy conservation.
