

European Community

News Release

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COAL MISSION TO CANADA, 14-26 SEPTEMBER

A top -level mission of European coal experts will be in Canada, on 14-26 September 1980, to study this country's utilisation of coal, Canadian coal-related technology and Canadian policies of foreign investment in coal-extraction undertakings.

The delegation of experts will be led by Dr. Karlheinz Reichert, Director for Coal in the Commission of the European Communities, and will include Mr. Hans Eliasmöeller, Head of the Electricity Division in the Commission, Dr. J. Gibson of the United Kingdom's National Coal Board, Mr. R. Looses of the Charbonnages de France and Dr. E. Anderheggen, former president of Saarbergwerke AG, Germany.

The experts will meet with representatives from business and government in Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa. In Vancouver, they will also participate in the 32nd Canadian Conference on Coal.

EC Coal Demand Set to Grow

When the foundations for the European Community were laid more than 25 years ago coal's share in total energy consumption was 67%, today it is 19%. Most of the coal used is produced within the EC by four of its nine Member States (Belgium, France, Germany and the United Kingdom). Bituminous coal production in the EC is at present 240 million tonnes per year.

The EC's energy policy aims at reducing the overdependence on oil. The objective for 1990 is - inter alia - to generate electricity from solid fuels and nuclear energy up to 70-75% (at present 53%).

The future EC coal market is clearly set for expansion. Today's coal use of slightly more than 300 million tonnes will grow to between 450 and 600 million tonnes in the year 2000 depending on economic growth, progress of nuclear energy and other factors.

The bulk of the increased supply will have to come from sources outside the European Community and will mainly be thermal coal. Though there is no doubt that the market will set the pace for this development, policy makers must take clear-cut decisions soon, and buyers and suppliers of coal must communicate more closely and more often than ever.
