

European Community

News Release

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AGREES ENERGY STRATEGY

European Community energy ministers have agreed on a series of measures aimed at assuring security and solidarity among EC member countries in the event of future energy crises.

At a meeting in Luxembourg on 27 October 1981, the ten ministers agreed on priorities in the energy sector, priority number one being investments (a) to increase the security of supplies and conservation efforts and (b) to decrease oil's share of overall energy consumption.

Other measures provide for mechanisms for dealing with future disruptions in supplies and crises below International Energy Agency thresholds.

The ministers asked the Commission to undertake a detailed analysis of the role of gas in the Community's future supply and demand structure. They also endorsed the Commission's view that:

Canada is of particular interest as a possible supplier to Europe with its significant reserves and promising potential for further discoveries. The "Arctic" resources would have to be recovered by LNG tanker and would then be about as close to European as to American markets. Considerable activity is being undertaken to overcome the formidable technical problems presented by the very hostile conditions, although it remains for the Canadian Government to give a clear indication of natural gas export policy.*

*COM (81) 530 final, "Communication from the Commission to the Council concerning Natural Gas", 1 October 1981; p.17.

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 **Delegation of the Commission
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