



European Parliament
Press Release

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COMMISSION TO AID COAL INDUSTRY

The European Community is to contribute towards the longstanding British scheme of assistance for redundant or redeployed coal-miners.

The arrangement is similar to that by which the Commission is already paying out up to £9 million over five years to alleviate effects on workers of the reorganisation of the British steel industry.

Because there are so many unknown factors ahead, in the light of the examination of the British coal industry, it is not possible to make an estimate of the funds the Commission will contribute. The money will be paid under Article 56 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community.

A comprehensive system of social aids for workers in the coal-mining industry who have been made redundant or transferred has been in operation in the United Kingdom for a number of years. The new convention will make it possible for the Commission to reimburse the United Kingdom Government and the National Coal Board part of the cost of this system.

Thus the Commission will be able to contribute to the aids which are given to workers in the United Kingdom coal industry such as:

- wage guarantees for redundant industrial workers over 55 years of age and non-industrial workers who retire early due to redundancy at or over 50
- earnings supplements for employees who are required to transfer to lower paid jobs
- lump sum payments to redundant employees aged 40 years and over (Commission's contribution will be half the amount with a maximum of 750 units of account)
- concessionary coal, travelling and transfer allowances and allowances during vocational training as well as the cost of the training itself.

It is proposed to conclude the convention for a trial period of three years. The services of the Commission will work out with the representatives of the United Kingdom Government the arrangements for implementing the convention.

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