



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

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EMBARGO : Not for use in the media or on agency or club tapes
before 15.00 hours, Wednesday, July 28.

July 28, 1976

COMMUNITY AID ON THREE FRONTS

1. Grants to help Re-adapt Redundant Steelworkers
2. Seven Pilot Training Schemes for Jobs
3. Research Aid in the Field of Radioactive Waste

AID FOR REDUNDANT STEELWORKERS

The Commission today announced four grants under Article 56 (2) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community.

This article provides for readaptation aid in the case of workers made redundant. In each case the Community's contribution is half the total cost of the readaptation.

The details, with the Community's contributions, are as follows:

1. Permanent reduction from three crews to two on two shear lines at the British Steel Corporation's Gartcoch Works, central Scotland - £1,875;
2. Manning reductions at the Hot Rolled Products Works and the Cold Rolled Products Works and a closure in the latter works at the BSC's Port Talbot Group, South Wales - £102,000;
3. Closure of the BSC's Birchley Re-Rolling Mills, Olbury - £97,500;
4. Reduction in activity of two reversing mills at the BSC's Shotton hot mill finishing plant - £12,650.

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PILOT TRAINING SCHEMES

The Commission also announced today seven pilot training schemes - in Britain, France and Holland - to guide the Council of Ministers and the Commission in identifying spheres in which aid from the Social Fund should be extended.

Pilot Schemes in Britain

1. The Social Fund is to contribute £12,500 towards the total cost of £32,650 for an experiment in polyvalent training by Clarks. Ltd., shoe manufacturers, of Minehead, Somerset. The remainder of the expense will be borne by Clarks.

The footwear sector is recognised as having structural problems and difficulties in its capacity to remain competitive within and outside the Community.

The work in the sector is repetitive, requiring low skill and long production runs. The training should broaden workers' traditional range of skills and help the acquisition of supervisory skills.

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2. The Social Fund is also to contribute £12,500 towards a scheme costing £31,725 carried out by Mirror Group Newspapers to train and re-train workers who will be involved in advanced computer typesetting.

A total of 30 people will be selected for training on the Page View Terminal. It is expected that the information obtained from this pilot scheme could be applied in other Community countries.

Other Pilot Schemes

The Commission will contribute Social Fund aid to three pilot schemes for training women workers in France.

The first will take place in the Metz area and is aimed at the integration or re-integration into employment of women over 35 who want a job by giving them an immediately operational qualification.

The second, in the rural district of Louhans en Bresse, Saone-et-Loire, an area well known for its lack of employment possibilities, particularly for women, is intended to encourage training and employment measures for women against their home background.

The third will be in the priority urbanisation area of Hérouville Saint-Clair, near Caen in Basse-Normandie, a dormitory town of young married couples where the employment of women is below the regional average. The scheme is aimed at helping women with a rural background to adjust to working in an urban environment.

A fourth pilot scheme involves the experimental training of people handicapped in their upper limbs in the use of typewriters by light pulses projected on to letters on a wall display. This scheme will be carried out at the "De Hoogstraat" Rehabilitation Centre, Leersum, Holland.

A fifth, at Rennes, Brittany, is aimed at devising a multi-skilled training programme geared to the specific needs of the meat trade.

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RADIOACTIVE WASTE

The Commission is to contribute to a number of projects under an action programme on the management and storage of radioactive waste. Various activities under the programme are going on throughout the Community.

The following schemes will be supported in Britain:

- United Kingdom Energy Authority - decontamination of irradiated fuel element cladding: total cost £66,000, Community share £30,000.
- British Nuclear Fuel Limited - process for incinerating plutonium-contaminated solid waste: total cost £625,000, Community share £166,667.
- British Nuclear Fuel Limited - Preliminary study on a storage well for solidified radioactive waste: total cost £31,660, Community share £16,667.
- National Environment Research Council and the Institute of Geological Sciences - Catalogue of geological formations in the Community with favourable properties for possible very-long-term storage of radioactive wastes: total cost in Britain, £12,500, Community share £12,500.
- U.K. Atomic Energy Authority - Experimental work to be carried out as part of the project relating to the disposal of radioactive waste in geological formations: total cost in Britain £450,000, Community share £225,000.

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