# PRESS RELEASE

9918/79 (Presse 129)

601st meeting of the Council

- Research -

Luxembourg, 22 October 1979

President:

Mr Martin O'DONOGHUE,

Minister for Economic Planning and Development, Ireland



The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

## Belgium:

Mr Lucien OUTERS

Minister for Foreign Trade

and Scientific Policy

## Denmark:

Mr Gunnar RIBERHOLDT

Ambassador.

Permanent Representative

#### Germany:

Mr Hans Hilger HAUNSCHILD

State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Research

and Technology

#### France:

Mr Pierre AIGRAIN

State Secretary (Research)

## Ireland:

Mr Martin O'DONOGHUE

Minister for Economic Planning

and Development

Mr Raphael BURKE

Minister of State

Department of Industry, Commerce and Energy

## Italy:

Mr Vito SCALIA

Minister for Scientific Research and Technology

## Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

### Netherlands:

Mr A.A.Th.M. van TRIER

Minister for Science

## United Kingdom:

Mr Norman LAMONT

Parliamentary Under-Secretary

for Energy

Mr David MITCHELL

Parliamentary Under-Secretary

for Industry

## Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

## NEW JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE PROGRAMME

The Council discussed in depth the problems arising with respect to the new Joint Research Centre Programme proposed by the Commission for the period 1980 to 1983.

Following its discussions, the Council noted that several problems regarding both the Super SARA Project and the funding for the programme together with the staffing of the Centre required further thought, and agreed to resume discussion of this item at its next meeting on research problems in December so that a decision could be taken before the end of the year.

#### NEW FUSION PROGRAMME

The Council examined the problems still outstanding with respect to the new five-year Community Fusion Programme, with particular reference to the funding for the programme, including the JET project, and to the advisability of retaining inertial confinement in the programme.

The Council noted the progress made on all these problems and agreed to resume discussion in December with a view to reaching agreement.

#### SECONDARY RAW MATERIALS

The Council recorded its agreement - subject to conclusion of the procedure agreed upon with Greece for the interim period - on a Community multiannual research and development programme on the recycling of urban and industrial waste (secondary raw materials).

The programme will take the form of indirect action and co-ordination activities to be implemented between 1979 and 1982 with appropriations amounting to 9 MEUA and a staff of five. The following research areas will be covered: sorting of household waste, thermal treatment of waste, fermentation and hydrolysis and recuperation of rubber waste.

## MANAGEMENT AND STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

The Council - while awaiting completion of the consultation procedures in progress - noted that there was a tendency towards consensus on a second five-year programme, for the period 1980-1984, concerning the management and storage of radioactive wastes.

This research programme, which covers an aspect of the important question of nuclear safety, will take the form of an indirect action with funds amounting to 43 MEUA and a staff of ten.

## RADIATION PROTECTION PROGRAMME

After looking into the funding of a new five-year research and training programme (1980-1984) in the field of biology - health protection (radiation protection programme), the Council noted that eight delegations were now willing to allocate 63 MEUA thereto but that one delegation had stated it was not able to give its agreement at this stage.

#### COMMON RESEARCH POLICY

The Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views, on the basis of an analysis prepared by the Permanent Representatives Committee, on the two major features of the common research policy, namely: the co-ordination of national policies and the optimization of Community research and development activities.

The Council evolved certain guidelines to be followed by the Commission for its further proceedings.

#### MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Decision adopting a concerted action project for research into the effects of thermal processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food. Implementation of the research work to be undertaken by the Member States in this area will necessitate a financial outlay of around 8 million ECU; the appropriations necessary to cover the Community's financial contribution to the co-ordination amount to 287,000 ECU. Participation in this action project is also open to third countries which are members of COST.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision amending Decision 77/186/EEC on the exporting of crude oil and petroleum products from one Member State to another in the event of supply difficulties.

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NOTE BIO(79)333 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, DG I ET A M. LECOMTE, DG VIII

OBJET: PEREPARATION CONSEIL RECHERCHE (R. ELPHICK)

433

ENLE CONSEIL DES MINISTRES DE LA RECHERCHE, LE PREMIER DEPUISEN LE 25 OCTOBRE 1977, AURA LIEU A LUXEMBOURG LUNDI A PARTIR DE DIX HEURES POUR DEBATTRE LES GRANDS THEMES D UNE POLITIQUE ET DES PRO-GRAMMES DE RECHERCHE POUR LES QUATRE ANS A VENIR, AINSI QU UN PROGRAMME POUR NOTRE CENTRE COMMUN DE RECHERCHE. CE CONSEIL SE SITUE DANS LE CONTEXTE DES EFFORTS DE LA COMMUNAUTE DE PRENDRE EN MAIN LES MESURES NECESSAIRES POUR COMBLER NOTRE DEPENDENCE DE L'EXTERIEUR EN MATIERE D'ENERGIE. DANS LES DERNIERES ANNEES LES DEPENSES EN CREDITS CIVILS DES ETATS MEMBRES EN MATIÈRE BEDE RECHERCHE ET DE DEVELOPPEMENT SONT DEVENUES PLUS IMPORTANTES QUE CELLES DES ETATS UNIS- (11 170 MUCE CONTRE 10 666 MUCE) ET LE DOUBLE DE CELLES DU JAPON (6.000MUCE).C EST UNE AUGMENTATION CON-SIDERABLE. LES PROPOSITIONS DE LA COMMISSION REPRESENTENT JUSQU' EN 1983 PLUS DU DOUBLE DES DEPENSES SUR LE PLAN COMMUNAUTAIRE DES QUATRE ANNEES PRECEDENTES. (J ATTIRE VOTRE ATTENTION SUR LE TA-BLEAU JOINT A NOTRE NOTE IP(79)246).

NOUS ATTENDONS EN PREMIËR LIEU UN DEBAT D ORIENTATION SUR LA PO-LITIQUE COMMUNE QUI VISE UNEMEILLEURE COORDINATION DES POLITIQUES NATIBONALES. (VOIR P-60 DE MAI 1979)

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LES GRANDS POINTS A L ORDRE DU BBJOUR:

1. PROGRAMME PLURIANNUEL DU CENTRE COMMUN DE RECHERCHE 1980-83 (P-28 MARS 1979). LE PROGRAMME A UNE ENVELOPPE FINANCIERE DE L ORDRE DE 542 MUCE. IL EST A NOTER QU IL Y A TOUJOURS DES PROBLEMES ENTRE LES ETATS MEMBRES CONCERNANT LE SOUTIEN AU PROJET SUPER-SARA. CETTE EXPERIENCE EN PILE A ISPRA QUI SIMULE LE COMPORTEMENT D UNE REACTEUR EN CAS DE PERTE DE REFRIGERANT COMME L ACCIDENT SURVENU A THREE MILE ISLAND EN MARS DERNIER. SELON LES DERNIERES INDICATIONS IL EST PROBABLE QUE MEME SI LE PROJET N EST PAS ACCEPTE EN TANT QUE TEL, L AVENIR DU REACTEUR ESSOR DEVERAIT ETRE ASSURE QUAND MEME JUSQU A LA FIN DE L ANNEE PROCHAINE.

2. PROGRAMME FUSION. (P-126 DE NOVEMBRE 1978) IL Y A DEUX PARTIES, LE PROJET JET POUR LEQUEL NOUS AVONS PROPOSE 200 MUCE, ET LE PROGRAMME ASSOCIE DES ETATS MEMBRES. CE PROGRAMME EST ESTIME A PLUS QUE 700 MUCE AVEC UNE CONTRIBUTION DE LA COMMUNAUTE D L ORBDRE DE 200 MUCE. SUR CETTE PARTIE DU PROGRAMME LE CONSEIL DEVRAIT

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DECIDER NON SEULEMENT DU MONTANT DU PROGRAMME, MAIS AUSSI DIS-CUTER DU PROBLEME DE L'ANNULATION DU PROGRAMME POUR LE CONFINE-MENT INTERTIEL PROPOSE PAR DEUX DELEGATIONS.

AUTRES POISENTS SUR L ORDRE DU JOUR:

BH- RECYCLAGE DES DECHETS MUNICIPAUX ET INDUSTRIELS (P-87 DE

BH- RECYCLAGE DES DECHETS MUNICIPAUX ET INDUSTRIELS (P-87 DE

BH- PROGRAMME RADIOPROTECTION (P-56 DE MARS 1979)

BH- PROGRAMME GESTION ET STOCKAGE DES DECHETS RADIOACTIFS (P-17

BH- DE MARS 1979)。

16H30

AMITIES,

ENSTRESSENTATES COMEUR

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BRUXELLES LE 22.10.1979

REF. 116052/MAC

B I O (79) 333 (SUITE 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE ET A MM LES ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

SUBJECT :

RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE RESEARCH COUNCIL BEGAN ITS MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG TODAY WITH A GENERAL DEBATE ON THE AIMS OF THE RESEARCH EFFORTS OF THE COMMUNITY. IN GENERAL THERE WAS AGREEMENTS THAT THE 1974 COUNCIL RESOLUTION LAID DOWN A REASONABLE WAY AHEAD ALTHOUGH WITH DIFFERING EMPHASIS, MINISTERS WERE GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE GENERAL FOCUS OF ATTENTION SHOULD BE ON RESEARCH-DEVELOPMENT IN ENERGY, RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONEMENT. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, SOME SUGGESTION THAT THERE COULD BE BETTER COORDINATIONOF NATIONAL POLICIES AND GREATER CONCENTRATION ON ESSENTIALS. SOME DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF COMMUNITY R AND D JOINT EFFORTS TO FIELDS LIKE AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL POLICY. OTHER WERE NOT SO SURE.

FOR THE COMMISSION, MR BRUNNER NOTED THE GRATIFYING UNDERLYING AGREEMENT AMONG MINISTERS. AS TO CRITICISM OF THE PROLIFERATION OF PROJECTS THE COMMUNITY WAS SUPPORTING, MR BRUNNER SAID A GOOD DEAL HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE TO FIND THE KEY ISSUES. THESE WERE ENERGY, INDUSTRY, ENVIRONMENT, LIFE AND SOCIETY. THE COMMUNITY CANNOT OVER EVERYTHING BUT HAS TO FIND A SOLID BASIS FOR COORDINATION. SOME SUCCESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN REDUCING FRAGMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES. FOR INSTANCE IN THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE, WHICH IS OF VITAL IMFOR-TANCE TO OVERALL SUCCESS IF WE WISH TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN COORDINA-TING OUR INDIRECT AND CONCERTED ACTIONS, THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS HAS BEEN ALMOST HALVED.

MORE LATER. REGARDS

ROBERT ELPHICK

22/10/79

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BRUXELLES LE. 22.10.1979

REF. 116134/MAC

NOTE BIO (79) 333 (SUITÉ 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE ET A MM.LES ASIISTANTS DG I ET VIII

#### RESEARCH COUNCIL

MR BRUNNER RESPONDED TO POINTS BROUGHT OUT IN THE DEBATE BY PROMISING A REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION WHICH WOULD DEVELOP THE GUIDELINES ALREADY BEFORE THE COUNCIL AND PROVIDE A MEASURE OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE PROGRAMMES DECIDED UPON.

RECYCLING OF MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTES

THE DANISH REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCED THE LIFTING OF THEIR RESERVE AND THE PROGRAMME WAS ACCEPTED FURTHER DISCUSSION. THE COST OF THE PROGRAMME WAS FIXED AT 9 M E U A FOR THE FOUR YEAR PERIOD.

AFTER THE LUNCH BREAK, THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE AND THE COMMUNITYS FUSION PROGRAMME.

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

MR BRUNNER POINTED OUT THAT THE PROGRAMME PROPOSED WAS FUNDED AT 542 M E U A INCLUDING THE SUPER-SARA PROJECT. THIS PROJECT HAD ATTRACTED INTEREST FROM ABROAD, THE USA WOULD OFFER 8 MILLION DOL. AND JAPAN ABOUT 5 MILLION DOLLARS IN SUPPORT. IF NECESSARY THE COMMISSION WOULD BE PREPARED TO CARRY OUT THIS EXPERIMENT - A SIMULATION OF THE TYPE OF ACCIDENT THAT OCCURED ON THREE MILE ISLAND IN USA LAST MARCH - IN TWO PHASES. THE J R C PROGRAMME REALLY THE KEY ELEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY'S RESEARCH POLICIES TYING TOGETHER ALL THE OTHER ACTIONS, DIRECT AND INDIRECT, WHICH THE COUNCIL HAD DEBATED DURING THE MORNING.

MORE LATER.

REGARDS.

ROBERT ELPHICK

22/10/79

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NOTE BIO (79) 333 (SUITE 3) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE ET AUX MM. ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE MINISTERS RAN INTO SEVERE DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR DISCUSSION OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE PROGRAMME AND THE FUSION PROGRAMME. MOST OF THE AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING WAS SPENT IN RESTRICTED SESSION. AT ONE POINT THE ITALIAN MINISTER EMERGED TO SPEAK TO JOURNALISTS AND TO MAKE THE POINT THAT IF SUPER-SARA COULD NOT BE AGREED, HE WOULD BLOCK DISCUSSION ON THE FUSION PROGRAMME INCLUDING THE OPERATIONAL EXTENSION OF JET. THE MINISTERS HAVE DECIDED, HOWEVER, TO GIVE THEMSELVES MORE TIME TO DECIDE THE JOIN RESEARCH CENTRE'S FUTURE. THEY WILL BE HOLDING ANOTHER COUNCIL IN DECEMBER. THE RESTRICTED SESSION WAS STILL CONTINUING AT 7 PM.

POSSIBLY MORE LATER.

REGARDS

ROBERT ELPHICK

22/10/79

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N O T E B I O (79) 333 (SUITE 4) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE ET A MM. LES ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

#### RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE COUNCIL BROKE UP AFTER FIVE HOURS SPENT IN RESTRICTED SESSION FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED WITH THE DECISION ON RECYCLING URBAN WASTES, THE MINISTERS TONIGHT WERE ALSO ABLE TO AGREE ON THE PROGRAMME FOR MANAGEMENT AND STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTES. THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAMME IS FUNDED WITH 43 M E U A FOR THE PERIOD 1980 84.

THEY WERE HOWEVER UNABLE TO REGISTER ANY AGREEMENT ON THE PROPOSE RADIOPROTECTION PROGRAMME OR ON THE JOINT RESEARCH COUNCIL AND EFUSION PROGRAMME. THESE WERE BEING REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL PLANNE FOR DECEMBER.

THE PRESIDENT MR. O'DONOGHUE OF IRELAND TOLD THE CONCLUDING PRESS CONFERENCE THAT A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AND AREAS OF CONCERN HAD BEEN NARROWED BUT AT LEAST ONE DELEGATION HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CIMMIT ITSELF TODAY. FURTHER WORK WOULD BE NEEDED IN TER VIEW TO CLARIFY PROGRESS AND TO THIS END A WORKING PAPER WOULD BE PREPARED.

FOR THE COMMISSION MR BRUNNER COMMENTED THAT ALL DELEGATIONS THAT COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK. ALL CONSIDERED THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE'S OPERATIONS WERE SATISFACTOR AND THIS WOULD BE HEARD WITH SATISFACTION BY THE STAFF. THERE HAD BEEN AN ALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL POINTS OF VIEW REGARDING STAFFING AND THIS SIGNIFIED THAT THEIR WORK IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

ENDIT

REGARDS

ROBERT ELPHICK®

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