

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE 2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037 phone: (202) 872-8350

277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 phone: (212) 371-3804

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DAHRENDORF REPORTS ON EC ECONOMY

Initiation of a common energy policy, launching the Regional Development Fund, and the transition to the second stage of economic and monetary union should now become the cornerstones of a global economic policy, Ralf Dahrendorf told the European Parliament in Strasbourg on February 14. Dahrendorf, EC Commissioner responsible for research, science, and education, presented the Commission's 1974 report on the Community's economy outlining the consequences of the energy crisis on the Common Market.

The Community's gross national product which grew at a rate of 8.5 per cent between 1972 and 1973, he said, would only go up by about 2 per cent to 3 per cent in 1974. Inflation will worsen, according to Dahrendorf, with consumer prices going up from the 1973 rate of 8.5 per cent to 10 per cent in all Member States. The Community's employment could stop expanding and reduced business investments could result in massive unemployment. Additionally, Dahrendorf said the EC balance of payments would be seriously affected by the additional \$17.5 billion cost to the Community's energy bill. He forecast further rises in the Community's energy costs in the next few years, due to its dependence on

imports and the slow process of finding alternate energy sources.

Dahrendorf warned of the social, economic, and monetary dangers inherent in a return to autonomous and protectionist national policies. He urged Member States to work together in resolving current difficulties along the lines of the Commission's January 23 proposals to the Council of Ministers.

The proposals include a call for Member States to avoid competitive devaluations and establish continuous consultation on policy changes. They also call on the Council to fix quotas for short-term monetary support, and on Europe's financial institutions to find ways to mobilize monetary authorities' gold reserves both within and outside the Community. The Commission also called on the Community to evaluate the International Monetary Fund's proposals for improving balance of payments while giving attention to the interests of developing countries.

EC PAPER RECYCLING STUDY UNDERWAY

A study on recycling waste paper in the European Community will be available in June. The study was begun recently at the request of the Commission which sees recycling as a way to reduce trash problems, preserve local forestry resources, and promote a less pollutant process of making paper and board.

COMMISSION HAS NOT FAILED -- ORTOLI

The EC Commission has not failed to carry out any of its duties, Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli told the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France on February 14. Ortoli spoke in response to the Socialist Group's announced intention to introduce a motion to censure the Commission for failing to enforce majority voting rules in the Council of Ministers and for failing to execute the EC Treaty of Rome's provisions for electing the Parliament by universal suffrage. Defending the Commission, Ortoli pointed to its work on monetary, agricultural, regional, and energy matters, as well as its efforts to increase the Parliament's budgetary powers.

The real problem, said Ortoli, is what action the Community should now take to resolve the current crisis. Ortoli called for clear and binding decisions in three vital areas: regional policy, economic and monetary union, and energy. Recognizing the need for a conviction to move Europe into the future politically, he warned against racing ahead without solving the Community's immediate institutional problems.

SOCIAL POLICY COULD SAVE JOBS -- HILLERY

There is no reason to expect widespread unemployment within the European Community if the right EC and national policies are followed and the maintenance of employment is given priority, EC Commission Vice President Patrick Hillery told the European Parliament on February 12. Hillery, responsible for social affairs, said the group most vulnerable to the unemployment threat, caused by the energy crisis, are the migrant workers, three quarters of whom come from third countries. It is time for the Community to face the question of responsibility for these workers, according to Hillery, and ac-

cept a reasonable share of the costs of providing for the normal human needs of these workers and their families.

Hillery said the Commission's Social Action Program proposals to improve the EC labor market take on new importance in the current situation. The Community's employment drop could be restrained, he continued, through adopting these proposals, acquiring precise information on job availability and skills required, and possibly by work sharing, curtailing overtime, and introducing shorter working hours.

The Council's resolution on the Social Action Program, according to the Commissioner, has, for the first time, brought a comprehensive commitment by the Community to extensive social reform. He said the Commission will continue to work closely with labor and management and agrees with their demands for greater participation in the Commission's work.

EC FRONTIER INSURANCE CARD CHECK ABOLISHED

Europeans will find automobile traveling easier following two decisions by the EC Commission on February 20. The Commission abolished frontier checks of the European green insurance card between the Common Market and Sweden, Norway, Finland, Austria, and Switzerland, and between the original Community and its three new members (Britain, Denmark, and Ireland). The original EC-Six abolished border checks on July 1, 1973, as recommended by the Commission. The decisions, which carry out a 1971 Council directive, were facilitated by the nine national motor insurers' bureaus' comprehensive guarantee to settle accident claims on vehicles insured in another Member State. The guarantee also allows EC citizens injured by a car insured in any Member State to apply directly to his national bureau for compensation instead of having to initiate proceedings abroad.

COMMISSION COORDINATES TEXTILE AID SYSTEMS

European Community Member State systems for administering aid to the textile industry will be better coordinated following measures recently adopted by the Commission. Member States now have to submit plans for aid systems to the Commission to ensure their compatibility with overall plans for the industry. Additionally, a consultation procedure will be set up to examine Member State complaints about textile firm assistance which may affect competition and trade. An annual review will be made of the aid received by the textile industry to ensure correct application.

EC CO-SPONSORS POLLUTION SYMPOSIUM

An International Symposium on the Recent Advances in the Assessment of the Health Effects of Environmental Pollution will be held in Paris June 24-28. The meeting will be sponsored by the EC Commission, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the World Health Organization. Scientific papers will be presented at the meeting to evaluate the methodologies and techniques now available for establishing the relationships between human health and environmental pollutants, including noise.

CALL FOR EC ROLE IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

The European Community should participate in the upcoming World Food Conference in Rome, the Commission told the Council of Ministers on February 6. The November intergovernmental conference is sponsored by the United Nations. The Commission urged the Council to take appropriate steps to enable the Community to participate fully in the discussions and represent the EC point of view.

COMMISSION REQUESTS CONSUMER STUDIES

Studies from various European Community consumers' organizations have been requested by the Commission as part of the EC consumer protection action program. The European Bureau of Consumers' Unions will provide studies on unfair publicity, toy safety, and door-to-door selling. Studies on rentals and consumer credit sales will be done by the EC Committee of Family Organizations. The Commission also asked the Liason Committee for consumers to review labeling of medicines, the European Community of Consumers' Cooperatives to make price comparisons, and the European Trade Union Confederation to report on the need for indicating unit prices on products.

NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM PROPOSED

An action plan for promoting the use of nuclear energy in the European Community was proposed to the Council of Ministers by the EC Commission on February 1. The plan is part of a series of Commission communications to put a Community energy policy into effect.

The plan calls for sustained efforts to: protect the environment and public health, establish an industrial, scientific, and technological base, and secure adequate nuclear fuel supplies. Studies and directives would cover the radiological risk of nuclear installations, thermal pollution, transport of radioactive stocks, and power plant worker safety. The Commission reasserted the need for an EC political, scientific, and technological policy making nuclear energy a principle objective. It also called for joint Community-level consultation to improve nuclear equipment; promotion of competition in the nuclear sector; development of new techniques and technology, and exploration of ways to put the EC nuclear industry into the export market.

**BELGIAN SULPHURIC ACID
PRODUCERS TERMINATE
RESTRICTIVE AGREEMENT**

Belgian sulphuric acid producers have terminated a joint sales agreement which infringed EC competition regulations, the Commission announced in Brussels on January 28.

The non-ferrous metals industry had sold its sulphuric acid through Asybel SC. This joint sales office also had export rights. The producers were paid a single price per ton, calculated at the end of the year on the basis of Asybel's total revenues and deliveries. After the Commission advised the producers that this arrangement eliminated price competition, they ended the agreement.

**PROPOSAL TO REDUCE
EC SULPHUR POLLUTION**

European Community domestic heating furnaces and diesel trucks will have cleaner exhaust fumes if the Council of Ministers adopts a Commission February 19 proposal setting strict sulphur content standards for fuel oil. The sulphur content would be limited to 0.5 per cent on October 1, 1976, to 0.3 per cent after October 1, 1980. Less stringent standards

would apply to fuel burned in areas where sulphur from fuel oil is not a heavy pollutant: 0.8 per cent by October 1976, and 0.5 per cent by October 1980. These regions would be selected by the Member States on the basis of criteria approved by the Commission. The Commission believes that the environmental advantages of these standards justifies the higher cost of fuel oil (less than 5 per cent) and use of more crude oil (1 per cent) which would result from the new standards.

**SUMMER EC STUDY
PROGRAM IN BRUSSELS**

Spend the summer in Brussels studying the Common Market. A program of courses on the European Community will be held in Brussels from June 17 to August 9 under the sponsorship of the Northwest Interinstitutional Study Abroad Programs and the University of Washington. Courses will concentrate on the economic, political, and cultural dimensions of European union. The program, open to students with at least a sophomore standing, will offer 10 hours of academic credit. Tuition is \$950 per student, including room, board, and travel within Europe.

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