

No. 17NP/1985

June 12, 1985

Contact: Suzanne Perry
(202) 862-9549

E.C. ENERGY CONSUMPTION TO GROW IN 1985

Energy consumption in the European Community is expected to increase by about 2.6 percent in 1985, reflecting growth in the Community's economy and unusually cold weather at the beginning of the year.

That forecast is included in the first issue of a new E.C. publication, "Energy in Europe." It is based partly on projected increases in the Community's Gross Domestic Product (2.4 percent) and industrial output (3.5 percent) in 1985.

Energy consumption also grew in 1984, by 3.6 percent--the first increase since 1979, the publication notes. It was attributed to economic growth, cold weather, constant real energy prices and increased nuclear power output.

The E.C. Commission's Directorate-General for Energy also anticipates these developments in 1985:

--Oil and coal consumption will remain close to last year's levels, but natural gas and electricity demand will increase by 3.8 percent and 3.7 percent respectively.

--The Community's average nuclear capacity will increase by about 25 percent as 14 new nuclear power stations begin commercial production. Nuclear power will cover 30 percent of total electricity demand.

--Domestic energy production will increase, but the Community's net import dependence will remain at about 43 percent of total energy consumption.

A short-term energy forecast will be a regular feature of "Energy in Europe," which will be published three times a year. Issue Number 1 also includes a special long-term energy forecast. It projects a "reasonably stable" energy situation in the E.C. for the rest of the century, with fairly slow growth in energy demand.

.... /

It warns, however, that a number of risk factors could increase the Community's dependence on imported energy. The outcome will be particularly sensitive to developments affecting energy efficiency, oil prices and the E.C.'s nuclear program.

The issue also includes reports on the future of the nuclear industry, the prospects for natural gas, E.C. financial support to the energy sector and the links between the rational use of energy and job creation.

"Energy in Europe" will feature regular news and technology sections focusing on recent energy events, policy initiatives and research projects in the E.C.

Subscriptions for the three 1985 issues (April, August, November) are available for \$8.50 from:

European Community Information Service
2100 M Street, N.W., Suite 707
Washington, D.C. 20037