

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 22 May 1978
650/78 (Presse 69)

The 519th meeting of the Council of the European Communities will be held on Tuesday 30 May 1978 (10.00) in the Charlemagne building, rue de la Loi 170, Brussels, with Mr Ivar NØRGAARD, Minister of Commerce of the Kingdom of Denmark, in the Chair.

The Council will discuss the following matters:

- combination of concrete measures in the field of energy
- intra-Community trade in power-station coal
- Community approach in the refining sector
- granting of financial aid for demonstration projects in the field of energy saving
- granting of financial support for projects to exploit alternative energy sources and measures to implement such support in the geothermal energy sector and in the sector of solid fuel liquefaction and gasification
- support for joint hydrocarbon exploration projects and measures to implement such support
- draft Council Resolution on the Community energy policy objectives for 1985
- nuclear energy questions.

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The President of the Council will hold a press conference after the meeting.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

519th Council meeting

- ENERGY -

Brussels, 30 May 1978

President: Mr Ivar NØRGAARD

Minister of Commerce of
the Kingdom of Denmark



30.V.78

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony BENN

Minister for Energy

Mr Dickson MABON

Minister of State for Energy

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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ENERGY SAVING

The Council agreed to the Regulation concerning the granting of financial aid for energy-saving demonstration projects.

The object of this Regulation is to provide the Community with an instrument to encourage - by the granting of financial aid - the realization of demonstration projects which offer a substantial improvement in the efficiency of energy used and which may thus be of interest to the whole of the Community.

Decisions to grant aid will be taken by the Commission; however, at the request of a Member State the Council shall act on the Commission decision providing for the granting of aid and shall do so unanimously in the case of the first series of projects and by a qualified majority in the case of subsequent projects.

The Regulation will come into force when the decision has been taken by the Commission or, in the case of an appeal, by the Council, on the first series of projects and following adoption of the Regulation which fixes, unanimously, the maximum amount of aid to be granted under the Regulation and in the light of an analysis of projects in this field.

The Council agreed to consider these aspects of the matter at its meeting in December 1978; it noted that the Commission would submit the necessary proposals in time to enable it to do so.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

The Council agreed to the framework Regulation on the granting of financial support for projects to exploit alternative energy sources.

The Regulation is aimed at reducing dependence and diversifying the Community's energy supplies. It will thus be possible for financial support to be granted for demonstration projects ("Community projects") to exploit alternative energy sources in the Community which can be used as a reference and which have prospects of industrial and commercial viability that have been proven by preliminary studies and research. These projects may cover, for example, geothermal fields, liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels, solar energy, wave energy, tidal energy and wind energy.

The framework Regulation will enter into force when the Council has decided on the first series of projects and has adopted the Regulation laying down, unanimously, the maximum amount for which provision is made under the relevant implementing Regulations and the corresponding projects or programmes.

The Council agreed that at its meeting in December 1978 it would discuss the implementing Regulations already before it concerning the geothermal sector and the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels, and other implementing Regulations on solar energy, wave energy, tidal energy and wind energy, the first series of projects under those Regulations and the Regulation laying down the maximum amount of aid. The Commission will submit the necessary proposals in due course.

ENERGY POLICY

The Council made a thorough examination of the issues arising with regard to the introduction of a system of Community aid for intra-Community trade in power-station coal, the definition of a Community approach in the refining sector and the introduction of support for joint hydrocarbon-exploration projects; the deliberations on these matters will be continued at future meetings of the Energy Council, on the understanding that the problems will be examined in more detail in the meantime in the Council's preparatory bodies.

ENERGY OBJECTIVES FOR 1985

After examining certain aspects of the preparation of a Resolution on energy policy objectives for 1985, the Council agreed that work on this subject would be continued in the Permanent Representatives Committee in the light of today's discussions and on the basis of new information to be submitted by certain delegations, the aim being to complete the work as soon as possible.

JET PROJECT

The Council adopted the decision on the establishment of the "Joint European Torus (JET) Joint Undertaking". At the same time it adopted the amendment to the research and training programme (1976 to 1980) for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of fusion and plasma physics so as to include in it the JET project.

The project is of the greatest importance in terms of long-term energy supply. The object of the Joint Undertaking is the construction, operation and exploitation, as part of the Community fusion programme and for the benefit of the participants in this programme, of a large torus facility of Tokamak type and its auxiliary facilities in order to extend the parameter range applicable to controlled thermonuclear fusion experiments up to the conditions close to those needed in a thermonuclear reactor.

JET will be constructed at the seat of the Joint Undertaking in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Culham, Oxfordshire.

The financial commitment necessary for the realization - of the first half of the construction phase - of the JET project has been fixed at 102.4 MUA for the Community, with the host country and bodies associated with the Fusion Programme each bearing 10% of the expenditure.

The number of staff necessary for the construction phase has been put at approximately 350, 150 of whom will have Euratom status, thus underlining the Community nature of the Project.

The decisions adopted today will allow the statutory bodies of the Joint Undertaking to take up their duties and the project to enter its operational phase accordingly.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

On the basis of Commission communications, the Council held a general exchange of views on nuclear energy, turning its attention in particular to the reprocessing of nuclear materials, radioactive waste and fast breeder reactors.

Discussion revealed the importance which the Community attached to these matters, particularly with a view to reducing the Community's dependence in terms of energy supply.

The Council instructed its preparatory bodies to proceed with an examination of the relevant Commission communications in the light of discussions at the meeting.

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The Council took note of a Commission statement on the Community's relations with developing countries on energy matters and agreed to consider this point at a forthcoming Council meeting.

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Following a statement by the Netherlands delegation on the fixing of energy prices in the Community, the Council took note of information from the Commission that studies on the electricity and gas sectors are in progress, the results of which could be made known to the Council for its meeting scheduled for October.



VARIOUS DECISIONS

Agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations
 - amending Regulation (EEC) No 2517/69 laying down certain measures for re-organizing Community fruit production;
 - amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables and Regulation (EEC) No 2601/69 laying down special measures to encourage the processing of certain varieties of oranges;
 - amending Regulation (EEC) No 516/77 on the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables;
 - amending Regulation (EEC) No 508/78 extending the system of aid for the production of dehydrated fodder;
 - amending for the fifth time Regulation (EEC) No 1163/76 on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector;
- the Resolution on the programme of work to be carried out in the veterinary, zootechnical and animal protection spheres and the staff required for such work.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities, as regards seeds and seedlings, the Decision on the equivalence of the checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties carried out in third countries.

Fisheries

As regards fisheries, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations

- laying down certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of certain non-member countries in the 200 nautical mile zone off the coast of the French department of Guyana for the period 1 June to 31 December 1978;
- extending certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Spain, to 24 June 1978.

It also agreed to the extension of the fishing arrangements applicable to ships registered in the Faroe Islands or flying the flag of Norway or Sweden, to 22 June 1978.

Accession of Djibouti to the Lomé Convention

The Republic of Djibouti deposited its instrument of accession to the Lomé Convention on 2 February 1978, thereby acceding to the Convention. The Council accordingly adopted the texts necessary to take account of this accession, both for the purposes of applying the Convention to the new member and for the consequent adjustment of the Decision on the association of the overseas countries and territories.

Community co-insurance

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to Community co-insurance, the substance of which was approved on 17 April last.

The Directive is concerned with operations which by their nature or size require the participation of several insurers if they are to be guaranteed. It opens up a greater choice of possible participants in a co-insurance operation by regulating the conditions and procedures by which such operations - where the risk is located within the Community - may be carried out by insurance undertakings in the Community. The Directive governs a number of matters relating to technical reserves, the obligation to provide statistics on Community co-insurance operations and the co-operation of the Member States' supervisory authorities.

The Directive provides for some exceptions - damage arising from nuclear sources or from medicinal products - although damage arising from the latter will be examined by the Council within five years in the light of the experience gained in the implementation of the Directive.

Textile products

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff preferences for textile products originating in developing countries and territories.

This Regulation extends for a period of six months from 1 July 1978 the existing arrangements already applicable during the first half of 1978.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty for mechanically propelled aircraft of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000 kg falling within subheading ex 88.02 B II c).

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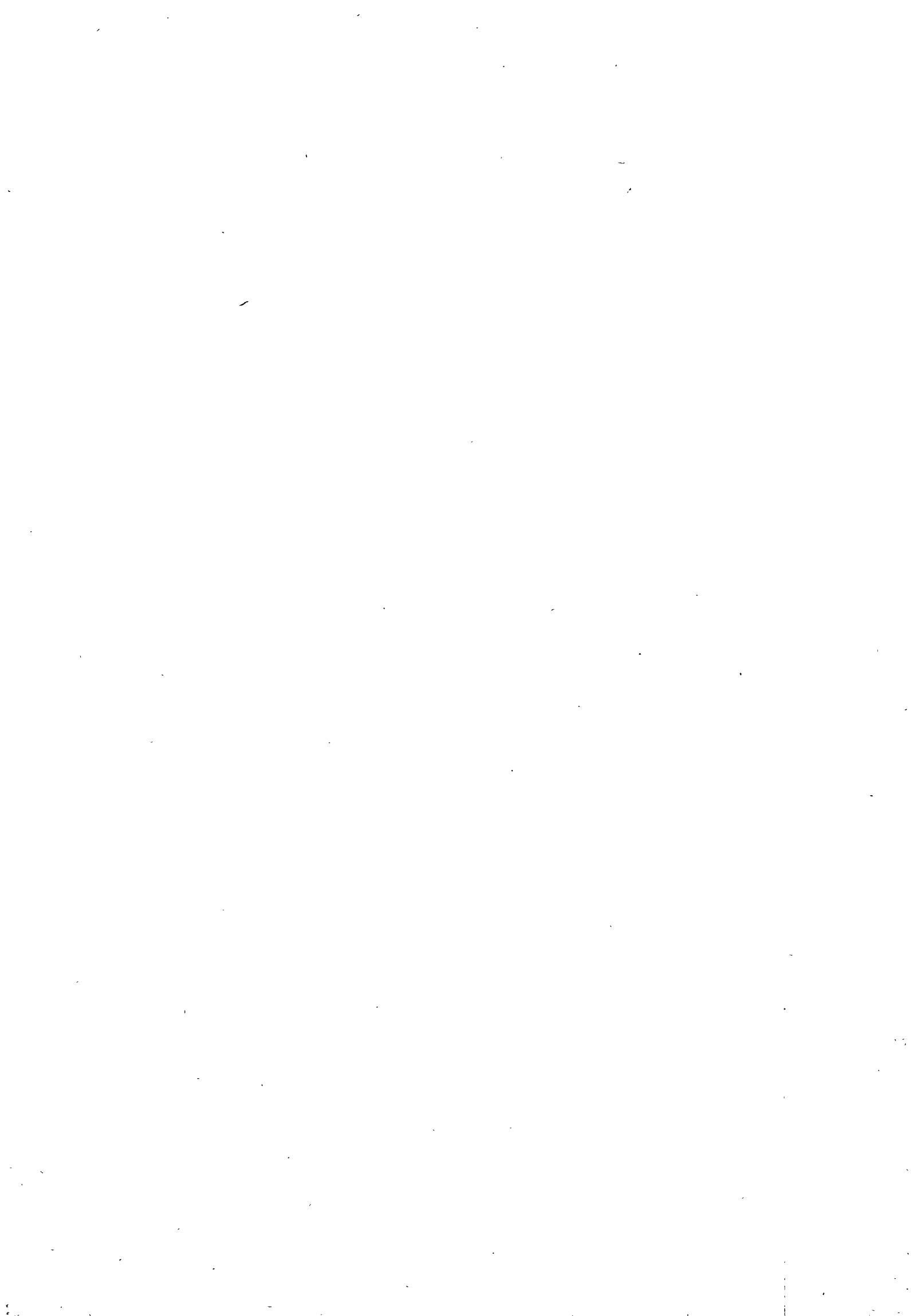
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Appointments

The Council appointed, on a proposal from the Italian Government, Mr Guisepe FABRETTI, Ufficio Internazionale UIL, as Alternate Member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers in place of Mr G. FERIOLI, Alternate Member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 7 February 1979.

The Council also appointed, on a proposal from the Italian Government, Mr Antonio GUTTADAURO as Member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers in place of Mr G. FERIOLI, Member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 10 October 1979.



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NOTE BIO(78)198(SUITE 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AU DIRECTEUR GENERAL DG I ET A
M. OPITZ DG VIII

ENERGY COUNCIL (R. ELPHICK)

THE ENERGY COUNCIL BEGAN ITS MEETING AT TEN THIS MORNING WITH A DISCUSSION OF THE PACKAGE OF MEASURES PUT FORWARD BY THE PRESIDENCY. WIDELY DIFFERING VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED WITH THE ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN PARTICULAR PRONOUNCING THREE NEGATIVES - TO THE ENERGY PACKAGE AS A WHOLE, TO THE PROPOSALS ON COAL AND ON REFINERIES. THE BRITISH DELEGATE SPOKE AGAINST THE COMMISSIONS' PROPOSAL ON REFINERIES AND THE GERMAN ON THE NEED FOR SOMETHING ON COKING COAL TO SUPPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL ON AIDS FOR BURNING COMMUNITY PRODUCED COAL IN POWER STATIONS. THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE TO BE TAKEN UP LATER IN THE DAY. HOWEVER AFTER A PLEA FROM COMMISSIONER BRUNNER POINTING OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS COUNCIL FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE ENERGY CONTENT OF THE PROPOSITIONS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AT BREMEN AND AT THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES SUMMIT IN BONN IN JULY, THE COUNCIL ACCEPTED TWO FRAMEWORK REGULATIONS. ONE CONCERNED ENERGY SAVING MEASURES, THE OTHER EXPLOITATION OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES (GEOTHERMAL, AND COAL GASIFICATION AND LIQUIFICATION). THE COUNCIL HOWEVER REFUSED TO PERMIT A COSTING FIGURE TO APPEAR IN THE FRAMEWORK REGULATIONS, RESERVING TO THEMSELVES THE RIGHT TO SET FIGURES AS WELL AS SELECT ACTUAL PROJECTS LATER. THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THIS WILL NOW PERMIT WORK ON GETTING IN TENDERS TO GO AHEAD. MORE PROBABLE LATER.
SECOND LINE FROM BOTTOM, PLEASE READ: ..WILL AT LEAST ...
AMITIES
ENZO PERLOT COMEUR
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NOTE BIO(78)198 (SUITE 2 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL DG I
ET A M. OPITZ DG VIII

ENERGY COUNCIL (R. ELPHICK)

AFTER A WORKING LUNCH THE MINISTERS CAME BACK TO THE CONFERENCE
TABLE FOR A SHORT DISCUSSION OF THE THREE NUCLEAR PAPERS PRESENTED
BY THE COMMISSION, ON REPROCESSING, WASTE DISPOSAL AND FAST BREEDERS.
NO DECISIONS NEEDED TO BE TAKEN AND THE PAPERS WILL BE DISCUSSED
FURTHER.

MR BRUNNER ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF BRIEFING THE MINISTERS
ON AN INITIATIVE THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO TAKE TO COOPERATE WITH
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE ENERGY SECTOR. THINKING IS STILL IN
ITS INITIAL STAGES BUT THE IDEA IS IN THE FIRST PLACE TO DRAW UP
A BALANCE SHEET OF REQUIREMENTS AND TO SEE WHAT HELP WOULD BE
NEEDED INCLUDING SUCH PROBLEMS AS THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND
THE PROBLEMS OF EXPLORATION AND PROSPECTION. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE
TO DRAW UP A NUMBER OF JOINT PROJECTS. THESE IDEAS RECEIVED
STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE BRITISH DELEGATE AND A FAIR WIND FROM THE
COUNCIL GENERALLY AND A PAPER WILL BE PREPARED FOR FOREIGN MINI-
STERS AND FOR THE OPENING OF THE LOME TALKS IN JULY.

NEW PACKAGE

MINISTERS THEN RETURNED TO AN EXAMINATION OF THE PRESIDENCY
PACKAGE AFTER AN ADMONITION FROM THE CHAIR THAT IT WAS RATHER
MEAGRE BUT BETTER THAN NOTHING. IT IMMEDIATELY RAN INTO DIFFICUL-
TIES FROM THE ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE AS WELL AS FROM THE BRITISH
WHO OBJECTED TO THE FORMULATION ON REFINERIES AND FROM OTHER
DELEGATIONS. FINALLY THE COUNCIL AGREED ONLY TO THE TWO FRAMEWORK
REGULATIONS ON ENERGY SAVING AND ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES.
THE PROPOSALS ON COAL TRADE, REFINERIES AND HYDROCARBON EXPLO-
RATION REMAIN ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING IN OCTOBER. MR
BRUNNER UNDERTOOK TO PRESENT A PACKAGE OF ACTUAL PROPOSALS ON
ALTERNATIVE SOURCES FROM WHICH THE COUNCIL CAN CHOOSE AT THEIR
MEETING AFTER NEXT IN DECEMBER.

ENERGY OBJECTIVES

MR BRUNNER ALSO REMINDED THE COUNCIL THAT THEY HAD ANOTHER PRO-
POSAL BEFORE THEM ON THE ENERGY TARGETS 1985 A DECISION ON WHICH
WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THE ENERGY CHAPTER AT THE BREMEN AND BONN
SUMMITS IN JULY. HE RESERVED THE RIGHT OF THE COMMISSION TO PRE-
SENT A PAPER FOR CONSIDERATION BY FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE COUNCIL
ACCEPTED THIS. A PAPER WILL PROBABLY BE PREPARED FOR THE FOREIGN
MINISTERS AT END OF JUNE.

REACTION

IN GENERAL COMMISSIONER BRUNNER DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE PESSI-

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E. PERLOT



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MISTIC ACCOUNTS OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK WHICH APPEAR IN TODAY'S PAPERS. IT CAN BE TAKEN ON THE BEST AUTHORITY THAT WHILE SORRY TO SEE THE COAL REFINERY AND HYDROCARBON PACKAGES PUT OFF, THE COMMISSIONER BELIEVES THE COUNCIL IN FACT MADE A STEP FORWARD BY ACCEPTING THE ENERGY SAVING, ALTERNATIVE SOURCES PACKET. THESE ARE NOT NEGLIGIBLE. WHILE FIGURES WILL BE WRITTEN IN BY THE COUNCIL ONLY WHEN THEY SEE THE PROJECTS LATER IN THE YEAR THE SCALE OF FIGURES BEING MENTIONED ARE 150 MUCE FOR ENERGY SAVING, 80 MILLION FOR GEOTHERMAL EXPLOITATION AND 100 MILLION FOR COAL GASIFICATION, LIQUIFICATION. THE COUNCIL ALSO ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT AN ENERGY PACKAGE MUST GO BEFORE THE EUROPEAN AND WESTERN INDUSTRIAL SUMMITS SO IT COULD BE THAT AN ENERGY POLICY WILL EMERGE FOR THE COMMUNITY IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.
AMITIES,
ENZO PERLOT COMEUR
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PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 2 June 1978
688/78 (Presse 74)

The Council of the European Communities will hold its 520th meeting on Tuesday 6 June 1978 (09.30) at the Kirchberg European Centre, Luxembourg, under the chairmanship of Mr K.B. ANDERSEN, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark.

The Council will discuss the following questions:

- Direct elections to the European Parliament - stage reached in legislative procedures
- Accession of Portugal
- Relations with Yugoslavia
- New ACP-EEC Convention - Community position at the opening of the negotiations
- Common strategy on the economic and social situation
 - progress report
- Structural problems with regard to industrial policy
- Regional policy
- Iron and steel problems - oral report by the Commission on the market situation
- GATT/multilateral trade negotiations - progress of the negotiations
- Relations with Australia.

The President of the Council will hold a press conference after the meeting.
