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** In order to encourage the flow of mutual information within the Community, we have asked various television programme producers to tell us briefly what each television network broadcasting in the Community does to help consumers.

ANNEX 1 is an article on WHAT TELEVISION DOES TO HELP THE CONSUMER IN BELGIUM (sent to us by the Belgian Dutch language television channel, BRT).

** THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SCIENTIFIC JOURNALISM FOR TODAY'S SOCIETY was the theme of a seminar held in Salzburg from 24 to 26 April at the invitation of the European Union of Associations of Scientific Journalists.

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The information published in this bulletin covers the European Communities' activities in the fields of industrial development, protection of the environment and consumer welfare. It is therefore not limited to recording Commission decisions or opinions.

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Science journalists from nine European countries (Austria, Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland) attended.

At the end of this meeting a declaration was adopted, of which extracts are given in ANNEX 2.

** In 1974 the energy crisis should not seriously affect the European iron and steel industry, which will continue to benefit from a high level of demand. This is the main point to be gleaned from the FORECAST STEEL PROGRAMME, which indicates the short-term trend of the Community steel market and which the European Commission publishes every year in order to help the circles concerned to organize their activities more efficiently. The publication of the programme for 1974 was postponed in order to include data on the consequences of the energy crisis. It shows that in 1974 steel consumption in the Community will increase by more than 2% compared with 1973, as against 8% between 1972 and 1973.

ANNEX 3 gives a short summary of this programme.

** As part of his submission for the Doctorat d'Etat, Mr Emmanuel Weill-Halle, who is a Master of Science (Maître ès Sciences) has just completed a study on THE FRENCH AND THE ENVIRONMENT, covering 1 608 persons aged between 15 and 64 years, from 78 departments in France.

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The aims were:

to pinpoint the main elements in their way of life to which the French attach importance;

to list, in order of importance, the causes of satisfaction and dissatisfaction which they find in the setting of their lives;

to identify past and future trends in this setting as the French see them;

to determine their level of knowledge and anxiety in this respect;

to collate their opinions on:

foreseeable means of protecting the environment, and individual or collective responsibility and commitment with respect to measures already taken or to be taken for this purpose.

We asked Mr Weill-Halle to tell us about the conclusions he has reached. ANNEX 4 is the article he sent us.

** One of the clauses of the Treaty of Rome establishing the European Community explicitly provides that the principle of EQUAL PAY FOR MEN AND WOMEN shall be respected by Member States. The European Parliament deplors that this Article of the law, which has been in force for 16 years in the six founder Members of the Community, is applied only formally in these countries. Parliament has expressed its satisfaction at the proposal put forward by the European Commission to the Council of Ministers of the Community (see IS No 2/74) on the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women workers. It hopes

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that greater efforts will be made in the field of training women, who up to now have been employed as an undervalued auxiliary labour force, and it demands that, instead of an education slanted according to their sex, children should be given an education which would have the effect of general emancipation, so that both men and women may have freedom of choice with regard to their future.

**The effects which the ENERGY SITUATION is likely to have on the COMMUNITY'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY is likely to be high up on the Agenda of the Council of Ministers for the Environment which will probably be held between now and next summer. The Commission has just put forward a proposal that the Council of Ministers should adopt a resolution stating that the maintaining of energy production at an adequate level and the need to protect the environment are not contradictory. In this connection the Commission believes that every measure to save energy is also a measure to preserve the environment and that recycling techniques and re-use of waste, for example, can be a very important contribution towards saving energy and natural resources. The Commission requests the Member States to take measures to reduce further the harmful effect that energy production has on the environment (see IS No 14/74), and to make more efficient use of energy resources in the various industries.

**The establishment of harmonized "QUALITY TESTS" throughout the European Community for the benefit of all European consumers is complicated by the fact that this expression can mean very

different types of tests carried out on products by organizations (private or semi-official) which themselves are very diverse. This is pointed out by the European Commission in a reply to a written question by a Member of the European Parliament. The Commission hopes very much that the official organizations in the various member countries, officially recognized for issuing guarantee labels on the basis of quality tests, will establish cooperation among themselves and exchange information regularly.

** A uniform Community procedure for issuing DRIVING LICENCES would facilitate their reciprocal recognition and make possible the free movement of persons and freedom of establishment of workers in the transport industry. This is emphasized by the European Parliament in a Resolution adopted at the last session on the basis of a proposal by the Commission, which aims to harmonize legislation on driving licences for motor vehicles. In the Resolution, Parliament suggests that, when considering the problem of the frequency of medical examinations, the European Commission should pay particular attention to the standards required for drivers of heavy vehicles and public transport.

** In order to promote greater unity between the national policies of the European Community States with regard to VOCATIONAL TRAINING, the European Commission keeps itself regularly informed on the principles, organization, means, training methods and possibilities for further training in force in these States. Thus, three studies, conducted in collaboration

with the competent national administrative authorities are currently being carried out. They cover the following topics:

the organization and structure of general, vocational and technical education in the Community countries;

the guidelines of vocational training in the Community countries;

the management, financing and cost of vocational training in the Community countries.

** Time-payment sales, sales with conditions attached, hire purchase contracts, misleading publicity and premium sales are being examined by the European Commission in order to define the measures that could be taken at Community level, should the need arise, to protect the European consumer from certain of these unfair trading practices.

** THE PROBLEMS POSED FOR AIR TRANSPORT BY THE ENERGY CRISIS were discussed at a recent meeting in Brussels between representatives of the principal airlines of the nine countries of the European Community and the Vice-President of the European Community Mr Scarascia Mugnozza.

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WHAT TELEVISION DOES TO HELP THE CONSUMER IN BELGIUM

(Dutch language channel, BRT)

In order to encourage the flow of mutual information within the Community, we have asked various television programme producers to tell us briefly what each television network broadcasting in the Community does to help consumers.

The following article was sent to us by the Belgian Dutch language television channel (BRT).

Since April 1973 BRT has been broadcasting programmes specifically devoted to consumers' problems. These programmes are broadcast every four weeks and last 40 to 45 minutes. They are devised by the "Artistic and educational broadcasts" service of the department of scientific programmes.

Well before the existence of this programme, "Wikken en wegen" (weighing the pros and cons), consumer problems were intermittently discussed on various BRT programmes, including the motorists' diary, womens' programmes, science programmes, current affairs programmes, etc.

BRT has set up a consultative committee to help it examine consumer problems. Specialists such as representatives of trade unions, consumer and other social organizations which are more or less directly interested in these problems are members of this committee. At the monthly meetings, which are attended by those in charge of the "consumer" programme, suggestions are put forward on matters

of current interest to the consumer. The experiment has shown that these meetings were particularly useful since they oblige the programme producers to compare their ideas with those of the specialists.

Up to the present the following subjects have been covered:

- Weight and quality of bread
- Price and quality of potatoes
- Inflation
- The "mini-consumer"
- The oil crisis
- Saving energy
- The safety of electrical installations
- Holidays in Majorca
- Fire extinguishers for cars.

Initially the magazine form of presentation was chosen, but it was abandoned in favour of broadcasts on major economic subjects (inflation or the oil crisis, for example). In the end, however, the producers decided to return the original formula which appears to meet with the approval of television viewers.

At present these programmes consist entirely of reportage sequences. From next September, these filmed enquiries will be accompanied by sequences recorded in the studio.

In spite of the unfavourable time of the slot (Saturday at 1900 hours) results of enquiries into audience percentages indicate that of a total of five million Belgians with Dutch mother tongue, about 500 000 viewers watch each broadcast in this programme series.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SCIENTIFIC JOURNALISM FOR TODAY'S SOCIETY

The significance of scientific journalism for today's society was the theme of a seminar held in Salzburg from 24 to 26 April at the invitation of the European Union of Associations of Scientific Journalists. Science journalists from nine European countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland) attended.

At the end of this meeting a declaration was adopted. The following paragraphs are extracts from this declaration:

1. Science and technology increasingly determine the living conditions and development of societies. At the same time the gap between science and the public is widening as research becomes more and more a closed book:

to the man in the street, who has only a vague idea of the benefits he can derive from it;

to politicians, who nonetheless have to lay down science policy and decide on the options;

to scientists themselves, who are often confined to extremely specialized fields.

2. Science popularization is not sufficient today when the size and costs of the scientific venture and the exploitation of its results for good or evil oblige the science journalist to be an observer, interpreter and critic of scientific developments. In our modern world the science journalist must also maintain a dialogue with the scientist and the politician.

3. On the basis of these considerations the journalists' meeting in Salzburg appealed to the Governments and political organizations, to scientists, newspaper and magazine publishers and to radio and television authorities to take concrete measures for improving science coverage in the mass media. They believe that:

access to sources of information in Ministries, public administration offices, research institutions, universities and industry must be ensured;

true insight into policy decisions and their consequences can be obtained only if politicians ensure that there is an adequate flow of the necessary information, as ought to be the case in a democracy;

scientific research should no longer be carried out in an ivory tower, and scientists should inform the general public about their work;

continuous further education should be available to the science journalist;

since associations of science journalists provide continuous education for journalists, they should be supported in this activity;

and that it is necessary to develop the scientific information in the mass media.

STEEL MARKET TRENDS FOR 1974

In 1974 the energy crisis should not affect the European iron and steel industry which will continue to benefit from a high level of demand. This is the main point to be gleaned from the forecast steel programme, which indicates the short-term trend of the Community steel market and which the European Commission publishes every year in order to help the circles concerned to organize their activities more efficiently. The publication of the programme for 1974 was held up in order to include data on the consequences of the energy crisis. It shows that in 1974 steel consumption in the Community will increase by more than 2% compared with 1973, as against 8% between 1972 and 1973.

1. The steel market in 1973

In general the Community's iron and steel market developed favourably in 1973 in spite of a slight slackening of pace in the last two months of the year due to the repercussions of the energy crisis on the production sectors.

In 1973 exports from the nine Community countries increased by 1.8 million metric tons to reach 27 million metric tons in crude steel equivalent. The most significant increases were in sales to Asiatic countries, the East bloc countries and Latin America. By contrast, exports to the United States decreased.

The favourable trend in the steel market is reflected in the increased Community production of crude steel. This has risen steadily in most countries except the United Kingdom, where the

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miners' strike resulted in a significant decrease in iron and steel production. For the nine Community countries taken as a whole, production reached a level of more than 150 million metric tons of crude steel equivalent, i.e. about 8% more than in 1972.

2. Forecasts for 1974

At the beginning of 1974 the difficulties in the energy field influenced the activities of the steel manufacturing industries, and steel consumption. In general the industry most affected was motor vehicles. The effects on this industry of a slackening in demand will also be felt by all the ancillary branches supplying spare parts and accessories.

Another industry which is clearly on the decline in all countries of the Community is the building industry, since one effect of counter-inflation measures in many countries has been to slow down activities in public works.

Generally speaking, even if the growth of demand slows down somewhat in 1974, it will continue to act as a positive stimulus to the steel market for the first six months at least and thus real consumption of steel in the Community should increase by 2.3% compared with 1973.

During the first six months at least exports to non-member countries should still be at a satisfactory level; the trend for the second half of the year appears to be less certain, particularly because of the possible effects of monetary fluctuations, the repercussions of the energy crisis, which could reduce the level of demand in some importing countries, and tougher Japanese competition on certain markets.

Forecasts for supply and demand of steel products in the Community

(in millions of tons of crude steel)

	1970	1971	1972	1973 ¹	1974 ²
<u>USE</u>					
1. Real consumption	121.98	120.16	122.10	131.82	134.80
2. Fluctuations in stocks					
(a) users' and dealers' stocks	+ 3.81	- 6.42	- 0.59	+ 1.45	+ 2.00
(b) factory stocks	+ 3.25	- 1.20	+ 3.10		
3. Exports	19.65	24.14	25.23	27.00	28.00
TOTAL	148.69	136.68	149.84	160.27	164.80
<u>RESOURCES</u>					
4. Production	137.52	128.10	139.10	150.08	155.00
5. Scrap consumption in rolling mills	0.46	0.39	0.40	0.49	0.50
6. Imports	10.71	8.19	10.36	9.70	9.30
TOTAL	148.69	136.68	149.84	160.27	164.80

¹Incomplete estimates.²Forecasts.

THE FRENCH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

As part of his submission for the Doctorat d'Etat, Mr Emmanuel Weill-Halle, who is a Master of Science (Maître ès Sciences) has just completed a study on the French and the environment, covering 1 608 persons aged between 15 and 64 years, from 78 departments in France.

The aims were:

to pinpoint the main elements in their way of life to which the French attach importance;

to list, in order of importance, the causes of satisfaction and dissatisfaction which they find in their way of life;

to identify past and future trends in this way of life as the French see them;

to determine their level of knowledge and anxiety in this respect;

to collate their opinions on:

foreseeable means of protecting the environment, and individual or collective responsibility and commitment with respect to measures already taken or to be taken for this purpose.

We asked Mr Weill-Halle to tell us about the conclusions he has reached.

Informed by the press, their sensitivity increased by the activities of local action groups or voluntary associations, brought into occasional or daily contact with what amounts to deterioration of some facets of the setting of their lives, the French show

awareness that the protection of the environment raises a whole group of problems. Without appearing to be either over-anxious or over-optimistic, they take a fairly coherent and lucid view of the setting of their lives as it is at present.

1. Opinions on the present situation

With regard to the present setting of their lives, with which the vast majority are content (82% very or fairly content), the French note that their natural and human environment (interpersonal relations) is their chief source of satisfaction.

Their dissatisfaction stems above all from certain nuisances linked with the material environment produced by man (noise, waste) or from the mediocrity of some public services or social amenities:

<u>Elements of satisfaction</u> mentioned spontaneously	<u>Elements of dissatisfaction</u> mentioned spontaneously
Peace and quiet - 34%	Noise - 18%
Green open spaces - 22%	Lack of entertainment, leisure facilities - 18%
Proximity to nature and the countryside - 21%	Dirty towns (waste) - 13%
Clean air - 19%	Condition of the roads - 13%
Human environment - 19%	Transport media - 13%

For their great dissatisfaction with their present setting two categories of population can be singled out from the rest:

(a) The inhabitants of large cities

It is noticeable that satisfaction diminishes in fairly direct proportion to the increase in the size of towns. Thus the average number of elements, with which that section of the population which was interrogated, was little or not at all satisfied amounts to:

3.9 in rural towns

5 in towns or built up areas with less than 20 000 inhabitants

5.2 in those with 20 to 100 000 inhabitants

6 in those with more than 100 000 inhabitants

7.5 in the Paris conurbation.

(b) Young people

They are very demanding where the protection of nature is concerned and express great dissatisfaction over the available entertainment and leisure facilities, which are major elements in the setting of their lives. It is noticeable that in all cases where there is divergence (except, naturally, as regards the state of health) the tendency is always for the replies of young people to indicate less satisfaction.

2. Opinions on the development of the situation

For the past any improvements noted were most often related to material comfort, public services and social facilities. For the future the French expect the situation to be reversed:

most of the elements which would lead to collective or individual material comfort, which are at present hardly

satisfactory, will improve as time goes on;

most of the elements of the natural environment, principally those that are of collective interest and at present satisfactory, will deteriorate;

on the other hand interpersonal relationships (which are at present satisfactory), entertainment and public transport facilities (which are at present unsatisfactory) are unlikely to change in the near future.

In this respect, too, young people and inhabitants of large towns show a more pessimistic attitude than other sections of the population. However in expressing their confidence with regard to the development of the setting of their lives by giving a generally optimistic opinion, the French voice the feeling that the overall situation appears to them to be positive.

3. Level of, and desire for, information

The French appear to be relatively well informed with regard to the local and also the national or world problems raised by the protection of the environment (63% have heard of deteriorations outside their own area). However, they would like to be still better informed (56% believe that newspapers, radio and television do not give these problems sufficient coverage).

In this respect, too, young people and inhabitants of large towns are better informed than persons in other categories of the population.

4. Responsibility for action to be taken

With regard to action on environmental protection, the French (46% of them) attribute a large proportion of the responsibility to the public authorities. However they also believe that some responsibility devolves collectively and individually on the population (20 and 19% respectively). In contrast to what one might have expected, very few (1 to 3%) seem to place the responsibility with industrialists, property developers and other private firms, or even at the feet of political parties.

5. Voluntary associations and individual action

Although they are relatively badly informed on action undertaken by these associations (30% say they are informed), and though they themselves are not very active (10% say they participate), the French are in favour of action undertaken by these groups. They are generally satisfied with the quality of the setting of their lives, and do not appear to be alarmed to the extent of feeling themselves compelled to make the sacrifices in time and money which such action would require.

However, if information on the deterioration of their environment continues to increase, and if the fears which the French express in this respect are confirmed, they are likely to become more generally and effectively involved; in this involvement young people, and the inhabitants of large towns (as well as retired people whose numbers in these voluntary associations reveal how important they believe these groups to be), should play a fundamental role.

Because of their level of knowledge, and their heightened consciousness of their responsibility for shaping the setting of their lives, it may be supposed that increased participation by the French at this level will be not only necessary but inevitable.