

**REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED**

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- \*\* Opening discussions on THE COMMUNITY'S INDUSTRIAL POLICY were held on 9 June 1970 by the Council of Ministers, on the basis of the memorandum prepared by the Commission of the European Communities (see "Research and Technology" No. 48). At the end of the debate the Commission's representative picked out the points of convergence in the attitudes expressed by the member countries' delegations. The Council agreed that a thorough study of the Commission's memorandum should be pursued in the light of this initial discussion, by means of the procedures proposed for this purpose.
- \*\* THE ELIMINATION OF TECHNICAL HINDRANCES TO TRADE inside the Community is one of the essential elements of a common industrial policy. The Community had set itself a general programme under which this goal would be achieved by stages, but the programme has fallen far behind schedule. An ANNEX gives a brief analysis of the reasons for this situation and the measures by which the Commission of the European Communities suggests it should be remedied.

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\*\* It is expected that the recommendations to be submitted to the Ministers by the experts of the 15 European countries who are studying the PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATION put forward by the Community countries in the field of SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH (Aigrain Report) will aim chiefly at setting up study groups whose task it would be to define more closely the technical content and the procedures for financing and carrying out the various projects, in order to submit to the Ministers, within varying periods of six to twelve months, drafts of detailed agreements under which the projects can be launched when the Ministers' decision has been announced. In a limited number of cases the working groups will probably advise the Ministers to decide at once on the launching of projects concerned with forward studies to define future requirements in certain sectors such as telecommunications and new means of transport. Completion of these studies within a two or three year period will then provide the countries concerned with a firmer basis for discussions on the research programmes needed to cover the estimated requirements.

\*\* The setting up of a EUROPEAN URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPACITY must form part of the overall scheme of Community and European efforts towards an industry-oriented scientific and technological development. This capacity can be an important factor in the general balance which should be sought between the industrial interests of the States participating in the various European technological cooperation programmes that lead to industrial exploitation. The projects at present being undertaken in this sector by the Member States among themselves or with non-member countries must be integrated in a common framework.

This was the view put forward by the Commission of the European Communities in a letter to the Council of Ministers, in which the Commission asks the Council to issue a formal opinion on the two principles on which its position is based:

(a) extensive exchange of technical and economic information between those in the Community who have mastered the various possible technologies;

(b) logical sequence in the decisions to be taken at Community level (see "Research and Technology" No. 18).

It will be remembered that the Commission had submitted specific proposals in this connection on 22 May 1969, and that on 6 December 1969 the Ministers decided to give their opinion on these proposals in the course of 1970.

- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities has had a survey carried out on the international legislation concerning the irradiation of foodstuffs. The findings of this survey have now been published in the Euratom report series under the title ANALYSIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ON FOOD IRRADIATION WITH REGARD TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECTS (4466e). This report can be obtained, in English only, from the European Communities Publications Office, 37 rue Glesener, Luxembourg.
  
- \*\* A colloquium on the PREVENTION OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN THE STEEL AND COAL INDUSTRIES will be held by the Commission of the European Communities at Luxembourg on 22-23 October 1970. Nearly 500 experts will attend this meeting at which all aspects of the problem will be studied, from the function of the safety adviser down to safety on overhead cranes and including the maintenance and repair of gas pipes and appliances.
  
- \*\* An information meeting on OPERATION OF THE AVR AND DRAGON REACTORS, arranged by the Commission of the European Communities, was recently held in Brussels. The officials responsible for these two high-temperature helium-cooled reactors described to some fifty representatives of industry, electricity producers and research centres the experience acquired more especially in regard to the functioning of the various components, the chemistry and leaktightness of the primary circuit, fuel element behaviour, control, safety, etc. It appears that the promising operating results hold out considerable promise for the industrial future of this type of reactor.

- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities has ordered a study to be carried out on the INSURANCE OF NUCLEAR AND OTHER NEW TECHNOLOGICAL RISKS: insurance during the construction and operation of nuclear installations (reactors, power plants, reprocessing plants, etc), during the carriage of nuclear materials, etc.
  
- \*\* Various meetings of the COMMUNITYS NUCLEAR PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES (see in particular "Research and Technology" Nos. 38 and 44) are planned for June at the Joint Research Centre's Ispra establishment, to discuss the research programmes on "fast reactors," "high-temperature reactors" and "condensed state physics".
  
- \*\* For reasons beyond our control it was impossible to issue "Research and Technology" No. 53. The numbers therefore jump straight from No. 52 (28 April 1970) to No. 54 (19 May 1970).

ANNEX

Community Dragging its Feet on Removal  
of Technical Hindrances to Intracommunity Trade

The Community is well behind schedule on the programme it has set itself for removing the technical hindrances to trade between member countries. Under this programme, adopted by the Council of Ministers on 28 May 1969, three distinct stages were planned for removal of the technical hindrances in the industrial sector, and five stages for their removal in the agricultural sector.

As regards industrial products:

- (a) The Commission submitted the 16 proposals for directives planned for the first stage, which ought to have been adopted before 1 January 1970. But the Council of Ministers has still only adopted seven of them, relating to crystal glass and to the motor vehicles sector;
- (b) The Commission submitted 11 of the 28 proposals for directives planned for the second stage. The Council has so far only started to examine three of them, whereas the scheduled time limit for adoption of the 28 directives had been 1 July 1970;
- (c) As to the third and last stage, some 50 directives were to be adopted before 1 January 1971. This appears to be completely out of the question.

The delay can be accounted for to a very large extent by the unwieldiness of the existing procedures and by the very limited number of highly specialized experts available in the Community to deal with these problems in the various sectors concerned.

To mitigate the causes of these delays, the Commission proposes certain simplifications in the working procedures. The items on which agreement has already been reached at the experts' level should no longer be subjected to detailed examination by the offices of the Council of Ministers. These should confine themselves to examining the Commission's proposals at the points where the experts have been unable to reach agreement. These matters on which the

experts differ (known examples concern textiles, oil pipelines, electrical machines, etc.) should be settled at the political level.

Lastly, such amendments and updating as may be necessary in the directives for the removal of technical hindrances to trade ought to be dealt with rapidly by a Committee for Adjustment to Technical Progress, to be set up at the Community level.