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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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## PRESS RELEASE

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993rd meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Brussels, 15 March 1985

President: Mr Renato ALTISSIMO

Minister for Industry  
of the Italian Republic

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium

Mr Etienne KNOOPS  
State Secretary for Energy

Denmark

Mr Knud ENNGAARD  
Minister for Energy

Germany

Mr Dieter von WURZEN  
State Secretary  
Federal Ministry of Economic  
Affairs

Greece

Mr A. PAPATHANASOPOULOS  
Secretary-General of the Ministry  
of Energy and Natural Resources

France

Mr Martin MALVY  
State Secretary responsible to  
Minister for Industrial  
Reorganization and Foreign  
Trade, responsible for Energy

Ireland

Mr Andrew O'ROURKE  
Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

Italy

Mr Renato ALTISSIMO  
Minister for Industry

Luxembourg

Mr Marcel SCHLECHTER  
Minister for Energy

Netherlands

Mr H.J. Ch. RUTTEN  
Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

United Kingdom

Mr Alastair GOODLAD  
Minister at the Department  
of Energy

Commission:

Mr Nicolas MOSAR  
Member

OIL-REFINING

The Council took note of the Commission communication on "the situation in the oil-refining industry and the impact of petroleum product imports from third countries" and, in the light of its discussion, concurred with its general approach.

It asked the Commission to report to it before its next meeting on the different matters raised during the discussion and in the light of the talks which the Commission is to have with the other industrialized consumer countries and with the producing countries.

It therefore decided to place this item once again on the agenda for its next meeting.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN THE ENERGY FIELD

The Council held a policy debate on the proposals recently put forward by the Commission on continuing the energy demonstration programme for a further period.

The Council discussed in particular certain key-questions in these proposals, i.e. the duration of the programme, the total amount of money to be allocated to it, the division of the money available between the two Regulations on, respectively, liquefaction and gasification, and other energy-saving projects.

The Council's discussions confirmed that there was consensus on the principle of continuing the programme, and the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the Commission's proposals in order to enable the Council to act at its next meeting.

SUPPORT FOR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE HYDROCARBONS SECTOR

The Council welcomed the Commission's new proposal for a Regulation on a programme of support for technological development in the hydrocarbons sector. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine questions arising in connection with this proposal such as the duration of the programme and the amount of money to be allocated to it, and the degree of Community support for the different projects. The Council stated its intention of acting on this subject at its next meeting devoted to energy matters.

ENERGY PRICING PRINCIPLES

The Council held a policy debate on a number of key-questions concerned with application in the Member States of the Community's energy pricing principles. The discussion dealt in particular with the general approach to be followed and the energy sectors to be covered, the question of the transparency of energy prices and the possibility of drawing up a Resolution on consumer gas and electricity prices.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this subject further in the light of the guidelines and factors that had emerged during its discussion.

RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY IN THE BUILDING SECTOR

The Commission forwarded a communication to the Council on the rational use of energy in the building sector in November 1984.

This communication, which refers to the Council Resolution of 9 June 1980, concerns new lines of action by the Community in the field of energy saving, and stresses inter alia the economic importance of the building sector in the EEC and the implications of a European policy in this field. It also lays down a number of guidelines for action based on programmes already implemented by Member States or by the Community, viz.:

- promoting the thermal auditing of buildings;
- technical improvements and regulations;
- optimum use of funds;
- user information and behaviour.

Following the work on this subject by its preparatory bodies, the Council adopted the following Resolution: <sup>(1)</sup>

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Council Resolution of 15 January 1985 <sup>(2)</sup> on the improvement of energy saving programmes in the Member States,

Having regard to the Commission communication of 13 November 1984 entitled "A European policy for the rational use of energy in the building sector",

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<sup>(1)</sup> This Resolution will also be published in the OJ of the EC.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 20, 22.1.1985, p. 1.

Considering the important implications of economically reasonable exploitation of the energy saving potential of the building sector, particularly since this sector by itself accounts for about half of all potential energy savings,

Notes that the Commission will, in consultation with experts from the Member States, prepare a work programme covering the sectors referred to in its communication and in this Resolution, taking account of experience gained by the Member States,

Welcomes the Commission's initiative, designed to supplement efforts already undertaken in the Member States to promote the rational use of energy in the building sector,

Notes that particularly in the framework of this programme, the Commission in consultation with experts from the Member States:

- will as soon as possible conduct a detailed assessment of the pilot projects relating to the upgrading of the energy efficiency of existing buildings already carried out by some Member States after thermal auditing in order to identify and compare the methods used, the recommendations deriving from the audits and the results obtained,
- may, in the light of the conclusions of that assessment, be able to undertake pilot actions of Community interest, as referred to in its communication,
- will examine questions relating to the placarding of the energy consumption of buildings by a process of certification, in order to improve the flow of information to the parties concerned on the state of the real estate market and to give credit to the efforts made by the builders/owners,

- will continue its activities in the technical field, with a view particularly to the development of a specific Eurocode,

Reaffirms the importance of a detailed examination at Community level of definitions concerning standardized methods of measuring the thermal performance of buildings, taking account of climatic variations,

Notes the wisdom of a more detailed study of ways and means of improving thermal performance when existing buildings are renovated,

Emphasizes the importance of the regulations in force in the Member States to improve the energy performance of new buildings and of the introduction or reinforcement of such regulations, as the case may be,

Stresses the need to continue research/development and demonstration efforts in order to foster the development and use of new technologies and new products, as and where necessary,

Invites the Commission to keep it abreast of progress made with the work programme and to report to it on progress made in this area."

USE OF SUBSTITUTE FUEL COMPONENTS IN PETROL

Having noted the Greek delegation's concern regarding various implications of a draft Directive on crude oil saving through the use of substitute fuel components in petrol, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, in close co-operation with the Commission, to seek a specific solution to the problem raised in order to enable the Council, in the near future, to adopt this Directive, on which nine delegations already agree.

SOLID FUELS

The Council heard an oral statement by Commissioner MOSAR on progress made in the work on solid fuels, which included an announcement that the Commission would shortly forward a communication on Member States' national aid to the coal-mining industry, for which the present arrangements expire on 31 December 1985.

The Council noted that it could carry out an examination of the various aspects of the problems arising in connection with the development of a balanced policy on solid fuels, for example matters relating to investment in the producing industries in this sector.

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