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**MR BRUNNER: COMMUNITY RESEARCH SPENDING GREATER THAN USA'S - CRUCIAL TASK FOR
RESEARCH COUNCIL**

Speaking in Saarbrücken today, Mr Guido Brunner said that the European Community is currently spending more than the United States on Research and Development (R&D) and nearly twice as much as Japan.

The Energy and Research Commissioner was addressing the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Mixed Committee for the Harmonisation of Working Conditions in the Coal Industry.

Total R&D spending in the Member States amounted to 11,170 MEUA in 1978 against the United States' 10,660 MEUA and Japan's 6,000 MEUA for civil projects.

This is a considerable increase compared with the sixties and early seventies when we were well behind our main industrial rivals, Mr Brunner said. The total amount is impressive and we must now get the best out of our investments.

This requires great efforts at Community level where much needed to be done to avoid wasteful duplication in Member States' programmes, Mr Brunner said.

The task for the Research Council, due to meet in Luxembourg on Monday, was now to give a new impulse, Mr Brunner said.

Community R&D activities had been developing since the Council resolution of January 1974, and since 1977 had been following four main objectives:

- improvement in the long term security of Community supplies (energy, agriculture, primary products)
- development of economic competitiveness
- improvement of living and working conditions
- protection of the environment and of nature.

The Council will have the opportunity to debate the Commission's proposal to continue and strengthen this policy for the next four years (see also P-60 of May 1979). The Commission proposes to more than double expenditure on total R&D from 818.9 MEUA to 1,854.6 MEUA. Well over 70% is being devoted to supply security, mostly in the energy field. Nearly half this (881.6 MEUA) will go towards research into nuclear safety. (See annex)

Nevertheless, Community R&D expenditure remains modest, not much more than 2% of total Member States expenditure on R&D.

Apart from the debate on general priorities and options, the Council will be examining two new Commission proposals concerning controlled thermo-nuclear fusion, and the new programme for the Joint Research Centre, Mr Brunner said.

- New Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion Programme 1979-83 (P-126, November 1978)

This programme is a continuation and development of the previous 1976-80 programme, and should help the nine Member States to keep up with developments in the science of magnetic confinement of plasmas with the United States, Japan and the Soviet Union.

There are two parts:

- a. JET (Joint European Torus under construction at Culham, England) for which the 200 MEUA requested will permit us to build the machine and prepare for putting it into operation (20 MEUA have already been committed);
- b. the associated Fusion Programme in the Member States. The cost is estimated at 745 MEUA of which more than 200 MEUA will come from the Community budget. This programme embraces all nuclear fusion activities in the Member States as well as in Sweden and Switzerland.

- Joint Research Centre's new four year programme (1980-83) (P-28, March 1979)

This programme focuses on five priority areas: nuclear safety and fuel cycle, new energies, study and protection of the environment, nuclear measurements, and specific support to the Commission. Apart from a significant reinforcement of the JRC research into alternative energy sources, notably solar energy and fusion research, the Commission has proposed doubling the JRC research effort for reactor safety and increasing the financial volume from 83 MEUA at present to 156 MEUA in future. This programme features in particular the Super-SARA project, a reactor safety experiment, which is expected to make a significant contribution to international reactor safety research.

The overall costs of the programme are estimated at 542 MEUA.

The other programmes for examination at the Council are:

- Recycling of municipal and industrial wastes (P-87, September 1978)
- Second 5-year Programme on Radioactive Waste Management and Storage (P-17, March 1979)
- Report on the Radiation Protection Programme of the Community (P-56, May 1979).

DEPENSES COMPLEMENTAIRES DE R&D (par domaines)

DOMAINES	1974-1978		1979-1983	
	Paiements totaux MUCE	En % des dépenses totales	Prévisions totales MUCE (*)	Structure (%)
1. Ressources	585,9	71,6	1370,6	73,9
a) Energie	558,3	68,2	1226,4	66,1
- fossile	131,3	16,0	151,6	8,2
- nucléaire	353,7	43,2	881,6	47,5
- nouvelle	65,3	8,0	159,1	8,6
- économie d'énergie	8,0	1,0	34,1	1,8
b) Autres ressources	27,6	3,4	144,2	7,8
2. Dévelop. industriel	114,2	13,9	197,1	10,6
3. Vie en société	57,1	7,0	160,6	8,7
4. Environnement	47,0	5,7	96,0	5,2
5. Autres	14,7	1,8	30,3	1,6
TOTAL	818,9	100,0	1854,6	100,0

(*) A ces prévisions on peut ajouter les dotations suivantes qui seront réservées aux projets de

démonstration :

- économie d'énergie	1979-82	55 MUCE
- fluidification de la houille	1979-83	100 MUCE
- énergie géothermique	1979-83	22,5 MUCE
- énergie solaire	1979-83	22,5 MUCE

Les dépenses prévues dans le domaine de l'énergie (R&D + démonstration) seront ainsi portées à 1.402,1 MUCE, soit à 69,4 % des prévisions totales 1979-83.

