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Information and Notices

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I

(Information)

COMMISSION

ECU (*)

9 April 1986

(86/C 82/01)

Currency amount for one unit:

Belgian and Luxembourg franc con.	43,8148	Spanish peseta	136,362
Belgian and Luxembourg franc fin.	44,1810	Portuguese escudo	141,414
German mark	2,15463	United States dollar	0,927003
Dutch guilder	2,42643	Swiss franc	1,81554
Pound sterling	0,633848	Swedish krona	6,82506
Danish krone	7,91892	Norwegian krone	6,75368
French franc	6,85982	Canadian dollar	1,28158
Italian lira	1474,86	Austrian schilling	15,1241
Irish pound	0,707096	Finnish markka	4,84359
Greek drachma	134,619	Japanese yen	166,675
		Australian dollar	1,29019
		New Zealand dollar	1,68546

The Commission has installed a telex with an automatic answering device which gives the conversion rates in a number of currencies. This service is available every day from 3.30 p.m. until 1 p.m. the following day.

Users of the service should do as follows:

- call telex number Brussels 23789;
- give their own telex code;
- type the code 'cccc' which puts the automatic system into operation resulting in the transmission of the conversion rates of the ECU;
- the transmission should not be interrupted until the end of the message, which is marked by the code 'ffff'.

Note: The Commission also has an automatic telex answering service (No 21791) providing daily data on calculation of monetary compensatory amounts for the purposes of the common agricultural policy.

(*) Council Regulation (EEC) No 3180/78 of 18 December 1978 (OJ No L 379, 30. 12. 1978, p. 1), as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2626/84 (OJ No L 247, 16. 9. 1984, p. 1).

Council Decision 80/1184/EEC of 18 December 1980 (Convention of Lomé) (OJ No L 349, 23. 12. 1980, p. 34).

Commission Decision No 3334/80/ECSC of 19 December 1980 (OJ No L 349, 23. 12. 1980, p. 27).

Financial Regulation of 16 December 1980 concerning the general budget of the European Communities (OJ No L 345, 20. 12. 1980, p. 23).

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3308/80 of 16 December 1980 (OJ No L 345, 20. 12. 1980, p. 1).

Decision of the Council of Governors of the European Investment Bank of 13 May 1981 (OJ No L 311, 30. 10. 1981, p. 1).

Average prices and representative prices for table wines at the various marketing centres

(Established on 8 April 1986 for the application of Article 4 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 337/79)

(86/C 82/02)

Type of wine and the various marketing centres	ECU per % vol/hl	Type of wine and the various marketing centres	ECU per % vol/hl
R I		A I	
Heraklion	No quotation	Athens	No quotation
Patras	No quotation	Heraklion	No quotation
Requena	No quotation	Patras	No quotation
Reus	No quotation	Alcázar de San Juan	2,100
Villafranca del Bierzo	No quotation (*)	Almendralejo	1,869
Bastia	2,405	Medina del Campo	No quotation
Béziers	2,643	Ribadavia	No quotation
Montpellier	2,646	Vilafranca del Penedés	2,189
Narbonne	2,674	Villar del Arzobispo	No quotation (*)
Nimes	No quotation	Villarobledo	No quotation (*)
Perpignan	No quotation	Bordeaux	3,064
Asti	3,363	Nantes	3,055
Firenze	2,665	Bari	2,564
Lecce	No quotation	Cagliari	No quotation
Pescara	No quotation	Chieti	2,699
Reggio Emilia	3,171	Ravenna (Lugo, Faenza)	No quotation
Treviso	No quotation	Trapani (Alcamo)	No quotation
Verona (for local wines)	No quotation	Treviso	No quotation
Representative price	2,745	Representative price	2,433
R II			ECU/hl
Heraklion	No quotation	A II	
Patras	No quotation	Rheinfalz (Oberhaardt)	80,259
Calatayud	No quotation	Rheinhessen (Hügelland)	79,659
Falset	No quotation (*)	The wine-growing region of the Luxembourg Moselle	No quotation (*)
Jumilla	2,582	Representative price	79,906
Navalcarnero	2,758		
Requena	No quotation	A III	
Toro	No quotation	Mosel-Rheingau	67,081
Villena	No quotation	The wine-growing region of the Luxembourg Moselle	No quotation (*)
Bastia	2,443	Representative price	67,081
Brignoles	No quotation		
Bari	2,733		
Barletta	No quotation		
Cagliari	No quotation		
Lecce	2,733		
Taranto	No quotation		
Representative price	2,612		
	ECU/hl		
R III			
Rheinfalz-Rheinhessen (Hügelland)	No quotation		

(*) Quotation not taken into account in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 2682/77.

FORWARD PROGRAMME FOR STEEL FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986

(86/C 82/03)

1. The Community economy

Economic activity in the Community recovered in the second half of 1985 from the temporary slowdown which had occurred as a result of the exceptionally severe weather conditions during the opening months of the year. Real gross domestic product is estimated to have grown at an annual rate of around 3½ %, compared to 1¾ % annual rate in the previous half-year.

This rebound of growth is attributable to two principal factors. Firstly, construction investment is estimated to have increased at an annual rate of 7 % as attempts were made to compensate for the time lost in the first half of the year when investment declined by over 10 % annual rate. Secondly, government consumption also recovered from the slow growth of the first half of 1985, accelerating from an annualized growth rate of 0,6 to 2,1 % in the second half. The remaining components of domestic demand are not expected to have shown any major change in trend. The volume of private consumption strengthened slightly as real disposable income reflected the renewed deceleration of inflation and equipment investment remained relatively dynamic with growth of over 5 % annual rate. On the external side, exports weakened in the second half of 1985 in a lagged response to the slowdown of world trade linked, in particular, with the sharper than expected weakening of the US economy. Imports, however, showed even slower growth, being influenced especially by the ending of the exceptional fuel imports required by the United Kingdom during the miners' strike.

As the strengthening of growth in the second half of 1985 was largely a technical reaction to the weather-induced slowdown of the previous half-year, it cannot be expected to have had any significant effect on the underlying trends of the labour market. Although the average rate of unemployment for the Community as a whole in September 1985 was 10,8 % — showing only a slight increase compared with the rate of 10,6 % a year earlier — this relative stability was due largely to administrative measures introduced in certain countries which reduced the number of registered unemployed and the net expansion of employment opportunities is still not quite sufficient to absorb the increase in the labour force.

Price inflation in the Community resumed its downward trend in the second half of 1985, after being interrupted in the early months of the year by the effects of the severe weather. In particular, the general weakness of commodity prices, accentuated by the depreciation of the dollar, contributed to a very marked deceleration of import prices. The average rate of increase in consumer prices in the Community over the preceding 12 months was estimated to be 5,1 % in October 1985, the lowest rate since 1970.

Prospects for the first half of 1986 suggest that economic growth in the Community should continue at a relatively modest pace, given existing policies and normal weather conditions, as there is no evidence to suggest any significant strengthening of the rate of expansion. Real GDP growth is forecast to fall back to around 2¼ % annual rate as the 'catching up' effect in the construction sector noted in the previous half-year disappears. Within this overall growth, consumers' expenditure should continue to strengthen reflecting a faster deceleration in the rate of inflation than in the increase in nominal incomes. Fixed investment in equipment is also expected to show somewhat stronger growth due, in part, to a bunching of expenditure in the United Kingdom arising from changes in depreciation allowances against corporation tax. Construction investment, however, is likely to fall back slightly from the level of the previous half-year despite the expected further easing of interest rates.

The external sector is forecast to make a negative contribution to GDP growth as the weaker expansion of world trade and gradual loss of competitiveness prevent any strengthening of export growth whilst imports accelerate in response to the faster rate of expansion of domestic demand. These adverse volume movements should, however, be offset by a further improvement in the Community's terms of trade, leaving the balance of trade (fob/fob) roughly unchanged with a surplus of around US \$ 14 000 million.

Although the underlying rate of growth of economic activity in the Community is not expected to accelerate, it should be sufficient to gradually increase the number of additional employment opportunities. This development is expected to combine with a decelerating rate of expansion of the labour force to prevent any further increase in the rate of unemployment. Further progress in reducing the rate of price inflation is also foreseen as a result of favourable import price developments and a slow, but persistent, decline in the rate of growth of unit labour costs.

2. Steel market review

Current output of the industry is relatively satisfactory: the estimated out-turn production of crude steel in October and November is 10,6 and 10,3 million tonnes respectively, close to the average monthly figure for the second quarter of 10,5 million tonnes which at 31,5 million tonnes was the best out-turn since Q I/1982. Even allowing for the Christmas holiday break it should now be possible to achieve the estimate of 30,5 million tonnes for the fourth quarter published in the last report. In contrast, the third quarter was slightly disappointing in that total production at 28,7 million tonnes fell short of the target tonnage of 29,5 million tonnes by some 0,8 million tonnes. However, the current rate of output demonstrates a good recovery from the summer holiday closure period and the usual hesitation

in the market which tends to occur seasonally at this time of year. Meanwhile, if production is considered in an annual context, providing that December production is not less than 8,5 million tonnes, the 1984 out-turn of 120,2 million tonnes will be equalled and there is a good chance that this figure will be exceeded. If this is the case, the original Commission upper estimate for 1985 of 118 million tonnes will be shown to have been on the conservative side.

Despite the exceptionally severe weather in the first quarter of this year, production and sales were maintained at reasonable levels, and there appear to be grounds for confidence in the outlook for the first quarter of the new year. There is a good chance that the results for the first quarter in 1985 will be at least equalled and probably exceeded as far as total finished steel consumption is concerned, whilst the overall production of crude steel is expected to be at approximately the same level.

As the macro-economic analysis in the first part of the report shows, the underlying modest but steady growth of the Community's economy should continue. Two factors highlighted in this analysis should have a positive and direct effect on steel demand. Strengthened consumers' expenditure should exercise a favourable influence on automobile and other consumer durable sales, while investment in capital goods is highly steel intensive and here prospects are also promising. Furthermore, coal production in the UK should on this

occasion be normal: this increased mining activity also represents substantial steel consumption. In the first quarter of 1985 coal production in the United Kingdom was seriously curtailed by the miners' strike.

This cautious optimism is supported by the two principal indicators which are regularly published in detail in this report. The recent (September/October) production expectations of Community managers shown in Table 1 are evidence that the confidence of industrialists in the short term has been maintained with the exception of the automotive sector but even here October shows a distinct recovery from the gloom of the holiday months. There is an undoubted discrepancy between those pessimistic expectations and recent events as the automobile industry has enjoyed a good summer season and in contrast the activity index shown in Table 2 gives a small but satisfactory gain for Q I/1986 against Q I/1985. Generally, indeed Table 2 indicates a satisfactory picture for most sectors — particularly the comparison with Q I/1985. There is, however, one anomaly — the 10 % increase in construction represents a forecast of normal winter activity in this sector, against the exceptionally low activity in the same period this year due to the extreme climatic conditions, which occurred in most parts of the Community in the latter half of the winter. Recent discussions with consumers and producers have supported the conclusions which can be derived from an examination of these tables and other similar data of a statistical nature.

TABLE 1
Industrial production expectations in the main industrial groups in the Community ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾
(not seasonally adjusted) (Greece not included)

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Total industry	+ 10	+ 8	+ 6	+ 1	+ 4	+ 8	+ 6
Consumer goods	+ 5	+ 7	+ 6	+ 1	+ 2	+ 7	+ 10
Capital goods	+ 15	+ 9	+ 12	+ 6	+ 7	+ 11	+ 8
Metal processing	+ 19	+ 2	+ 7	- 19	- 2	+ 5	+ 4
Manufacture of metal articles	+ 8	+ 4	+ 3	+ 2	+ 4	+ 3	- 3
Mechanical engineering	+ 9	+ 11	+ 10	+ 6	+ 5	+ 8	+ 11
Electrical engineering	+ 16	+ 8	+ 10	+ 9	+ 9	+ 12	+ 8
Motor vehicles manufacture	- 3	+ 9	+ 10	- 7	- 9	- 6	+ 20

⁽¹⁾ Net balances; i.e. differences between the percentages of respondents giving positive and negative replies.

⁽²⁾ This data is extracted from the business surveys carried out among managements in the Community: the surveys represent the individual expectations of business managers numbering about 20 000 across the Community.

Source: Commission services.

TABLE 2
(EUR-10) Indicators of activity ⁽¹⁾
(not seasonally adjusted)

	Q I/1985	Q III/1985	Q IV/1985	Q I/1986
Manufacture of metal articles	100,00	89,8	102,5	100,5
Mechanical engineering	100,00	92,9	113,9	103,2
Electrical engineering	100,00	92,2	116,1	113,6
Motor vehicles	100,00	84,8	97,1	101,6
Other means of transport	100,00	88,6	101,1	99,6
Building and civil engineering	100,00	144,2	131,5	110,1

⁽¹⁾ These indexed predictions of the level of activity of various steel-consuming sectors indicate trends quarter on quarter. They are derived by weighting similar national data provided by the trade associations of the principal steel consuming industries. Therefore the trends shown in this table do not necessarily reflect precisely the balance of expectations shown in Table 1.

Source: Commission services.

These consultations were of particular interest as for the first time for several quarters there was a surprising unanimity of views on the principal trends in the main consuming sectors amongst the various representatives from the individual Community countries. Whilst some divergence in activity between sectors was noted, there was a general consensus that growth would continue in most consuming industries and that demand therefore would be maintained in the first quarter of 1986, without undue fluctuations in ordering patterns or stocks. Of particular interest was the increased optimism of the German Federal Republic in nearly all sectors and reports from France that after a long period of depressed activity, the economy is recovering and that 1986 should show useful increases over 1985 in industrial production, and also in most steel-using sectors. Of the smaller economies, both the Netherlands and Denmark expressed strong optimism for 1986 with advances of 5 to 6 % over 1985 in the metal goods and mechanical engineering sectors and 4 to 6 % in the level of investment.

A study of the order books of the principal steel consuming sectors confirms the trends described above. Whether one examines order-book forecasts or the actual rate of receipt of orders, the picture is similar. Rising from a low point in late 1983, there has been a continuous improvement to date and there is no sign of hesitation in the mechanical, electrical engineering, or intermediate goods sectors. Even in construction, the most depressed sector for some time, there is now evidence of revival in activity.

This encouraging background should assure the industry of reasonable order books for Q II 1986, as stocks of finished goods and finished steel do not appear to be unusually high. Jointly with the industry, estimates have been made of the effect of these sectoral developments on the market for principal finished steel products. The Council of Ministers having given its assent to an extension of the steel-quota system in a modified form,

the Decision regulating the detailed provisions of the new system has now been published ⁽¹⁾. The resulting product assessments have enabled the Commission to determine quotas for those products which remain subject to mandatory quotas. The last column of Table 4 indicates the estimated basic quota tonnages for Q I/1986. This table shows recent trends in production against quotas and the development of the markets for the main products of the industry. It has been updated since the fourth quarter report to take account of the latest out-turn production figures and the most recent estimates of final quotas allocated.

Using the existing Category nomenclature, the following is a brief appreciation of the individual product markets for the next quarter. Exports to third markets are treated separately later and the comments below refer to prospects in the Community. Demand for hot-rolled coil (Category 1 (a)) should be maintained throughout the period at much the same level as in Q IV/1985. Cold-rolled sheet (Category I (b)) should not be adversely affected by seasonal factors and therefore the same comment applies. The main outlet is the consumer durable industry for which prospects are good as explained earlier. However, the coated-sheet products (Categories I (c) and I (d)) may not be so fortunate in view of their substantial dependence on the building construction industry. There may be, therefore, a temporary check to the continuing growth of these products. Little change is probable in the demand for heavy plates and sections (Categories II and III). A long period of decline in requirements for these products, as a result of the low level of investment two to three years ago and lack of current business in heavy engineering, seems

⁽¹⁾ Decision No 3485/85 of 27 November 1985, OJ No L 340, 18. 12. 1985.

to have been halted. A stable market, albeit at a low level, appears to have been established. Wire rod and reinforcing bar (Category IV and V) are also both associated with building and construction and may suffer seasonally, although wire rod for wire production should be sustained by the satisfactory level of activity in light engineering and consumer goods. Finally, merchant bar (Category VI) business should remain comparatively stable owing to the range of products within this Category and the wide spread of consumers to whom the material is sold.

The market scenario described above has been drawn together as usual in the supply and demand balance summary shown in Table 3. The production forecast for Q I/1986 at 30,20 m/t is close to the estimate for Q IV/1985 and recognizes that some allowance must be made for the seasonal impact of the winter months. The comparative stability of the Community market which underlies this figure is not matched in the field of external trade described below, where the outlook is

uncertain. Rather cautious figures, therefore, for both imports and exports have been tabled. Stock movements are always volatile and difficult to predict but steel merchants and stockists report normal stock levels in most Member States, and it is assumed that the stock balance will be maintained since interest rates still remain high and Member governments' fiscal policies will continue to constrain companies' finances, so that a stock-build either in the merchants' yards or in the manufacturers' warehouses appears unlikely. The final figure for real consumption at 26,7 million tonnes represents a slowly increasing level of manufacturing and investment activity in line with the economic and market trends outlined above and also in Part 1 of this report. However, the continuing decline in specific consumption of steel (as described in detail in the Commission's 'General Objectives — Steel — 1990' ⁽¹⁾) is likely to dilute the effect of this increase in activity.

⁽¹⁾ COM(85) 450 final, 31. 7. 1985.

TABLE 3
Crude steel supply and demand — EUR-10

	Realized Out-turn								Forecast
	Q I/1984	Q II/1984	Q III/1984	Q IV/1984	Q I/1985	Q II/1985	Q III/1985	Q IV/1985 ⁽²⁾	Q I/1986
Real consumption	26,60	26,22	23,92	25,73	25,75	26,50	24,79 ⁽¹⁾	27,60	26,70
Stock change	+ 0,50	+ 0,50	+ 0,35	— 0,50	— 0,40	— 0,20	0,00 ⁽²⁾	— 0,30	— 0,20
Imports	2,41	2,40	2,31	2,43	2,36	2,40	2,60 ⁽²⁾	2,80	2,50
Exports	6,13	6,34	6,55	7,42	7,42	7,65	6,50	6,00	6,00
Production	30,82	30,66	28,51	30,22	30,42	31,55	28,69	30,50	30,20

⁽¹⁾ Provisional.

⁽²⁾ Forward programme estimate.

Source: Commission services.

For the first quarter of 1986 it must be expected that Community steel exports will be well below those in the corresponding period in 1985. This forecast is chiefly based on the lacklustre prospects for exports to industrialized countries in general, owing to the tendency for apparent steel consumption in this area to drop slightly, and also takes into account the fall in Community exports to the United States. This results from the extension of the arrangements, recently renewed with this country, to products previously not subject to restriction in the American market. However, for a good number of the products already subject to the current restrictions, the quantities negotiated will be increased. These negative factors will only be partially balanced by better prospects for exports to some developing countries.

As for imports, it is to be expected that the Community market will become more attractive from next year onwards owing to the relatively high level of internal prices, which is expected, and the strength of European currencies against the dollar and the sustained level of activity in most steel-using sectors of industry. However,

the expected continuation into 1986 of the main elements of the external steel policy measures should enable the increase in imports over this period to be held at a reasonable level.

In view of the above, and of normal seasonal factors, Community exports during the first quarter of 1986 should not exceed 6 million tonnes, while imports could reach 2,5 million tonnes.

Prices show signs of being fairly stable and the Commission is of the opinion that this is the time to return progressively to free competition in accordance with the normal pricing rules of Article 60 of the ECSC Treaty, and that the minimum price arrangements under Article 61 for certain steel products are no longer essential. However, in view of the facts that some overcapacity remains and that uncertainties continue to dog the Community and world steel markets, the Commission must remain vigilant and exercise a degree of market control. Therefore the Commission has recently suspended the application of minimum prices, but will retain the power to reintroduce them if it finds that there are again serious difficulties in the market and

that the conditions for the application of Article 61 again exist. The Council and the ECSC Consultative Committee were consulted on this approach in October 1985. Regarding the prices published by Community undertakings, it is to be expected that the producers' price lists will increase by about 3 % from 1 January 1986, in particular for the main flat products. On the other hand, the seasonal decline in orders and the current level of scrap prices should lead to a slight drop in the prices of reinforcing bars before the beginning of 1986. For other products, little change is expected. Finally, it should be pointed out that from 1 January 1986 the pricing rules of Article 60 of the ECSC Treaty will apply to sales from Spain and Portugal to the Community and vice versa; the transitional arrangements for sales to Greece will also expire on that date.

3. Commission action in the market

In late October the Commission took advantage of the flexibility in Article 9 of the current quota decision ⁽¹⁾ to adjust the abatement rates for a wide range of cat-

egories, releasing tonnage to the market to meet additional demand for those products which has developed during the course of the fourth quarter of the year. The market has held up well this autumn as the estimated production out-turn for October and November have shown. Products principally affected were hot-rolled coil (Category I (a) for export and reinforcing bar (Category V); smaller increases in quota tonnages were authorized, mainly for the Community market, in cold-rolled sheet (Category I (b), galvanized and coated sheet (Categories I (c) and I (d), heavy sections (Category III) and wire rod (Category IV). The Commission has now assessed market prospects for Q I/1985 as described in Part 2 of this report. This estimate has formed the basis for abatement rates which will apply under the modified quota system to be introduced in January 1986. These abatement rates have been published under the authority of the new decision recently approved by the Commission, giving legal validity to the revised quota system (see Part 2 of this report).

⁽¹⁾ Decision No 234/84/ECSC, OJ No L 29, 1. 2. 1984.

TABLE 4

Production quotas against out-turn

Product category	Production (finished steel products)				Production quotas					
	Q IV/1984	Q I/1985	Q II/1985	Q III/1985	QIV/1984	QI/1985	Q II/1985	Q III/1985 ⁽¹⁾	Q IV/1985 ⁽¹⁾	Q I/1986 ⁽¹⁾
I (a) (hot-rolled coil)	5 765	5 523	5 716	5 057	5 675	5 737	5 811	4 111	4 115	3 827
I (b) (uncoated sheet)	3 699	3 845	3 879	3 326	3 786	3 905	3 982	3 442	3 332	3 276
I (c) (galvanized sheet)	951	953	964	797	981	944	952	877	866	877
I (d) (other coated sheet)	803	841	852	762	870	897	935	759	785	—
II (quarto plate)	1 270	1 287	1 419	1 202	1 378	1 418	1 401	1 277	1 311	1 333
III (heavy sections)	1 109	1 200	1 175	982	1 127	1 206	1 249	1 062	1 108	1 149
IV (wire rod)	2 867	2 890	2 985	2 506	2 835	2 989	2 906	2 570	2 595	2 517
V (reinforcing bar)	1 800	1 672	1 800	1 706	1 894	1 937	1 953	1 737	1 922	—
VI (merchant bar)	2 193	2 323	2 249	1 796	2 348	2 486	2 435	2 167	2 127	2 127

⁽¹⁾ Theoretical quotas without supplement or other adjustments.

Source: Commission services.

4. Employment

The figures in respect of the numbers of hours lost and in the manpower affected have shown a steady decrease for the first half of 1985. The decrease is in keeping with the consistent figures for crude steel production which indicate only normal seasonal variation.

The contraction of the Community workforce continued during the third quarter of 1985. On the basis of the provisional figures for October, the annual rate of contraction stands at 4,9%. However this average figure masks the high rate of slimming down in France, Italy

and Belgium. The figures for these countries indicate an accelerated restructuring compared with the same period in 1984. The Community average is kept low by stability in the other countries. In the United Kingdom the rate is lower than the same period last year. In the Federal Republic of Germany there is a slight increase in manpower figures but this may be accounted for in the seasonal intake of trainees which nevertheless appears higher than the corresponding periods in 1984 and 1983.

In respect of the social cost of restructuring the Commission contributes financially under the terms of Article 56 (2) (b) and is adapting its response in relation to the continued restructuring.

Iron and steel industry — Employment evolution

(Employees × 1 000)

	October 1983		October 1984		October 1985
	Contraction		Contraction		(provisional data)
Germany	166,2	7,8 %	153,2	0,1 %	153,1
France	91,4	6,2 %	85,7	9,8 %	77,3
Italy	88,3	12,2 %	77,5	11,0 %	69,0
Netherlands	19,3	2,6 %	18,8	— 1,1 %	19,0
Belgium	40,2	6,0 %	37,8	7,1 %	35,1
Luxembourg	12,7	— 1,6 %	12,9	3,1 %	12,5
United Kingdom	64,6	4,0 %	62,0	3,1 %	60,1
Ireland	0,6	— 16,7 %	0,7	14,3 %	0,6
Denmark	1,6	0,0 %	1,6	0,0 %	1,6
EUR-9	484,9		450,2		428,3
Average annual contraction rate	7,2 %		4,9 %		

Source: Figures made available by the Statistical Office of the European Community.

Note: Comparative figures for Greece unavailable.

Iron and steel industry

	Working hours lost (× 1 000)	Employees affected
1984		
January	3 464	55 556
February	2 717	45 740
March	2 782	49 725
April	2 300	35 848
May	2 156	29 652
June	1 841	27 106
July	1 404	17 179
August	1 129	14 239
September	881	10 973
October	1 188	13 053
November	1 035	11 968
December	1 120	14 896
1985		
January	1 216	14 099
February	984	11 212
March	907	10 823
April	889	12 323
May	886	11 353
June	693	8 611
July	704	6 918
August	642	6 047

Source: Figures made available by the Statistical Office of the European Community

Notes: — Comparative figures for Greece unavailable,
— Figures for July and August are provisional.

Commission communication concerning the date of application of Regulation (EEC) No 2807/83

(86/C 82/04)

The issue to Spain and Portugal of the log-books laid down in Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2807/83 of 22 September 1983 laying down detailed rules for recording information on Member States' catches of fish ⁽¹⁾, having been completed on 31 March 1986, the said Regulation becomes applicable in the new Member States, in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 6, as from 1 July 1986.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 276, 10. 10. 1983, p. 1.

Commission communication pursuant to Article 115 of the EEC Treaty

(86/C 82/05)

By Decision dated 7 April 1986 the Commission has authorized Ireland not to apply Community treatment to anoraks, parkas, windcheaters and the like, woven, falling within subheadings 61.01 B IV and ex 61.02 B II of the Common Customs Tariff (category 21), originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other Member States.

The said Decision is applicable after the date of the present Decision until 30 June 1986.

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY — POLITICAL MAP

Member States, Regions and Administrative Units

The political map shows the 12 countries that make up the European Community since 1 January 1986: Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. It shows their political sub-division into regions and administrative units (province, county, etc.) with their respective capitals or main towns.

The European Community now covers an area of 2,24 million square kilometres and it has a population of 320 millions.

A large inset with 105 diagrams gives key economic and other statistics of the European Community and its Member States, and it compares them with similar figures for the Soviet Union and the United States.

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ADVANCED MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Supplement 6/85 to the Bulletin of the EC

This communication to the Council takes stock of the impact of industrial automation. It contains a Commission statement on advanced manufacturing equipment and a detailed analysis of the situation and outlook of the sector. The paper was written in response to a request made by the Ministers for Industry at an informal meeting in Paris on 18 May 1984.

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DIPLOMAS**

Supplement 8/85 to the Bulletin of the EC

The proposal for a Directive reproduced in this supplement is an expression of the political resolve voiced by the Heads of State or Government, notably at Fontainebleau in June 1984, then at Brussels in March 1985 and at Milan in June 1985, to respond promptly to the expectations of the people of Europe by promoting the identity and image of the Community for its citizens.

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