

'The High Authority has enabled 110 000 workers to be retrained' from the Communauté européenne (March 1960)

Caption: In March 1960, the monthly publication Communauté européenne announces the retraining of 110 000 workers as a result of aid provided by the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).

Source: Communauté européenne. Bulletin mensuel d'information. dir. de publ. FONTAINE, François. Mars 1960, n° 3; 4e année. Paris: Service d'Information des Communautés Européennes. "La Haute Autorité a permis la réadaptation de 110.000 travailleurs", p. 3.

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SINCE THE CREATION OF THE ECSC

The High Authority has enabled 110 000 workers to be retrained by granting aid totalling 212 million new francs

If the idea of helping to retrain workers affected by unemployment is now a familiar one, it is undoubtedly thanks to the ECSC. It was in the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community that this innovation in welfare policy appeared for the first time.

We should remember this at the time when the transitional period, during which the High Authority has been helping companies faced by problems caused by the establishment of the Common Market to adapt, is coming to an end. Now, after amendments to the Treaty, a new form of aid is being instituted, one aimed at helping companies that have suffered from the structural changes in the energy market, essentially the coal mines.

At the end of its first phase of welfare activity, the High Authority has published an impressive balance sheet of the aid that it has paid out in its first seven years.

This balance sheet, like the large number of requests for retraining submitted to the High Authority in the last few months, shows that the usefulness and effectiveness of this instrument of European welfare policy has now been duly recognised.

The first request made to the High Authority dates back to 1953: the French Government sought a non-refundable loan for the completion of a programme for French collieries (*Charbonnages de France*), with a view to the re-employment of about 5 000 miners in the Centre-Midi, in central and southern France. Since then, the High Authority has provided funds for retraining which amount today to a total of 42.5 million dollars.

That amount represents, however, only half of the aid for retraining, given that the government in the country in question adds at least as much again.

The total number of workers concerned by these requests for retraining amounts to roughly 110 000 people employed in 195 production units in 127 firms.

COAL MINING: in the final analysis, it is the workers in the coal industry that take first place: 54 265 in Germany (\$16.9 million), 25 650 in Belgium (\$11.1 million), 6 654 in France (\$1.5 million) and 5 285 in Italy (\$2.2 million), altogether a total of 91 854 (\$31.7 million).

STEEL INDUSTRY: as far as steelworkers are concerned, it is Italy that has submitted the most requests. There, the number of workers affected amounts to 13 650 (\$9.7 million), as compared to 3 426 (\$0.8 million) in Germany, making a total of: 17 726 (\$10.7 million).