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# 60 YEARS OF VOICING COAL INTERESTS IN EUROPE

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**1952**

European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)

**1958**

CEPCEO legal entity

**1964**

European Association for Coal

**1957**

European Economic Community

**1953**

Foundation CEPCEO

**1996**

CECSO - Integration of lignite

**1950**

Schuman Declaration

**1973**

Oil crisis

**2002**

EURACOAL -  
One voice for Coal in Europe

**2009**

Treaty of Lisbon

**1984**

Treaty of Maastricht -  
European Union



## PREFACE

When Robert Schuman made his declaration on a European Community in 1950, coal and steel were at the forefront. The coal industry was therefore one of the first industries to represent its interests at European level.

Initial contacts between coal industries took place in 1951, nearly 60 years ago. EURACOAL has taken the opportunity of this forthcoming jubilee to outline a brief history of its role as the voice of coal in Europe.

I sincerely wish to thank Mr. Léopold Janssens, Secretary-General of CECISO / EURACOAL from 1999 till 2005 for his research and his manuscript, and his predecessor, Mr. Jean van der Stichelen Rogier for his suggestions. Furthermore, my warmest thanks also extend to EURACOAL's current Secretary-General, Dr. Thorsten Diercks, to Mrs. Marguerite Johnson and Mrs. Margita Hulik for their precious contribution to this illustrated record. We are also grateful for the permission to use photos from Members' and past Members' archives.

I hope text and photos will take the reader down memory lane!

Petr Pudil  
President, EURACOAL

## ABBREVIATIONS

A.C.E.	European Association of Coal
APEP	Association of European Potash Producers
B.E.I.C.	European Coal Information Office
BAT	Best Available Technology
CCMI	Consultative Committee on Industrial Change
CdF	Charbonnages de France
DG TREN	Directorate-General for Transport and Energy (European Commission)
DG XVII	Directorate-General Energy (European Commission)
DKBL	Deutsche Kohlenbergbau-Leitung
ECU	European Currency Unit
EEC	European Economic Community
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EIA	Entente Internationale de l'Acier
EMCEF	European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers' Federation
EUROMINES	European Association of Mining Industries
FEDECHAR	Fédération des Charbonnages de Belgique
FIPACE	Fédération Internationale des Producteurs AutoConsommateurs d'Electricité
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
ICCR	International Committee for Coal Research
K.S.	Kempense Steenkolenmijnen
NCB	National Coal Board (UK)
NUM	National Union of Mineworkers
O.E.C.D.	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPEC	Organisation of Petrol Exporting Countries
RFCS	Research Fund for Coal and Steel
SGB	Société Générale de Belgique
WEC	World Energy Council

## SOURCES

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- R. Hannecart : « Le dernier Carré » : Le CEPCEO entre idéologie et pragmatisme (CEPCEO between ideology and pragmatism)
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## INTRODUCTION

European coal producers already met between World War I and World War II, if only to obtain information about trends, coal mining techniques and the development of mechanization. Contrary to the steel sector, where an “Entente internationale de l’acier” (EIA) had been in place since 1926, the coal sector was definitely less favourable to this kind of exercise, primarily because conditions of location, exploitation and marketing differed widely. It should however be noted that certain rather formal meetings between coal producers were organized in 1929 and 1932, in Geneva, under the aegis of the Society of Nations. After the war, the number of meetings increased at a time when many international meetings were being held not only to reorganise and rebuild the European economy, but also because of the serious shortage of coal in Western Europe.

On May 9, 1950, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, Robert Schuman, declared he was in favour of placing the French and German coal and steel production under a common High Authority as well as of creating a European Community; it was barely five years after the end of the cruel conflict that the countries of Western Europe were painfully recovering from. This idea, as innovative as unexpected, rapidly won over many enthusiasts, but it also triggered a certain mistrust, inter alia, of the private coal-mining industry. The Belgian coal managers, their German colleagues from the Ruhr basin and those from the Dutch Limburg basin felt the need to establish an association in the coal



Schuman Declaration 9 May 1950

sector to defend its interests vis-à-vis this new authority for fear of it exerting dictatorship on their national industry.

## COAL CONTACT CENTRE

On July 19, 1951, Heinrich Kost, Managing Director of *Deutsche Kohlenbergbau-Leitung (DKBL)*, the association of producers from the Ruhr, greeted a spokesperson from the Belgian coal mines in their Essen offices. It was a meeting that could be described as prospective, at the instigation of Max Nokin, Director at the powerful *Société générale de Belgique (SGB)*, then dominating the coal, iron and steel industries in Belgium. The Belgian coal industry proposed to discuss co-operation between German, Dutch (private) and Belgian mines in the following fields:

- technique;
- the marketing of coal;
- economic and social policy.

Although economic policy and marketing are indissociable and German and Dutch engineers already co-operated, Heinrich Kost welcomed the initiative favourably. According to him, it deserved to be contemplated but he insisted on the fact that the Belgian coal mines would have to implement it.

In October 1951, a meeting between Heinrich Kost (DKBL), Max Nokin (SGB/Belgian mines) and Wilhelm Roelen (August Thyssen Group) took place. The objective of the meeting was, on the one hand, to agree on solutions to re-organise the coal and coke markets and, on the other hand, to determine how to defend the interests of a free-market company vis-à-vis the ECSC High Authority, definitely tending towards interventionism.

On January 9, 1952 a meeting, on the initiative of Max Nokin, bringing together H. Kost and a representative of private Dutch coal mines led to the creation of the “Coal Club”. Its objective was to prepare an official meeting, on January 25, 1952 in Antwerp. It would be the first plenary of the Coal Club, later called “*Centre de contact des charbonnages*”. Although this *Centre de contact* was not an official institution, the structures set up by the creation of the restricted Working Group called “Bureau” with the remit of preparing the items on

the Agenda for the plenaries, following in quick succession.

Very soon, *Charbonnages de France* and *Limburgse Staatsmijnen*, state-owned companies consequently excluded from the Contact Centre, wished to take part in the meetings. Many personal, informal and official steps were needed to achieve full co-operation of all the coal-producing countries of the incipient Community, without mentioning the differences in property ownership of the concerned industries. If such a co-operation succeeded, it was because all the participants understood that the implementation of the Schuman Plan made it vital, possible and desirable. In these conditions, the original idea of defending free trade would become secondary.

## COMITÉ D'ETUDE DES PRODUCTEURS DE CHARBON D'EUROPE OCCIDENTALE (CEPCEO) ASSOCIATION OF THE COAL PRODUCERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

On June 6, 1952 the *Centre de contact's* plenary took place, this time with the participation of representatives of *Charbonnages de France* and also of the *Mines of the Saar* and *Staatsmijnen* (The Netherlands). This Association would function as a European federation of national associations who delegated their representatives to it.

On July 7, 1952 the 2<sup>nd</sup> plenary was held in Noordwijk (The Netherlands) in the presence of representatives of the iron and steel industry. The plenary officialised the name of “*Comité d'Etude des Producteurs de Charbon d'Europe occidentale*” (Association of the Coal Producers of the European Community) and finalized its organization. The Association would function with three bodies: the Bureau, in Brussels, which must function as a secretariat to organize the work of the two other decision-making bodies, the Central Committee and the General Assembly.

Furthermore, special subcommittees still to be defined would meet regularly to prepare the Central Committee members in view of the Consultative Committee meetings of the High Authority. The coal-producing countries' members belonging to the Comité d'Etude were then:



Signature of the ECSC Treaty, 1951

- Germany (represented by *Deutsche Kohlenbergbau-Leitung*);
- Belgium (represented by *Fédéchar – Fédération des Charbonnages belges*);
- France (represented by *Charbonnages de France* and *Mines de la Saar*);
- The Netherlands (represented by *Gezamenlijke Steenkolenmijnen in Limburg*).

Meanwhile, on July 23, 1952 the European Community for Coal and Steel (ECSC) Treaty entered into force and the first meetings of the Central Committee and of the Bureau were devoted mainly to the problems of organising and staffing the High Authority. The Bureau was also invited to elaborate a convention for the *Comité d'Etude*.

## CONVENTION

On March 21, 1953 at the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary of the Comité d'Etude, the convention prepared by the Bureau was adopted as statutes of the *Comité d'étude des producteurs de charbon d'Europe occidentale*, in short CEPCEO (Association of the Coal Producers of the European Community).

This convention established CEPCEO on a basis of strict equality between the four founding delegations. CEPCEO's objective was to study all issues concerning coal producers of Western Europe and to collect, circulate and save any documentation useful to its members.

The main bodies of the *Comité d'Etude* were the General Assembly (7 members per country) and the Central Committee (1 deputy and 1 substitute per country). The Central Committee was assisted by a Bureau which prepared its work with the support of a general secretariat. It established expert

committees to study in detail all matters which it considered useful to analyse.

It must be noted that coal-producing members of the Consultative Committee established within the High Authority, in Luxembourg, had the right to attend all the meetings of CEPCEO's Central Committee. This provision was envisaged in order to ensure the necessary coordination between the work of CEPCEO and that of the representatives of the producers in Luxembourg. This coordination was essential as CEPCEO was created with the aim of better defending the interests of coal producers with respect to the interests of consumers and workers appropriately organized within the framework of the Common Market of the ECSC. The members of the Consultative Committee representing the producers were to express the interests of the companies more officially. These persons would be supported by CEPCEO which would place a secretariat and documentation at their disposal.

During the meeting on June 1, 1953 in Brussels - the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of CEPCEO's Central Committee - and in accordance with the new statutes, Pieter WIRTZ (The Netherlands) was elected President and Pierre Delville (Belgium) Vice-President.

#### **PERIOD 1953 - 1955: CEPCEO'S COMMITTEES START WORK**

Work was not lacking. At the beginning, the *Comité d'Etude* had to deal especially with its internal organization and also with contacts with the iron and steel industry (which had created separately, in parallel, the "*Club des sidérurgistes*"). Thereafter, the *Comité d'Etude* would essentially tackle the fundamental problems.

In order to elaborate an opinion on a certain number of issues and to prepare its work, the Central Committee set up a number of committees.

On October 30, 1953 CEPCEO's 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly took place in Bad Bertrich. The President of the Central Committee, Pieter Wirtz, could already report on the activity of 5 committees, i.e.:

- Prix de revient et valeur de production (cost price and value of production);
- Salaires (wages);
- Etude de marché (market);
- Questions de distribution (distribution);
- Etude des Articles 58 et 59 du Traité (Study of Articles 58 and 59 of the Treaty).

These Committees were very busy closely monitoring the development of the coal industry who, indeed, had to face many challenges: production costs; increased production; staff shortages; the integration of workers from other countries within the Community and the resulting social aspects; coke and coal imports from non-ECSC countries; competition beginning from oil products, such as propane gas competing with coke-oven gas; the introduction of production quotas in the event of crisis (Article 58); or the allocation of Community resources in the event of shortage (Article 59).

In addition, it appeared that in several cases, the estimates of the High Authority did not always correspond to the reality of the market. The Committees would therefore carry out in-depth studies to clarify the situation.

During its first two years, the *Comité d'Etude* considered it appropriate to observe a strict reserve with respect to the High Authority. At that time, in Luxembourg, the action of associations of companies was considered with suspicion in spite of the provisions of the Treaty recognizing the rights and the mission of associations. In the opinion of the High Authority, the representation of the producers was sufficiently ensured by the presence of coal producers within the Consultative Committee.

This attitude of the High Authority would change little by little and it finally welcomed a CEPCEO delegation in September 1955. This cordial meeting with the new President of the High Authority, René Mayer, was held in a constructive atmosphere.

#### **CEPCEO BECOMES KNOWN**

In 1955, for the first time, CEPCEO was officially consulted by the O.E.E.C. (Organisation for European Economic Co-operation) concerning the drafting of a report on the general energy policy of

European countries. This report, entitled "Europe facing its energy requirements", largely took account of the opinion expressed by CEPCEO.

Contacts with other private international organisations were established such as FIPACE (*Producteurs autoconsommateurs d'électricité*) and the *Club des Sidérurgistes*. A "Steering Committee" was set up with the latter to better coordinate the opinions of all the producers represented in Luxembourg on new social problems within the framework of the ECSC.



*Mining school in the 50ies*

Coordinating the action of coal-producers belonging to the Consultative Committee in Luxembourg was one of CEPCEO's main missions. This was undertaken in two manners: on the one hand CEPCEO's Central Committee examined all the important matters facing the Consultative Committee and sought to develop common views. In certain cases, one of the Committees was invited to prepare the necessary documentation on behalf of the producing Members. In addition, the Secretariat organised, prior to each session in Luxembourg, a contact meeting where questions of strategy were examined. It was on this occasion that the Steering Committee met from time to time to primarily cover matters of general coal policy as well as the social issues.

What struck the producers, particularly when they confronted their points of view, was the deplorable climate surrounding the coal industry in all the countries and the inconsistency of the ideas which seemed to govern the coal policy of their

governments. As for a general energy policy, it was non-existent both at government and international levels. The producers had no illusions concerning the little means at their disposal to change things. Nevertheless, they considered it essential to make an effort aiming to transmit a message to the responsible authorities: in the long term it would not be possible to ensure Europe's supply of energy while exerting a constant and artificial pressure on the prices of the main energy resource of our countries. The inconsistency of the policy adopted so far risked causing the gradual closing down of many coal production capacities, without any possible replacement because of insufficient investments. In the medium term already, a serious energy shortage could result from it.

Aiming to communicate these ideas to those responsible and to the public, CEPCEO published, in July 1955, the booklet "Coal and energy policy". Later, in December 1955, a memorandum presenting the same ideas was forwarded to the O.E.E.C.'s Energy Committee.

At the same time, the High Authority established several committees in order to help it define general objectives for coal production. Several CEPCEO members were designated to take part in this work and they seized the opportunity to develop in Luxembourg the idea of a constructive coal policy, supporting increased production and the valorisation of coal.

When reading the documents of the High Authority, it is noticeable that the latter adopted a good part of the ideas and principles put forward by CEPCEO.

Collaboration between CEPCEO and the High Authority started in another field: joint participation in the Brussels World Fair of 1958.

#### **TECHNICAL RESEARCH**

One problem very soon concerned the producers within CEPCEO. The High Authority was entitled to distribute aid in favour of technical research, but it had to finance this aid, not by loans, such as investments, but with its own funds. However, the

ECSC budget was funded by levies on enterprises producing coal and steel. Any initiative of the High Authority to finance research would therefore result in an increase of the levy. The producers, considering that they were being invited to finance with their own money the “gifts” envisaged by the High Authority, agreed to boycott the offers of aid for research. However, they could not hold this position, the boycott naturally not being total, not to mention requests emanating from other researchers, in particular from universities. The producers had to change their attitude and then decided to submit requests for aid for projects, but analysing and coordinating them beforehand. This step ensured them of a coherent body of research, accepted by all the recipients of aid.

In 1956, CEPCEO's Central Committee created its “Technical Research Committee”. Its role was to present to the High Authority a coordinated set of requests for aid to research financed by the ECSC budget.



Miner with pick hammer, 50ies

It was only in 1957-1958 that the High Authority granted the first envelope of financial aid, amounting to 3 million EUA (European Unit of Account), to fundamental research projects referring to mining contingencies (firedamp, pressure of the ground, climate), to the technique of coking, and also to the chemistry and the physics of coal. The amount of aid increased annually to reach 16,5 million EUA in 1977. Approximately two thirds of this amount would be devoted to mining technique and a third

to coal valorisation. The monitoring of the projects was assigned to various expert committees set up by the European Economic Community (EEC) in order to ensure the good completion of the work.

#### TOWARDS THE TREATY OF ROME

At the General Assembly of May 23, 1956 in Petersberg, André Woronoff, till then Secretary of the Bureau, was appointed Secretary-General of the Bureau. He would have under his orders the secretaries of the four national delegations.

In October 1956, CEPCEO published a report on the “Industrial application of nuclear energy and its influence on the coal economy”. This report highlighted the uncertainties and illusions surrounding the introduction of this energy. Indeed, the authorities, imagining in the short term a new energy at better prices than traditional energies, could once more find it convenient to justify a restrictive policy on coal prices.

At the end of 1956, contact was also established with the National Coal Board in the UK. The relationship with this organization would become permanent. It was acknowledged that in the field of social policy in particular, regular exchanges of information were essential and especially because of the creation of an “*Internationale des Mineurs*”.

On June 12, 1957, Helmuth Burckhardt (President of *Unternehmensverband Bergbau* German) was elected President of the Central Committee, succeeding Pieter Wirtz (NL) who became Vice-President. The mandate of President was for one year and renewable.

On the strength of the success of the treaty on coal and steel, the Six extended their co-operation to other economic sectors. On March 25, 1957 they signed the Treaty of Rome creating the EEC or “Common Market”, whose objective was freedom of movement for people, goods and services between Member States.

#### NEW STATUTES

The experience gained and the good results of the collaboration imply an observation: CEPCEO's

internal structure needed to be reinforced and adapted to its action. This occurred by adopting new statutes in January 1958 and by granting CEPCEO a legal personality, by the Royal Decree of June 2, 1958. CEPCEO thus acquired the structure of an international association with a scientific goal, in accordance with Belgian legislation. The new statutes foresaw, in addition to the General Assembly, of the Central Committee and the Bureau, the creation of a secretariat and function of Secretary-General, in charge of day to day management under the authority of the President of the Central Committee.

The statutory Members were:

- *Unternehmensverband Bergbau e.V.* (Germany);
- *Fédération Charbonnière de Belgique* (Fédéchar);
- *Charbonnages de France*;
- *De Gezamenlijke Steenkolenmijnen in Limburg* (The Netherlands).

President Burckhardt remained in function as well as the Vice-President, Pieter Wirtz. André Woronoff would become CEPCEO's Secretary-General.



Women gathering wooden beams, 50ies

#### MIXED COMMITTEE

The “Mixed Committee on the Harmonisation of Working Conditions in the Coal Industry” was established on the basis of the decision of the ECSC Consultative Committee in December 1954 to convene meetings of representatives of the organisations of workers and employers, aiming to create the conditions for a gradual rapprochement on a limited number of questions, such as improv-

ing and adapting the living and working conditions of labour. In Belgium, the *Bois de Cazier* mining catastrophe, in August 1956, gave an additional impulse to these activities. CEPCEO's Social Committee was implied in the activities of this Joint Committee. This made it possible to establish an excellent working relationship at European level with the workers' representatives.

#### THE SKY DARKENS FOR THE COAL INDUSTRY

1959 witnessed a major transformation of the energy market. Competition, not only from imported coals, but also from oil and gas, caused serious concerns for miners. The Belgian and German producers faced an exceptional increase of their coal stocks.

In Luxembourg, these new developments were referred to the High Authority. Coal-producing members requested a common energy policy and the defence of security of supply. They also regretted that the High Authority hardly took account of the opinions of the producers and of those of the Consultative Committee. CEPCEO's Members however thought that for years to come, Europe would have a pressing need for both new and old sources of energy and that, for this reason, it was necessary to organise the “peaceful coexistence” of coal and oil. Disorderly competition would cause irrevocable damage. Coal producers must entice their respective governments to promote this coordinated energy policy. In this spirit, CEPCEO published the booklet “*Politique coordonnée de l'énergie*”.

In addition, to face the competition from imported coal, at an advantage because of very cheap Atlantic freight rates, it was necessary to improve output and to reduce the production costs by obtaining a fairer distribution of social contributions as practised in Great Britain, with whom the coal producers of the Community maintained regular contacts. An example of its good relationship with the continental coal industry was the invitation from the National Coal Board (NCB) to CEPCEO to organise its 1962 General Assembly in the UK. The NCB would like the UK to belong to the European Community. The national governments were discussing adhesion, but the Council

of Ministers did not accept the request for adhesion very cordially. Furthermore, in January 1963, de Gaulle was against the United Kingdom joining the EEC.

#### **BUREAU EUROPÉEN D'INFORMATION CHARBONNIÈRE**

The coal industry regretted that a single, coherent energy policy in the economic space of the 6 countries was still lacking. To better defend Community coal mining, CEPCEO decided to distribute information on coal by means of a news bulletin targeting political decision makers, the energy sector and also the press. Although financed by Community producers and under CEPCEO's administrative control, the weekly news bulletin would appear under a neutral "Bureau européen d'information charbonnière" (B.E.I.C., European Coal Information Office). The bulletin was published in three languages (English, French and German) and in several thousand copies. The editor was Peter Doerell.

#### **EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL IN TURIN**

On the strength of the encouraging results of the participation of the Community's coal industry at the ECSC stand at the Brussels World Fair in 1958, CEPCEO took part in the *Exposition internationale du travail* in Turin from May 1 to October 31, 1961. Within the framework of this exhibition, CEPCEO organized an official information day on the European coal industry.

#### **STATUT EUROPÉEN DU MINEUR**

CEPCEO's "Social Affairs" Committee remained busy. The social aspect was important for all discussions, requiring an important follow-up on behalf of the Social Affairs Committee. A study was undertaken at the request of the High Authority, to compare miners' wages in the various states, within the context of discussions about the European miner's statute, always topical. The position of the coal producers remained unchanged: as long as a Community energy policy safeguarding a core indigenous coal production had not been established, it was unrealistic to want to grant such important new social benefits to the staff. National

governments claimed their independence with respect to the High Authority for this matter, which was not envisaged in the Treaty. The trade unions condemned the attitude of coal employers, and that of the governments, and organised a major European miners demonstration in Dortmund, in July 1964.



*First cigarette after work*

#### **1963 – 1964: MARKET ISSUES PREVAIL**

The evolution of the European community's policy and objectives encouraged CEPCEO to review the activities of all its existing committees. This reorganization led to scrapping and establishing 7 new committees to be operational as of January 1963, namely the:

- "Ad hoc" Committee;
- The Market Committee;
- The Technical Research Committee;
- The Social Committee;
- The cost price and value of production Committee;
- Committee on the rational use of energy;
- Committee on electrical energy.

Energy policy remained a topic of sharp discussions for the Consultative Committee in Luxembourg. The draft Resolution "Study on the long-term prospects for the Community", or "Mallet project" advocated a European energy policy in favour of an affordable supply at short term and suggested protecting Community production only by means of aid.

A new topic for discussion emerged: the "Kennedy Round", one step of the GATT's commercial negotiations focusing on reducing customs duties. Coal producers considered that not imposing customs duties on coal was serious for trade, because while not imposing duties on imported coal, even moderate duties, the Community would deprive itself in advance of one essential energy policy instrument. Finally, customs duties for the Benelux countries were consolidated at nil.

CEPCEO participated in the *Salon international de l'énergie* in Paris for a fortnight in May 1964.

#### **ASSOCIATION CHARBONNIÈRE EUROPÉENNE (A.C.E.) (EUROPEAN COAL ASSOCIATION)**

For several years, the NCB had maintained close contacts with CEPCEO without being able to become member of association, as the UK was not a Member of the European Union.

To institutionalise the co-operation between the coal producers of Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain and The Netherlands, an association distinct from CEPCEO was established in 1964, with Members on equal footing. This free association, which did not have a legal personality, was called "European Coal Association" (A.C.E.). Its object was to examine and study the questions which presented a common interest for the coal-mining industries of the five above-mentioned countries and, generally, to defend European coal. The A.C.E. had another address, but its internal management was ensured by CEPCEO's Secretary-General. The NCB was invited to take part in the activities of CEPCEO's committees. It was also foreseen that when the UK belonged to the European Community, the NCB would become an ordinary member of CEPCEO.

On May 20, 1968, the Spanish coal mines represented by *Sindicato Nacional del Combustible* became the sixth member of the A.C.E.

It was on the basis of this European Coal Association that later, in May 1974, an International Committee for Coal Research (ICCR) was established, in which representatives of the mining industries of Australia, Canada, Japan, South Africa and

the United States also took part. This committee devoted itself, at world level, to the problems of scientific research and technique.

#### **TREATY OF BRUSSELS**

Merging the European executives was under discussion and worried the coal producers who feared falling under the authority of the future Commission, causing less interest for coal. Finally, the Merger Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities (or Treaty of Brussels) was signed on April 8, 1965, to enter into force on January 1, 1967. This treaty merged the executive structures put in place by the ECSC High Authority, the Commission of the European Communities and EURATOM, the three communities already sharing the Court of Justice and Parliament. It instituted the Council of the European Communities and the European Commission (previously called High Authority within the framework of the ECSC), sharing the same budget and located in Brussels.

Among the activities of CEPCEO's Technical Research Committee, there were publications which highlighted the importance of and the need for mining research. The brochure "Les progrès de la recherche dans l'industrie charbonnière de la Communauté européenne – Etat actuel et tâches à venir" (Progress of research in the coal industry of the European Community – State of play and future tasks), published in February 1965, was one example. Another document entitled "Points clés des travaux de recherche et de développe-



*Mine shaft tower in Lorraine, 60ies*

ment dans l'industrie houillère d'Europe occidentale" (Key points in research and development in the coal-mining industry of Western Europe) was released in December 1967.

The Central Committee regularly approached the Community authorities to convince them of the need for a Community energy policy which would safeguard indigenous production capacities. Almost each step was preceded by a working paper, such as "An energy policy for Western Europe" (March 1966) or "Threats for Europe's security of energy supply" (June 1967).

In 1969, the Commission of the European Communities published the study: "First orientation for a Community energy policy". CEPCEO wrote its observations on this document and presented them during a discussion with the Commission's Directorate-General for Energy, in May 1969.

#### OIL: WARNING

In January 1971, the European Coal Association (A.C.E.), including CEPCEO's Members and the representatives of Spain and the UK, made public its position on the current situation of the various energies used in Europe and their prospects. This analysis clearly showed the important progression of oil on the European market whereas the coal industry was forced to close many mines. This development made Europe increasingly dependent on imported energy, even more so as it came mainly from unstable regions. The risk of periods of shortage and price increases was not to be neglected.

The coal producers warned the political authorities about this problem, while European coal was still abundant and offered perfect security of supply at advantageous prices. If the European economic activity wanted to maintain its current thrust, it was essential to strive to maintain coal production capacities.

#### THE UK, NEW MEMBER OF CEPCEO

The European Union included three new Member States as from January 1, 1973: Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Following the acces-

sion of the United Kingdom, the British collieries (National Coal Board/NCB) became a Member of CEPCEO on January 1, 1973. The accession of the United Kingdom, with a coal production of 130 million tons in 1973, represented a doubling of Community production, i.e. an annual total of 250 million tons of coal.

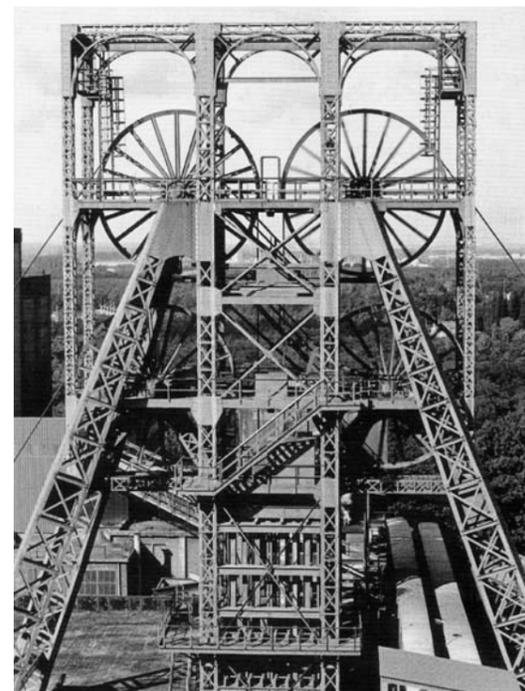
#### THE 1973 OIL CRISIS

The Kippour war between Egypt and Israel concerned the western world. The problem of energy supply arose both at Community and world levels. During a discussion with the President of the European Commission, Mr. Ortoli, on October 8, 1973, the CEPCEO delegation stressed the importance of coal available in the Community and the role of this source of energy for supplying energy to the Member States.

The embargo on oil deliveries declared on October 17, 1973 by the Arab countries belonging to OPEC highlighted the vulnerability of the EU Member States' supply of energy. The shortage caused a kind of panic. Oil prices continued their vertiginous increase and quadrupled in three months.

Much Community coal production became competitive, which was the case for German, British and Lorraine coal mines. The coking coal imports, mainly from the United States, were insufficient to cover demand from the iron and steel industry in full expansion. In the United States, coking coal was diverted towards power plants.

In view of these developments, the Commission re-examined its energy policy strategy. At the end of January 1974, the Vice-President of the Commission, Henri Simonet, announced to the ECSC Consultative Committee that the Commission estimated that an effort must be made to free the Community from a too strong dependence on oil. The production of coal must be maintained at the level of 1973-1974, that is to say 250 million tce, and a thorough revision of coal policy was essential in the short term. All the new, large power plants coming into service from 1980 should be nuclear plants. If the nuclear programme did not follow, it would be necessary to turn to coal-fired



Mine shaft tower in Belgium, 80ies

power plants in so far as they met the environmental protection criteria.

In this spirit, the Council would adopt two resolutions dealing with Community energy policy (December 1974) and the means to be implemented to achieve these goals (February 1975):

- efforts to reduce EU energy dependence by a better use of Community resources and to modify the structure of energy consumption by intensifying the use of safe energy resources, such as electricity, in particular nuclear energy;
- as for coal, maintain the level of production in 1973. To this end, investments were necessary to improve output and the accumulation of stocks intended to compensate the fluctuations of demand and to avoid ruptures of supply.

On the EU Commission's proposal, the Council adopted two Directives (75/404 and 405/CEE) encouraging the limitation of the utilisation of natural gas and oil products for new power plants.

The discovery of important natural gas deposits in the Netherlands precipitated the stop of

coal production. The exploitation of mines in the Netherlands stopped completely on December 31, 1974. This stop put an end to the participation of the Dutch delegation in CEPCEO.

The hope of a long-lasting upturn for Community coal mining was only short-lived because in 1975, the general economic situation in the European Community was characterised by a severe recession, a collapse of the iron and steel industry and the drop of primary energy consumption.

#### TOWARDS THE SECOND OIL CRISIS – COMMUNITY COAL PRODUCTION TARGET 250 MT

During a parliamentary hearing in October 1977, CEPCEO highlighted the threatening situation for the Community coal industry due to the increase in coal imports and called on the Parliament, the Commission and the governments of coal-importing countries to intervene with the principal consumers to replace coal from third countries not yet contracted by Community coal. CEPCEO forwarded a memorandum again outlining this problem to the Belgian minister Willy Claes who gave this document to the members of the Council at its session of December 13, 1977.

After three years of recession, economic recovery was apparent in 1978, beneficial for the coal industry, without however bringing a decisive improvement. CEPCEO then published a study entitled "Coal, today and tomorrow".

On the other side of the Atlantic, there was a serious incident at the Three Miles Island nuclear power station (USA) on March 28, 1979. Nuclear energy was questioned and there was renewed interest in fossil fuels, accompanied by the inevitable boom of oil price. Consumers again understood the advantages and importance of coal.

The favourable outcome of the discussions of the Consultative Committee on the final report on coal policy, the "Thomas Report", was the result of the active co-operation with CEPCEO. This Report was adopted in May 1979. The European Commission reacted positively to this concept of energy policy. As regards Community coal policy, on the other hand, no decision was taken. CEPCEO saw to it

that the production target of 250 million tons was respected. It was also necessary to insist on the need to coordinate imports and the needs of Community production. The Council should be led to approve the concrete measures already presented by the Commission in 1978.

In its first two Press Releases, on June 15, 1979 and March 24, 1980, CEPCEO insisted on the need to reduce excessive dependence on imported oil and announced that a massive return to coal was urgent. To this end, it was necessary to maintain Community production at 250 million tons, to promote investments in the coal industry, to develop new capacities for coal utilisation and to coordinate imports.

In April 1980, a working group of the Technical Research Committee published its study on coal utilisation technically possible in the "other industries" sector of the European Community till 2000.

On January 1, 1981, Greece became the 10<sup>th</sup> member of the European Union. Greece was an important lignite producer, with a rate of 58 million t/year, but produced no hard coal. The lignite-fired power plants covered more than 60% of the electricity produced in Greece.



Miner in the 80ies

CEPCEO did not give up its battle. At its General Assembly of June 2, 1981, with Mr. Bund in the Chair, it was decided to insist when putting forward its point of view towards the European authorities on the following:

- measures must be taken at national and European levels so that coal replaced oil in power plants;
- aid must be granted to the coal industry to enable it to reach the production target of 250 million tons;
- harmonisation was necessary with regard to coal consumption in the Community and imports from third countries and Community production;
- as far as aid to research was concerned, current amounts needed to be maintained at their actual value at their current level.

These principles were included in the booklet "A new coal economy for Western Europe", published in September 1981. CEPCEO was of course conscious of the difficulty for the Council of Ministers to be in favour of the hard coal industry, because coal was extracted only in four Member States. The six other States showed only little interest in Community coal problems because coal from third countries was abundant and competitive.

During this same Assembly, it was decided that ACE and CEPCEO meetings (European Association of Coal) would henceforth be joint.

On June 2, 1981, also, the Secretary-General, André Woronoff, with CEPCEO since the beginning, took advantage of his rights to retirement. Jacques Verbesselt succeeded him.

#### FOCUS ON FINANCIAL AID

Commission Vice-President Davignon organised on October 20, 1981 a roundtable with the participation of the Directorate-General for Energy, coal producers, importers and consumers to define a "general coal strategy". On the basis of the outcome of this meeting, the Consultative Committee put forward a draft opinion on April 1, 1982. Work followed, not receiving the desired reception of the Council of Ministers of July 13, 1982. The document "The role of coal in a Community energy strategy" would be rejected. Another document on "Encouraging investments in the field of the ratio-



Mineworker's accommodation in Lorraine

nal use of energy" was received more favourably, but without distinguishing between Community and imported coal.

The coal industry was also disappointed following the refusal by the Council of Energy Ministers of November 4, 1983 of all the proposals relating to aid to coking coal and to the financial aid of the Communities to the producers; to a ECSC contribution from the budget of the EC; to financing demonstration projects; and to financial incentives for the rational use of energy.

Like each year, the Market Committee compiled its annual coal statement. A copy of this document, together with targeted comments, was forwarded to the Commission which, each time, appreciated this at its right value. An "Ad-Hoc Committee" prepared a document on the "Role of coal in supplying Europe-12 at the horizon 2000".

At the beginning of March 1984 there was a ruthless miners' strike in England, paralysing coal production throughout the country during one year. This strike would end only in March 1985 by the

defeat of the miners' trade union (NUM).

CEPCEO continued contacting the European Commission, as well as Parliament, and actions are carried out by members towards the Consultative Committee, always within the framework of financial aid in favour of industries producing solid fuels. At the same time, the Commission tackled the new topic of emissions from large combustion plants polluting the atmosphere. The environment became a major topic. CEPCEO forwarded to the Commission a position paper on the proposed directive on polluting emissions.

The coal industry then underwent an important reorganization, with many hard coal mines closing down. CEPCEO ensured that all was done so that there was a transfer from the EEC budget to the ECSC budget of the necessary amounts for the social aspect, earmarked for this situation. In September 1985, CEPCEO published the document: "Un regard nouveau sur l'énergie charbon dans le secteur des autres industries" (A new look at coal in other industry sectors).

#### SPAIN JOINS CEPCEO

With the accession of Spain and Portugal on January 1, 1986, the European Union now had 12 Member States. In accordance with CEPCEO's statutes, the Spanish coal mines represented by *Federacion Nacional de Empresarios de Minas de Carbon* (CARBUNION) became an Associate Member of CEPCEO on January 1, 1986; since 1968 this federation had closely followed CEPCEO's activities as a Member of the European Association of Coal (ACE). After this adhesion, the ACE's activities were suspended.

The terrible disaster at Chernobyl, on April 26, 1986, unnerved the whole of Europe. The issue of choosing an energy was back on the Agenda. Energy prices suffered. The Market Committee was invited to follow the trend of oil prices.

The "Ad Hoc" Committee examined the consequences for the Community coal industry of the drop of oil prices and of the exchange rate of the US dollar, as well as of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl. For CEPCEO, there had to be a



CEPCEO Market Committee meeting in Paris, 1986

realistic balance between Community coal and imported coal. If “imported” coal had its place in the energy supply of the Community, its role must be complementary: it could not be at the detriment of Community coal. The economic repercussions of the stock exchange crash of October 1987 were finally weaker than initially expected.

At the end of 1987, CEPCEO published its report prepared by the “Ad Hoc” Committee on the prospects for the Community coal industry. This Report was a study adapted to the new general and economic context. It would be used as backdrop for hearings organised by the Parliament. CEPCEO’s demands and proposals made to the European Commission and the Council of Ministers remained unchanged, namely:

- the strategic importance of coal for the Community in the long run as the main alternative to oil and gas;
- the Community bodies to abstain from blocking national measures taken to support this core security (of supply);
- the objective of the Council and the Commission to limit oil and gas consumption in power plants and other industries to be maintained;
- harmonization of environmental protection policy and of coal utilisation while taking into account the technical, economic and energy policy requirements;
- the provision of increased means for technical research, both in the field of technical research and of coal utilisation. This was also true for demonstration projects.

The European Commission wished to put an end to the anti-crisis plan in place since the creation of the ECSC, by liberalising the market as far as

quotas and prices were concerned. For the beginning of the Single European Market in 1992, the European Commission set up a task force to study its consequences for the various energy sectors. CEPCEO was invited by the Commission to provide the necessary information.

During a discussion with Energy Commissioner Mosar and his team, on July 15, 1988, CEPCEO underlined the extremely low energy prices on world markets (in particular on the Community market), the weakness of the dollar compared to the European currencies, as well as the unfavourable economic situation of the iron and steel industry. These developments caused the indigenous coal industry great difficulty. Need would increase during the next years for aid granted previously by the ECSC in favour of the social measures accompanying rationalisation and adaptation of the coal mining industry. The Commissioner noted the requests and made a point of stating that coal mining concerned only some Member States and that there never would be an agreement on the social aspect for coal if there was no agreement on the social aspect for steel.

#### BEGINNING OF THE “ENVIRONMENT ERA”

Already mentioned in 1985, the issue of large combustion plants rejecting polluting emissions into in the atmosphere then got most of the attention of the European Commission. CEPCEO’s Technical Research Committee created the Environmental Working Group to compile and publish a booklet on “Greenhouse gases and European coal”, extremely well received nationally and internationally. In June 1988, the Council of Ministers for the Environment decided to agree in principle on limiting SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and dust from fossil fuel power generation.

CEPCEO also published a Position Paper: “The interface between the internal energy market and the energy objectives of 1995”. It was the “up-dated” continuation of the “Internal energy market” document. This opinion was intended for the Energy Commissioner, Mr. Cardoso, in function since January 1989. During a discussion with him, CEPCEO tried to convince the European Commission of the need to maintain

an adequate production of Community coal, compatible with economic and social interests of the mining regions and also contributing to reduce the increasing dependence of the Community on energy. The whole issue of security of supply, always at the heart of CEPCEO’s argumentation, was not a priority for the European Commission. The strategic policy gave more importance to environmental issues than to security of supply. For Cardoso, gas and oil produced less CO<sub>2</sub> than coal and this was therefore a test case for coal. It was necessary to direct CO<sub>2</sub> research towards a more effective combustion. Public opinion was against coal, coal producers therefore were asked to better prove what they were saying. Commissioner Cardoso once more showed his aversion to coal.

The Secretary-General Jacques Verbesselt, having reached the legal age for retirement, asked to be discharged from his functions, on September 31, 1989. Jean van der Stichelen Rogier succeeded him.

CEPCEO participated in the European Commission’s work on the preparation of the “New energy objectives for Europe for 2010” and ensured that the scenarios mentioned remained realistic. The same Working Group addressed the new topic, i.e. the Carbon Tax considered by the EEC.



Measuring methane

This Commission proposal to raise a carbon tax caused concern to the coal industry. CEPCEO clearly condemned the discriminatory character of such a tax. The Ad Hoc Committee prepared the document “Advanced Clean Coal Technologies”, forwarded to the European Commission and again arguing that a clean technology was more constructive with respect to the environment than any carbon tax. This document was received favourably both by the European Commission and the European Parliament.

The European coal industry went through a difficult period and presented strong similarities in the various Member States: everywhere restructuring and production cuts were mentioned. European coal production in 1991 did not reach the almost magic figure of 200 million tons. Soon, imports would be equal, in tonnage, to indigenous production.

#### THE NINETIES: THE DECADE OF CHEAP AND AVAILABLE ENERGY

Work and contacts with the authorities over the period 1991-1992 focused mainly on the following:

- Preparation of the new Regulation on State Aid to the Coal Industry;
- Technology for the clean use of coal;
- Tax on energy and on CO<sub>2</sub>;
- Future of the ECSC Treaty.

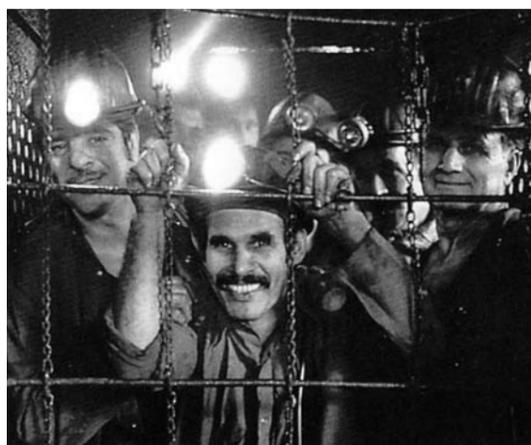
The last Belgian coal producer, the *N.V. Kempense Steenkolenmijnen (K.S.)*, definitively stopped extraction on October 1, 1992. *La Fédération Belge des Charbonnages FEDECHAR* was obliged to resign as associated Member of CEPCEO the day production stopped.

The ECSC Consultative Committee of July 2, 1993 nominated Mr. Gonzalez as its new President. This presidency was given respectively to a representative of producers, workers or consumers, either from the coal or the iron and steel sector. Mr. Gonzalez was at the head of the Federation of the Spanish Coal Producers (CARBUNION) and President of CEPCEO’s Social Questions Committee.

CEPCEO Members expressed many reservations concerning the European Commission’s approach

to energy policy in its "Red Book" entitled "Energy in Europe: a View to the Future". The Commission stressed that this "Red Book" should be considered as a basis for discussion. It was a proposed global energy framework to be presented to the Council. CEPCEO compiled a document with the coal industry's remarks and comments concerning the book. This document was discussed with the Energy Commissioner, Mr. Matutes. On this occasion, the important topic of State aid to coal industry was also mentioned. This topic was also addressed by the Council of Ministers of June 1993, which postponed its decision, while giving certain encouraging signs for aid.

The evolution of cost prices and value of production required important and precise analysis, accomplished meticulously and without interruption since the creation of the ECSC. The comparative tables and comments were distributed to Members every quarter.



Immigrant miners in Belgium, 80ies

CEPCEO had many contacts both with the European Parliament and with the European Commission in order to influence the Draft Opinion on State Aid to the Coal Industry in favour of the coal industry. Finally, the Council of Energy Ministers of December 10, 1993 decided that the new State Aid regulation would remain in force until 2002, when the ECSC Treaty expired. Henceforth, mainly "collaborative targeted projects" could be supported financially.

In preparation for an amendment to the Treaty of Maastricht in 1986, the European Commission's DG XVII considered trying to introduce an energy chapter and to define energy policy objectives. A think tank was created, in which CEPCEO was invited to take part as from January 1994.

During the second half of 1994, the General Energy Policy Committee drafted CEPCEO's position paper on the European energy policy orientations to appear in the form of a "Green Paper". CEPCEO stressed the principle of subsidiarity of the specific policies of various Member States and the principle of diversifying energy sources. The "Green Paper" was then reviewed and improved to be submitted to the Council of Ministers in June 1995, when it resulted in a resolution. The European Commission then planned to publish a White Paper which would formulate the main trends and the long-term energy policy strategy. This document could lead to the inclusion of an "Energy Chapter" in the Treaty of the European Union when it would be reviewed in 1996.

The Technical Research Committee exerted all its influence to prevent ECSC research being transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Community Framework Programme for the period 1994-1998. Such a transfer would very much reduce state aid to mining research; since this ECSC aid to research existed, it had been discussed, sometimes vigorously, to re-examine the granted amount each year. The amount for research projects in mining technique and coal valorisation were reduced to 17 M ECU for 1994, whereas in the past this amount generally increased (22 M ECU in 1986, 25 M in 1988, 34 M in 1990, 50 M in 1993). Henceforth, mainly collaborative targeted projects would be supported financially.

A Framework Programme for Community research, development and demonstration activities, managed by Directorate-General XII, was indeed in place since 1984. The budget earmarked for the 4<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme was important: 967 M ECU over 5 years (1994-1998), of which 271 M ECU intended for research in the fossil fuel sector. Traditional mining research, on the contrary, was not covered by this programme.

A Working Group of the Technical Research Committee represented the environmental interests of CEPCEO Members within the "Best Available Technology – BAT" Group created by the European Commission, its remit being to determine the best possible procedures available in order to limit emissions from large combustion plants.

#### FIRST CONTACTS WITH CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COAL PRODUCERS

The Central Committee considered that it was essential to widen CEPCEO's membership, taking into account an ever more important market - with its specific difficulties - and considered the real possibilities to effectively represent all solid fuels - coal and lignite -, in particular with respect to the European institutions. This increased membership involved both new Members from the European Union and also countries from Central and Eastern Europe.



Lignite mining bucket wheel excavator

In order to widen the base of CEPCEO activities, initial contacts were established with countries wishing to belong to the European Union and with a coal industry, such as the Czech Republic, Hungary or Poland.

On June 16, 1995, with Mr. Spies von Büllenheim in the Chair, CEPCEO organised together with its General Assembly in Potsdam, a joint meeting of EU coal producers, EU lignite producers and coal and lignite producers of Central Europe. Delegations from Greece, Poland and Romania

were present, as well as *Scottish Coal*. Finally, *Coal Investments* was accepted as new Member. Furthermore, British Coal having been privatised and sold to several companies in July 1995, ceased to belong to CEPCEO on this same date. In October 1995, CEPCEO met the new Energy Commissioner, Mr. Papoutsis, in function since January. For him, imported and indigenous coal would maintain a good position in the European energy balance. But environmental problems concerning solid fuels would have to be taken into account. As for the "White Paper", the many contacts with DG XVII made it possible to significantly improve the sections devoted to solid fuels.

#### 1996: CEPCEO BECOMES CECISO

The statutes in force so far restricted CEPCEO membership only to hard coal producers from the European Union. Taking into account the importance of lignite in European energy production, it was considered necessary for the producers of this solid fuel to belong to the association. Due to the future enlargement of the European Union which would soon include 15 Member States and as, among the candidate Member States, there were also important coal and/or lignite producers who wished to join CEPCEO. It was necessary to adapt the statutes to this new development.

The Central Committee prepared the necessary amendments to the statutes and to the name of the association which would be called "Comité Européen des Combustibles Solides" (CECISO) (European Solid Fuels Association).

Henceforth, there would be two types of members:

- Active Members:
- *Wirtschaftsvereinigung Bergbau e.V.* (Germany);
- *Charbonnages de France*;
- *CARBUNION* (Spain);
- *Coal Investments plc* (Great Britain).
- Associate Members, accepted as such by the General Assembly.

#### REORGANISATION OF THE COMMITTEES' WORK

This was also an opportunity to change and adapt the many committees to the needs of the moment:

The General Energy Policy Committee became the General Purposes Committee. This Committee, with all the effective members of the Bureau having a seat, would deal with all the problems not specifically technical.

Henceforth, two Committees would have to carry out CEPCEO's tasks and missions:

- The General Purposes Committee;
- The Technical Research Committee, including the two "Waste Management" and "Environmental" Working Groups.



CEPCEO Technical Research Committee on mine visit, 1991

#### NEW MEMBERS

Widening the field of CECSO activities made it possible for the General Assembly of June 10, 1996 to accept new Members:

- *Deutscher Braunkohlen-Industrie-Verein* (DEBRIV), lignite producers' association in Germany together with *Gesamtverband des deutschen Steinkohlenbergbaus* (GVST) (coal producer), represented the whole German coal industry through the *Wirtschaftsvereinigung Bergbau* association, an Active Member of CECSO;
- *The Scottish Coal Company Ltd* (Active Member);
- *Federatia Patronala Miniera DIN Romania* (PAT RO MIN, Associate Member).

In 1996 and 1997, other producers or associations became CECSO Members, i.e.:

##### • Active Members:

- *Public Power Corporation* (PPC), lignite producer in Greece;
- *Confederation of Polish Lignite Industry* (PPWB), lignite producers' association in Poland.

##### • Associate Members:

- *Coal Research Establishment Group*, UK;

- *International Mining Consultants Ltd*, UK;
- *Institut Scientifique de Service Public* (ISSeP), Belgium;
- *Employers' Union of Mining & Oil Industries of the Czech Republic*.

#### THE FUTURE OF COAL RESEARCH

Meetings increased between CECSO and the European Commission to discuss the aftermath of the ECSC, i.e. the period after the expiry of the Treaty in July 2002. For Commissioner Bangemann (DG Research), the creation of an ECSC fund for research, financed by the interests on the ECSC remaining assets, was likely to succeed. The Energy Commissioner, Mr. Papoutsis, was determined to rapidly set up an Energy Consultative Committee. For CECSO, it was also important to ensure the phasing in into the European Treaty of the instruments of industrial relations policy provided for in the ECSC Treaty. Finally, there were requests to include mining research in the European Commission's future 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research. Among its activities, CECSO organized in May 1997, in collaboration with the European Energy Foundation, a parliamentary dinner-debate to stress that this research was essential and must appear separately in the 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme. The Technical Research Committee published the booklet "The Future of Community Coal Research and Development Funding" showing the need to finance research.



Modern lignite mining technology 2009

#### ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Until now, they had belonged to the Technical Research Committee. Taking into account the



EURACOAL on mine visit, 2003

amount of work on all matters related to the environment (review of the Directive on Large Combustion Plants; legislation on waste, water as well as environmental impact assessment), it was decided to create a new Environment Committee, which would take over the activities of the two Working Groups.

The Kyoto Protocol, signed on December 11, 1997, included three decisions: the general reduction of six gases with a greenhouse effect, a different reduction in each country and adaptation instruments for its implementation (Emissions Trading, action implemented jointly / "Joint Implementation" and "Clean Development Mechanisms"). CECSO (both the Environment and the General Purposes Committees) studied the practical consequences of this Protocol for the coal sector. It was a difficult task because many items were not precise.

CECSO played an active role in the work on the future Large Combustion Plant Directive. This Directive lowered the limits of emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and particles from new and existing installations. It was approved by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament early 2000.

What concerned CECSO was that energy policy concentrated more and more on energy efficiency and renewables, which would inevitably have an impact on solid fuels.

Energy taxation was also a concern. Whether a "green tax" or a tax on energy, it already applied in a number of Member States. A harmonization of this tax had been discussed since 1991 and

led to a Directive in 2003. Without success, the European Parliament considered that it was necessary above all to tax emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. In this case, this would have had major repercussions for the coal sector.

Despite all the efforts of the Members and of the Technical Research Committee, coal mining research would not finally receive financial support in the 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research, launched in February 1999. Only coal utilisation, in particular in power plants, was included. The only way of benefitting from European financial support was collaborating with third parties, in programmes including interests of the non coal sectors at European level.

The new legislative term of the Parliament and the Commission starting in 1999 went together with the reorganisation of various Directorate-Generals of the European Commission, such as the merger of DG for Transport and Energy in "DG TREN". An initial CECSO meeting with the new Energy Commissioner took place in November. Mrs. de Palacio decided in favour of coal (and also nuclear power) which, in her opinion, would remain the core of European energy supply in the medium-term. The aftermath of the ECSC and enlargement towards the east also had the attention of the Energy Commissioner.

CECSO's General Assembly of June 19, 1999, with Mr. Looses in the Chair, accepted the University of Nottingham as new Associate Member. This same Assembly agreed to the request of CECSO's Secretary-General, Jean van der Stichelen Rogier, to be discharged from his functions on June 30, 1999. His designated successor, Léopold Janssens, took over this function, on July 1, 1999.

The Kyoto Working Group finalised in January 2000 the brochure entitled "Solid Fuels for a Sustainable Future". This brochure attempted to demonstrate that solid fuels maintained a predominant role for energy production, while allowing sustainable development, i.e. while preserving the activities and quality of life of future generations. This document targeted decision makers and the political authorities of the Community.

Furthermore, a Position Paper on the European Commission's Green Paper «*Vers une stratégie européenne de sécurité d'approvisionnement énergétique*» was prepared, including objectives to be reached within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol was closely monitored. Another Working Group drafted a Position Paper on the European Commission's Green Paper «Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading». When discussing the right to trade emissions, CECSO, and in particular its Environment Committee, refuted the European Commission's proposals, arguing in favour of a European system based on a voluntary régime, an idea that gained ground.

The General Assembly of June 26, 2000, with Mr. Beermann in the Chair, accepted MATRA as a new Associate Member. Matra was established in Hungary and produced lignite and electricity.

Mr. Reichel, of GVSt (*Gesamtverband des deutschen Steinkohlenbergbaus*) and Chairman of CEPCEO's General Purposes Committee, was elected President of the ECSC Consultative Committee in Luxemburg for the period 2000-2001.

The Expiry of the ECSC Treaty in 2002 necessitated preparations to include ECSC rules in the Treaty of Rome. CECSO took part in this work concerning the Research Fund for Coal and Steel and State Aid.

The second half of 2000 saw oil prices soar. Even if this crisis was short-lived, it forced energy specialists to think and reconsider their supply policy. The moment was appropriate because the Green Paper on supply strategy was being drafted and CECSO had the opportunity to entice stakeholders who minimised the risks of security of EU energy supply to review certain preconceived ideas.

According to the informal and official opinions of the European Commission, climate problems linked to the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> were due to coal. The simplest solution, to respect the Kyoto commitments, would be to close down coal plants. In this spirit, the European Commission organised its first Conference on Energy and Transport in Barcelona in March 2001, devoted only to gas and oil.

CECSO countered this opinion and drew attention to the fact that climate protection and security of energy supply were much better responses than eliminating coal from the energy mix thanks to modern technology and Clean Coal Technology.

The Technical Research Committee strived for coal to receive a share of the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research. An agreement could be reached: five of the 248 amendments that were accepted concerned coal. This Framework Programme was launched mid December.

CECSO replied favourable to the invitation to contribute to a study for the World Energy Council (WEC). The aim of this «Global Coal Study» was to reinforce the presence of coal.

In the meantime, the European Commission wanted to extend the application of the Seveso II Directive to the coal industry. Another initiative was a Draft Directive on Mining Waste and on the management of Mining Waste. If these texts were to be adopted, they would result in important constraints for the coal industry. CECSO's Environment Committee was very vigilant and made its opinions known. The same applied to a Draft Directive on heavy metals in the atmosphere.

After the expiry of the ECSC Treaty, the coal industry would lose an important forum for discussion at European level. CECSO's role would become all the more important at that moment, as a platform for the common activity of solid fuel producers at European level. In this context, the Central Committee was of the opinion that the statutes had to be adapted to this trend. Enlarging CECSO's structures was unavoidable not only for coal operators and consumers but also for the coal industry of candidate countries. A working group therefore compiled an adapted version of the statutes.

#### EURACOAL – THE VOICE OF COAL IN EUROPE

The General Assembly, on June 17, 2002, under the Presidency of Mr. Beermann, unanimously adopted the new statutes of the association, now called EURACOAL (*European Association for Coal and Lignite*). The main amendments compared with



EURACOAL Executive Committee meeting in Yorkshire, 2004

the previous edition of the statutes were:

- dropping the distinction between Active and Associate Members;
- the classification of Members in Categories, in function of their financial contribution, determining their votes;
- enlargement to coal importers and consumers;
- a quorum and a voting procedure based on new principles;
- a simplification of the association's structure, limited to the General Assembly and Executive Comity as formal bodies.

This same General Assembly unanimously appointed Mr. Böcker as President of EURACOAL. On this occasion, the President granted the honorific title of Honorary Secretary-General to Mr. van der Stichelen Rogier for services to the coal industry. The General Assembly also welcomed as new Member the major lignite producer in Bulgaria: the company *Mini Maritza Iztok*.

A Market Committee was created at the request of Members to provide information on the economy and on energy and also EU statistics; this Committee would also monitor trends on European and international coal markets. The Chairman of this Committee was Mr. Ritschel of the German Association of Coal Importers.

EURACOAL launched its Web site «[www.euracoal.org](http://www.euracoal.org)» after all Members had provided information on their respective industries.

#### EXPIRY OF THE ECSC TREATY

The ECSC Treaty expired on July 23, 2002, 50 years after its ratification by 6 states to create a community of concrete interests and solidarity. This event was first solemnly celebrated in Luxemburg, in the presence of HRH Jean, Duke of Luxemburg and then in Brussels. An exhibition, organised with the active collaboration of the coal producers within EURACOAL, outlined the development of the coal and steel industries in this European Community.

With the end of the ECSC, the Consultative Committee had ceased its activities. The coal and steel sectors fell under the leadership of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The «Consultative Commission on Industrial Change » (CCMI) was created to include the representatives of the coal, steel and other industries. Four representatives of the coal producers would have a seat. EURACOAL would actively take part in the activities of this Commission, even if they would have less influence than those set up in the framework of the ECSC.



Modern mine heat frame, 2009

The European Commission published its Green Paper «Towards a European Strategy for the Security of Energy Supply» on November 29, 2002. Coal was dealt with very briefly and, furthermore, was downgraded to a source of energy of the past. The European Commission very much stressed energy demand but neglected the issue of a sufficient supply of energy. EURACOAL had to react and defend the image of solid fuels and also their important role for the energy mix.

At the Extraordinary General Assembly of January 27, 2003, EURACOAL unanimously admitted the following industries and associations:

- Confederation of the UK Coal Producers (CoalPro);
- GKB-Bergbau GmbH (Austria);
- Verein Deutscher Kohlenimporteure (VDKI);
- Electric Power Industry of Serbia (EPS);
- Gesamtverband des deutschen Steinkohlenbergbaus (GVSt);
- Deutscher Braunkohlen-Industrie-Verein (DEBRIV).

The last two associations previously belonged to Wirtschaftsvereinigung Bergbau.

Two more associations and a company would be admitted at the next General Assembly in June, i.e.

- EURISCOAL (Group of coal importers);
- Fachverband Bergbaumaschinen VDMA (Germany);
- Coaltrans Conferences Ltd (UK).

#### EMISSIONS TRADING AS THE MAJOR ISSUE

EURACOAL's priorities focused on European policy in the fields of energy, the climate and the environment. Emissions trading was the topic causing concern for the coal industry, especially for coal-fired power plants. The Draft Directive was unilaterally geared towards CO<sub>2</sub>, whereas emissions trading should result in an improved efficiency within a balanced energy landscape, varying from one country to another. EURACOAL obviously monitored the development of this directive very carefully.

The Environment Committee focused on draft directives on mining waste, emissions trading and underground water as well as on strategy to

protect soil and the further development of the Seveso II Directive.

The Market Committee, publishing its very quarterly detailed reports, much appreciated by the coal sector, described the explosion of coal and coke prices on world markets in 2003. This situation resulted from the strong economic growth in China, its important decrease of coal and coke exports together with the increase in seaborne freight and the logistic problems in ports.

After intense work and precious collaboration between its Members, EURACOAL released an important brochure «Coal industry across Europe». This publication included all the details on coal and lignite mining in each country of the Enlarged Europe, as well as statistics. It also described the role and potential of coal for the energy supply of the EU. This brochure was distributed at the COALTRANS Conference in Vienna.

A EURACOAL delegation met Mr. Verheugen, Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry. This meeting was an excellent opportunity to present the association and to discuss topical issues, such as *Clean Coal Technology* and emissions trading.

#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Already in November 2000, the European Commission had set up, in accordance with Article 138 of the EC Treaty, a «European Sectoral Committee for the Social Dialogue in the Extractive Industries», established by the European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers' Federation (EMCEF) and the employers' organisations CECISO - later



European Social Dialogue in Greece, 2000

EURACOAL - and APEP (Association of European Potash Producers). On the employers' side later EUROMINES and IMA, the Industrial Minerals Association as well the Granulates Association UEPG became members.

In the framework of the European Social Dialogue, social partners and the European Commission met in Bucharest mid-April 2003 for a conference to promote sustainable development in the European mining industries. As a rule, a Social Dialogue «Extractive Industries» conference was organized every two years, e.g. 2005 in Bucharest. The regular Social Dialogue included 4 working group meetings as well as 2 plenaries each year. Over the years, major topics were health and safety, the education of employees and EU policies related to raw materials

#### ENLARGEMENT: EU-25

On May 1, 2004 the Enlarged European Union went from 15 to 25 Member States. This enlargement was the most important in the history of the EU, originating in the end of communism, symbolised by the Fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, providing the opportunity, unexpectedly and without precedent, of extending EU stability and prosperity to citizens of central and eastern Europe.

#### THE END OF CHARBONNAGES DE FRANCE

«La Houve», the last coal pit in France, ceased production in April 2004. A impressive and moving event organised at the mine with coal miners and the local population celebrated the end of coal extraction in France.



Last coal waggon in Lorraine 2004

Charbonnages de France maintained a «post-mining» activity till end of 2007 when CdF, founding Member of CEPCEO in 1953, left EURACOAL. The activity to recultivate the ancient mining sites of CdF was taken over by the *Bureau de recherches géologiques et minières* (BRGM), who became a Member of EURACOAL instead of CdF as from 1st January 2008.

#### CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY AND CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE

The accession of ten states from eastern Europe, the important increase in coal production after this enlargement as well as CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage were so many new factors that brought a new dimension to the dialogue between the coal industry and the European institutions.

Geo-political tensions in the Near and Middle East, but also the economic growth of certain emerging countries, pushed energy prices up in Europe. These events also influenced the debates on EU energy policy. Coal was once again perceived more and more as a stabilising factor, enabling Europe to ensure its energy supply at the best price.

EURACOAL published in January 2005 the «Clean Coal» brochure that was forwarded to the European bodies responsible for energy and to decision-makers at national level. The concept of *Clean Coal* defended by EURACOAL was the key notion for a sustainable supply of electricity. EURACOAL expressed its conviction that a balanced approach to constraining climate policy criteria was to pursue clean coal technology for coal-fired power plants, progressing in three stages:

- Reduction of emissions from existing power plants;
- Improved efficiency of new and existing power plants;
- In the long-term, build coal-fired power plants without emissions, but with CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage.

These objectives were to be presented (and supported) by Members to the national and European authorities responsible for energy and the environment when meeting them personally, at events and public conferences and also in writing.



Modern high-efficient power plant in Denmark, 2010

EURACOAL and the European Commission's DG Energy jointly organised on October 5, 2004 their first *Coal Dialogue*. Representatives from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the energy industry sector and coal experts from Member States together with EURACOAL Members discussed European coal production, the coal market and current energy policy. The success of this event was encouraging and led to six joint Commission and EURACOAL Coal Dialogues with up to 100 participants in each event till May 2010.

At the meetings of the Brussels Energy Round Table (BERT) and of the European Energy Foundation (EEF), EURACOAL provided information on the future role of coal and the last trends concerning CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage. The association was also represented at conferences and meetings at Katowice, Geneva, Barcelona and Strasburg.

At a EURACOAL conference in January 2005 the new Commissioner for Energy, Mr. Piebalgs, outlined the priorities of EU energy policy among which improved energy efficiency, a better coordination of energy, environmental and research policies and the issue of security of supply.

The VII<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research stressed two topics concerning clean coal, i.e. Clean Coal Technologies and CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage. This programme was satisfactory for EURACOAL, because the European Commission considered the importance of this technology and what was at stake.

At the Executive Committee meeting of January 24, 2005, Mr. Böcker confirmed that he would step down as President of EURACOAL. After a written consultation, Members appointed Mr. Yaxley as new President and Mr. Kavouridis as Vice-President.

The application for membership of Premogovnik Velenje had already been accepted in June 2004, in June 2005 followed by

- *Hornonitranske Bane Prievidza* (HBP), lignite producer in Slovakia;
- *RMU Banovici*, lignite producer in Bosnia.

On the other hand, end 2004, the Austrian producer GKB after exhausting exploitable lignite reserves, ceased all activity. GKB then resigned from EURACOAL membership.

In his message to the Members, President Yaxley mentioned, among EURACOAL's many activities the monitoring of and participation in the work undertaken in order to establish Clean Coal and CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage in EU-25 energy policies. The President also announced that at the end of June, the Secretary-General, Mr. Léopold Janssens, would retire. As from July 1, 2005, Mr. Thorsten Diercks would succeed him.

#### CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE APPEARS IN EU PAPERS

The planned system of trading emission quotas was a vital issue for the coal industry. EURACOAL - especially its General Purposes Committee -



EURACOAL President Böcker (2nd right) visits BoA Niederaussem, 2003

intervened without discontinuing and energetically in this debate on many occasions, also organising three Workshops on this topic.

The European Commission compiled a Green Paper entitled, «A European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy», closely followed by EURACOAL's General Purposes Committee. The Green Paper was published in March 2006. This paper was well received by the coal industry, even though it did not focus too much on coal extraction or utilisation. Nevertheless, it confirmed that coal was part of the solution aiming at a sustainable energy strategy.

The topic of energy strategy would be debated in September 2005 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> «Coal Dialogue», again organised jointly by EURACOAL and the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission, and also at the 1<sup>st</sup> Fossil Fuels Forum in Berlin, organised shortly afterwards by DG TREN. Other debates would be devoted to the same topic in the following months. EURACOAL also took part in the debate on the legal framework concerning the storage of CO<sub>2</sub> in underground geological formations.

In order to improve contacts with the Members of the European Parliament, EURACOAL and a group of MEPs set up a Roundtable on Coal, called «Coal Round». This group meets regularly, providing the opportunity to discuss targeted issues concerning coal and to reply to questions being debated by the European Parliament.

#### THE «PROGNOS» STUDY

EURACOAL commissioned the consultant «Prognos» to compile a comprehensive study on the future role of coal in Europe. The final Report included a series of scenarios in function of different potential developments in the power sector at the horizon 2030. The scenarios consider various potential trends for energy and CO<sub>2</sub> prices and also different deadlines for CCS installations coming on line (Carbon Capture and Storage). These scenarios are based on the trends mentioned in the European Commission's «Trends to 2030» paper. The Report covered both EU-27 in general and also each Member State separately.

All the scenarios analysed lead to the conclusion that the production of electricity in Europe will depend mainly on fossil fuels till 2030. All sources of energy will be necessary. The evolution of the price difference between gas and coal will be crucial when choosing the energy to produce electricity in Europe in the future. The different costs of CO<sub>2</sub>, in economic terms, will also have an important impact in function of the choice of restrictive constraints linked to climate protection.

#### THE CLIMATE PACKAGE

The European Commission in January 2008 presented a series of measures concerning the climate and energy entitled the «Climate Package» to the coal industry on the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Coal Dialogue. Among these measures was the emissions trading scheme as from 2013 that foresees - as a rule - auctioning for all quotas in the energy sector. The energy sector is the most penalised because many other industries benefit from free quotas for reasons of competition.



President Yaxley (centre) 2005

EURACOAL organised several meetings to follow the review of the directive. The coal industry sought to convince public opinion of the need to maintain coal-fired power plants and to establish a reference-price system. Nowadays, approximately 30 % of electricity in the EU is generated by coal-fired power plants. Members also contributed to this effort by contacting their national authorities.

The «Climate Package» also included a Directive allowing CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage) at European level. This measure removes a major

obstacle to the development of CCS. Other measures are maintained, such as: transposition into national legislation, financing pilot installations, CCS infrastructure, public acceptance and of course technological issues. The set of Directives was accepted by the Council and the Parliament in December 2008, within only one year.

After the success of the brochure «Coal Industry Across Europe», published by EURACOAL in 2003 and 2005, a new 2008 edition, completely reviewed, is published in October 2008. Following the interest in this brochure, more than 5.000 copies were printed, more than half being distributed at the World Mining Congress in Krakow and at the COALTRANS Conference in Prague.

EURACOAL's Web site is revamped and keeps its visitors up-to-date on the latest developments in energy policy.

## THE SECOND STRATEGIC ENERGY REVIEW AND ITS FOLLOW-UP

In November 2008, the European Commission presented its Second Energy Review (SER II) aiming to give a new thrust to energy security in Europe. The Commission examined in detail security of supply and evaluated the role of coal favourably. Among five suggestions, a better use of energy resources in Europe retained the attention of the European coal industry. This analysis was a reference for EURACOAL in 2009. In a Position Paper, the coal industry mentioned major arguments to justify maintaining indigenous coal production in several EU Member States. This Position Paper invited the European Commission to:

- Implement security of supply, a balanced energy mix and the degree of dependency on hydrocarbon imports into all relevant Commission impact assessments;
- Examine the possibility to publish a map of the strategic energy resources in the main mining areas in the EU;
- Make sure that access to land remains possible for extractive industries via planning permissions, if necessary also in protected zones.

Investing in mines or in ports receiving imported coal remains indispensable and requires a reliable concept for coal utilisation, either for petrochemicals, heating, producing steel or generating electricity.

The 5<sup>th</sup> “Coal Dialogue”, organised jointly by the Directorate-General Transport & Energy of the European Commission and by EURACOAL, took place in May 2009, bringing together representatives of Member States, of the European Parliament and the coal industry. EURACOAL highlighted the important role that coal can play to limit dependency on imported energies and also supports the European Commission's proposal to develop a series of recommendations on the better use of indigenous fossil fuel resources. The Commission's plans for a CCS network and 10 to 12 pilot CCS plants by 2015 receive a very warm welcome.

After an interruption while the new European Parliament started work, the Coal Round met again in the autumn of 2009 for the 10<sup>th</sup> time since it was set up in June 2007. This Coal Round provides the opportunity to EURACOAL Members to discuss coal-related issues with MEPs, and especially emissions trading, the Industrial Emissions Directive and developments concerning Carbon Capture and Storage.

From 2007 to 2010 the General Assembly unanimously admitted as Members:

- *the Greek Research Institute for Solid Fuels Technology and Applications (ISFTA)* - January 2007,



President Klank (right), 2008



President Pudil, 2009

- *the Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM), replacing Charbonnages de France* – January 2007,
- *the UK Coal Importers' Association Coallmp* – June 2007,
- *the Ukrainian association of employers in the coal sector Ukrvuglerobotodavtsy* – January 2008
- *the Swedish coal institute Svenska Kolinstitutet* – January 2008
- *KOMAG, a Polish institute for research and development in techniques to extract and treat coal and other minerals* – June 2008
- *Turkish Coal Enterprises (TKI)* – January 2009
- *the Bulgarian lignite producer Vagledobiv Bobov Dol* – January 2010
- and the private company *DTEK, largest coal producer in Ukraine*, - January 2010.

With four more applications for membership for the June 2010 General Assembly EURACOAL looks forward to representing 33 coal associations and companies from 18 countries.

The name of the “General Purposes Committee” was changed to “Energy Policy Committee” in order to reflect its focus. This Committee, chaired by Mr. George Milojcic, also remains in charge of general organisational affairs as in the past.

## GLOBAL CLIMATE PROTECTION CONFERENCES: COP 15 IN COPENHAGEN

Despite intense preparations and numerous preliminary conferences, the Conference of the Parties COP 15 in Copenhagen in December 2009, ended

without a global agreement on future climate protection. Failure to achieve results is largely due to exaggerated optimism concerning success, to opponents who are against an agreement but also to certain weaknesses in the UNFCCC scientific reports. However, EURACOAL continues to defend, without discontinuing and in a measured way, the development of the existing energy system. This implies respecting the climate protection objectives within a global strategy and maintaining a European industry that is competitive at international level. Private consumers must also be supplied with electricity at reasonable conditions.

Since the beginning of 2010, EURACOAL continues to repeat that new coal-fired power plants are necessary in addition to replacing old power plants, in order to greatly reduce emissions thanks to modern technology improving power plant efficiency. Member States should use the option in the EU Climate Package to promote new fossil-fuelled power stations with proceeds from Emissions Trading, covering 15% of total investments. When building power plants, the space to extend them must be foreseen so that they are “capture-ready” as soon as this technology is perfectly mastered. Carbon Capture and Storage also remains a very important option for the period after 2020, particularly if industrialised countries must reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases by 80 % or more by 2050. In order to reach the objectives related to CCS, EU Member States together with industry, must overcome obstacles of legal, financial, infrastructural nature and also, probably more difficultly, public acceptance. An initial case will be the construction of 10 to 12 pilot plants throughout the EU by 2015.

The EU should further advocate a balanced energy mix at European and national levels, including a considerable share of coal. This has so far been a winning policy. It should be integrated in the forthcoming EU energy policy strategy till 2030.



## EPILOGUE

Since the first European Treaty, the ECSC Treaty in 1953, EU-6 evolved into EU-27 with coal and lignite gaining in importance. Solid fuels continue to produce more than 25% of electricity in Europe, a very important share and indispensable for the well-being of European citizens generally.

EURACOAL continues and will continue to raise its voice for coal in Europe and in favour of a strong and dynamic Europe.



*Saint Barbara, patron of all miners*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY & PRESIDENTS

DATE (end of mandate)	VENUE	PRESIDENT
25/01/1952	Antwerpen (B)	
07/07/1952	Noordwijk (NL)	
06/09/1952	Bruxelles (B)	
17/02/1953	Bruxelles (B)	
21/03/1953	Paris (F)	
30/10/1953	Bad Bertrich (D)	Wirtz (NL)
04/05/1954	Noordwijk (NL)	Wirtz (NL)
05/10/1954	Knokke (B)	Wirtz (NL)
28/05/1955	Tours (FR)	Wirtz (NL)
23/05/1956	Petersburg (D)	Wirtz (NL)
01/06/1957	Amsterdam (NL)	Burckhardt (D)
09/06/1958	Avignon (FR)	Burckhardt (D)
15/05/1959	Antwerpen (B)	Burckhardt (D)
27/05/1960	Berlin (D)	Couture (FR)
27/05/1961	Den Haag (NL)	Couture (FR)
12/05/1962	London (GB)	Couture (FR)
29/05/1963	Dijon (FR)	Delville (B)
11/06/1964	Liège (FR)	Delville (B)
17/05/1965	Bad Reichenhall (D)	Delville (B)
24/05/1966	Rotterdam (NL)	Burckhardt (D)
22/05/1967	Edinburgh (GB)	Burckhardt (D)
20/05/1968	Juan-les-Pins (FR)	Burckhardt (D)
19/05/1969	Knokke (B)	Burckhardt (D)
25/05/1970	Bad Harzburg (D)	Gardent (FR)
11/05/1971	Torremolinos (SP)	Gardent (FR)
08/05/1972	Amsterdam (NL)	Gardent (FR)
21/05/1973	St Yves / Cornwall (GB)	Peeters (B)
10/06/1974	Biarritz (FR)	Ezra (GB)
02/06/1975	Wépion-sur-Meuse (B)	Ezra (GB)
14/06/1976	Konstanz (D)	Ezra (GB)
13/06/1977	Bruxelles (B)	Bund (D)
12/06/1978	Santiago de Compostelle (SP)	Bund (D)
18/06/1979	Bournemouth (GB)	Bund (D)
28/05/1980	Ajaccio (FR)	Bund (D)
02/06/1981	Knokke (B)	Bund (D)
24/05/1982	Rothenburg o/d Tauber (D)	Delmon (B)
30/05/1983	Sevilla (SP)	Urbain (B)
18/06/1984	Edinburgh (GB)	Urbain (B)
29/05/1985	Bruxelles (B)	Hug (FR)
05/05/1986	Blois (FR)	Hug (FR)
25/05/1987	Gensval (BE)	Horn (D)
07/06/1988	Essen (D)	Horn (D)
12/06/1989	Madrid (SP)	Arroyo Quinones (SP)
18/06/1990	Limelette (B)	Arroyo Quinones (SP)
17/06/1991	Londres (GB)	Artieda Bosquets (SP)
15/06/1992	Bruxelles (B)	Kenneth Couzens (GB)
28/06/1993	Versailles (FR)	Kenneth Couzens (GB)
20/06/1994	Bruxelles (B)	Spies von Büllenheim (D)
16/06/1995	Potsdam (D)	Spies von Büllenheim (D)
10/06/1996	Bruxelles (B)	Spies von Büllenheim (D)
08/06/1997	Sinaia (RO)	Bouvet (FR)
15/06/1998	Bruxelles (B)	Looses (FR)
19/06/1999	Wroclaw (PL)	Looses (FR)
26/06/2000	Limelette (B)	Beermann (D)
25/06/2001	Essen (D)	Beermann (D)
17/06/2002	Bruxelles (B)	Beermann (D)
16/06/2003	Bruxelles (B)	Böcker (D)
21/06/2004	Yorkshire (GB)	Böcker (D)
20/06/2005	Bruxelles (B)	Yaxley (GB)
19/06/2006	Prague (CZ)	Yaxley (GB)
25/06/2007	Bucharest (RO)	Klank (PL)
23/06/2008	Wroclaw (PL)	Klank (PL)
22/06/2009	Berlin (D)	Pudil (CZ)
21/06/2010	Bruxelles (B)	Pudil (CZ)

