The object of this conference is to clarify the implications of trends in the factors of competitiveness stemming from developments in technology and its growing internationalisation.

The conference is organised by the French Ministries of Industry and Regional Planning and of Research and Technology in cooperation with the OECD. It is part of the Technology-Economy Programme (TEP) initiated by the OECD in 1988, and the conference conclusions will be incorporated into a TEP report to be presented to the OECD Council ministerial meeting in 1991.

The following principal questions will be examined by the experts, industry representatives and public policymakers participating in the conference:

-- Does the growing interpenetration of economies and enhanced interdependence of competitive forces modify the technological bases of industrial competitiveness and national economic performance?

-- What new strategic orientations and forms of organisation and labour enhancement allow firms to maximise technological opportunities in strengthening their competitive positions?

-- How has the adoption of these strategies affected the interaction between firms and their local and national environment?

-- What new priorities does this imply for government policies at the national level and in the framework of international cooperation?
• The two final plenary sessions of the third day will be open to the press, and journalists will have opportunities to meet with the heads of participating large corporations (Siemens, Nec, Péchiney, Renault, American Express notably) and with high level civil servants from OECD Member Countries. Texts of participants’ speeches will be available at the conference.

• The final plenary session will be opened by Mr. Hubert Curien, Minister for Research and Technology, and closed by Mr. Roger Fauroux, Minister for Industry and Regional Planning.

• Some 150 international experts from OECD Member countries and from international organisations (World Bank, The European Commission, UNCTAD), as well as official representatives from OECD Governments will participate in the conference.

• A detailed programme is available from the OECD Press Division, 2 rue André Pascal, 75775 Paris cedex 16 (tel: 45 24 80 88 or 80 89).

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END-OF-TEXT