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DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY  
STEEL COMMITTEE

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**ASSESSMENT BY THE DELEGATIONS OF 1997 RESULTS AND PROSPECTS FOR  
1998 AND 1999 CONCERNING THE STEEL MARKET IN THE WORLD REGIONS  
AND INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES**

*Delegations will find attached a request for information to be used for the preparation of the report "The Steel Market in 1997 and the Outlook for 1998 and 1999". Delegations are requested to make their information available to the Secretariat by 16 March 1998, at the latest.*

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**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DELEGATIONS FOR THEIR ASSESSMENT OF 1997 RESULTS  
1998 AND 1999 CONCERNING THE STEEL MARKET IN THE WORLD, REGIONS AND  
INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES**

1. Apart from the preparation of a short statement on the OECD steel market in 1998 for issue as a press release in February 1998, the programme of work of the Steel Committee for 1998, which was approved at its 50th meeting, provides for a report to be prepared for publication early in the year on the short term outlook for the world steel market. This would review developments in 1997 and the outlook for 1998 and 1999 with regard to consumption, production, trade and employment; and it was envisaged that the report would in general follow the pattern of the earlier reports, the most recent being “The Steel Market in 1995 and the Outlook for 1996 and 1997”.

2. The draft report will be examined by the Committee under the written procedure before the end of April 1998, in order to permit to issue the publication before the summer period. Delegations are asked to send the Secretariat a note giving the assessment of:

- (a) 1997 results,
- (b) 1998 prospects for their countries,
- (c) 1999 prospects for their countries when available.

The note should reach the Secretariat by **16 March 1998**, at the latest.

3. **The assessments for member countries should be reasonably brief but should cover clearly and adequately the following points:**

- **On the supply side, in particular the development of:**
  - crude steel production,
  - production via continuous casting,
  - crude steelmaking capacity, and,
  - manpower;

- **On the demand side, the development of:**
  - **the activity in the main steel consuming sectors,**
  - **apparent steel consumption,**
  - **steel trade (with OECD and non-OECD).**

Estimates -- even qualitative -- of the development of real steel consumption and of steel stocks would be useful.

4. It would, moreover, be useful if Delegations could indicate to the Secretariat any information on the likely 1998 and 1999 prospects for non-Member countries.

5. As the preparation of the report is partly based on the data provided in response to the questionnaire for the Continuous Information System, Delegations are asked to respect the deadline indicated in that questionnaire (see DSTI/SU/SC(98)2).

6. In addition to the informations requested in paragraph 3 above, Delegations are asked to fill in the following synoptic table.

**Country :**

Series	Data 1997 in volume	Outlook for			
		1998		1999	
		in volume	or in %	in volume	or in %
1. Crude steel capacity					
2. Crude steel production					
3. Continuous casted production					
4. <u>Steel trade</u> a. Total imports b. Total exports					
5. <u>Employment</u> :  Total employment in the iron & steel industry					
6. <u>Stocks</u> : a. Level in 1997 : _____ b. Variation 97/96 : _____ c. Variation 98/97: _____					