

tant and that is why, it focuses its attention in changing the oil demand towards some other types of energy. The oil sector is a mature sector and we should not expect a large increase in demand within the short or long term.

- The natural gas sector will take advantage of the European energy policy. The Commission wants to keep the market share of natural gas to, at least 19%. In 1987, the natural gas market share was exactly 19% (199 Mtoe). The Community was importing 36% of this total. This type of energy is gaining more and more importance in the Community for two major reasons:

- 1- The capacity of the Community to produce as much as it needs through increased gas exploration mainly in the U.K. and the Netherlands.
- 2- The environmental groups are all favoring the natural gas which does not have bad effects on the environment. Since the environment consciousness is a rising movement, it would appear that natural gas will be the future energy source.

- On graphs 4 and 5, we can see the current countries producers of oil and gas in the Community. We can notice that the oil production is widely distributed over the Community Territory. Six countries have more than 10% of the total production: Germany (18%), U.K. (17%), Italy (16%), France (15%), Netherlands (11%), Spain (10%). In the natural gas sector however, the situation is quite different. There are two major producers: Netherlands (42%) and U.K. (31%), while countries such as Germany and Italy, with 10% each, are trying to increase their share in a market that is growing rapidly compared to the oil sector.

In this next graph (graph #6), we can notice the combined proportion of production of oil and gas, but here we only consider the crude oil for which the U.K. produce about 80% of the EC twelve countries production.