

TABLE 6

Competitive Position of Plastics Producers

Country	% Shares in OECD Exports, 1986	Plastics as % Total Industrial Exports, 1986	% Shares in World Inventions 1982-86
W. Germany	23.1	3.7	19.4
U.K.	5.9	2.6	5.7
France	8.9	3.4	4.2
Italy	6.5	2.7	2.0
Spain	1.4	2.5	0.1
EC 12	67.8	3.8	33.6
U.S.	9.8	2.3	37.7
Japan	8.1	1.4	23.2
Switzerland	2.1	2.0	1.9
World	N/A	2.7	100.0

Source: *Europe in 1993: Economic Outlook by Sector*, BIPE, Paris, Table 3.

N/A: Not applicable.

Note: Inventions included in total where patent exists in at least two countries. Export series for EC excludes Spain, Portugal and Greece.

for Europe/European Research on Advanced Materials (BRITE/EURAM) research and development program through which the Community will cover 50 per cent of the R&D costs of approved projects jointly undertaken by companies in at least two different Member States. This will do much to marshal European resources at an EC level and achieve a high level of international competitiveness.

Some areas of European strength in advanced ceramics already exist. Germany, Sweden, the U.K., and France (in that order) are the technological leaders in this area in Europe. Their leadership is based on industries in which they have strength and for which

ceramics promise particularly useful applications — specifically, the automobile industry, atomic energy generation, as refractories in metal refining, and in defence products.³²

2.3 Pharmaceuticals

The pharmaceutical industry includes drugs for application in human and veterinary medicines and related preparations such as vitamins and hormones, diagnostic products, vaccines and homoeopathic products. The five largest EC countries account for a little less than 80 per cent of community pharmaceutical production, and of those five countries, France and West Germany are the most important (see Table 7).