

Information document on Euratom (June 1957)

Caption: In June 1957, the French Embassy in New York publishes an information document on Euratom to send to its American correspondents.

Source: Euratom, Six nations to pool atomic research and development (European Affairs - No. 11). New York: Ambassade de France, Service de presse et d'information, June 1957. 8 p.

Copyright: (c) Service de presse et d'information, Ambassade de France

All rights of reproduction, public communication, adaptation, distribution or dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

The documents available on this Web site are the exclusive property of their authors or right holders.

Requests for authorisation are to be addressed to the authors or right holders concerned.

Further information may be obtained by referring to the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/information_document_on_euratom_june_1957-en-ec2e7de9-a7cc-4b88-93b8-7d70d2b9b920.html

Publication date: 24/10/2012

Euratom, Six nations to pool atomic research and development (June 1957)

The signing in Rome, on March 25, 1957, of the Treaties Creating a European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and a European Economic Community (Common Market) has both a political and an economic significance for the six countries of Western Europe — France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg — and for their allies of the free world.

Politically speaking, Euratom is, along with the already existing coal-steel pool and with the Common Market, part of the gradual integration of the European community (1). From the economic standpoint, it can enable these nations to solve their most pressing problem — the access to new sources of energy — and ensure the future development of their industrial potential.

Europe's Growing Energy Deficit

About a hundred years ago, Great Britain and Western Europe furnished three fourths of the world's coal production. Those countries then held the key to economic development and had become large exporters of energy and manufactured products.

Today, the six countries of Western Europe alone produce more coal than was mined in the whole world a century ago. They have already extensively developed their sources of hydroelectric power. Yet, the rapid increase in their imports proves that their production of energy is inadequate to meet the demand.

Total Imports of Energy by the Six Countries

<u>In % of Consumption</u>		<u>Cost in Constant Prices</u>
1937	5 %	
1957	25 %	\$2 billion
1965 (est.)	33 %	\$4 billion
1975 (est.)	40 %	\$6 billion

Such a rise would not only entail considerable expenditures, but would also risk seriously jeopardizing the economic progress, and even the political security, of the European countries.

Thus, in order to protect her economy, Europe is now attempting to utilize new forms of power. In view of her great needs, she could not accomplish this without turning to atomic energy, to be used chiefly in the production of electricity.

A Target for Euratom: 15 Million Kw. by 1967

In the first place, with the exception of French industry — which is now building an atomic power plant and is about to begin construction of several others — the industries in continental Europe have practically no experience as yet in the field of nuclear energy. Secondly, the national programs of the six countries together, as defined just before the signing of the Euratom Treaty, would result in the production of about 6 million kw. by 1967. In the face of growing needs, this effort would be obviously inadequate to check the rise in fuel imports and to remedy Europe's lag with respect to the more advanced countries in the nuclear field.

In order to stabilize imports at the 1963 level — for nuclear energy will not, in any event, be able to make any substantial contribution before that date — the six states will have to incorporate 15 million kw. of nuclear energy into their electric power systems during the next ten years, or two and a half times the total estimated output under the present plans of each of the six countries.

This is the projected goal of the future European Atomic Energy Community. In order to attain this goal, its members must cooperate with each other by:

- coordinating nuclear research;
- sharing technical skills;
- pooling industrial resources;
- organizing a common market for nuclear equipment in order to stimulate industrial specialization;
- working together to obtain the collaboration of outside states, in particular the United States, Great Britain and Canada,

France's Five-Year Atomic plan

French efforts to develop nuclear energy fit into an international framework, consisting not only of Euratom but also of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation and the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency.

During the next five years, France intends to invest a total of \$1.4 billion, which will make her one of the principal producers of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Half the funds provided for, or \$ 714.2 million in five years, will be allocated to the Atomic Energy Commission for research, development of experimental models and the training of technicians. During this period, 15 % of the young engineers and technicians trained in specialized institutions and universities will be hired for atomic industry. The other half of the funds will be allotted to industrial development, for which Electricité de France will be responsible.

The new plan shows France's determination to speed as much as possible the development of her nuclear industry. The amount she will spend during the next five years represents more than four times the amount spent in this field since 1945 (\$ 342.8 million), a modest sum in comparison with the investment made by the major atomic powers, but one which has already made possible remarkable achievements.

French Achievements in the Atomic Field

[Map of France]

The estimated results of the new five-year plan, with regard to the production of power will include:

- production of 1,500 tons of uranium by 1961, 3,000 tons by 1970;
- opening of the first atomic power plant at Avoine in 1959 and installation of two supplementary piles;
- an output of 60,000 kw. of electricity produced by nuclear power in 1959, 2,000,000 kw. by 1965 and 4,000,000 kw. by 1967 (2).

Principal provisions of the Euratom Treaty

The Institutions

The *Council* will be the supreme authority of the Community. Each member state will delegate a minister to it. The decisions are to be taken by simple majority, qualified majority or unanimously. In the case of a qualified majority, the votes of the member states are to be weighted as follows: 4 each for France, Germany and Italy, 2 each for Belgium and The Netherlands and 1 for Luxembourg. The qualified majority will consist of 12 votes.

The *European Atomic Energy Commission* will be the permanent organ of Euratom. Its 5 members, chosen

from among the nationals of the participating states, will serve for a term of four years and may be reappointed for a second term. The Commission, whose jurisdiction will extend to all the domains in which the Community is active, will be an administrative body under the Council's authority.

The *Assembly* of Euratom will be that of the European Coal and Steel Community and the Common Market as well. It will hold annual sessions and supervise the activity of the Council and the Commission. It will study, in particular, the budget and the annual report of the Commission on its management

The *Scientific and Technical Committee* is to consist of 20 members chosen by the Council. This Committee must be consulted with regard to changes in the Community's nuclear research program as well as the creation of joint nuclear research centers.

In addition to this group of institutions, provision is made for a *Court of Justice* —serving both Euratom and the Common Market and charged with ensuring respect for the law in the interpretation and implementation of the treaty — as well as for a 101-member *Economic and Social Committee*. This is an advisory body which must be consulted by the Commission regarding nuclear production goals and investments.

Research and Exchange of Technical Knowledge

The essential task of the Euratom Commission will be to coordinate research among the member states. Each country will communicate its programs to the Commission for that purpose. It can facilitate their implementation by direct financial support, by supplying raw materials and equipment, or by lending scientific personnel.

Along the same lines, the Commission is responsible for drawing up its own research and training programs. The participating states have already agreed to make a total of \$ 215 million available to Euratom so that the first five-year research plan may be put into effect. This program will supplement the research conducted by the six member states under their own plans.

The treaty provides that the members of Euratom will share with each other all information concerning atomic energy, including the secret data in their possession.

Nuclear Common Market

The member states will abolish among themselves, a year after the Treaty's entry into force, all customs duties and import quotas on products to be used in nuclear industries. Nevertheless, the overseas territories that are dependencies of a member state may continue to collect duties of a purely fiscal nature, provided these duties are the same for all the countries of the Community.

The member states will establish, by several stages, a common tariff on imports from outside countries.

The Treaty also provides for the free movement of capital to be invested in nuclear industries. All restrictions on access to positions in the nuclear field, based on nationality, will be eliminated.

Supply of Ores and Nuclear Fuels

An Agency will be set up within the Community which will have a right of option on ores, source materials (natural uranium, thorium) and special fissionable materials (uranium 235, uranium 233, plutonium) produced on the territories of the member states. It will also have the exclusive right to contract for supplying these materials from inside or outside the Community.

An exception has nevertheless been made to the principle of equal access of the various users to the resources of the Community. This exception is intended to give guarantees to the member states which — through their own work of prospect ion and extraction, or through bilateral agreements — have assured their own supplies for carrying out long-term projects. These guarantees will enable them to bring such projects

to a successful conclusion. Thus the states which have built reactors that will be ready for service before the expiration of a seven-year period — counting from the date of the Treaty's entry into force — will have priority in the use of the ores and source materials produced in their territories, or covered by a bilateral agreement concluded before the Treaty's entry into force. This priority will apply during a maximum period of ten years from the time the Treaty enters into force.

Ownership of Fissionable Materials

Special fissionable materials are to be the property of the Community, but the Treaty specifies that the users (states or private enterprises) will have the broadest possible right regarding the use and consumption of these same materials. This means that the restrictions placed on the use of special fissionable materials will not result from the Community's ownership, but from its rights of control in matters of security and health, or from the provisions of other treaties.

Security Controls

The Commission must make certain that, on the territory of the member states:

- ores, source materials and special fissionable materials are not diverted from the stated purposes intended by their users;
- provisions relative to supplies and controls are respected.

These controls, however, will not apply to materials for defense needs, whether they are being adapted to these needs or installed or stockpiled in a military establishment. These materials come under the control of the armament agency of the Western European Union, comprising the six Euratom nations plus Great Britain.

Health Protection

Basic standards regarding protection of the health of the population and of the workers against the dangers of radiation are to be set up within the Community. These standards pertain to the maximum permissible doses compatible with sufficient security, the maximum permissible exposure and contamination, the fundamental principles of medical supervision of workers.

These basic standards are to be worked out by the Commission, on the recommendation of a group of persons appointed by the Scientific and Technical Committee from among the scientific experts of the member states, especially among experts in the public health field. The Commission will ask the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on these basic standards.

Investments and Prospection

In order to encourage individual and company initiative and to facilitate coordinated investment in the nuclear field, the Commission will periodically publish programs outlining the goals of nuclear energy production and the investments of all sorts required for their realization.

Individuals and companies must submit to the Commission their plans for investment no later than three months before letting the first contracts or beginning the work. The Commission will discuss all aspects of the proposed investments with individuals or companies and submit an opinion to the member state concerned.

The Commission may contribute financially to programs of prospection on the territory of the member states. It may send recommendations to the member states with a view to the development of prospect ion

and extraction. These provisions may, however, be modified in the event of general shortages.

Community Enterprises

Enterprises which are of prime importance for the development of the Community's nuclear industry may be set up as "Community enterprises." The decision will be taken by a qualified vote of the Council.

The "Community enterprises" may be granted the following privileges, but the Council must decide unanimously in each case:

- financial participation by the Community;
- participation by outside countries in their financing or their management;
- special advantages (classification as a public utility, tax exemptions, etc.).

Euratom and Outside Countries

The Community may conclude agreements or conventions with an outside state, an international organization or a national of an outside state.

The member states are required to communicate to the Commission their draft agreements or conventions, insofar as these relate to the province of the Treaty. The Commission will send its observations to the state concerned, which may not enter into such agreements until it has met the objections of the Commission or obtained a favorable decision from the Court of Justice.

In the absence of provisions to the contrary, the stipulations of the Treaty are applicable to the European territories of the member states and to the non-European territories under their jurisdiction. They will also apply to the European territories for whose foreign relations a member state is responsible.

Furthermore, any European state may ask to become a member of the Community. It sends its request to the Council which, after having consulted the Commission, rules unanimously. The conditions for admission and the adaptations of the Treaty that this implies will be determined by an agreement between the member states and the state seeking admission. This agreement will be submitted to all the contracting states for ratification.

[...]

(1) See European Affairs – No. 10 on the Common Market and the development of Western Europe's common economic institutions.

(2) A descriptive brochure in English, 1945-1956, *Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique*, is available for distribution from the French Embassy, Press and Information Division.