

Summary of the tasks to be performed by the EAEC Council in 1958 (Brussels, 25 February 1958)

Caption: Summary of the tasks to be completed by the Council of the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom) during the first year of its existence in 1958.

Source: Procès-verbal de la deuxième session du Conseil de la Communauté Européenne de l'Energie Atomique tenue à Bruxelles le 25 février 1958, 89/58. Bruxelles: Conseil de la Communauté européenne de l'énergie atomique, 18.03.1958. "Annexe III: Note du président du Conseil. Objet: Relevé des tâches à accomplir par le Conseil jusqu'à la fin de l'année 1958. 77/58".
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Note from the Council President on the summary of the tasks to be performed by the EAEC Council by the end of 1958 (Brussels, 25 February 1958)

The institutions must perform the tasks entrusted to them under the Treaty establishing Euratom within the deadlines prescribed therein, which, for the most part, do not go beyond the first year of operation of the Community.

This summary is intended to highlight the areas in which action must be taken by the Council, as specifically laid down in the Treaty, by the end of 1958. It is drawn up entirely without prejudice to any action that the Council might find it necessary to take pursuant to other provisions of the Treaty.

I. Appointments

The procedure for appointing the members of the Economic and Social Committee and of the Scientific and Technical Committee is already under way.

Acting on a proposal from the Court of Justice, the Council will also be required to begin appointing the members of the Arbitration Committee established for the purpose of disseminating information (Article 18). The Treaty does not lay down a time limit for such appointments. However, since the provisions of Chapter II, Section II of the Treaty cannot be applied until that committee has been established, it seems appropriate to recommend that it be established, for instance, within six months of entry into force of the Treaty.

Furthermore, it will be necessary to proceed with the establishment of the Audit Board, whose purpose is to examine budget matters (Article 180 of the Euratom Treaty).

At the same time as making those appointments, the Council will be required to determine the remuneration of the members of those committees.

II. Regulations and similar provisions

A number of draft regulations and similar provisions will be submitted to the Council in the year following entry into force of the Treaty:

- within three months of entry into force of the Treaty, the Commission must send to the Council proposals on the Statutes of the Euratom Supply Agency;
- it must also submit to the Council the security regulations provided for in Article 24 within six months of entry into force of the Treaty;
- as regards the drawing up of a regulation on safeguards, provided for in Article 79, the Treaty does not impose a deadline on the Commission or the Council; however, the smooth operation of the safeguards system is dependent on the existence of such a regulation. Accordingly, it ought to be approved by the Council before the end of 1958;
- lastly, attention should be drawn to the financial regulations provided for in Article 183; here it is worth noting the requirement to take special measures concerning only the areas covered by the Treaty establishing Euratom; in addition to the operating budget, the Treaty provides for a research and investment budget, not to mention the specific rules on budgetary matters applying to the Supply Agency and the Joint Undertakings.

Acting on a proposal from the Commission, the Council will also be required to define the average concentrations of the 'source materials' and 'ores' referred to in Article 197(3) and (4).

Finally, the Council will be called upon, as will the Council of the EEC, to approve the following provisions:

- the Rules of Procedure of the Court of Justice,
- the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Committee,

but the Council will adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

III. Budgetary issues

In the first year following entry into force of the Treaty, the Council will have to deal with the operations of two separate budgetary procedures:

- the procedure relating to the coverage of expenditure incurred in respect of 1958;
- preparation of the budget for 1959.

Those operations will be complicated by the number of budgets involved under the Treaty establishing Euratom, namely:

- the operating budget, as well as
- the research and investment budget, and
- the Supply Agency budget and expenditure relating to the Joint Undertakings.

IV. ‘European University’

The Commission’s proposals on the manner of operation of the institution of university status provided for in the chapter on the promotion of research will be forwarded to the Council within one year of entry into force of the Treaty.

V. Nuclear Common Market

It is not inconceivable that, in the first year following entry into force of the Treaty, the Council will have to decide on the earlier application of the duties in the common customs tariff on products specified in List B in Annex IV to the Treaty.