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COMMISSION PROPOSES THREE-YEAR COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (1972-74)

The three-year Community research programme (1972-74) recently put forward by the Commission of the European Communities for the Euratom sector is an important milestone in the resuscitation of Community research activities that began recently. It can only be carried through to a successful conclusion, however, if nuclear policy is dovetailed into an overall policy for scientific, technical and industrial progress, for it is scarcely conceivable that the Community's Member States can reach lasting agreement on common aims in the nuclear sector if at the same time they pursue divergent, or even opposing, aims in other fields of advanced technology.

The Commission has already set out the guiding principles governing the overall policy which it advocates (see, in particular, "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 75). The forthcoming enlargement of the Community will make it possible to move into the implementation stage, which implies a clear and explicit acknowledgement of the Community's powers and those of its institutions, in the field of both scientific and technical policy and industrial policy, and the provision of the appropriate funds in the Community's budget, for effective coordination is impossible without

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The information and articles published in this Bulletin concern European scientific cooperation and industrial development in Europe. Hence they are not simply confined to reports on the decisions or views of the Commission of the European Communities, but cover the whole field of questions discussed in the different circles concerned.

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a minimum of Community funding and, if the projects undertaken are to be effective, scientific and technical policy must be closely keyed in with the other activities of the Community, particularly industrial and social policy.

Furthermore, during the Conference held at The Hague on 1 and 2 December 1969 (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 36) the Heads of State and Government, speaking of the technological activity of the Community, reaffirmed "their readiness to continue more intensively the activities of the Community with a view to coordinating and promoting industrial research and development in the principal pacemaking sectors, in particular by means of common programmes, and to supply the financial means for the purpose". They further agreed "on the necessity of making fresh efforts to work out in the near future a research programme for the European Atomic Energy Community designed in accordance with the exigencies of modern industrial management, and making it possible to ensure the most effective use of the Joint Research Centre".

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The aim of the research and development programme adopted by the Commission is to turn these broad aims into hard facts. It covers the years 1972-74; the choice of a three-year period reflects the desire to provide the various research activities with a sufficiently long-term outlook, without, however, entering into commitments for the more distant future at a time when the Community has to consider the impending accession of new Member States and the formulation of an overall science and technology policy. Moreover, the Commission will notify the countries that have applied for membership of the proposed research programme which it recently submitted to the Council of Ministers, and will make a point of collecting all the information needed to weigh up the likely impact of the proposed programme in view of the enlargement of the Community.

The research and development programme provides both for direct projects, i.e., those carried out by the Joint Research Centre, and for indirect projects, which will be coordinated and financially supported by the

Community but carried out by laboratories or bodies which are not under the control of the Commission and do not belong, in the legal sense, to the Community.

- (a) The JRC's programme of direct action in the nuclear sector consists of projects in support of the Community's industry, public-service activities and long-term research (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 106). The Commission's proposals include the closure of the ESSOR reactor; the Commission is aware of the seriousness of this decision, but felt obliged to fall in with the majority opinion of the JRC's General Consultative Committee.

The JRC programme also includes two relatively modest projects outside the nuclear sector: standards and reference substances and research relating to environmental protection. On the latter point, and pending the outcome of its consultations undertaken on the basis of its statement on the Community's policy on the environment (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 109), the Commission has confined itself to proposing a small-scale project to be carried out by the JRC.

The Commission's proposals regarding the JRC's programme do not require the employment of more than the present manpower.

- (b) The programme of indirect action is confined to those fields in which the Community is in a position to take effective action to coordinate and promote matters of genuine Community interest. Apart from programmes for controlled thermonuclear fusion, protection against ionizing radiation and the Dragon agreement (see, in particular, "Industry, Research and Technology" Nos. 102, 103 and 104), already approved by the Council of Ministers, the proposed indirect action is aimed chiefly at certain aspects of the development of the high-temperature reactor family and projects in the field of light-water reactors, and industry will be asked to contribute to their costs. The programme also provides for the continued secondment of certain Community employees to national research establishments in connection with the "fast reactor" programme. In the last-mentioned field, the

Commission still regrets that the coordination, embracing the whole Community, established under the auspices of Euratom in earlier years could not be maintained or re-established; the inevitable consequence is unnecessary duplication, in certain cases, and the inefficient use of the available resources. The Commission feels that integration at the research stage could be made compatible with diversity and hence competition in the production stage. The Commission hopes that its seconded personnel can help to maintain useful links between the different projects under way in the Community.

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In submitting this programme to the Council, the Commission feels itself obliged to restate the fact that it is only a part, and a minor one, of the actions needed at Community level to promote the expansion of the nuclear industry, which is one of the basic aims of the Euratom Treaty. At the present time such expansion requires cross-frontier integration of industrial structures capable of reconciling size with competition, decompartmentalization of national markets, the formulation of common safety standards, and - more generally - a joint attack on the many problems with which the public authorities are faced as a result of the expansion of nuclear energy.

Nowadays, scientific and technical policy must serve economic and social ends. The formulation of these ends, the establishment of the priorities emerging from them, the pooling of the resources available in the spheres of basic research and the public service, the creation and maintenance of competitive - and competing - industrial system to meet collective needs as well as those of individuals: these are the new tasks facing the Communities at the time of their enlargement. As in the past, they will thus be able to help to increase the prosperity of Europe's peoples.

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A breakdown of the funds requested for the objectives contained in the programme proposed by the Commission is attached.

THREE-YEAR COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME (1972-74) PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

OBJECTIVE	MANPOWER	FUNDING (in millions of units of account)	RESERVE
A. <u>DIRECT ACTION</u> (to be carried out at the Joint Research Centre)			
1. Projects in support of the nuclear industry	432	26.1	1.5
2. Public-service activities	182	10.5	0.6
3. Long-term research	162	9.6	0.6
4. Environmental protection	60	3.0	0.2
5. Standards and reference substances	30	1.4	0.1
6. Teaching and training	6	2.3	0.1
Scientific and technical support	393	17.7	
Major facilities	230	31.3	
General supporting facilities	525	45.9	0.2
TOTAL FOR DIRECT ACTION	2,020	147.8	3.3
B. <u>INDIRECT ACTION</u> (coordinated and supported by the Community, but carried out by bodies not under the Commission's control)			
1. Light-water reactors	4	11.3	
2. Advanced reactors	70	14.05	
3. Fuel cycle	-	2.0	
4. High-flux reactors	40	2.1	
5. Teaching and training	2	1.1	
TOTAL FOR INDIRECT ACTION	116	30.55	
GRAND TOTAL	2,136	178.35	3.3

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: INDIRECT ACTION PREVIOUSLY APPROVED:

1. Thermonuclear fusion (five years with effect from 1 January 1971;
Manpower: 91 Community employees;
46.5 million units of account)

2. Biology and health . (five years with effect from 1 January 1971;
and safety Manpower: 107 Community employees;
22.945 million units of account)

3. Participation in the Dragon Project (three years from 1 April 1970;
Manpower: 20 Community employees;
6.9 million units of account).