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No. 1

That research and technology play a part in economic and social expansion is now a universally recognized fact. Here, too, stepping up the cooperation between enterprises and European countries is the only way of avoiding all too frequent wasteful duplication of work, and of mobilizing the necessary resources.

The Commission of the European Communities is therefore concerned to extend this cooperation beyond the sectors of steel and the atom as explicitly envisaged in the Treaties.

As a sign of this concern the Directorate-General for Press and Information is planning to distribute this newsletter, in which information will be published, specially for the Press, on the activity of the Community in the field of research and technology.

Any remarks, suggestions or criticisms arising from this first number will, of course, be welcome.

Scientific and Technical
Information Service

*** A wind of change in scientific and technological cooperation. This was the interpretation given in the lobbies of the Council of Ministers of the European Community to the resolution adopted unanimously at 12.45 on 10 December to reactivate the "Working Party on Scientific and Technical Research Policy", made up of experts from the Member States under the aegis of the Commission. The text of this resolution is attached.

For all further information please apply to the :

Commission of the European Communities
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Scientific and Technological Information Service
23, avenue de la Joyeuse Entrée
Brussels 4 — Tel. 35.00.40

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The Council unanimously decided on the immediate resumption of the work which had been interrupted since February owing to differences between Member States as to the desirability of associating some third countries with this work at the present moment, particularly Great Britain.

Moreover, the Council lays down the following precise timetable:

- The provisions of the Council resolution of 31 October 1967 are to be implemented before 1 July 1969. In this resolution the Council:
 - . affirmed the Community's will to continue to create general conditions favourable to the promotion of research and innovation (European company status, European patent, etc.),
 - . requested the Working Party on Scientific and Technical Research Policy to draw up a report on the possibilities for cooperation, beginning with the following seven fields (automatic information processing, telecommunications, development of new means of transport, oceanography, metallurgy, nuisances, meteorology), and possibly including others,
 - . also requested the Working Party to continue its comparison of research programmes and budgets, to study a Community system of processing technical information and to examine means of ensuring a more coordinated training of scientific personnel.
- On 1 March 1969 the Working Party will have to present its report, which will be examined by the Council of Ministers of the Community. The Council will forward proposals for cooperation to the non-Member States concerned, will study their replies, and will discuss with these countries and, of course, with the Commission the practical means of implementing the projects decided upon.

The programme is clearly ambitious and the timetable packed. At least European cooperation is now under way again, as a result of the Commission's initiative, in the sector of research and technology in which it is indispensable in order to ensure the economic and social future of Europe. It may be hoped that this fresh wind will help to make a Community solution prevail when the Council of the Community discusses the future of Euratom on 20 December next.

- *** The experts of the Commission of the European Communities have just finished a study on the development of background radioactivity in Community countries during the period 1962-67 and its consequences for the radioactive contamination of the food chain. This study, which will shortly be published as a Euratom report, analyses the results of measurements relating to air contamination, contamination due to fall-out and contamination of the alimentary system. It also analyses the results of work on the transfer of radioactive contamination in the biosphere.
- *** Experience gained during the construction and commissioning of the nuclear power plants of Dodewaard (Netherlands), Lingen and Obrigheim (Germany), which were built with direct or indirect Euratom participation, formed the subject of an information meeting which was recently held by the Commission of the European Communities at Arnhem in the Netherlands. Nearly 300 technicians and industrialists representing nearly 80 specialized companies and organizations of the six Community countries attended this meeting.
- The GKN power plant at Dodewaard (50 MWe boiling-water reactor), the KWL power plant at Lingen (250 MWe boiling-water reactor) and the KWO plant at Obrigheim (300 MWe pressurized-water reactor) were commissioned and connected to the grid during 1968.
- *** Useful and promising technological results have just been obtained at the Ispra establishment of the Joint Research Centre in the development of metal-ceramic joints capable of withstanding temperatures of the order of 1000°C. One of the uses of these joints is in thermionic converters.
- *** Representatives of the Association of European Community Industries (UNICE), the Committee for the European Community of the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy (UNIPED) and the Pool of Insurers of the Community were brought together by the Commission on 5 and 6 December 1968 with a view to drawing up a draft skeleton policy covering third-party liability in the transportation of nuclear materials.

*** The Faculty of Law and Economic Sciences of the University of Nice and the French Commission for the Study of the European Communities organized a colloquium at Nice on 6 and 7 December on "the legal aspect of international scientific cooperation and European problems". At the conclusion of the meeting, which emphasized once again the necessity for closer cooperation between science, industry and public authorities, it was decided to hold a second colloquium next year in order to study in depth the problems of applying the results of research in industry.

Resolution adopted on 10 December 1968 by the Council of Ministers at the European Community on

COOPERATION IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

1. The Council, the Governments of the Member States, and the Commission will, before 1 July 1969, put into effect the provisions of the resolution adopted at the Council meeting held at Luxembourg on 31 October 1967 on cooperation in scientific and technical research.
2. To this end, the Working Party on "Scientific and Technical Research Policy" of the Medium-term Economic Policy Committee will submit, before 1 March 1969, under the conditions laid down in this resolution, the report which it had been instructed to prepare and which will take into consideration the possibilities of cooperation with European third countries, in conformity with the mandate given to it on 31 October 1967.
3. The Council will examine the report from the Working Party on "Scientific and Technical Research Policy" and will draw its initial conclusions concerning the action to be undertaken. In the light of these conclusions, it will forward proposals for cooperation to those European countries which are interested, of which it will draw up a list, and in particular to the countries which have requested accession to the European Communities, and will annex the Working Party's report to these proposals.
4. The Council will, by appropriate channels, obtain the opinion of the third States in question on the proposals which it has communicated to them. The Council will discuss the replies which it receives and also any suggestions put forward by the third States. The Council and the third States in question will convoke meetings of experts with a view to examining the technical, financial, etc. problems involved in undertaking the selected activities. Experts from the Commission will take part in these meetings.
5. The object of this examination will be to prepare for discussions among the Ministers responsible for technology in the Six and in the other countries in question, with representatives of the Commission, with a view to taking the necessary decisions on the various activities which it is envisaged undertaking.