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** The Commission of the European Communities submitted the COMMUNITIES' WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS to the Council of Ministers at their meeting of 25 March.

In this document the Commission writes, with reference to the policy on RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY: "Future living conditions in Europe and the position occupied by European industries on world markets will depend decisively on what effort the Community makes to take effective action in the research and technology sector. Any policy in which national and Community research are well coordinated must be based on the joint setting of medium and long term scientific, technological and economic targets. It implies the preparation, at Community level, and carrying out of projects and programmes in specific sectors, the regular dovetailing of national programmes both with one another and with the Community programmes, and the fostering of science and technology in universities, research centres and industrial firms".

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** At its meeting of 25 March 1969 the Community's Council of Ministers finally adopted the EURATOM RESEARCH BUDGET FOR 1969 without any amendment of the draft text submitted to the European Parliament (see "Research and Technology" No. 9) in spite of the Parliament's unfavourable opinion (see "Research and Technology" No. 10).

** The Commission of the European Communities recently published a SECOND LIST OF ALL THE TECHNICAL NOTES which have been circulated since 15 May 1968.

These technical notes contain brief descriptions of the patented results obtained in carrying out Euratom research programmes, and are intended to enable Community industries to judge whether industrial exploitation of these results is worth while.

** Meeting on 25 March 1969, the Community's Council of Ministers adopted a general action programme aimed at facilitating the REMOVAL OF TECHNICAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE INTRA-COMMUNITY EXCHANGE of industrial goods.

** The Commission of the European Communities arranged a meeting in Brussels on 21 March 1969 under the chairmanship of Mr. Colonna di Paliano, member of the Commission with special responsibility for industrial affairs, of THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRIES OF THE MEMBER STATES DEALING WITH problems of POLICY FOR THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. This consultation is one of a series of meetings organized by the Commission with quarters concerned in ..//..

the Community's nuclear development (electricity producers, industrialists, etc.), the aim being to prepare the ground for the proposals which the Commission intends to formulate in order to foster a coordinated industrial policy in the nuclear field.

- ** Having failed to produce any results, the INTELSAT conference (see "Research and Technology" No. 10) has been adjourned until 18 November 1969.
- ** The Commission of the European Communities has signed a contract with five firms - two German, two Italian and one French - for carrying out a study on EVALUATION OF THE COST OF STEEL OBTAINED BY REDUCING IRON ORE WITH HEAT OF NUCLEAR ORIGIN.
- ** The Commission of the European Communities is allowing the general public to have access to a summary of the files submitted for the ORGEL PROTOTYPE competition (see "Research and Technology" Nos. 4 and 7).
- ** The 52 MWe BOILING-WATER NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AT DODEWAARD in the Netherlands was officially inaugurated recently. It was built with Community backing as part of the Euratom programme of participation in power plants constructed in the Community. A short note on Euratom's activities in this sector is appended.
- ** The Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting in Luxembourg on 20 March, approved the proposals of the Commission of the European Communities/..

concerning financial aid to seven research programmes aimed at IMPROVING STEEL-PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES (see "Research and Technology" No. 8).

- ** The first issue of EURO-SPECTRA (previously the Euratom Review) has just appeared. It is published by the Commission of the European Communities and will from now on deal both with matters relating directly to nuclear energy and with research on coal, steel and the new fields in which the Community is endeavouring to promote technological co-operation on a European scale.

THE COMMUNITY AND NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

The 52 MWe boiling-water nuclear power plant built at Dodewaard by the Dutch company Gemeenschappelijke Kernenergiecentrale Nederland NV (GKN) was officially inaugurated recently. It was built with Euratom backing as part of a large-scale programme which the Community launched in 1961 to encourage the construction of power reactors by helping to get the first few built and organizing the dissemination of the experience and results acquired in designing, building and operating these plants.

There are various ways in which Euratom can provide assistance:

- the Commission may, for a limited period, cover some of the costs incurred by the company building a nuclear power plant, notably the cost of the manufacture of certain reactor components (particularly the fuel elements) insofar as they are made by Community firms;
- the Community grants the firm building a nuclear power plant "joint enterprise" status as defined in the Euratom Treaty, with the benefits, notably as regards tax concessions, provided for therein;
- a guarantee is given to supply fuel for and to buy back the plutonium produced in the reactor, fuel processing facilities are made available and a loan is granted.

In return for its assistance Euratom obtains and makes available, to all those who can provide evidence of legitimate interest, a considerable amount of technical and economic data relating to the construction, start-up and operation of the ..//..

- 2 -

6

plants covered by this industrial promotion scheme.

This information is acquired in several ways: by the documentation supplied by the operators, by seconding personnel employed by the Commission or by Community organizations and firms, by sending students for periods of practical training, etc. The information is then disseminated either at technical information meetings arranged by the Commission or else by means of publications.

At present time there are seven Euratom-backed nuclear power plants: two Italian, three German, one Dutch and one Franco-Belgian, as is shown in the table below:

Plant and location	Net electrical rating (MWe)
Ente nazionale per l'energia elettrica (ENEL), Garigliano, Italy	150
ENEL, Latina, Italy	200
Société d'énergie nucléaire franco-belge des Ardennes (SENA), Chooz, France	266
Kernkraftwerk RWE - Bayernwerk GmbH (KRB), Gundremmingen, Germany	237
Gemeenschappelijke Kernenergiecentrale Nederland NV (GKN), Dodewaard, Netherlands	52
Kernkraftwerk Lingen GmbH (KWL), Lingen, Germany	240
Kernkraftwerk Obrigheim (KWO), Obrigheim, Germany	283

Some 3,000 documents relating to the design, construction and operation of these plants have been circulated within the Community since 1961.

In addition, 210 engineers from Community countries (102 French, 60 German, 20 Italian, 23 Belgian and five Dutch) have been seconded to the constructors of these plants since 1962, thereby gaining practical, "full-scale" experience.