

European Community

News Release

SPAIN JOINS COMMUNITY FUSION RESEARCH

Mr. Guido Brunner, representing the European Commission, and Mr. Calvo Sotelo, Minister in charge of Spain's relations with the Community, signed a cooperation agreement in Madrid on 14 July 1980 linking Spain for the first time to Euratom's (European Atomic Energy Community) programme of research into controlled thermonuclear fusion.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr. Brunner underlined the importance in the energy field of Spain which is due to join the Community on 1 January, 1983. This was a date which the Commission would do its utmost to honour, Mr. Brunner said.

"With their density of population coupled with a relative poverty in natural resources, the European states put great hopes on the development of energy from the fusion process, which was also being developed in the United States, Japan and the Soviet Union", Mr. Brunner continued.

"Our scientists believe they can bring a demonstration reactor into operation shortly after the turn of the century. By then we shall have had to lay out 10 billion units of account (*), an amount of money which is clearly beyond the reach of any one of our Member States alone. This kind of effort can only be done on a Community scale."

(*) approximately Cdn \$16.6 billion

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