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# PRESS RELEASE

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## EURATOM AND IAEA SIGN NPT ACCORD

WASHINGTON, DC -- April 5 -- The European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and seven of its member states signed today in Brussels an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on a safeguard system to prevent the conversion of fissile materials into nuclear weapons. The other two members of the European Communities -- France and the United Kingdom -- did not sign due to their nuclear military status but are still subject to Euratom's safeguards.

The accord, negotiated in accordance with the Euratom Treaty (Articles 101 and 102) on the authority of a European Communities Council of Ministers Directive of December 20, 1971, is based on Article III, Paragraphs 1 and 4, of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The accord subjects Euratom's nuclear safety controls and guarantees to verification by the IAEA. This verification includes independent observation by IAEA teams but takes into account Euratom's own effective nuclear guarantee system.

The accord stipulates that IAEA's verification will not cause any unjustified interference in Euratom's peaceful nuclear activities or its overall economic and technological progress.

IAEA Director General Sigvard Eklund and Ralf Dahrendorf, Commissioner responsible for the European Communities' science, education, and research activities signed the accord for Euratom. The EC Permanent Representatives of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands signed for their countries.

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