

EUROPEAN BACKGROUND INFORMATION COMMUNITY

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

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BACKGROUND NOTE

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITIES MEET TODAY ON NEW SCIENTIFIC DATA BANK

For the first time, the European Community's consortium of the nine national telecommunications administrations and the EC Commission meets today, in Paris, to discuss plans for a scientific data bank called "Euronet."

The data bank, which will begin operations in June 1977, will serve 700 research centers, high technology companies, and national and Community research institutes. In three seconds it will answer questions in 20 data fields, including physics, chemistry, aerospace, energy, metallurgy, medicine, agriculture, law, and economics. Its cost will be reasonable.

Euronet will be Europe's first transnational data bank using the same computer technology and identical or compatible equipment. It thus marks a first step toward a common policy for computer technology and for a common policy on computerized scientific and technological information.

With today's meeting and the June 1977 commencement date, the Euronet project is getting off the ground with a speed unusual for the European Community. Only in December 1975 was the convention signed creating the consortium.