

# THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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**P R E S S R E L E A S E**

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY

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## COMMUNITY EXPERTS DISCUSS NUCLEAR SHIP PROPULSION

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 22 --- Nuclear ship propulsion experts in the European Community met January 17 in Brussels to exchange technical information on their current research plans and experiments.

Participating were experts of the European Atomic Energy Community, its association contract partners, and representatives of the Community member countries.

Details of a pressurized water reactor which will power a 16,000 metric ton experimental bulk carrier were presented by the German delegation. The carrier is presently being built by the GKSS (Gesellschaft fuer Kernenergieverwertung in Schiffbau und Schifffahrt). Negotiations are pending for possible Euratom participation in the construction of the reactor.

The Italian and German delegations explained their studies for protection of an atomic reactor's containment vessel in case of collision.

Nuclear ship propulsion research under Euratom association contracts with Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy, were also discussed.

### Current Projects Outlined

General research into the design and operation of reactors at sea is being conducted by GKSS at the Geesthacht center near Hamburg. Euratom contributes 60 per cent of the research cost. The main subjects of the experiment are shielding problems and the effects of ship movement on reactor operations. The latter experiments involve use of a "rolling stand" to simulate a ship's rolling and heaving at sea.

Design of an advanced pressurized water reactor for ship propulsion is being researched by RCN (Reactor Centrum Nederland) in association with Eindhoven Technical University, at Petten, the Netherlands.

Relative merits of two types of pressurized water reactors (natural and forced circulation) and two types of boiling water reactors (direct and indirect circulation) for the propulsion of a large tanker were compared under Euratom's association contract with Italian Fiat and Ansaldo companies supported by CNEN (Comitato Nazionale per L'energia Nucleare). The selection of the forced circulation pressurized water reactor as most effective for tanker propulsion completed this first stage of the research contract. The extension of the contract for a second stage is being discussed.

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