

OPENING SPEECH BY MR. GUIDO BRUNNER,
AT 2nd SESSION OF THE OPEN DEBATES ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

Welcome to the second session of our Open Debates on Nuclear Energy.

At the first session (Nov. 29-Dec. 1), we looked at our energy supply needs in general. Now we want to examine how these needs affect the citizens of our community; their health, their safety and the environment in which they live. Bound up with this is the question, how can we keep a firm grip on the growth of our energy needs and what the consequences of this will be.

We also want to make these debates a demonstration of how we in Europe are able to carry a dialogue on a very controversial theme with openness and tolerance. We succeeded in doing this last time. Let us do it again now. We are ready to take up any sensible suggestions. I can already give you one proof of this: the Commission just a week ago decided to appoint a Director for Energy Saving, who will have a specialised service working under him.

Now a few words about the "rules of the game". First each speaker will take the floor to introduce his particular subject. Then together with the other speakers on the same theme he or she may take part in a general discussion with members of the panel.

But you in the hall may also pose questions. This time however, at the suggestion of those taking part, we have somewhat altered the procedure. Questioners from the floor will have the opportunity of using one of our mobile microphones to pose their questions themselves. We hope they will be as brief as possible. One supplementary question will also be in order.

For technical reasons we will again this time have to ask you to write down your questions first so that they can be passed up to me through the secretariat. You will then be given back the text of your question. I must also ask questioners to state clearly their name and the organisation they represent.