

# research and technology

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\*\* The report of the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Research Policy WAS FORWARDED to the Council of Ministers of the Community and the Commission on 14 April. The Council is expected to start on its examination of this report in the very near future.

THE WORKING GROUP'S NEXT MEETING will take place on 22 and 23 April. The following items are on the agenda: a first attempt at classifying the cooperative projects submitted to the Council, together with a first review of the practical methods of initiating them; a review of principles and methods of carrying out a concerted project in the metallurgical field; the problem of scientific documentation.

\*\* In the next few weeks the Community's Council of Ministers will have to concern itself both with the Euratom multi-annual programme and with the action to be taken on the report submitted by the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Research Policy (see in particular "Research and Technology" Nos. 1 and 2). In these circumstances it is opportune to draw attention to the various PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1968 BY THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY FOR AN INTENSIFICATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION: the fact that these proposals, a summary of which is attached, all tend

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in the same general direction augurs well for the favourable development of the projects in hand.

\*\* The decision taken by Provinciale Zeeuwse Electriciteitsmaatschappij (PZEM) (Province of Zeeland Electricity Board) to commission the German company Kraftwerk Union AG (a subsidiary of Siemens and AEG) to construct at Borssele, near Flushing, a 400 MWe nuclear power plant (which will be equipped with a pressurized-water, 3% enriched uranium reactor manufactured under American licence from Westinghouse) represents THE FIRST EXAMPLE IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE AWARD OF A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS resulting from an invitation to tender issued outside the frontiers of a member country. In this sense, the decision in question may be said to CONSTITUTE A FIRST STEP IN THE DIRECTION ADVOCATED BY THE COMMISSION of the European Communities in its White Paper entitled "Survey of the Nuclear Policy of the European Community".

\*\* On 7 and 8 May, about 100 specialists from Community countries will attend a conference which is being organized at Liège by the Commission on the subject of "FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH IN THE CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS OF COAL AND COKE".

\*\* Following the decision taken by the Council of Ministers of the European Community at its meeting of 4 March 1969, the Community has invited seven countries (Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) to take part in negotiations aimed at the INSTITUTION OF A EUROPEAN PATENT (see "Research and Technology", No. 9). The first favourable replies have already been received and it is considered that a preliminary meeting of experts can be held on 21 and 22 May.

\*\* During April a meeting is to be held between the Commission (which has been granted, for 1969, \$600,000 to develop methods FOR CONTROLLING FISSIONABLE MATERIALS FOR REACTOR SAFETY) and the representatives of the Research Centre in Karlsruhe, Germany (which is carrying out important studies in this field) with a view to coordinating the two programmes.

In addition, a representative of the Transuranium Institute (Karlsruhe Establishment of the Joint Research Centre) will read a paper entitled "A reference proposal for a plant to fabricate fuel elements for fast reactors" at the meeting of experts being held in Vienna by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from 14 to 18 April.

\*\* On 15 April 1969 the Commission of the European Communities called a meeting of the Group of Experts on THERMAL PROCESSING OF COAL, set up within the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), for an exchange of views on the conventional techniques used in the Community's coking plants.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE MEMBER-STATES  
OF THE COMMUNITY FOR INTENSIFIED SCIENTIFIC AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

In the coming weeks the Council of Ministers of the Community will be required to give its attention to the Euratom multiannual programme and the action to be taken on the report submitted by the Working Party on Scientific and Technical Research Policy (see in particular "Research and Technology", Nos. 1 and 2). In this context it would appear worth while to recapitulate the various proposals put forward by the Community member-states since the beginning of 1968 for an intensification of scientific and technological cooperation; the fact that these proposals all tend basically in the same direction augurs well for the development of the projects in hand.

1. On 29 February 1968 THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT submitted to the Council of Ministers of the Community a note on technological cooperation, based on the following five points:

- conditions to be fulfilled for a successful technological innovation policy for Europe (will and ability to employ large-scale resources, with a scale of priorities; close cooperation at all levels, from fundamental research to industrial applications; opening-up of markets, in particular by the award of public contracts);
- leading sectors having important side-effects on the economy and in which cooperation is a matter of urgency (electronic computers, aircraft, spacecraft);
- inadequacies observed in the organization of the action on behalf of these sectors (insufficient political will to sustain a long-term project, lack of a concrete basis for the studies undertaken; the seeking of quick results to the detriment of long-

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- term action);
- the Community's indirect powers (deriving from its powers with respect to economic development) in technological questions other than those in the nuclear field; however, certain current projects elude the Community's supervision because they are being carried out under the auspices of other institutions or under bilateral or trilateral associations; moreover, the resources required frequently exceed those at the Community's disposal, and in these sectors the United Kingdom has a substantial technological lead which Europe should turn to account;
  - a new political approach, involving an ad hoc procedure designed to avoid any discussion on the basic issue of Britain's application to join the Common Market, and consisting in persuading all interested states to undertake jointly with the Commission an analysis of the entire range of technological problems affecting Europe; a certain reorganization with well-defined aims in view should thus lead to a reinvigoration and rationalization of Europe's effort in this field.
2. Also on 29 February 1968, THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BENELUX STATES submitted to the Council of Ministers of the Community a memorandum on the problem of widening the Community, in which they specify "cooperation in well-defined technological and scientific fields" among the joint projects which they propose should be undertaken by those countries of Europe who so desire in the fields not covered by the Treaties.
3. Again on 29 February 1968, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT submitted to the Council of Ministers of the Community a memorandum in which they requested, inter alia, consolidation of the bases of the Joint Research Centre (by defining without delay the projects which can be carried out there in the future, by continuing research into thermonuclear fusion and by fixing the aims and limits of a common uranium

supply policy).

4. On 7 March 1968, THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, in its turn, laid before the Council of Ministers of the Community proposals for cooperation in the field of trade policy and technology between the Community member states and other European countries.

In the section on cooperation in research and development the German Government, taking their stand on the decision made in Luxembourg on 31 October 1967, felt that this decision should continue to be applied because results have already been achieved which create openings for increased cooperation with the United Kingdom and the other countries which have applied for membership. The German Government feel, however, that this is not enough and that cooperation should be stepped up in fields where Europe is technologically lagging behind or where the required investment demands closer cooperation. These matters should be discussed differently, depending on whether or not they come within the purview of the Rome Treaties. The aim must therefore be to find forms of cooperation between Euratom and the countries which have applied for membership and also to organize cooperation in other fields; non-member countries should also have the opportunity of submitting suggestions of their own during the discussions to be held on this subject.

5. On 4 and 5 November 1968, the FRENCH GOVERNMENT put to the Council of Ministers of the Community a programme for the strengthening of the European Communities, in which they expressed the feeling that the Working Party on Technical and Scientific Research Policy should have its terms of reference confirmed (which has been done) and restated that non-member countries could be associated in the planned cooperation.

6. On 15 November 1968, the BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, in a working document submitted to the Council of Ministers of the

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Community, stated that, of the various related aspects of economic policy, Belgium attached importance to the research and technology fields because they were essential to development of European industry along modern lines. Concluding its analysis of the proposals for completing the internal structure of the Communities, the Belgian Government deemed it important, amongst other things, to lay the foundations of a common technology policy.

7. Lastly, we repeat what the Commission wrote on the subject of research and technology in the Work Programme which it submitted to the Council on 25 March 1969:

"Future living conditions in Europe and the position occupied by European industries on world markets will depend decisively on what effort the Community makes to take effective action in the research and technology sector. Any policy in which national and Community research are well coordinated must be based on the joint setting of medium and long term scientific, technological and economic targets. It implies the preparation, at Community level, and carrying out of projects and programmes in specific sectors, the regular dovetailing of national programmes both with one another and with the Community programmes, and the fostering of science and technology in universities, research centres and industrial firms".