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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Reply to the First General Report of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)

Report

Committee on Economic Affairs and Development

Rapporteur: Mr Gerard de GEER, Sweden



A. 1. Draft Resolution

The Assembly:

1. Thanks the Commission of Euratom for the transmission of its First General Report and for the readiness it expresses to take part in joint meetings of the Consultative Assembly and the European Parliamentary Assembly;
2. Hopes that agreement may be reached in the near future on further methods of collaboration between Euratom and the Council of Europe as provided for under Article 200 of the Treaty establishing Euratom, and as proposed by the Assembly in its Recommendation 146 and Resolution 130 of October 1957 ; in particular the Assembly hopes that in addition to the regular transmission of the Commission's reports and the holding of joint sessions of the two Assemblies, arrangements will be made for joint meetings of the competent committees of the two Assemblies, for meetings between the Commission of Euratom and Committees of the Consultative Assembly, together with the exchange of documents on subjects of common interest and for close contacts between the Secretariats;
3. Welcomes the arrangements with other international organisations and interested countries, already concluded or in preparation, as evidence of the Commission's intention of developing international collaboration in peaceful uses of atomic energy on the widest scale;
4. Congratulates the Commission on the rapid conclusion of the Co-operation Agreement with the United States;
5. Expresses its wish to be enabled to follow in greater detail in the future the development of Euratom's relations with the European Nuclear Energy Agency of O.E.E.C., particularly as regards the co-ordination of health control and security control regulations and atomic risk insurance;
6. Requests the Commission to explore to the fullest extent with its partners in E.N.E.A. the possibilities of associating them individually or collectively in limited Euratom projects, particularly in the fields of research and training;
7. Expresses its belief that the role of the Consultative Assembly is to support the realisation of Euratom's objectives as well as those of E.N.E.A. and that by closely following and advising on the development of their relations it may contribute to a better public understanding of the problems of the two European nuclear organisations and to securing confidence in their operations.

B. 2. Explanatory Memorandum

1. The transmission of the Euratom Commission's First General Report represents the first opportunity afforded to the Consultative Assembly of examining the activities of the European Atomic Energy Community since it started operations and of officially communicating its views to this new body. In the light of earlier resolutions and recommendations adopted during the negotiations on the Euratom Treaty the principal concern of the Assembly will be to support the full realisation of Euratom's objectives and, at the same time, to ascertain that in so doing proper consideration is given by Euratom to the efforts to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes that are made by other European countries and organisations.

2. In practical terms, the Assembly's task will be to ensure that the relations between Euratom and the European Nuclear Energy Agency of O.E.E.C. (E.N.E.A.) are developed to the fullest extent and the mutual advantage of all interested parties. While this is obviously a delicate responsibility, the Assembly, in discharging it, can make a really worth-while contribution to the success of European co-operation in the development of this new and vital source of energy.

3. The First General Report of the Commission deals with the first eight months of its activities. It is therefore mainly an account of the necessary preliminaries for Euratom's future action—the establishment of the Communities' Institutions and subsidiary bodies, and of the Commission's administration; the relations between these bodies and the two other Communities and the programming of work in the many branches of activity prescribed by the Treaty. Except for certain concrete, and important, achievements which will be singled out below, the Commission's performance must therefore be judged on its declared intentions rather than on its deeds. On this score the Report contains much to commend it to the Assembly. The Assembly will welcome the many statements in the Report—relating to security control, health control, research and Euratom's relations with other countries and organisations generally — which affirm the Commission's recognition of the need for European and international collaboration on the widest possible basis and in the freest possible forms.

4. The Assembly will particularly welcome the account of the Commission's close relations with E.N.E.A. In order to stress the importance it attaches to this question, the Assembly may, however, wish to request the Commission to give fuller accounts of these relations in future, as the activities of the two organisations gather momentum.

5. In the interest of European nuclear development as a whole, the Assembly may also ask the Commission to give the closest attention to the possibilities of associating other member countries of O.E.E.C., individually or collectively, in limited Euratom projects of mutual interest, especially in research. In this connection, it is to be hoped that the Commission may be able to give favourable consideration to the suggestion put forward in the Assembly's Recommendation 187 of October 1958 on possible participation by other OEEC member countries in the joint Euratom-United States research programmes.

6. The greatest positive achievement of the Commission in the period under review is the conclusion of the Co-operation Agreement with the United States Government. Both parties are to be congratulated on the generous terms of this agreement.

7. The progress reported by the Commission in the preparation of the security control system, of basic standards of preventive health control, and in regard to atomic risk insurance, also deserve an expression of satisfaction. The Assembly has on many occasions insisted on the fundamental importance of establishing a legal framework adapted to the special dangers and risks of nuclear energy in a manner that will dispel fears and confusion in the public mind and in industry.

8. Finally, in thanking the Commission for the transmission of its First General Report, the Assembly will undoubtedly wish to thank the Commission for the regular transmission in future of its statutory reports (as has already been agreed). It will also wish to welcome the declaration made by the Commission that it is ready to take a share in future joint meetings of the Consultative Assembly and the European Parliamentary Assembly. It is indeed to be hoped that yet further forms of collaboration will be established between the Consultative Assembly and Euratom. In particular, the Assembly should again recall the need for close collaboration and frequent contacts not only between the executive and parliamentary organs but also at secretariat level, emphasising the politically important role which the Assembly is called upon to play in securing better public understanding of the problems facing the two European nuclear organisations and in securing public confidence for their work.