

**EUROPEAN ATOMIC
ENERGY COMMUNITY**

The Commission

**Speech given by
Mr. E. HIRSCH, President of the Euratom Commission
during the European Parliamentary Discussions
on the external relations of Euratom
held on 21 and 22 November 1960**

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the impressive picture which Dr. Luns has just drawn of our Community's external relations, the main emphasis was rightly placed on the importance in world trade, and hence on the responsibilities towards non-member countries, of a united and highly industrialized market with a population of some 170 million.

But apart from the economic aspects of the picture as constituted by the Common Market and the Coal and Steel Community, there is also the scientific face of Europe represented by Euratom and here, too, the birth of a policy of collaboration between our countries has made it possible for Europe to regain her place and standing in the world.

No sooner was Euratom set up than the United States Government made proposals for a vast joint power plant and research programme. The Euratom Commission has already had a number of opportunities of explaining before this Parliament the hopes and difficulties which are bound up with this programme. The major difficulty has been the considerable delay brought about in the carrying out of the power reactor programme by the improved situation obtaining on the conventional fuel market.

Our hopes founded on the possibilities of collaboration between American European scientists and manufacturers in the field of research and development have been thoroughly vindicated by the subsequent development of that collaboration. This provides us, in a limited but nevertheless certainly crucial sector with what the economists would call a model of what relations between America and Europe ought to be if the Atlantic community is to have its full meaning.

Last spring, the Commission concluded a second agreement with the United States Government under which the latter undertook to supply us with certain materials required by the Community's own research programmes. Furthermore, and this

point should be stressed, this agreement has enabled one of our member countries, Italy, whose atomic programme is developing apace, to receive at its own request via Euratom and at favourable conditions, supplies of fissile materials for use at its own establishments, in the management or running of which, Euratom, of course, plays no part.

As a result of our agreement with Great Britain, a research reactor has been delivered to one of the member countries and certain research materials have been supplied; the main object of this agreement, however, is the interchange of information, while Community participation in the Dragon Project in Britain is an earnest of our desire to collaborate with our British friends and shows clearly that our particular field is free of the difficulties which may have been encountered in the sphere of trade.

Under our agreement with Canada, the Community is able to focus attention on the valuable heavy-water-moderated reactor string and is in a position to benefit from the experience acquired by the Canadians in this field. This is not, however, simply a one-way agreement. In adopting the Orgel Project, Euratom has selected a variant of this reactor type which has not yet been investigated in Europe, and so our own research teams are in a position to compare notes with the Canadians, who are working on a similar project.

Through its agreements with the United States, Britain and Canada, the community has thus been recognized by the three great Western nuclear powers as a valid partner. This is what Mr. McKinney, who recently carried out an inquiry on international atomic energy developments on behalf of the American Joint Committees on Atomic Energy, had to say in his report:

"Without Euratom, the momentum of atomic development in some member countries would today be in jeopardy. Instead, through the 5-year \$215 million commitment for research, which was a part of the six-nation treaty creating Euratom, there is a source of long term support

Euratom provides the United States with an opportunity to work collectively with a group of nations of great scientific strength From such a relationship could grow further technological strengthening of the West and more rapid achieve-

ment of the benefits of peaceful uses of atomic energy"

The external relations of the European Atomic Energy Community are, of course, not restricted to these three countries. Thus the conclusion of the treaty negotiated with Brasil will open the way for Euratom and the member countries to contribute to Brasil's nuclear efforts, particularly in connection with the training of specialists and prospecting.

Moreover, the growth in the Community's standing does not involve solely the negotiation of bilateral agreements. The heads of several Atomic Energy Commissions have made a point of visiting Euratom, the most recent being Mr. Ishikawa and Dr. Bhabha, Presidents respectively of the Japanese and the Indian Atomic Energy Commissions. As you know, both these countries possess a considerable scientific and technical potential of acknowledged quality and at the same time suffer from a severe power shortage. Both these countries are thus eminently suited to enable nuclear power to give immediate evidence of its economic utility, and we are particularly glad to have had these initial contacts, which will be followed up in the technical sphere.

Our Community likewise plays its part with the other specialized international organizations, collaborating closely with the OEEC Nuclear Energy Agency, in the work of which Euratom is fully associated: Euratom is making a substantial contribution to the Halden Project, and provides 43% of the funds for the Dragon budget. The basic Standards for health protection elaborated by Euratom experts have been provisionally adopted by the OEEC, while in the insurance field, the Six are negotiating between themselves on an additional convention providing for a joint guarantee by the Six states to supplement the individual insurances for which provision is made under the OEEC Convention.

In the technical field, our contacts with the International Atomic Energy Agency have continued to expand over the last two years. The only obstacle to putting relations between Euratom and the Vienna Agency on an official basis has been the attitude of the Eastern states, which accuse Euratom of carrying on activities of a military nature. It is to be hoped that common sense will eventually prevail and that it will be possible sooner or later to put our participation in the work of the Vienna Agency on a more normal basis.

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Euratom will shortly be signing an agreement with the international Labor Organization on the problem of safeguarding the health of workers against ionizing radiations, thus enabling us to link our own endeavours in this vital field with the efforts which are being made by this specialized agency.

Finally Euratom is often approached by representatives of different countries and especially representatives of overseas nations on the possibility of sending trainees to various establishments in the Community. Whenever possible, we shall give a positive reply to requests of this sort, which provide some indication of the growing scientific standing of the Community.

Furthermore, once the European University provided for in the Euratom Treaty gets under way, there is no doubt that it too will attract a large number of students and teachers from overseas and from non-Community countries generally; indeed, express provision is made for this possibility in a project drawn up by the Interim Committee.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Italian Government for its action in acquiring at Florence an ideal site for the project and for its readiness to bear provisionally the initial expenditure which the setting up of the European University will involve.

The actual setting up of the University seems to me to be a matter of far greater importance than the solution of the various problems arising in connection with its institutional framework. Whatever this framework may be, there can be no doubt, provided that it has the necessary material backing and enjoys that academic freedom which is part of our traditions, that the European University will be a powerful instrument in achieving the unification and consolidating the prestige of the new Europe.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are fully alive to and rightly concerned with the problems of Europe's responsibilities towards the newly developing countries.

Too often, out of sheer ignorance, our approach to these matters is dictated by traditional patterns of behaviour and experience, thus giving rise to misunderstandings, mistakes and a deplorable lack of effectiveness in a sphere where purposeful action is vital. There can be few fields in which there is such an evident need for a fundamental and systematic study of the problems at issue and an imaginative search for the methods to be employed. Nor, if they are to bear fruit, can such endeavours be unilateral. The active participation and association of all the parties concerned must be enlisted.

It was in this spirit and with this objective in mind that we proposed to our Ministerial Councils the setting up of a "Research Institute on Development Problems" in which the newly developing countries would participate on an equal footing with the more advanced nations. This Institute would carry out fundamental research on all facets of the development problem and also make overall assessments. For on-the-spot inquiries and special reports, it would have at its disposal a number of operational teams of experts (ethnologists, sociologists, doctors, geologists, soil scientists, engineers, economists, etc.) whose combined specialties would cover all aspects of any particular problem. Whenever possible, the Institute would be able to enlist the help of appropriate organizations.

In this way, the Community's efforts could be based on a proper knowledge of what is really needed by the peoples involved and attention focused on the human aspect of the problems examined thus enabling our sometimes over-egocentric Europe to branch out into a policy of cooperation with all these various countries.

Euratom and its already existing research establishments, the European University of tomorrow and the Institute for Development, once it is set up, will all constitute concrete and effective instruments of action. The example of the European Council for Nuclear Research at Geneva, five years older than our own organisation, shows what can be achieved if Europe gives itself the right equipment for the job. No less than seven Nobel Prize winners are associated with the work of the CERN, which has even attracted well known scientists from across the Atlantic.

That concludes our account of what we have done and what we are in a position to do. Europe has only to close once and for all its tragic record of internecine strife and civil war, to act in harmony with its spiritual and humanist traditions in order to rediscover its rightful place in the world, its friends and its prestige.