

research and technology

bulletin published by the press and information services
of the commission of the european communities

REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED

Brussels, 15 December 1970

No. 79

Community's Ministers for Science to Meet
in Brussels on 16-17 December 1970

The Ministers for Science of the six Community countries are to hold an important meeting in Brussels on 16-17 December.

Foremost on their agenda is the proposal by the Commission of the European Communities for a new and all-embracing approach to the problems of scientific and technological research in the Community (see "Research & Technology" No. 75). An ad hoc working party of the Council of Ministers has studied this document and will place its conclusions before the ministers.

An even more urgent question, probably, is that of revamping the Joint Research Centre. On this subject the Commission has made specific proposals designed to reorganize the Centre and give it a greater measure of independence of both the Commission and the Council of Ministers. It hopes that a formal decision can be reached on this matter without too many difficulties.

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As for the multiannual research programme, which should (see "Research & Technology" Nos. 36 and 74) cover non-nuclear activities, there is little hope of specific decisions except, perhaps, in regard to the Commission's proposals for thermonuclear fusion and biology (see "Research & Technology" No. 57).

For 1971, the estimated budget ("Research & Technology" No. 71) will be confirmed and probably increased by 0.8 million units of account to cover the cost of a technical and financial evaluation of the proposed construction of the SORA pulsed reactor ("Research & Technology" No. 28).

Lastly, it seems to be certain that the ministers will appoint an ad hoc working party from the Consultative Committee on Nuclear Research (this Committee, chaired by the Commission of the European Communities, is composed of experts appointed by the Member States) to assess the various existing techniques with a view to setting up a European uranium enrichment facility, in accordance with the Commission's proposal (see "Research & Technology" No. 18).

