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\*\* THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAS REFUSED TO APPROVE EURATOM'S DRAFT RESEARCH AND INVESTMENT BUDGET for 1971 (see "Research & Technology" No. 71) because, according to the resolution adopted, it "is likely to prolong the present stagnation and absence of decisions in the structural field".

The Parliament "solemnly declared that unless decisions with a view to a renovated research policy were taken very shortly, it would be obliged to use all the powers given it by the Treaties in regard to budgets and to institutions which have not made constructive efforts to implement the treaty establish Euratom.

The Parliament duly noted, however, that the Commission had submitted to the Council of Ministers proposals concerning the reorganization of the Joint Research Centre and a general Community programme of action in the field of scientific and Technological research and development" (see "Research & Development" No. 75).

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\*\* The Commission of the European Communities has sent the Council of Ministers a set of documents proposing the REORGANIZATION OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE. In the Commission's view, this reorganization is intimately linked with the ADOPTION OF A MULTIANNUAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMME. It is thought that the Ministers for Research of the six countries will be able to discuss the subject at their next session, to be held on 16-17 December 1970.

\*\* A BALANCE SHEET OF FUEL CONVERSION IN COMMUNITY POWER PLANTS in 1969 has been issued by the Statistics Office of the European Communities. ANNEX 1 contains a short note on the evolution of output from conventional thermal power plants and of the corresponding fuel consumption during 1969.

\*\* Will the FIGHT AGAINST POLLUTION OF THE RHINE be the subject of Community proposals aimed at harmonizing the various countries' laws on water pollution? A resolution on these lines has been adopted by the European Parliament which, having heard the report from its Social Affairs and Public Health Committee, does not conceal its anxiety at the sanitary, social and economic implications of the ever-mounting pollution of this river.

ANNEX 2 gives a brief summary of the relevant report adopted by the European Parliament.

\*\* The Euratom Supply Agency has concluded, on behalf of Kernforschungsanstalt Jülich GmbH, a TOLL ENRICHMENT contract under which the US Atomic Energy Commission is to supply 30 kg of uranium with 93% enrichment and 27 kg with 90% enrichment.

\*\* A report on AMBIENT RADIOACTIVITY MEASUREMENTS RECORDED IN THE COMMUNITY COUNTRIES IN 1969 (air, fallout, water) is to be published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

\*\* The Council of Ministers has replied to a written question put by Mr Gerlach, a German member of the European Parliament, on the DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED INDUSTRIAL AND DOMESTIC WASTE WATER originating in Dutch territory into THE MOUTH OF THE EMS. In its reply the Council states that, generally speaking, questions of water pollution form part of the research subjects being examined, at the instance of the Community Member States and with the participation of the official Community bodies, in the context of European cooperation in the field of scientific and technological research, in which nine non-member European countries are taking part as well as the Six.

The proposals put forward by the Community countries envisage that research on water pollution should lead up to the establishing of harmonized standards which would be applicable to all the participating countries. Nonetheless the Council does not rule out the possibility that, on completion of this work, and in respect of the Community's own requirements, it may find it expedient to study these problems itself in collaboration with the Commission.

\*\* A technical and economic study on SAFETY GLASS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES is to be undertaken on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities, with a view to the preparation of a draft directive to remove technical obstacles to intra-Community trade. This study is to discover the optimum safety specifications for toughened and laminated glass sheet for use in the construction of motor vehicles and trailers, with due regard to the regulations in force in the Member States and to the state of the art.

\*\* Three contracts for studies on the APPLICATION OF IRRADIATION TECHNIQUES IN THE FOOD AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES have been awarded to specialists in the field by the Commission of the European Communities. The three subjects covered are the inhibition of sprouting in potatoes by irradiation, the technological aspects of preserving shrimps, and textile finishing methods.

\*\* Among the recent EURATOM REPORTS are the following:

- Comparaison de dix aciers peu alliés, normalisés et revenus, pour constituer des cuves de réacteurs nucléaires (Comparison of ten low-alloy, normalized and tempered steels for the construction of nuclear reactor vessels)  
(106 pages - 165 FB - No. EUR 3994 f - in French)
- Sviluppo prototipi di elementi di combustibile per centrali nucleari ad acqua in pressione (Development of prototype fuel elements for pressurized water power reactors)  
(110 pages - 165 FB - No. EUR 4406 i - in Italian)
- The operations group of the BR-2 reactor and its associated facilities  
(40 pages - 60 FB - No. EUR 4451 e - in English)
- Treatment given to some specific technical problems in safety reviews in Europe  
(34 pages - 50 FB - No. EUR 4467 e - in English)
- Geel Establishment of JRC - Annual progress report 1969  
(72 pages - 100 FB - No. EUR 4525 e - in English)

These reports can be obtained from the Sales Office for Official Publications of the European Communities,  
37, rue Gleesener, Luxembourg.

ANNEX 1Trend of Output and Fuel Consumption in the Community's  
Conventional Power Plants During 1969

(based on a report by the Statistics Office of the  
European Communities)

A. Chief aspects of the electrical economy in 1969

The expansion of economic activity in the Community, which was already fairly vigorous in 1968, gathered momentum considerably in 1969. The demand for electric power was thus further stimulated and gross consumption, 9.3% higher than in 1968, attained 551,000 million kWh in 1969.

In all, 98% of domestic electricity demand was covered by the output from Community power plants. To supply the additional 43,500 million kWh required by the home market, the Community power plants had to step up their net output by some 47,000 million kWh (10.1% over the 1968 figure). Hydroelectric plants, which had undergone very modest expansion in 1969 and were operating under normal water conditions, recorded a slightly lower output (down by 1000 million kWh) than in 1968. The output from nuclear plants, although nearly 50% up on 1968, amounts together with that of the small Italian geothermal units to no more than 2.6% of the Community's net total production.

Consequently, taking into account the increased home demand on the one hand, and on the other hand the drop in imported electricity and hydroelectric power and the contribution, still very small, from nuclear and geothermal plants, conventional installations had to increase their output by about 44,500 million kWh, i.e., 12.9% over the 1968 figure, supplying 76% of the total electricity generated in the Community (74% in 1968).

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The fuel requirements for all the Community's conventional power plants used exclusively to generate electricity were 12.2% up on the previous year; this corresponds in absolute terms to an additional consumption of 15 million metric tons of hard coal equivalent (or 10.5 million tons of petroleum equivalent). The fuel economies resulting from the improved performance of these stations was no more than 0.4% this year, the mean specific heat consumption of all producers rising from 2510 kcal (lower calorific value) per kWh net in 1968 to 2500 kcal per kWh in 1969.

ANNEX 2The Fight Against Pollution of the Rhine

The Rhine is one of the most heavily polluted rivers in the world. Millions of people's dirty water goes into it; the salts from the Alsatian potash mines and the Strasbourg settling tanks, the waste water and chemical residues from the many industries in the river basin, and particularly from the Ruhr, pour into it; the oil waste from the river's shipping add to the filth. The water flora and fauna, which normally keep the water clean to a certain extent, now have difficulty in surviving in so polluted an environment. They are further threatened by excessive heating of the river, the water from which is used to cool the nuclear power plants which stand along it.

As a result, long stretches of the Rhine have become unusable for drinking water and even for watering cattle or for irrigation. Fishing has suffered heavy losses. There is a general ban on bathing. The large amount of chemicals in the water also cause occasional damage to industry, so that material costs often go up or efficiency is lowered. Lastly, the ships and bridge piers suffer increasing corrosion.

This situation is a serious menace to the health of people living in the Rhine basin and it also causes grave economic damage. It is a source of worry to the European Parliament, which has recently heard the report from its Committee for Social Affairs and Public Health on the urgent question of a Community-scale campaign against the pollution of rivers and not least of the Rhine.

In a resolution adopted at the end of the debate, the European Parliament observed that the measures taken by the various states up to now to check pollution of the Rhine have proved very inadequate and that, in order to be effective, joint action must be taken by the countries through which it flows.



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For this reason the European Parliament asked the Commission of the European Communities to put forward, in performance of the duties laid upon it by the Community Treaties, proposals to harmonize the laws and regulations of the Member States regarding measures to combat pollution of the Rhine waters. The Community measures must rest upon steps taken jointly by industry and the public authorities, and must reflect the public's concern that it should be guaranteed healthy living conditions in an inhabitable world.

Furthermore, the Commission should negotiate an agreement with Switzerland and Austria by which those states, which also border the Rhine, would undertake to respect the measures rendered compulsory in the Community.

It should be forbidden to discharge residual salts into the Rhine, and river transport and the discharge of substances that endanger the water, such as highly poisonous chemicals, should be severely regulated.

Quality standards for water, binding upon everybody, should also be laid down by the Commission of the European Communities, or else, if it does not feel capable of doing this, by the International Commission for the protection of the Rhine against pollution. It is also desirable that the Commission should regularly publish information on the pollution of the Community rivers, so that priority action can be decided upon by the responsible authorities.

Lastly, the European Parliament asked the Commission of the European Communities to submit proposals to align the Member States' legal provisions designed to prevent pollution of all the other river basins in the Community.

It should be mentioned that the Commission of the European Communities recently had a comparative survey carried out on the anti-pollution measures enforceable as regards water in the Community. Moreover, it already intervenes, by means of recommendations and directives, in questions concerning the rate of radioactivity in the water, soil and air.

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