

**news release****communiqué**ENTRY INTO FORCE OF EURATOM - IAEA AGREEMENT

IMPLICATIONS FOR TALKS ON EURATOM - CANADA ACCORD

The Commission of the European Communities on February 17 notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna that all the necessary steps have now been taken by the Community for the IAEA/Euratom (European Atomic Energy Community) agreement to come into force. The seven Member States (Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands) which are, with Euratom, parties to the agreement will also notify the IAEA individually that the steps necessary for the entry into force of this agreement have been taken.

This marks an important step in developing cooperation between the Community and the IAEA on nuclear safeguards and controls. The long established Community safeguard system through Euratom will henceforth be integrated into the worldwide system of controls now operated by the IAEA. The Commission is hopeful that it will contribute towards insuring an unimpeded and steady delivery of fissionable material. It also has implications for the Community's negotiations on the up-dating of the Euratom/Canada agreement of 1959.

The agreement between the IAEA, Euratom and the seven member states within the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was signed on April 5, 1973. Article 25 of that agreement said it would come into force only when certain internal procedures within the Community had been worked out. The E.C. Council of Ministers approved the agreement in September 1973. The Commission then began working out the regulation necessary for the implementation of the agreement. This regulation was adopted by the Commission and approved by the Council in October 1976.

A Commission proposal in July last year suggesting the Council should adopt a Community regulation directly applicable to all the installations concerned ran into difficulties.

The United Kingdom and the Community concluded a separate agreement with the IAEA in September last year, which is in line with the agreement now concluded for the seven Member States.

The agreement comes into force on the date the notifications arrive at the IAEA.

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Euratom is one of three legally distinct Communities. The others are the European Economic Community ("Common Market") and the European Coal and Steel Community. They share the same institutions: the Council of Ministers, the Commission, the European Parliament and the Court of Justice.

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