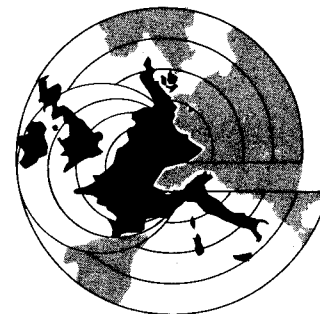


European Community



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NEWS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES TO ORGANIZE PUBLIC DEBATES ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

The EC Commission plans to organize public debates on nuclear energy before the end of the year.

Debates on nuclear problems are currently taking place within the Community, but only in a national context. The Commission considers it important to give a Community dimension to these discussions.

Goals and extent of debates

The goals of the debates are to:

- inform public opinion about nuclear energy problems, taking into account the Community's energy needs.
- ensure that the Community takes part in the public debate on nuclear energy.
- help the Commission define priorities in its nuclear energy research policy, i.e. to identify sectors where new initiatives and further efforts are necessary.

The public debates, the Commission believes, should be "open", in the sense that Energy Commissioner Guido Brunner will listen, ask questions and take note of opinions expressed.

The Commission wants the public debates to be wide-ranging, covering a group of topics dealing with economic policy and growth rates, energy policy, social change and democratic control, along with security and the environment.

The first of these hearings is expected to take place around the end of October 1977.
