

## 'Resolving the Euratom crisis' from the Communauté européenne (November 1968)

**Caption:** In 1968, the European Commission publishes a White Paper reviewing the research carried out by the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom) and suggests measures to improve its operation.

**Source:** Communauté européenne. Bulletin mensuel d'information. dir. de publ. Fontaine, François ; Réd. Chef Chastenet, Antoine. Novembre 1968, n° 124. Paris: Service d'Information des Communautés Européennes. "Pour sortir Euratom de la crise", p. 1.

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## The Commission's White Paper

### Resolving the Euratom crisis

[...]

#### Large-scale investment on research and development ...

*The Six allocate almost as much public funding to civil nuclear research as does the United States, both through their national budgets and through the Community budget — which means they spend more than the US in terms of gross national product. Overall, the Community devotes some USD 800 million a year (about FRF 4 billion) to nuclear research and development for peaceful purposes.*

That is a sizeable budget, accounting for nearly 20 % of all public spending on research and development in the Community as a whole.

Unfortunately, *most of the money goes to national programmes that are not coordinated at European level. Member States' contributions to Euratom's research and development programme amount to less than 12 % of all their expenditure on nuclear research. In the ten years from 1958 to 1967, the Six allocated USD 650 million (FRF 3.2 billion) to Euratom's first two five-year research programmes — more or less what they spent on their national programmes in 1967 alone.*

#### ... plagued by lack of coordination

The Community's efforts to coordinate national programmes have yielded positive results in sectors of fundamental research such as thermonuclear fusion and biology, but have been disappointing in sectors with more immediate industrial applications. *The dispersion of research and development programmes in the Community has prevented the effective establishment of a nuclear common market. As a result, the common research potential is underused, resources are wasted, and the industrial and commercial return on financial investments is very low.*

For example, while the number of nuclear power stations *in operation* in the Community (17, with a total output of 2 277 MW) is nearly the same as in the United States (15, with a total output of 2 299 MW), no more than 20 or so are *under construction or on order* in the Community, with a planned total output of 6 000 MW, compared to over a hundred in the United States, with a total output of around 60 000 MW.

[...]