

‘Atomic energy agreement concluded with the USA’ from the Süddeutsche Zeitung (10 November 1958)

Caption: As a new nuclear cooperation agreement between the United States and the Member States of Euratom is signed on 8 November 1958 in Brussels, the German daily newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung welcomes the decision on the joint building of nuclear power plants in Europe.

Source: Süddeutsche Zeitung. Münchner Neueste Nachrichten aus Politik, Kultur, Wirtschaft und Sport. Hrsg. Friedmann, Werner; Goldschagg, Edmund; Schöningh, Dr. Franz Josef; Schwingenstein, August ; Herausgeber Friedmann, Werner. 10.11.1958, Nr. 269; 14. Jg. München: Süddeutscher Verlag. "Das Atom-Abkommen mit den USA perfekt", p. 7.

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Atomic energy agreement concluded with the USA

350 million dollars for the development of atomic energy in Europe

Sp. **Brussels** (from our own correspondent) — On 8 November, in the ‘Concert Noble’, the Brussels ballroom beloved of the Belgian nobility, an agreement was signed between the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the USA on cooperation in the field of atomic energy. A joint research and development programme is planned. As part of this programme, a number of industrial-scale nuclear reactors are to be built by 1963 in the six countries of the Community, with a total capacity of one million kilowatts.

Between six and eight reactors

The total capacity is to be distributed among six to eight reactors. Building applications may be filed by private companies and public undertakings. Only reactor types on which research and development in the United States has reached a suitably advanced stage will be considered. In the first phase, pressurised and boiling water reactors are the most likely contenders. The total cost of the programme is estimated at \$350 million, of which \$215 million is to be provided by the undertakings concerned and by other European sources of funding. The US Administration will contribute up to \$135 million in the form of long-term loans to the European Atomic Energy Community, which will allocate these funds to the parties concerned. The US Atomic Energy Commission further commits itself to supplying fuel for a period of ten years. It is estimated that 30 000 kg of low-enriched uranium will be required. The Americans will continue to perform all preparatory work and services until Euratom is ready to take over.

Testing in industrial conditions

The reciprocity that is a feature of the agreement is based on the fact that the United States, because of its surplus of hitherto even cheaper energy sources, has no opportunity to prove in industrial conditions, which is to say in practice, the scientific and engineering processes developed by it for the peaceful use of atomic energy. This testing is now to be done in Europe. The building programme for the reactors will thus be combined with a research and development programme. It will centre in particular on joint research into improvements in reactor efficiency, cost reductions in the fuel cycle, and re-use of plutonium. The USA and Euratom will each provide \$50 million for the first five years of what will initially be a ten-year programme. The US Atomic Energy Commission had announced shortly before the agreement was signed that the first licence for a US-built nuclear reactor had been granted. This pressurised water reactor is to be installed in Belgium, near the town of Mol.