

Telegram from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to its diplomatic representations abroad (Paris, 13 July 1956)

Caption: On 13 July 1956, the French Foreign Ministry sends a telegram to its diplomats abroad setting out the French Government's position regarding the planned European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom).

Source: Ministère des Affaires étrangères ; Commission de publication des DDF (sous la dir.). Documents diplomatiques français. Volume II: 1956, 1er juillet-23 octobre. Paris: Imprimerie nationale, 1990. 697 p. p. 88-89.

Copyright: (c) Translation CVCE.EU by UNI.LU

All rights of reproduction, of public communication, of adaptation, of distribution or of dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

Consult the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/telegram_from_the_french_ministry_of_foreign_affairs_to_its_diplomatic_representations_abroad_paris_13_july_1956-en-90f00d1a-b404-45fo-a2db-4a6e945935ef.html



Last updated: 06/07/2016

Telegram from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to French diplomatic representations abroad (Paris, 13 July 1956)

T. circular n° 51

Paris, 13 July 1956, 9.10 a.m.

On 5, 6, 10 and 11 July, the National Assembly considered the appeals by Mr Felix Gouin and Mr Maurice Schumann concerning the revival of Europe. This debate was sought by the Government, which, in order to avoid any repetition of the precedent set by the European Defence Community, intended to ensure that, before any treaties were signed, the Euratom and possibly the Common Market projects could secure the parliamentary majority required for ratification.

In the course of the debate, the Government was prompted to clarify the following points:

1. Euratom's plans and activities would not replace those of national governments but would supplement efforts being made by member countries;
2. Although limited for the moment to the six countries of the ECSC, Euratom would not be an institutional extension thereof and would remain open to all OEEC countries and, where necessary, would link its efforts in the area of atomic energy to those of the OEEC;
3. Euratom institutions would have only those elements of supranationality required for its technical operations;
4. Refraining from the explosion of an atom bomb would last only as long as the time needed to develop that capability. This would not mean banning military research during the same period. By the end of that period, the French Government could be free once again to act unilaterally following simple consultations with its partners;
5. The Common Market would be set up only if accompanied by the harmonisation of social and tax systems, once a restructuring and investment fund had been put in place, and once the conditions had been established for including the Overseas Territories in the Common Market.

These clarifications, given in turn by Maurice Faure, Christian Pineau and Guy Mollet, led to a vote in favour of Euratom by 332 votes to 186. The outcome means that those MPs who voted 'for' will accept the ratification of the Euratom Treaty if it corresponds to what was said by the Government during the debate.