# Communiqué from the spokesman of the EAEC Commission (Brussels, 25 May 1964)

**Caption:** On 27 May 1964, the Euratom Commission officially announces the conclusion of an agreement with the United States for the establishment of a new cooperation programme which will focus on the development of rapid reactors for energy purposes.

**Source:** Fondation Jean Monnet pour l'Europe, [s.l.]. Archives Jean Monnet. Fonds AMK. 41/2/62.
Communauté européenne de l'énergie atomique, Bruxelles. 25/5/64, N° 8/64. EUR/C/2851/64 f.



**URL:** http://www.cvce.eu/obj/communique_from_the_spokesman_of_the_eaec_commission_brussels_25_may_1964-en-9ca8178f-b8f2-41ff-8b28-3ca96800191f.html
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# Atlantic partnership in the atomic field

**United States and Euratom conclude fast reactor co-operation arrangements**

1) The Euratom Commission announces today the conclusion on behalf of the European Atomic Energy Community, the French Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique, the German Gesellschaft für Kernforschung and the Italian Comitato Nazionale per l'Energia Nucleare, of an arrangement with the United States Atomic Energy Commission under which they will engage in a broad programme of co-operation on the development of fast reactors.

2) The importance of this particular type of reactor for the future of atomic energy has been recognized on both sides of the Atlantic. All atomic reactors built for civilian or military purposes produce plutonium, but so far this material has been produced and utilised mainly in the framework of military programmes. However, plutonium can also be used as a reactor fuel in the same way as U235 in thermal and fast reactors. Recycling of the plutonium in thermal reactors is one of the main objects under study in the framework of the existing US-Euratom Co-operation Agreement. The importance of fast reactors stems from their optimum ability to burn the plutonium produced by civilian reactors, and from their ability to breed more Pu than they actually burn; hence they will not only be able to use the small percentage of fissile material contained in natural uranium, but theoretically the totality of the fertile isotopes, thereby increasing energy resources on an enormous scale.

3) The European effort in this field has been organised on the basis of three associations between the Euratom Commission on the one hand, the French Commissariat, the German Gesellschaft and the Italian Comitato on the other hand.

Between the $ 73 million currently provided for by the second 5-year plan of the European Community and the sum contributed by the 3 Associates, it is a total of some $ 200 million which will be spent in the Community in the fast reactors field during the period 1963-67. During the same time, the USAEC anticipates spending an approximately equal amount in this field.

Here then lies the prospect of a real partnership since it is in the interest of both sides to exchange information resulting from the implementation of their respective programmes in order to ensure the maximum benefit from their efforts.

4) Under the information exchange arrangement, Euratom and the USAEC will exchange information on all fast neutron reactor programmes for civilian central power station applications and applicable research and development programmes in this field in which Euratom or the USAEC is now or will be participating during the period covered by the arrangement. The arrangement defines in detail the areas of technology on which the USAEC and Euratom will exchange information. It also sets up procedures for this co-operation and contains associated patent arrangements. The term of the co-operation is initially for 10 years.

5) At the same time, an arrangement has been concluded which provides for the supply by the USAEC of plutonium and enriched uranium for the execution of the Community's fast reactor research programme. As a result, the Parties have agreed to proceed with negotiation of a contract under which Euratom will purchase approximately 350 kg of plutonium from the USAEC at the established U.S. domestic base price applicable at the time of delivery. The plutonium will be for use in the SNEAK and MASURCA critical experiment facilities in Karlsruhe, Germany, and Cadarache, France, respectively, which will be using fuel element shapes allowing their interchange.

6) The USAEC will also supply the U235 needs of the Community's fast reactors programme, as now foreseen, under a combination of normal and special short-term lease arrangements at the prevailing U.S. domestic use charge for such material which now is 4-3/4 per cent.

7) The Community is also engaged in discussions with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority in the framework of the existing Agreement for Co-operation between the Community and the United Kingdom.

It will be recalled that the Euratom-CEA Association bought the first half (45kg) of the plutonium for the first core of the Rapsodie fast reactor project at Cadarache, France, from the UKAEA in May 1963. The second half will be purchased from the UKAEA shortly.

At the same time, active consultations are currently being carried out with British experts in order to organise with the UKAEA an exchange of information as complete as possible in the field of fast reactors.

8) These co-ordinated efforts will thus provide a concrete example of Atlantic Partnership in action in this advanced field of nuclear technology.