

Joint Declaration by the Action Committee for the United States of Europe on the peaceful use of atomic energy (18 January 1956)

Caption: On 18 January 1956, the Action Committee for the United States of Europe (ACUSE) unanimously adopts a Joint Declaration on the tasks and operating procedures of a European Atomic Energy Commission to be responsible for the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Source: Statements and declarations of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe : 1955-67. London: Chatham House; PEP, 1969. 111 p. (European series ; 9). p. 14-16.

Copyright: (c) The Royal Institute of International Affairs

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/joint_declaration_by_the_action_committee_for_the_united_states_of_europe_on_the_peaceful_use_of_atomic_energy_18_january_1956-en-a8905521-238e-4392-b7f7-928d5ca490c9.html



Last updated: 05/11/2015

Joint declaration to be submitted for Parliamentary approval in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands

(adopted unanimously on 18 January 1956)

1. In order to bring about an exclusively peaceful development of atomic energy, as well as to ensure the security of workers and populations and to improve the standard of living of the populations;

In order to facilitate the work and progress of the industries concerned:

by ensuring a sufficient supply of nuclear fuels;

by financial and technical assistance;

by the creation of essential common services and establishments;

by the creation of a common market for special materials and equipment defined by the Commission; and

by the pooling of knowledge;

it is indispensable that our countries jointly delegate to a European Commission for Atomic Energy the necessary powers and the necessary common mandate.

2. In order to guarantee the exclusively peaceful character of nuclear activities as well as to guarantee the security of labour forces and populations, the Commission should establish a system of control. It is indispensable:

(a) On the one hand, that exclusively for that purpose, all nuclear fuels produced in, or imported into, the territories coming under the jurisdiction of our countries be acquired by the European Commission for Atomic Energy. This rule shall not affect the carrying out of international agreements already in force. The Commission must retain exclusive ownership of nuclear fuels throughout their processing. The Commission will place such fuels at the disposal of users equitably and without discrimination, in periods of normal supply as well as in time of shortage.

(b) On the other hand, that the construction and operation of nuclear installations be subject to prior authorization by the Commission, to be issued when the conditions are fulfilled allowing the Commission to follow the processing and use of such fuels and to maintain the security of workers and populations.

Security rules to be observed in the transportation and handling of nuclear materials, the construction and operation of installations, and the disposal of waste should be laid down by the Commission in cooperation with international organizations, particularly the U.N. The Commission will ensure the application of these rules.

3. Parliamentary control over the Commission should be exercised by the Common Assembly and juridical control by the Court of Justice of the European Coal and Steel Community.

The number of members of the Common Assembly should be increased in view of its new tasks.

The Special Council of Ministers should harmonize the activities of the Commission with those of the national Governments responsible for the general economic policy of their countries.

A Consultative Committee composed of workers, employers, and consumers should be attached to the Commission.

4. Every opportunity for participation in the Community must be open to European countries other than our

own.

(a) These European countries must be able to participate fully if they accept the above rules. The more numerous the participating countries, the more profitable the common effort will be to each.

(b) In particular, everything must be done to obtain the full participation of Great Britain. If Great Britain does not accept full participation, the necessary measures should in any case be taken to ensure her close association.

(c) Finally, possibilities should be open to European non-member countries for using the common services and establishments, or for participating in their setting-up, in accordance with special agreements to be concluded later.

The Commission alone should be empowered to negotiate and conclude all agreements with third countries necessary for the accomplishment of its mission, particularly in matters concerning the supply of nuclear materials.

The rights and obligations of the participating countries resulting from agreements in force relative to the peaceful uses of atomic energy should be transferred to the Commission, subject to the consent of the third countries with which these agreements have been concluded.