

## The issues surrounding the establishment of Euratom

**Copyright:** (c) 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/the\\_issues\\_surrounding\\_the\\_establishment\\_of\\_euratom-en-956f3536-568d-4904-a225-1dee70c782c2.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/the_issues_surrounding_the_establishment_of_euratom-en-956f3536-568d-4904-a225-1dee70c782c2.html)

**Last updated:** 04/08/2016



## The issues surrounding the establishment of Euratom

In the mid-1950s, nuclear energy enjoyed widespread support. Many scientists and political leaders highlighted the new promise that peaceful use of the atom seemed to hold. Nuclear energy was seen as a key factor in strategic and economic terms, and was increasingly emerging as an alternative energy source for civilian use.

In November 1956, the heads of delegation of the Six attending the Intergovernmental Conference on the Common Market and Euratom instructed [Louis Armand, the Chairman of French Railways \(SNCF\)](#), [Franz Etzel, Vice-President of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community \(ECSC\)](#), and [Francesco Giordani, the former Chairman of the Italian National Committee for Nuclear Research \(CNRN\)](#), representing France, Germany and Italy respectively, to draw up a report on how Europe might use nuclear energy to meet its growing energy requirements.

- [The Three Wise Men \(Pathé Journal, 22 February 1957\)](#)

Only nuclear energy seemed able to meet the growing demand for electricity, which, according to the experts, would increase threefold between 1955 and 1975. It was imperative that Europe should encourage the production of large amounts of low-cost nuclear-powered electricity.

- [Europe, coal and the atom \(Pathé, December 1956\)](#)
- [Cartoon by Party on the importance of nuclear energy for Europe \(17 January 1956\)](#)
- [‘Euratom’ from Le Figaro \(19 January 1956\)](#)

Euratom’s missions were therefore to contribute to the rapid formation and development of Europe’s nuclear industries, to help improve the standard of living in the Member States and to further the development of trade with other countries.