

Public Hearing
Assessing Euratom – 50 years of European Nuclear Policy
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Historical Context

The Euratom Treaty was created as a firewall against proliferation of nuclear weapons. This was and is its main success.

Main elements of non-proliferation are: ownership of fissile material and nuclear safeguards

Although defined as a supranational treaty to develop nuclear energy it had no real impact on the nuclear industry. National interests prevailed. The nuclear industry was national, not European.

Exeptions : URENCO, JRC (particularly Geel and Karlsruhe), international cooperation

Euratom had only a minor impact on nuclear reseach, with the exception of nuclear fusion. The member states preferred to develop their own research facilities.

In the 50's and 60's the Americans had a clear monopoly in the procurement of Uranium. Therefore a Euratom Supply Agency (Chapter 6) was created. It never worked efficiently because soon an uranium market developed and the procurement agency lost its importance.

Democratic Deficit

The Euratom Treaty has a clear democratic deficit. The European Parliament is mentioned in the Treaty, but has no decision rights, not even on the research programme.

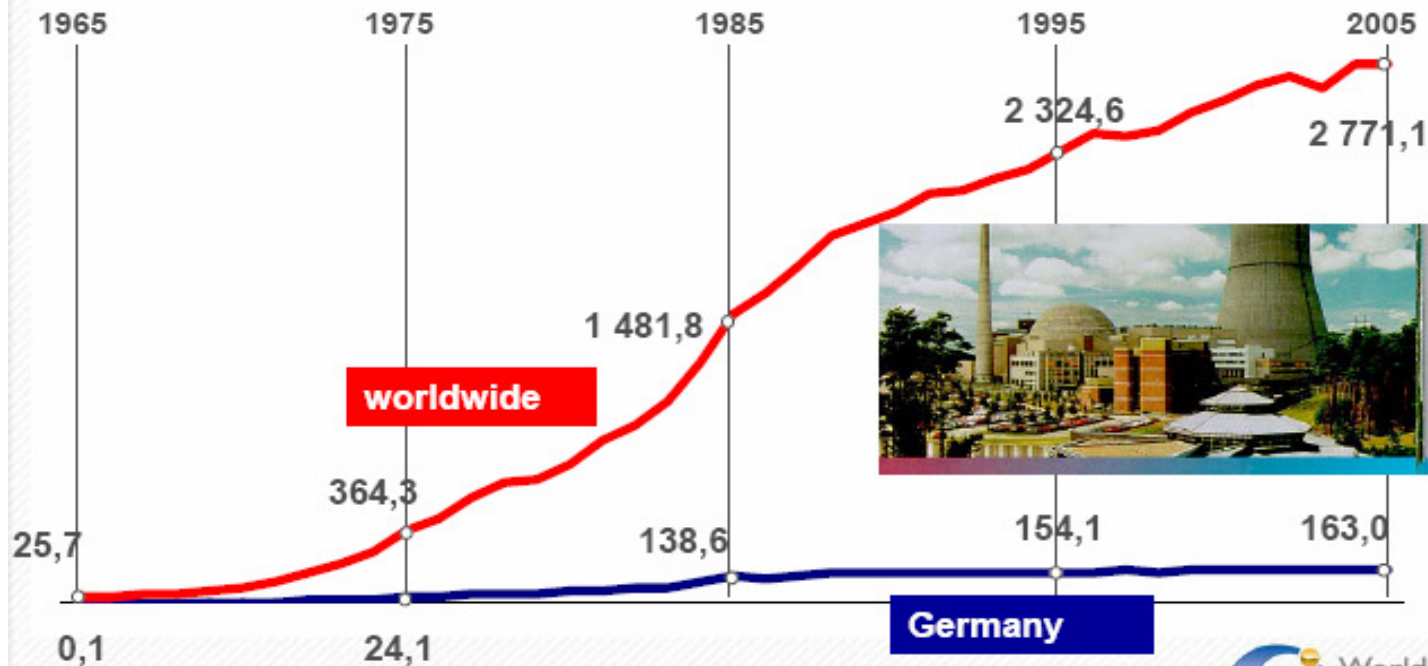
It is the Social and Economic Committee which needs to be informed regularly, not the Parliament.

Today the Commission informs the Parliament as part of an internal agreement. And sometimes the Council and the Commission take into account the Parliament's opinion.

The Treaty continues in its original form. It was politically impossible to amend it or adapt it to the needs of our time. The Member States objected any move to reform the Treaty.

Is it a Renaissance? - Nuclear Electricity Production

Annual consumption
in TWh



Source:
BP Statistical Review 2006



The Euratom Treaty 50 years after

The Euratom Treaty was based on a consensus over nuclear energy. This consensus does no longer exist. There is a growing need for an european wide debate.

Court ruling 2002 – refers to the ratification of the Euratom Treaty of the Convention for Nuclear Safety: Euratom has not only a responsibility in health protection (Chapter 3) but also in nuclear safety.

The idea of a Joint Undertaking (Chapter 5) for nuclear waste disposal is no longer pursued.

Dilemma:

The members States are split over nuclear energy. Absurd situation: some member states had to ratify a treaty whose purpose they reject. On the other hand: a mere dissolution of the treaty would put an end to the remaining cooperation. It would confirm the national approach. And end a successful regime of safeguards.

The Euratom Treaty 50 years after

Outlook:

The main success of the Euratom Treaty is its non-proliferation aspect. As more and more countries in the world think about the use of nuclear energy or invest already in new installations, as others or the same countries are supposed to possess or develop nuclear weapons, as the actual Non-Proliferation-Treaty shows clear weaknesses or is not respected, we need a new approach. The Euratom Treaty, amended and democratic, could become a reference model for a new international non-proliferation treaty if the aspects of safeguards and nuclear services were efficiently and internationally controlled.

The risk of a non-peaceful use of the civilian nuclear fuel cycle

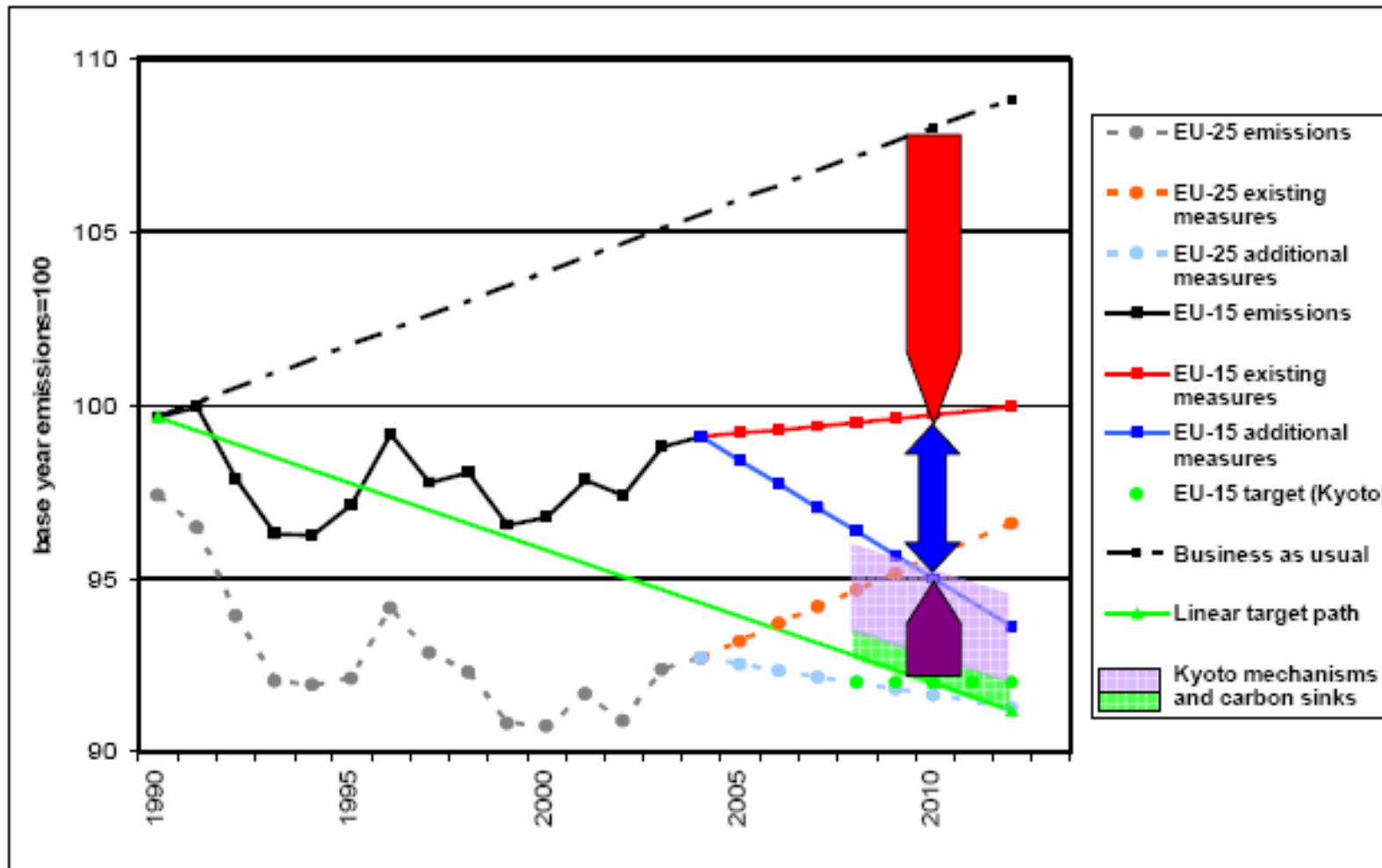
Two sources :

- a state wanting to advance towards the capability to build nuclear weapons
- a terrorist group wanting to divert nuclear weapons to quickly fabricate and explode an improvised nuclear device or a dirty bomb

How to address these risks ?

- implementaion of a regime by which states wanting to develop nuclear energy don't need to develop the expensive indigenous capability to enrich or reprocess spent nuclear fuel (reliable access to nuclear fuel, enriched uranium reserve, international nuclear fuel service centers – « cradle to grave » fuel service)
- the Non-Proliferation-Treaty needs to be amended

EU – CO2 Emissions



Source: European Commission „Limiting Global Climate Change to 2 degrees Celsius – The way ahead for 2020 and beyond“
Impact Assessment

More than a rhetorical question

In the light of rising CO₂ emissions don't we need a new treaty
- or commitment – to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases
by using all CO₂ – free or CO₂ - poor energy technologies ?