

Presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources and Energy

**Agreement between the Republic of South Africa and the  
European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) for Co-operation  
in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy**

19 February 2020

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## **Purpose of briefing**

- To brief the Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources and Energy on the EURATOM Agreement
- To recommend approval of the Agreement between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Government of Republic of South Africa for cooperation in peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy in Parliament in terms of Section 231 (2) of the Constitution.

## **Background of the EURATOM Agreement**

- South Africa signed Cooperation Agreement with the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) in 2013 (**Annexure A**).
- On 5 December 2018 Cabinet approved the Agreement between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Government of Republic of South Africa for cooperation in peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy for tabling in Parliament in terms of Section 231 (2) of the Constitution.
- EURATOM has twenty seven (27) Member States (**Annexure B**).
- EURATOM aim to pursue nuclear research and training activities while improving on nuclear safety.

## **Strategic Importance of the EURATOM Agreement**

- The main purpose of the Agreement is to further expand and deepen the mutual beneficial economic, scientific and technical cooperation. These may include:
  - Research and development in the field of nuclear energy (including fusion technology);
  - Use of nuclear materials and technologies such as applications in health and agriculture;
  - Transfer of nuclear materials and equipment;
  - Nuclear safeguards;
  - Nuclear safety, radioactive waste and spent fuel management, decommissioning, radiation protection including emergency preparedness and response.

## **Strategic Importance of the EURATOM Agreement**

- The cooperation under this Agreement maybe undertaken in following forms:
  - Supply of nuclear material and non-nuclear materials, equipment and related technologies
  - Provision of nuclear fuel cycle services
  - Establishment of Working Groups, if necessary to implement specific studies, and projects in the area of scientific research and technological development
  - Exchange of experts, scientific and technological information, organization of scientific seminars and conferences, training of administrative, scientific and technical personnel
  - Consultations on research and technological issues and performing joint research under agreed programmes
  - Co-operation activities in promoting nuclear safety
  - Other forms of cooperation as may be determined by the Parties in writing

## **Strategic Importance of the EURATOM Agreement**

- The Agreement is a tool that will be used to create the foundation for the cooperation between South Africa and EURATOM in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful uses.
- The Agreement includes countries with advanced nuclear programmes and have knowledge and expertise in management of radioactive waste.
- e.g France and Belgium - structures in place to deal with management of radioactive waste such as a Fund
- Finland - the construction for a disposal site for spent nuclear fuel

## **Consultations**

- Nuclear organizations (South African Nuclear Energy Corporation).
- National Departments (DPE, DST, NT, DMR)
- State Law Advisers of Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
- State Law Advisor of Department of International Relations and Cooperation - International Law
- International Cooperation, Trade and Security Cluster
- Cabinet



## **Recommendations**

- It is recommended that Parliament approves the Agreement between the European Atomic Energy Community and Government of the Republic of South Africa for cooperation in peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy in terms of section 231(2) of the Constitution.