

UNIVERSITATEA “BABEȘ-BOLYAI” CLUJ-NAPOCA  
FACULTATEA DE STUDII EUROPENE  
ȘCOALA DOCTORALĂ DE RELAȚII INTERNAȚIONALE ȘI STUDII  
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**The European Union and nuclear policies in Middle East at the  
beginning of the 21st Century. Euratom, model of good practice for  
the Gulf Cooperation Council.**

*Coordonator științific:*

Prof. Univ. Habil. Dr. Melania-Gabriela Ciot

*Absolvent:*

drd. Tudor-Octav Dan

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**Key words:** international nuclear policies, euratom, gulf cooperation council, non-proliferation, nuclear agreements, supranational structures, international treaties.

## **Resume**

This scientific paper analyzes how nuclear energy can be used as a political tool in the relationship between states, focusing on nuclear policies in Europe and the Middle East. Thus, it explores how these two regions may have different relationships with respect to nuclear power. In this way, Europe can offer the young states of the Middle East lessons on managing this energy source in the contemporary era. Keeping the proportions, Europe today returns a service that the cradle of civilizations, the ancient Middle East, rendered to humanity, especially influencing the destiny of those in the West.

The present research focuses on nuclear energy as an essential resource and political tool, analyzing how it is used by state and supra-state actors, thus generating the concept of nuclear policy. It is emphasized that nuclear power has not exhausted its importance, continuing to progress through technological innovations and the involvement of new political actors in nuclear projects. The study focuses on the nuclear policies of European and Middle Eastern states, with an emphasis on the relationship between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Euratom Treaty is examined as a model of good practice and a source of inspiration for a similar agreement among the states of the Middle East, especially the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The theme of the paper focuses on the analysis of the nuclear policies of the European states in relation to those of the Middle East, in the context of the dialogue between the two supranational structures mentioned. This paper also analyzes how the European Union and nuclear policies relate to the Middle East in the context of the 21st century, with Euratom as a relevant model. The research problem focuses on the limitations encountered by Middle Eastern states, especially Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, in establishing nuclear policies. The elements that can hinder the development of the nuclear sector from an economic, political, social or strategic point of view are explored, including difficult decisions, gaps in dialogue and negotiations between actors, legislative aspects, social problems, security, unsatisfied ecological criteria, lack of bilateral agreements and insufficient involvement of the private sector.

This research aims to demonstrate that the Euratom treaty can represent a relevant model for the Arab states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. For this purpose, several specific objectives were outlined:

First, it aims to provide a solution for designing a common and supranational institutional framework to regulate nuclear activities in the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council,

taking into account the Euratom model. The implementation of this solution is planned over a period of ten years, as Euratom coordinates nuclear issues within the European Union.

Secondly, it is proposed to conclude an agreement between the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, based on the European model, to establish the environmental criteria necessary for an adequate management of nuclear activities. These criteria are designed to ensure a favorable environment for the development of these activities and will have a perspective of at least ten years.

Another important objective is to emphasize the peaceful character of the international policies of the Gulf Cooperation Council states and to propose an agreement containing new criteria on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, inspired by the Euratom model. Given the possibility of using nuclear energy for military purposes, the establishment of rigorous rules to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons becomes essential.

In addition, the paper will focus on diplomatic and political aspects, with the appropriate balance of technical information, which will complement and argue the research. Thus, the optimal proportion between the relevant data in the field of international relations and the relevant technical details will be preserved.

The study analyzes nuclear policies in the Middle East in relation to those in the European Union, aiming to highlight recent events that have influenced the development of agreements and strategies in the field of nuclear energy. The European Union had a gradual development, while the Persian Gulf states had a rapid economic and political evolution, due to their rich oil resources. This spectacular evolution has transformed former fishing villages into major business centers and modern metropolises.

Under these conditions, it was necessary to establish a framework of norms, rules and strategies to rationally manage rapid economic progress. The Gulf Cooperation Council, a supranational organization, was created to co-opt and coordinate various areas of activity among member states, including nuclear policies.

Thus, this study aims to demonstrate the benefits of applying a European model, such as that of Euratom, in the correct development of interstate relations in the Middle East and in the creation of economic capacities specific to the nuclear field. Starting from the opinion of Josep Borrell, the vice-president of the European Commission, who emphasizes that the European Union can offer help in the field of nuclear security, capitalizing on the considerable expertise of Euratom, it can be understood that the application of this model can contribute to a more efficient and safe management of nuclear energy in the region.

The present work falls within the field of international relations and addresses three main theories in this field: realism, idealism and constructivism. Although most of the analysis focuses

on the idealist theory, arguments are made for interpretation under the umbrella of all three theories.

The aim of the paper is to demonstrate the need for an interstate agreement based on the European model of Euratom, using supranational structures and agreements. Idealism, with its emphasis on national values, reason and cooperation, argues that peace can be preserved through democratic means and economic interdependence. Adherents of this ideology support nuclear non-proliferation, promoting civilian nuclear energies.

In contrast, realism emphasizes the conflictual nature of people and states, highlighting the need for survival. Realism believes that no agreement can fully guarantee independence and peace, placing more emphasis on military power and the ability to intimidate. Thus, nuclear weapons can be seen as a deterrent and peacekeeper.

Constructivism, in a more pragmatic manner, focuses on the detailed analysis of international relations and how they are perceived. Regarding nuclear policies, constructivism highlights the importance of nuclear power, but does not offer a fixed approach, but rather one that is adaptable to context and possibilities.

In conclusion, the paper explores the different interests and approaches of the main theories in the context of nuclear policies in the Middle East and the European Union. Idealism favors a common international framework, realism emphasizes the reality of conflicts and military capabilities, and constructivism adapts to the particularities of international relations and nuclear politics.

The present study focuses on qualitative research, given the complexity of the subject and the prevalence of conceptual approaches over exact data. This methodological choice is supported by Ravitch and Carl in the paper "Qualitative Research: Bridging the Conceptual, Theoretical and Methodological".

Qualitative research allows an analysis in a real setting, based on the researcher's interpretation of the data collected. Thus, the researcher's ability to interpret and analyze becomes essential in obtaining the desired results. This type of research also allows for the exploration of multiple perspectives and the approach of various points of view, contributing to a complex understanding of the subject.

Also, qualitative research allows placing the researcher in the middle of the analyzed events or as an active participant, unlike other types of research that position him as a simple observer. Thus, the researcher has the freedom to use new concepts and ideas, adapted to the research topic, offering an original and emerging approach.

Qualitative research is useful in this case because it provides a complex and flexible understanding of the subject, allowing adaptation to the specific context and the theoretical

development of the ever-evolving subject. Also, the qualitative approach complements the arguments when quantitative data is not sufficient.

In qualitative research, an exploratory and explanatory approach will also be used, allowing the researcher to answer questions such as why and how. This approach involves analyzing existing literature, official documents, conducting comparative analysis and observational and pilot studies to test the validity of the arguments expressed.

Through the use of qualitative research and the exploratory and explanatory approach, this paper aims to make a complex and detailed contribution to the understanding of international relations between European and Middle Eastern states, with an emphasis on nuclear policies and the adaptation of European concepts to Eastern realities.

This paper addresses the implementation of European principles in the Persian Gulf area, emphasizing the need to view the process in an appropriate context. Qualitative research is considered appropriate to achieve the proposed objectives. A comprehensive approach is suggested, dividing the analysis into five main categories: managerial, political, legal, ethical and historical aspects.

Managerial aspects are investigated from the perspective of efficiency, effectiveness and economic effects to understand the management style of nuclear policies in Europe and the Middle East. Comparing European managerial approaches with specific Arab ones will provide arguments for a European solution in this field.

The analysis of the political aspects is considered crucial, given the aim of finding a European solution to an Arab nuclear problem. Political differences between EU and Gulf states are highlighted, but the analysis also focuses on commonalities, which can support collaboration.

The legislative element is analyzed to understand the limits and norms of nuclear activity. Legal frameworks, international and national law are explored to find solutions in resolving conflicts and dissensions.

Moral and ethical values are considered, including social perception and respect for community values in nuclear policies. The analysis focuses on the social and administrative effect of nuclear policies.

Historical analysis provides a glimpse into the lessons of the past in nuclear policy. Relevant historical events and elements are analyzed to understand future development.

A cross-cutting category, integration capacity, examines how democratic values and governance will enable the integration of European principles in the Middle East. Through the complex and detailed analysis in these five categories and the transversal category, the research aims to provide a European solution for nuclear policies in the Persian Gulf.



The present study proposes two research questions, correlated with the purpose, objectives and significance of the study, and from these main questions, a series of secondary research questions arise. In this sense, the main research questions are: *Does the Euratom Treaty have the capacity to provide the model of a successful interstate understanding for the good conduct of the nuclear policies of the Middle East states, especially Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates?* and *Euratom – as a supra-state structure, can it provide the model of an institutional framework, above the national one, for the good conduct of nuclear activity in the states of the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates?* .

In addition to these main questions, the following secondary questions will also be proposed : *Has Euratom proved to be useful for the European space?* – before offering it as an example, its usefulness at the level of the European space must be demonstrated; *Are the Arab states ready for such an agreement?* – the ability of the states to reach a common denominator must be specified and demonstrated; *To what extent will the monarchies of the Persian Gulf area relinquish or share sovereignty for joint actions?* – it is necessary that the leaders of Abu Dhabi, Al-Kuwait, Doha, Manama or Riyadh understand that they must give up their national pride in favor of regional agreements;

This research proposes an original and innovative approach to nuclear policies in Europe and the Middle East. The work is differentiated by two areas of comparative research: the analysis of the nuclear policies of the European Union and the Euratom Community and the analysis of the nuclear policies of the Gulf Cooperation Council. This comparison in a nuclear policy context is rare in the literature, with most papers dealing with the subject individually. Regarding the analysis of European nuclear policies, the paper proposes a predictive and applied approach to assess Euratom's ability to serve as a model for the Arab states of the Middle East. This perspective is innovative, as most previous research focuses on individual analyzes of European nuclear powers or their relations with external partners.

The analysis of the nuclear policies of the Gulf Cooperation Council states goes beyond traditional aspects and addresses the rationales that underpinned the construction of this policy framework, including sociological and anthropological aspects. This multidisciplinary approach is another original contribution of the paper. A particularly original point is the case study that explores how the Euratom model can be applied as a solution to the nuclear policies of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states. This case study provides a scientific basis for future comparisons and multidisciplinary approaches in the field of international relations.

In conclusion, the work stands out for its atypical approach to the subject and the use of multidisciplinary notions. It falls within the field of international relations and European studies

and proposes a detailed analysis of nuclear policies in Europe and the Middle East, facilitating a deeper understanding of this specific field of international relations.

This research faces several challenges and obstacles that may affect the quality and value of the conclusions reached. First, there is a limitation given the insufficiency of the existing bibliography to address in depth the current and contemporary topic of nuclear policies in Europe and the Middle East. The lack of specialized sources can restrict research and make it difficult to obtain a comprehensive analysis.

Second, the language barrier is another challenge, given that some relevant documents and articles may only be available in foreign languages, which can hinder access to key information and influence the quality of research. Also, the innovative character of the research represents an additional challenge. The original and innovative approach requires adapting the information retrieved to fit the proposed research modality. This process can be laborious and may require additional efforts to ensure the relevance of the data collected.

In addition, the complexity of the work brings with it a challenge in managing information from diverse fields such as anthropology, sociology, history, law and economics. Ensuring an adequate understanding of these areas and their appropriate integration into research can be a considerable effort. The dynamics of information is another factor that can influence research. The subject concerns current events, which requires constant updating of data to reflect present reality. Keeping research up to date can be difficult and requires extra attention. Finally, the case study proposed in the research may reveal legislative, ideological, political, decisional, economic or socio-cultural limits that could hinder the achievement of the proposed objective. This may require careful consideration and a creative approach to overcome potential obstacles. In conclusion, these challenges and limitations represent significant issues that research needs to manage in order to ensure a rigorous and comprehensive analysis of nuclear policies in Europe and the Middle East.

The first chapter of the paper was devoted to the analysis of international and European nuclear policy and was divided into three sections. In the first section, entitled "Nuclear energy – capabilities and limits", the fundamental technological aspects of nuclear energy and the existing infrastructures were presented. It constituted the information base for the subsequent approach to various aspects specific to the nuclear field. The second section was focused on "International Nuclear Policies" and provided a comprehensive analysis of the concept of international nuclear policy. The legal notions specific to international law regarding nuclear activities were explored and the main international agreements and treaties related to this field were examined. Also analyzed were the policies, strategies, concepts and doctrines of the nuclear-weapon states, classified according to how they relate to the Treaty on the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In the last section of this chapter, "European nuclear policies", specific policies of the European

Union and their distinct aspects in relation to Euratom were explored. This set the stage for the detailed analysis of the Euratom Treaty and the Euratom Community as a system of governance and coordination of nuclear policies in Europe.

The second theoretical chapter, "Euratom – treaty and community", focused on the analysis of the Euratom Treaty as the main European nuclear agreement and on the exploration of the Euratom Community as a coordinating entity for nuclear activities. Aspects of the history of Euratom's evolution, its legal and institutional structure, as well as its main powers were examined. Special attention was paid to the amendments brought about by the Treaty of Lisbon and Euratom's reporting to other international fora and agreements on nuclear energy.

The third theoretical chapter, "The Middle East and nuclear policies", represented a complex analysis of geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East region. Multidisciplinary issues were addressed, including the political structures, ideological analyzes and nuclear programs of states in the region. The study also focused on the analysis of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Iranian Nuclear Outlook to highlight regional nuclear implications and interaction with international powers.

The final stage of the work consisted of a case study that integrated the processed information from the three theoretical chapters. The objective of the case study was to highlight the commonalities and differences between the European nuclear policies and those of the Gulf Cooperation Council states. Through comparative analyzes and adaptations of the European model of nuclear governance, it was sought to understand how it could be applied in the reality of the Middle East. The advantages and opportunities of applying this model were highlighted, but also the possible challenges and threats associated with this approach.

Returning to the research queries, this study had two main research questions closely related to the aim, objectives and significance of the study. The first question was: "Does the Euratom Treaty have the capacity to provide an effective model of interstate understanding for the nuclear policies of Middle Eastern states, particularly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates?" The answer to this question is complex, but the results of the study point to encouraging prospects. The context in which the Euratom Treaty was conceived, in post-World War II Europe, provided an example of the necessity of nuclear energy for economic revitalization and reconciliation among European states. Similarly, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have understood the importance of developing nuclear programs for energy diversification and economic profitability. Thus, this study suggests that the Euratom model can serve as a foundation for a close collaboration between these two regional powers, in a construction of regional integration based on nuclear energy aspects.

In addition, Euratom represents an example of extensive collaboration in the nuclear field, which has helped shape the European Union. This experience can serve as a lesson for the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, highlighting the possibility of the evolution of a regional agreement to a comprehensive one, involving the supranational coordination of several areas. Due to the social, cultural and political similarities between the Arab member states, the Euratom model can be more easily adapted in the Middle East than it was in Europe more than half a century ago. If these states succeed in prioritizing common goals, the implementation of a comprehensive nuclear agreement becomes realistic, giving the Gulf Cooperation Council the status of a regional power and a solid presence on the international stage in the field of nuclear energy.

The second research question was: "Can Euratom - as a supra-state structure, provide an institutional model superior to the national one for nuclear activities in Middle Eastern states, especially Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates?" The answer to this question is also complex. Euratom has a shared institutional structure of the European Union, suggesting that the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council should find a consensus to establish common supranational entities. In time, these institutions could become general institutions of the Gulf Cooperation Council. At the same time, the complex regulatory mechanism of Euratom can provide valuable lessons for the implementation of a comprehensive agreement that also includes a series of institutions inspired by the European model.

However, for the Euratom model to be successfully applied in the Middle East, policy makers in the member states must adopt progressive visions and abandon individualistic approaches. Achieving a successful interstate agreement requires precise guarantees of success in terms of economic profitability and regional security. Although the implementation of this model is possible, it depends largely on the will of the leaders in the region and their willingness to give up sovereignty in favor of joint nuclear governance.

In conclusion, the study showed that the Euratom model can serve as an example and a foundation for effective collaboration among Middle Eastern states in the field of nuclear policies, bringing economic benefits and contributing to regional security. However, implementing a successful interstate agreement requires strong commitment and a collective vision of shared priorities.

In terms of future research directions, new world dynamics such as China's growing involvement in the Middle East and its impact on the nuclear policies of Europe and the region can be explored. This research could provide a deeper understanding of how these geopolitical changes may influence regional and international nuclear agreements.

Another research possibility could be to analyze the process of construction and negotiation of regulations and principles in the sphere of nuclear policies within supranational organizations

such as Euratom and the Gulf Cooperation Council. This could reveal how decisions and policies are made in these structures and identify potential gaps or opportunities to improve the cooperation process.

Comparing regional cooperation organizations and how they manage nuclear policy issues can provide a more comprehensive perspective on various cooperation models and could serve as a basis for identifying best practices applicable in other regions.

Exploring the role of non-state actors in nuclear policy-making, such as transnational corporations and non-governmental organizations, can make a significant contribution to understanding the multiple influence on nuclear decision-making and how power is distributed among different actors.

In conclusion, this research provides a new and original perspective on nuclear policies and regional cooperation in the Middle East, making a significant contribution to the international relations literature. It emphasizes the importance of interstate cooperation and regulation in managing nuclear security and promoting the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It also highlights the need for a more complex approach to international relations studies, which takes into account material factors, power, but also ideas, norms and identities. By exploring future research directions, one can strengthen the understanding and management of nuclear policies in a changing global context.

The general conclusion of this research is an optimistic one, the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council can benefit from the European nuclear agreement model offered by Euratom, a model demonstrated in this research as a confirmed and efficient one. Of course, it is the Gulf Cooperation Council that has the final option and only the member states will be able to decide on their future, either in a joint manner or in an individualistic approach. This work has managed to highlight through comprehensive analyzes the main elements of international, European and Middle Eastern nuclear policies, bringing through its originality a new perspective on governance and diplomacy that uses topics of an atomic nature. Perhaps the most important lesson learned and suggested through this research is that nuclear power, deployed in a peaceful, responsible and safe manner, can generate the subject of interstate agreements, which in turn can evolve into projects of regional integration. Nuclear energy is still a hot topic, and *the atomic age* is far from over, despite a slower pace than during the Cold War. As the motto of the European Union suggests, through *unity and diversity* both Europeans and Arabs can find diplomatic and political solutions, even through the use of technical, industrial, rigid elements such as atomic energy, to outline a common destiny, above their own national interests, but which can ensure the security and well-being of an entire region.

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